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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Rankin Inlet, Nunavut
Friday, February 25, 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

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 64 - 1(3): Criminal Offence Investigation

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to inform the members present that there is now an investigation going on after a criminal offence was committed this evening. We don't know the situation right now, but as things progress we will let you know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 65 - 1(3): Corrections Planning Committee Report

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members are aware that the Nunavut Corrections Planning Committee released its final report last fall. I provided each member with a copy of the report and I invited comments. Today I would like to inform you that the Department of Justice has been reviewing the committee's recommendations and has been preparing a plan to implement as many of the recommendations as possible.

In some cases we can act quickly. For example, we are working to put in place three dedicated Community Corrections Officers, who will supervise youth and adults with respect to probation, parole and conditional sentencing. A program manager will also be hired. This will allow more offenders to return to their home communities under properly supervised conditions. In many cases up to now there has been no option except to keep these individuals in jail. We need more resources to implement our complete community corrections plan. But at least now we can make a start.

(interpretation ends) Other recommendations will take longer to put in place. For example, the construction of a joint Federal/Territorial jail is being discussed with the Federal Government, but will not happen immediately. The Corrections Planning Committee stressed the need to ensure that Corrections in Nunavut is community based. The Baffin Correctional Centre is holding a number of offenders who should not be there. Many of the inmates at the BCC are low risk and will be able to heal and reintegrate into their communities, if we can provide the proper supervision and programs in the communities.

Community Corrections Officers would not only work with offenders but with their spouses and families. This way healing and reintegration can really happen. My department is taking the recommendations of the Corrections Planning Committee very seriously and we are moving in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 66 - 1(3): Change of Name, Status of Women to Qulliit Council

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I stand because I want to give you the current status of the Women's Council in Nunavut. The council, which was officially appointed in October 1999, met for the first time in Iqaluit from February 1 to the 3rd. They laid the groundwork of their initial plan and activities. Nine board members were appointed to the council.

(interpretation ends) During this meeting Rebecca Kudloo was elected as the president, Daisy Keenainak and Joan Kalaserk were elected as vice presidents of the council. Congratulations to the new executive and I wish them well. Mr. Speaker, this was the first meeting and the council accomplished many difficult tasks. The members reviewed their mandate under the Act and came up with a series of goals and objectives. One of the critical issues they discussed was how to respond better to the needs of Nunavummiut.

(interpretation) The council also discussed the public image of the Status of Women due to the change to Nunavut. The Status of Women name has created some intimidation.

(interpretation ends) The council discussed how to create equality between women and men. The council made it very clear that they needed to support men in order to enhance Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Mr. Speaker, that is why the council decided to do away with their old title of "Status of Women" This group came up with a new name that is not intimidating to either gender. Mr. Speaker, the Status of Women has a new name, and from this day on they will be known as Qulliit. If you look at Qulliit it can only work if both men and women take responsibility for its maintenance. The man's job was to get the blubber for fuel. The lighting and the maintenance of the light, warmth and other

uses, is the responsibility of the woman. Let's give our support to Qullit as they move forward to represent the people of Nunavut for a healthier and more equal way of life amongst our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Ministers' Statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item three is members' statements. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 139 - 1(3): Mobile Treatment Programs

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are often many factors in a person's life that may have contributed to an addictive lifestyle. Experiences of children of sexual abuse, suicide, family violence, residential schools and grieving and loss that have gone without counselling and support. Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the fact that the minister felt the treatment centre in Apex cost too much per person. But in the past there have been efforts to develop mobile treatment centre programs and grieving and healing programs that could be delivered in the community and on the land.

Mobile programs can be developed in Inuktitut and be delivered in the local dialect. They can be more appropriate to the land based healing tradition in the Inuit culture. They can be targeted to youth, elders, women and men. They can build on the work and capacity of local drug and alcohol committees. Communities across Nunavut have often had to purchase such programs from southern providers. Before the treatment centre in Apex was closed, they had held one mobile program in Igloolik. A consultant's report evaluating the centre recommended they increase their mobile treatment program.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this government will look seriously at using savings of over 1 million dollars annually from closing the treatment centre in Apex to develop a comprehensive set of mobile treatment programs to help out people in Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 140 - 1(3): Day Care Facility for Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My member's statement today is about day care in Gjoa Haven. As a decentralised community we are very fortunate that new jobs are being created in Gjoa Haven. We are working hard to ensure local people can get those jobs. If people from my home community are to take up these new jobs they will need a safe, reliable day care program where they can take their kids when they go to work.

Some of my constituents are planning to get training for these new jobs. They will also need a day care so they can go to school. Right now there is no day care in Gjoa Haven.

However, Mr. Speaker they are very close to getting a new day care building in Gjoa Haven. Today, in my member's statement, I would like to outline the history of this project and make some suggestions on what needs to happen next.

Several years ago our Nutuktiyakangoik Society tried to run a program out of a surplus building. But they found that the old building could not be used because the building did not meet the health and safety requirements for a day care centre. Then our community found out about a program that could provide capital dollars. That program was administered by Pauktuutit - The National Inuit Women's Organization, on behalf of the Human Resources Department of the Federal Government. With help from the Gjoa Haven Development Corporation, an enterprise owned by the community, we decided that we should purchase materials for a Housing Corporation house, and modify the design to meet day care standards. We got approval from Pauktuutit to take that approach. A budget of 255 thousand was set and approval was given to purchase and deliver the materials, build the pad and design the modifications needed to meet day care standards.

The materials are now in our community and they have been sitting there for a year and a half. Unfortunately, it turned out the cost of the ventilation control . . .

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak you have run out of time.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to continue my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak is asking for unanimous consent to finish his member's statement. Are there any nays. Thank you. Mr. Puqiqnak, go ahead.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Gjoa Haven Development Corporation is very willing to build this building, and they have recently established an apprenticeship for a local plumber and plan to create apprenticeships in carpentry and electrical work. However, the mechanical work on the centre will have to be done by an outside firm. This will add a lot to the cost. I understand from the Gjoa Haven Development Corporation that one hundred and seventy three thousand dollars is still needed to construct the building, including the extra heating, plumbing, public safety features and controls required.

Pauktuutit still has a just under 100 thousand dollars committed for this project through HRDC. We fear that this funding may lapse on March 31, 2000. Pauktuutit no longer administers the program and the responsibility has been given to the Kitikmeot Economic Development Corporation who administers similar HRDC funding. I understand that approximately 500 thousand is available to the Kitikmeot area for childcare programs.

Our challenge Mr. Speaker, is therefore to come up with 73 thousand dollars, which is needed to complete this project. The building has been carefully designed to meet the special requirements of a day care. It will be a perfect building for our needs. I know the

Department of Education provides support to run day care programs, and they do now have a program to provide capital assistance, except for buying start-up equipment for new day care centres. Kitikmeot Development Corporation has told the people of Gjoa Haven that they will have to contribute to the 73 thousand dollar cost for the extra plumbing and heating. I understand the Gjoa Haven Development Corporation may be willing to contribute some of this cost, but cannot assume the full costs.

I would like to see that everyone gets together to take the final step to complete this project. If the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven, the Kitikmeot Development Corporation, the Gjoa Haven Development Corporation and the Nunavut Government were to contribute equally to come up with the amount of work required, then the day care centre could be built this spring, or summer. If each of these groups would commit, this would be just in time to assist people who would be seeking decentralised jobs or training, so they can obtain these jobs.

I will be asking the Minister of Education if he can provide support and assistance through his day care program officials or through his colleagues in other departments to help to take the last step to complete this very much needed project. We have the building design. The material has been paid for and delivered, and we need under 100 thousand dollars available to make the next steps happen. To build this day care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. I just want to remind the members that I know some of your colleagues would like to make members' statements so please try and keep your members' statements to two and a half minutes. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 141 - 1(3): Daughter's Birthday

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I feel for the people who have lost their loved ones, today is my daughter's birthday and I would like to wish her a happy birthday. She was my first daughter born to me. On the same date I went to Hall Beach from Igloolik and I was using a brand new skidoo, and at the time it broke down when it was close to my community. On the same date I walked to Hall Beach at midnight.

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

Member's Statement 142 - 1(3): Day Care Funding

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as my constituency grows our community childcare facilities are facing growing pressures. Today there are 189 licensed childcare spaces available and six child care centres. Each of these centres are at capacity and have waiting lists of thirty to sixty children. All are facing extreme financial

pressures. Childcare workers are finding it almost impossible to find affordable housing. All of the child care centres are finding it more and more difficult in recruiting and retaining qualified child care workers. The many new government jobs that are being created in Iqaluit make it difficult to find people who are willing to work for a much lower wage and minimum benefits of non-profit day care societies.

One of our centres caters to students. The students experience difficulty qualifying and delays in receiving their day care subsidies. Also the department is not allowed to pay the subsidy directly to the centre on behalf of the students.

I would like to thank the Minister of Housing, the Hon. Manito Thompson for recently using creative approaches to assist the Aakuluk Day Care Centre to help them to remain solvent. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister of Education for meeting recently with the Iqaluit Childcare Association. I am pleased he has agreed to review the concerns they presented to him. I urge him to look for new ways to proceed or to provide accessible and affordable childcare in our communities. I have some specific advice for him.

Review and overhaul the childcare funding formula to make sure operations and maintenance dollars are adequate for current costs. Consider ways to enhance benefits for childcare workers through the formula. Revive early childhood education programs based on the co-operative model through Arctic College. This will reduce our dependence on childcare workers in the south. Review and streamline the process for approving subsidies for students. Allow subsidies to be paid directly to the Child Care Centre with the consent of the student. Mr. Speaker, when we are making maximum efforts to educate and employ Inuit to work in our new government, those employees who have children are under increasing pressure to find childcare spaces.

Something must be done or we will soon end up with less childcare spaces just when we need more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 143 - 1(3): Recognition of Baffin Crisis Line Volunteers

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish today to speak to the counsellors because the counsellors, caregivers especially face very hard challenges in the communities. I notice this especially when I live in Iqaluit. I would like to recognize the caregivers.

There is a crisis line which is open from 9-5 in Iqaluit for the people who want to speak to somebody. The Nunavut crisis line started in 1989. At that time the CBC crew considered how they could help people prevent suicide. They got together and they formed the Baffin Crisis Line. In Inuktitut it is called Kamatsiaqtut. They use volunteers in the evening there are not too many volunteers, volunteers are needed. I know that it is open from 9-12 and I know that the caregivers there or the counsellors there wait for

phone calls from the people who need help, or who just want to talk about themselves because there are quite a few people who contemplate suicide.

I think we have to recognize these people who require assistance. We have to recognize the volunteers too who are caregivers and they want to help the Nunavut people very much. They even help the people from outside of Nunavut. People from outside Nunavut even call the Baffin Crisis Line, the calls come in from Whitehorse even, and we hardly recognize the Baffin Crisis Line, the volunteers there.

I would like to recognize them, I respect them, especially Sheila Levy and Harold Fletcher who volunteer their services there. I know that there are not too many volunteers there, and we need more volunteers at the Baffin Crisis Line and they give themselves freely to help other people in Nunavut and elsewhere. I just want to recognize these people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 144 - 1(3): Student Summer Jobs

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are students who will get off school in June and they usually look for summer jobs. I would like to see job opportunities available for the students during the summer. The Nunavut government should support these students by making the student summer jobs available during the summertime, and I will be asking a question to the Minister of Human Resources about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 145 - 1(3): Thanks to Constituents and Family

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I spoke to the Mayor of Pangnirtung and he wanted to say "hi" to each and every one of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Premier. We are all aware that we represent our people every time and we can't see them face to face and they seem to be far away, but I would like to take my opportunity here to thank my constituents and that I wish them well and I thank them for their patience. Especially our youngest children Joseph and Jenna. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Haviyok.

Member's Statement 146 - 1(3): Kugluktuk Arctic Winter Games Athletes

Hon. Donald Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a brief comment from my community in regards to the athletes that are going to Whitehorse from my community of Kugluktuk. I will be mentioning their names.

(interpretation ends) These athletes have been working diligently for the past two years to fulfil a dream of representing the first Nunavut team and I know they will do well, and they will be good ambassadors for the community of Kugluktuk at the games. I will now mention the names of those who are going to participate in the Arctic Winter Games: Kevin Niptanatiak mission staff, and the Nunavut games coach, Ernie Bernhardt. The athletes are, Crystal Miyok, Colleen Nivingalok, Lashawna Taipana, Mila Kamingoak, Lisa Alikamik, Melissa McDonald, June Pangon, Amy Joss, Mike Johnston. I just want to recognize these athletes that are going to participate in the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Members' Statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Returns to oral questions. To item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize again, like every day I recognize people in the gallery and I would like to recognize Angelina Mercer who is my cousin, Ray Mercer's wife and she is sitting there, I would like to welcome her to the Assembly. My mother's brother's daughter. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize all the residents of Rankin Inlet for their hospitality, it is very good and they invite us for meals, and some times we are unable to go into their homes and meet with them because we are quite busy. It is impossible to visit all the people who invite us. I would like to recognize all the residents of Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. I would like to welcome the residents of Rankin Inlet who are in this building. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I would like to recognize two former residents of Baker Lake who, hopefully with decentralization on the move, they'll become permanent residents of Baker Lake again. I would like to recognize Jane Aupaluktuq who is Superintendent of Human Resources and Margaret Niego who is working with Human Resources. Thank you.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Recognition of visitors the gallery. I am going back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 223 - 1(3): Funding for Mobile Treatment Programs

Mr. McLean: My question today was for the Minister of Health but he is not here right now, I looked up and he was gone, so...

Speaker: Just a reminder. (interpretation) Please do not state whether or not a minister is here.

Mr. McLean: Like I said, I was surprised. My question today is to the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, can the minister advise the House if he will be using the savings of well over 1 million dollars from closing the only treatment centre in Nunavut to develop a comprehensive mobile treatment program that is fully integrated and built on support for the community based alcohol and drug programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Okalik

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the question as notice and provide it to the minister.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 224 - 1(3): Treatment Centres in Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Ministers of Health and Social Services, and Justice. Mr. Speaker, if you attend a court day and hear the cases in almost any community in Nunavut, almost every criminal case has alcohol involved. Almost every case of violence has alcohol involved. Many cases of theft involve alcohol or stealing things in order to purchase alcohol or drugs. Bootlegging, being drunk in a public place and the list goes on.

Mr. Speaker, almost every lawyer and most judges wish there were programs to deal with this and quite often we have people requesting assistance. Mr. Speaker, there are people that attend court and therefore, so many people end up in jail a long way from their home, family and community. My question to the minister is, could there be a way to solve these needs.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Mr. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it was quite a lengthy preamble to that question, could the member be more specific in his actual question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. I will give the member an opportunity to rephrase his question. Please keep your preamble as brief as possible so we can get the question right away. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With almost any kind of social problem the inmates who are incarcerated are sent down south. Possibly my question is, in our communities is it possible to build treatment centres in the communities.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Mr. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is a good question. What the Department of Health and Social Services has tried to do over the past twelve months since April 1, 1999 is to use the model that we are using right now in the member's home community of Clyde River where we are using healing circles, dealing with building capacity with their local workers on the ground so that people don't actually have to be taken out of their communities and sent to a residential treatment centre.

So that is the kind of work that we are doing right now Mr. Speaker. Trying to build that capacity at the local level. The Apex Treatment Centre and the one member had a statement on it earlier today, and there were some questions on it yesterday, that model has not proved to be successful. There has been about 4 million dollars spent in total operations from my understanding since 1991 on that facility and we are trying to readdress the issue around drug and alcohol counselling and to see where we can build that capacity at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 225 - 1(3): Justice Programs at Apex Treatment Centre

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Justice, I believe yesterday or the day before had indicated that there was a joint proposal with the Department of Health and Social Services submitted to FMB or Cabinet for approval on outlining a program that they wanted to offer at the Apex Treatment Centre. Mr. Speaker, what I would like to ask the minister is exactly when did they submit the proposal to Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are various proposals being brought to cabinet to the FMB, to the government at large, and of course, as the member knows in Health and Social Services because of our deficit situation, we have had many, many proposals brought forward on the different residential programs, facilities, that we have in place including hospital facilities, to treatment centres and so on. So I can't actually say what the actual date was that any specific proposal was or was not actually brought forward to Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I was just wondering, in the fall it had been reported that there was a proposal submitted in September and they are just waiting for Cabinet. A proposal was waiting for Cabinet approval in September. I am just wondering if this is the same, regarding the use of the Apex Treatment Centre by the Baffin Correction Centre, I was just wondering if that is the same proposal they are still waiting for approval on, or if there has been a new one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Mr. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been no proposal brought forward to Cabinet about the usage of the Apex Treatment Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker then maybe, if the minister has been saying there is no proposal submitted by the Department of Health and Social Services regarding the use of the Apex Treatment Centre, is he aware if there is a proposal from the Department of Justice submitted to use that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Mr. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe the concern is what is being reported in the media and so on. There has been no proposal brought forward to Cabinet on the usage of the treatment centre in Apex. Now, there may be discussions between my department and the Department of Justice, but they have not gone to Cabinet, and we want to make sure Mr. Speaker, that any proposal that comes before Cabinet is worked on interdepartmentally, and that work is continuing. So I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then I guess I just wanted to clarify then what the minister is saying is that as far as he is aware, his department hasn't submitted a proposal, nor has the Department of Justice submitted a proposal to Cabinet on the use of the Apex Treatment Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Health, Mr. Picco.

Mr. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I'm saying, and I will say it now for the third time, there has been no proposal brought forward by the Department of Health, or by the Department of Justice, to Cabinet to make a decision on. There have been discussions by the Department of Health with other groups by the way in the community of Iqaluit to see what the best usage for the treatment facility is. Should we

use it as a treatment facility, should we go to a community based support program, as Mr. McLean talked about in his statement the other day, there are different options papers as you're aware, and the option paper is what we brought before cabinet.

Those things haven't occurred yet. So the discussions are at the senior level of government and when a decision is made, then that decision will be announced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 226 - 1(3): Treatment Programs for Inmates

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is one I brought up earlier regarding corrections for individuals that are sent to jail. There are a lot of individuals who end up going to jail because they have problems mentally, and we are aware of all the concerns that are coming out regarding not having enough counsellors, not having a treatment centre. We have heard that the treatment centre was being closed in Nunavut, and in other areas. My question is that I just want to get an update as to what they are doing with the treatment centres.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, we are all aware that people that are incarcerated are there because of something they did or because of an offence, and when they are sent to correctional centres there are programs that are available for counselling and that are available for offenders. In our department we are trying to think of better ways to improve the counselling services and I know it is very important that when a person is incarcerated they need that help and we're trying to improve the programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, is there counselling available, what is available for them.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Anawak, Minister for Justice.

Hon. Jack Anawak: I cannot really say what programs are available. Ron McCormick is the individual that is working on this and it is not just counselling services for the correctional centres. We are trying to think of ways to improve counselling in all areas. But we are working on this currently.

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

Question 227 - 1(3): Overcrowding and Safety in Schools

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. The schools in the communities are very over crowded, not just in Cape Dorset or Kimmirut but in all communities the schools are overcrowded. They don't have enough space to hold their classes and I'm wondering if we are breaking any safety regulations like the fire safety regulations, because the classrooms are overcrowded.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk, Minister for Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, these have been reviewed by the fire marshals and they do often work with representatives from education, and health services are often doing reviews of any safety hazards. We follow the STR which is the Student Teacher Ratio that we use, and we make sure that each class has the students that are needed for one teacher. So we continue to make sure that the classrooms are not taking in too many students.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 228 - 1(3): Update on Clam Diving Project in Clyde River

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Sustainable Development. My question has to do with a Broughton Island issue if there has been something done about that item. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Perhaps Mr. Iqaqrialu, you could rephrase your question so the minister can understand it.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, we are often told to make our questions short but when I do this I'm often told to rephrase my question. My question has to do with the clam diving project. What has happened. Can I get an update on what they are doing with that.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I will be very brief. In Nunavut, clam diving projects number about sixteen individuals who have the certificate for diving. When the clam diving project goes ahead they need to make sure the divers have a higher level – a level 2 diving certificate in order for them to go ahead.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 229 - 1(3): Home Care for New Born Children

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In my constituency of Igloolik there is a woman who gave premature birth and the baby could not suckle so they fed the baby intravenously so there would be normal development of the baby. The mother was taught how she should handle her premature baby. The husband was not happy with the process. I'm not going to mention names but this mother had many things to do during the day, she had to work during the day and then she had to take care of the baby, and give him special treatment.

My question, does the Department of Health provide training to a parent and then is the parent required to provide that special care to the child.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker in an issue like that, in this House, and in a small community there are a lot of personal and confidential issues surrounding different medical health and indeed work being done at the local health centre. So I'm not aware of the exact case that the member is taking about. Maybe we could have something in writing from the member that we could look into it at the department, but I don't think this public forum is the proper place to discuss the issues surrounding an actual case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 230 - 1(3): Repairs to Public Housing Unit, Repulse Bay

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): My question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. In Repulse Bay, I would like to know if there is going to be a housing review done for that community.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are you talking about the private homeownership program or the social housing, or are you talking about contractors that construct these houses.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Alakannuark I will give you another chance to rephrase your question please.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Social housing. This is a question that I asked earlier about the heating systems in social housing, because it is a safety issue and I am asking again if these houses were inspected and if they ever found any of these houses as safety or health hazards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Minister responsible for Housing. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your question. This is a question that was brought up in our session in Iqaluit and we dealt with it right away on the day you asked that question. I called Vitaline Depateie, who works for the Housing Corporation and she called your community and told them to correct the problem that was occurring in Repulse Bay. They worked directly with the local housing authority to rectify the matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 231 - 1(3): Nunavut Seat on Canada Post Board and Council

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Premier. Mr. Speaker, last spring I asked the Premier in regards to the outrageous increase in postal rates, if Nunavut had a representative on the Canada Post Board. I would like to ask the Premier at this time if he is able to provide me with an update on that.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not clear on what the question is. Is it the board, or the Canada Post Council, because there are different boards and councils for Canada Post, I just want a clarification. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Tootoo please rephrase your question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for clarifying that. So, does Nunavut have anyone, whether it is on the Canada Post Board or Canada Post Council that can represent the interests of Nunavummiut at that level. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of today there are two boards. The first one is the Northern Postal Service Customer Council, which is an advisory council and Mr. David Simailak from Baker Lake is a member of that council. However, the body that really determines the operation of that Crown Corporation is the Board of Directors and currently there is no representative from northern Canada. Each region of the country is represented on the Board of Directors for the Crown Corporation.

So I share the concern of the member and will forthwith write a letter to the Prime Minister requesting membership on the board of directors for a representative from northern Canada. I will be raising the matter with my colleagues from northern Canada in Whitehorse next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr Premier. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Premier for taking this issue and running with it and I wish him the best of luck. Mr. Speaker, I heard on the news over the last couple of days that there have been representatives from Canada Post touring northern communities to hear views and concerns of the residents. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the Premier would try and ensure that these representatives hold some type of public hearings or meetings in Nunavut and not just in northern Quebec. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northern Postal Service Customer Council is holding hearings in Labrador and will be coming to Rankin Inlet on April 11th to the 13th and if anyone wants to make a presentation they can call the following number - 1 (800) 204 4187 to make a presentation. So I invite anyone from Nunavut to take part in this hearing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is there a reason why it is coming to Rankin Inlet, because a large part of the population and the furthest away who are effected the most are in the Baffin Region. They have the largest population and they are the furthest away so they have the highest rates and the most impact is felt there. I would like to ask the Premier if we could try and have this council come to Iqaluit and hold some hearings there as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is not our council and we have no control where they decide to hold their hearings but I will convey the concern to the appropriate body and suggest that other sites might be appropriate as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Okalik. Mr. Tootoo, final supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one other thing I would like to ask is I understand that it is not our council and we don't have any control over where they meet. Mr. Speaker, I know the cost of travel here, a round trip from Rankin to Iqaluit is probably over two thousand dollars. Mr. Speaker, if someone wants to attend and intervene in this meeting for the average person it is almost impossible because of the cost.

I'm wondering Mr. Speaker, if they choose not to hold meetings in other locations in Nunavut will there be some way in subsidising people that wish to attend that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Okalik

Hon. Paul Okalik: As I stated in my prior answer we will try to ask the council to hold hearings in Iqaluit for example. Perhaps elsewhere but I'm not aware of any funding provided for intervenor status to travel to another community for Canada Post. I'm sure written submissions will also be accepted. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 232 - 1(3): Update on Task Force on Housing

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Housing. I would like the minister to update the House on the status of the report that is being compiled by the task force on housing. Thank you

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

Ms. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Task Force as you know was created October 1st and their mandate was going to finish at the end of March. The first part of their short term recommendations have been put forward to me, it was to build 100 units, 100 social units, and they are still working on the other issues that they have to deal with by the end of March.

(interpretation) The Task Force Mr. Speaker, has completed part of their mandate and we're aware of how many houses that we should be building, where these houses are going to be constructed. The Housing Task force still has meetings. Their finish date was March and we haven't seen the final report or recommendation, because they are still meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Reminder to the minister, we do have interpreters, so you don't need to repeat your answer in Inuktitut. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the recommendations that have been put forth in the, the recommendations I guess is the report in its totality, is it the minister's intention to tie the recommendations of this report in to the projected surplus that we heard so much about over the last week or so.

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

Ms. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you know we have not discussed the budget yet and therefore, that is a budget item and I cannot speak to it at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not referring to the budget. We have spoken openly here in the House about the projected surplus, it is well documented in the media, that we all know. My question is more directed to, is it the minister's intention to tie these recommendations in to the approved, or into the projected surplus, and furthermore, it is the minister's intention to have these recommendations implemented in this year's fiscal budget, as opposed to next year's. Thank you.

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

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there has been a great concern about housing since the Nunavut government was established. I know that there are many people who are quite concerned about the housing crisis, and I know that it is the Nunavut government's priority, housing is their priority.

If we did have a projected surplus, I know that we are very concerned about housing, but the projected surplus will only be used in next year's budget. The budget for the new year is already planned, and this year, if we did have a surplus, I think everyone is aware that in the new budget that is going to come out the surplus will come out in the new estimated budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 233 - 1(3): Nunavut Involvement in Gun Control Challenge

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regards to gun control and if the Nunavut government is involved. The response I got was that the Nunavut government has no jurisdiction over gun control. So therefore, I would like to ask the Premier if the Nunavut government is going to be involved in the gun control issue with the Federal government.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated before, we were a bit too late to intervene in the court case right now, but we are open now, in our future if there is going to be another court case, we are willing to intervene. This court case now is only for provinces and Nunavut is not a province, and we don't have that kind of jurisdiction, so therefore we were unable to participate. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand then the territories have less authority and power than provinces. Is that why we are not involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the provinces are involved and they have been involved in the past, and they were involved with the presentations of evidence to the courts, and they were able to intervene in the court case. But we were too late because the Nunavut government was not established at that time. So therefore, we were unable to take part in the presentation of evidence and voice our concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps it's not a question but I want to get clarification because the Inuit people have been surviving by using rifles. They have been using rifles for survival, and with all the legislation, it hinders the hunters, and some of the regulations hinder our very way of life. So therefore, the Nunavut government should be involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Okalik, Government Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated before, this was dealt with before the Nunavut government was established, and it was in the courts before Nunavut was established. We were unable to be involved, if there is going to be another court case like that in the future we are going to be involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier, Mr. Okalik. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 234 - 1(3): Funding for Cultural Instructors

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth yesterday. I would like to ask that question now. With the 1 million dollars, the language money, which is geared towards the Inuktitut languages and French services, and because the elders have stated that it is an urgent case now to have instructors on culture, perhaps you can find some funding that can be used for that very reason. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Haviyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu, for your question so the people can be informed. As I mentioned in my statement yesterday about the agreement, and the assistance that we are going to be providing to the communities, the funding we are going to be providing to the communities they can use for instructors to teach Inuit culture. We also talked about this week that we will be dealing with the elders and youth for them to work together. But again, let me mention that the money that we will be providing for the programs is for each community. I would like input from the communities as to how best they can make their proposals to our department if they need funding for their communities so that it can be used for culture, elders and youths in their communities. I would like input from each community in regards to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elders don't even know how to fill out application forms, and you were talking about giving contributions when they apply through application forms. If that is going to go that way, it is going to hinder the elders because they have no way of applying. They can't fill out application forms, why can't you just contribute this funding to the communities and get directors in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Havioyak, Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you. This issue will be ongoing. I know for a fact that the people that cannot speak in English, we will inform about that, so my staff in Iqaluit and in Igloolik, so there are staff that can help in the communities, in our communities that can help to fill out forms and also, we have interpreters, translators in each community. If you wish to fill out an application form to apply for funding, you can go to our department for assistance.

So, I would like to inform the member that there are government staff that can help. When the elders had their conference in October, I stated that the elders and youth can help each other in promoting the culture in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it is going to remain that way there are going to be people who can fill out application forms and there are other people who cannot fill out application forms. With the GNWT we always had to apply for funding through application forms, it seems like it is not going to change here in the Nunavut government.

As Nunavut residents we have to find ways to help people. I think it is time we help people as the Nunavut government. Rather than waiting for the people to apply for

funding, we should just be giving them funding instead of them applying for it, applying for funding to run their programs. I think it would be better to contribute the funding, or give them grants, and we have experienced that when we have to apply for funding through application forms, this was a problem in the past and I think you should be able to give the funding directly to the communities. I was wondering if you are willing to give the funding to the communities directly.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Yes, I understand your question, but don't forget the funding is for all the Nunavut communities, sometimes the funding will be different as for the job, and also we talked about community funding being given to each community. I think the whole Nunavut, we are trying to help our communities. That is my job. I want to help whoever applies for funding from other communities, so we could know what they are asking for, what kind of programs. That is how I want to give contributions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that is going to be the case I will not be happy about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I did not hear a question. Mr. Iqaqrialu. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 235 - 1(3): Use of Budget Surplus

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a little while ago the Minister responsible for Housing indicated that any projects, any of the surplus dollars are going to be used in next year's budget, therefore, couldn't be talked about here in this House. I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance if that has been the case where departments have been directed not to look at spending any of those surpluses this year and hold off and look at doing them in next year's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all government departments will continue to operate obviously until the March 31st year end, and as members know I'm sure, that as happens with all governments and agencies, there seems to be a bit of a rush in the latter part of the fiscal year when there appears to be excess funds available within their budgets. But having said that, I think it is important to recognize that even if that were to take place, whatever was to be purchased would be carried over into the next fiscal year, but we would be monitoring that situation and we would expect that all

departments would continue to be prudent in their year end operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would still would like an answer to my question, as to whether the departments have been told not to spend that money this year and save it until next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, the simple answer is no. No departments have been told not to spend any money, they have to continue to operate and to provide services for the constituents throughout Nunavut that we all represent. And as I indicated, our projected surplus is a projected surplus as it stands now. So, I mean, factors are already taken into consideration as far as what the expected expenditures would be up until March 31st. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then in light of that, I'd like to maybe ask the minister, or inform the minister that I am quite certain that no member in this House would say no to some type of supplementary appropriation if it were to come forward in the areas of either housing or education, which are the areas that this government, as we have all said, are the top two priorities of this government.

I think it has been asked earlier, is there going to be anything happening with this surplus money in these areas, and the answer has always been "no, we have to wait until, can't discuss it, it is a budget matter". If that surplus is there, can the Cabinet look at directing some of those surplus dollars into some kind of programs in those areas that we have already said are our top two priorities to be disbursed this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again, I will say that it is a projected surplus. We expect, our estimates are that there will be a surplus on March 31st. Whether those projections are correct or not, I would say to you in respect to priorities and issues after March thirty-first, once the savings or the surplus is confirmed, we will have a better idea at the time and then we can make the appropriate adjustments, and it is as I indicated to members of this House, part of the development of the 2000/2001 year budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Tootoo

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess Mr. Speaker and the minister can correct me if I'm wrong, a supplementary appropriation is a change in any budgeted amount that

has already been approved by this House. If a department is projecting a surplus, which I would imagine I am quite safe in assuming that there is room to manoeuvre in those departments, as he has indicated he is looking at a possible 40 million dollars surplus. There is a little bit of room to manoeuvre there. I was wondering if those departments that we said are a priority of Cabinet, and they said it, why can't we do something with those funds this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I would say once again, because the funds are uncertain yet and that is the main reason and the secondary reason quite frankly is that we are into February 25th. Five or six weeks away from a fiscal year end and I don't quite frankly know if departments can put together new initiatives within the time frame we have left in this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 236 - 1(3): Recreation Facilities in Pond Inlet

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a brief question to the Minister of Community Government. I talked about recreation, the arena and the community hall. Did he understand the question or my comments regarding this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank You (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak. Minister of Community Government, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The question that he is bringing up is something that we are reviewing and I can't really state what is happening. But I understand the item that he is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. The time is up for oral questions. Getting back to our orders of the day. Written Questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 05 - 1(3): Summer Jobs at Nanisivik and Polaris Mines

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Sustainable Development regarding job opportunities for students this summer. I will be reading this in English.

(interpretation ends) Jobs were created last year in each of the Nanisivik quarries. Of those summer jobs how many of them were held by residents of Nunavut. Will the minister's officials be working with Nanisivik and Polaris mine officials to encourage

them to employ residents of Nunavut with any of the summer jobs available at the two mines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr Akasuk. Written Questions. (interpretation) Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 10: Petitions

Response to Petition 08 - 1(3): Broughton Island Co-op

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a response to a petition from February 18th, 2000, regarding the co-op in Broughton Island.

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

Item 12: Reports of Standing and Special Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report 11 - 1(3): Community Empowerment & Sustainable Development: Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to report that the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed bill 9, an Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relationship to Judges. We wish to report that bill 9 is ready to be considered by the committee of the whole. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to waive rule 68 (5) and have bill 9 moved to the committee of the whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien is seeking to waive rule 68(5) so bill 9 can be moved to the committee of the whole. Any nays. There are no nays. Bill 9 is referred to the committee of the whole. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 31 - 1(3): Hamlet of Kugaaruk Re: Community Gym

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document that I received from Kugaaruk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 32 - 1(3): Nunatsiaq News Article on BCC Use of Apex Treatment Centre

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document I received from Nunatsiaq News entitled, "BCC to use Apex Treatment Centre for Inmate Rehab." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Tabling of documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Notices of motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

Minister's Statement 50-1-(3) and 51- 1(3), Tabled Documents 24-1(3), 25-1(3) and 27-1(3). Bill 9. Mr. Puqiqnak in the Chair. Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): This seat is very low. What is the wish of the committee. Lunch is ready for the members, what is the wish of the committee. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman I would like to take a 1 hour break.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will return at a quarter to one. Members you are free to go.

>>Committee recessed at 11:50 a.m. and resumed at 12:45 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you very much. Our sound is back and since today is Friday, during Committee of the Whole, I would like everything to proceed as smoothly as possible. First of all I would like to ask you what you would like to do at this time. What's the committee's wish. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the members would like to proceed with Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Okay then, we deal with Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges. Agreed. Okay, Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges. We'll be dealing with Bill 9 today. The Minister of Justice could say his opening comments Mr. Anawak.

Bill 9 - An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges - Consideration in Committee

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): It's okay, we're all Inuit. Just call me Jack. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

This proposed bill amends the Judicature Act to provide for the Nunavut Court of Justice to be headed by a Chief Justice rather than the Senior Judge. As an Inuk there is not much of a difference between the word Chief Justice and Senior Judge. In the provinces, the head of the trial court is a Chief Justice, however in the three territories, this is not the case. Instead of a Chief Justice, we have a senior administrative judge who is the senior person in the administrative level. Chief Justices are appointed as Chief Justices while a senior judge is the judge who has been a judge for the longest period of time. The Chief Justices are appointed from anywhere, from the public. These changes require federal legislation as well as territorial legislation. Under the constitution, all our judges are federally appointed.

My department has written to the Deputy Minister of Justice Canada indicating our view that our judges should be considered equal in status to their provincial counterparts and that the territories too should have chief justices. As well, I have spoken to the Federal Minister of Justice about this.

This bill makes the necessary changes to Nunavut's laws. Those changes would not be brought into force until the necessary federal changes are also made. The NWT has also changed legislation to change to a Chief Justice. Their amendments are not in force yet. They also would be brought into force when the federal changes are made in both the Nunavut and Territorial cases.

(interpretation ends) The second change the bill makes is more minor. Currently judges of the Court of Appeal can be sworn in by judges of the Nunavut Court of Justice. This is not seen to be appropriate since the Court of Appeal will hear decisions from the Nunavut Court of Justice. The bill would change the law to allow an appeal judge to be sworn in by another appeal judge. This will make our law the same as the Northwest Territories.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could go up to the witness chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister, Mr. Anawak. I believe that there are some comments to be made. Mr. O'Brien, I believe you have a comment to make before the Minister goes up to the witness table. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has reviewed Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges. Yesterday the committee had the pleasure of meeting with the Minister of Justice and his officials to discuss this bill. Mr. Chairman, while I do have a few questions regarding the bill, for the most part it is very straightforward, the committee is very comfortable with it.

For the most part, I think we'd like to see this bill go through in a very efficient manner. So I do have a few questions although the minister did touch on a few of some of the questions that I have in his statement. For the record, I'd like to direct my question to the minister while he is in the witness chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. The minister and his officials can go up to the witness table. I will give you the opportunity. Thank you. Mr. Minister, if you would introduce your officials to the rest of the members please.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Mark Spakowski, who is our legal advisor with the Department of Justice. He'll be here with me.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Questions or comments to Bill 9. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Minister, you've indicated that there has to be some changes at the federal level in order for this bill to take full effect. Can you tell the members if these changes at the federal level do not take place, what impact will that have on the name change.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak: I'm quite confident that the necessary changes will be made at the federal level as I said, I've mentioned it to the Minister of Justice for Canada and she has tentatively agreed to put in the enabling legislation. However if for some reason it was not to go through then really, this law would remain until such time as the Federal Government tabled. As I mentioned earlier, the Northwest Territories has done this and is just awaiting the federal legislation to change to start calling their senior judges Chief Justice. Qujannamiik.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Minister, so it's safe to say that until the Federal Government makes their amendments, what we're doing here cannot come into force until those amendments are made. Having said that, do you have any idea as to what the timing is for these changes is. We know that in some cases it could take years to get something through the House of Commons. Do you have any idea as to the time frame.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you Mr. Chairman. No, but I do know that this is a relatively minor amendment to any laws that we require or that would be required to be changed within the Government of Canada so I don't see any long delays. At the same time, just let me say that if for some reason the Federal Government did not move soon,

then our Act would just remain there until that time. As I said, I'm quite confident that the necessary changes will be made. Again, because this is a relatively minor change. Qujannamiik.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just one more question. Minister, once all the T's are crossed and the I's are dotted, we're going to move on this then you get to the actual selection of the Chief Justice. How will that individual be selected. Will it be on seniority or at the discretion of the Federal Government. And the reason I bring the question forward, that if it's on seniority, you may not necessarily get the best person for the job as far as suitability. So, my question is, how will the decision be made. Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: As I pointed out, the Chief Justices are appointed as Chief Justices, not as the Senior Judge of which ever jurisdiction. So I'm quite confident that in consultation, the Federal Government in consultation of course with the Department of Justice of Nunavut would select whoever the Chief Justice was going to be. However I should point out that at this time, if this thing were to go through today, the senior judge of Nunavut would be designated as Chief. I would also recommend that as well at this time. That is not to say if she were to retire then that would be the time to determine whether to make recommendations to the Federal Minister of Justice, however, again, I've already talked to the Minister of Justice as to who it should be at this time. As I said, if this were to go through now, it would be the senior judge of Nunavut going on to become the Chief Justice. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Minister. Questions or comments to Bill 9. Okay then, we'll go clause by clause. Is that the committee's wish.

Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Judicature Act and other Acts in Relation to Judges. Clause one.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause two.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause three. Just a minute. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On Clause 3 (2) it reads that the Chief Justice of the Nunavut Court of Justice or another judge of that court designated by the Chief Justice is responsible for the supervision of justices of the peace. JP's of the communities will then be under the Chief justice. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): No. The JPs are appointed by us but the communities make a recommendation to us before we appoint that JP. What it says here is that the Chief Justice is responsible for the supervision, they won't do the appointing. They would only be responsible for the supervision. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Okay then. We'll go back to clause by clause. Clause three.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause four.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause five.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): And on the next page, clause six.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Seven.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Nine, sorry, eight.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going back, Bill number 9, an Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges. Bill as a whole. Bill 9, are we going to put this to third reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would like to thank the Minister of Justice and his official for appearing in front of us. Thank you. What is the committee's wish. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to go to the fuel price increases. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Fuel Price Increases

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk would like to deal with the fuel price increases. All in favour. Opposed. Minister's statement 50-1(3) regarding the fuel price increases. Comments. General comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering if, I know I have a number of questions and the rest of us have a number of questions to the minister and her staff regarding her Minister's Statement and the documents that she tabled. I'm wondering if the minister has anything as far as opening remarks to say to this or is she prepared to go to the witness table with some of her staff. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister, do you have any opening remarks.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I could go right away to the witness table. I don't have any other comments to make in regards to the increase in fuel prices. There's some very technical information so I would like to ask one of my officials to come sit with me at the witness table. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you agree. The minister can go to the witness table along with her officials. Thank you. Before we begin I would like to recognize someone in the gallery. We have a guest here today, author Michael Kusugak. He is a well known artist and writer throughout Nunavut, Canada and the world. He has also been instrumental and supportive to the school curriculum, therefore, I would like to recognize Mike Kusugak from us as the Nunavut Government.

Thank you. Minister Thompson if you can introduce your official for the record.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My official is from the Petroleum Products Division, Finance Comptroller, Roy Green.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. General comments to the Minister's department. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the Minister's Statement that was tabled, she had mentioned the Price Stabilization Fund in there of 5 million dollars. I would just like maybe to ask the minister if she or her staff could clarify how this fund works. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Green to answer most of the questions for this is quite technical, if the members would allow me to.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: The Petroleum Products Stabilization Fund account was established back in 1972 and the purpose of this fund was to protect consumers against fluctuations in retail prices of fuel products in the event that there was fluctuation in world crude on the world markets. The limit was established at a maximum allowable limit of plus or minus 5 million dollars.

So basically in periods when the price of crude is higher, then if petroleum products can't achieve it's mandate to recover it's operation costs from retail sales, then the deficiency balance would then be reflected in the stabilization fund. And in periods when we are able to buy the petroleum products at a cheaper price, then any profits over and above our objectives would be applied against the deficit balance and the stabilization account.

Chairperson (Mr. Irqittuq): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Green indicated how it is set up and how it works. I inquired as far as who sets it up, who makes the decision on its' use, and decisions affecting the use of that, or whether it should be more or less who makes those decisions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Stabilization Fund was formed under the GNWT and it was adopted by the GN during the division. The 5 million dollar limit is basically the authorization that the petroleum products can operate within. So as long as we can manage our retail prices and that we can live within the legislative limit of 5 million dollars then basically we don't need to seek authorization outside of the department.

Chairperson: Hunter

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So basically Mr. Chairman, Mr. Green has indicated that it is set up, it's a legislated amount that is in there through legislation, so therefore, it has to come through this House to be approved as our budgets are for the government. My first question on that is, it was set up, I forget the year that it was set up, it was some time ago, and was it at that time set at 5 million dollars. And I wonder if he could indicate how they came up with that amount of 5 million dollars. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: That fund, once again, the limit was established in 1972 under the GNWT and to be quite honest with you, I can't tell you how the limit was determined at that time. It is something we have been operating with for the past 27 years.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I see this, maybe if I'm wrong, or could be corrected, is basically like a subsidy fund that has been in place since 1972. I would imagine, I know things have changed a little since 1972 as far as cost of living, and everything has gone up. I am wondering why, or if, the department is taking a look at increasing it, or hasn't taken a look at increasing that amount. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Petroleum Products have been able to live within the Stabilization Fund for the most part for the past 10 years or so. I think there were only just two increases in retail prices since 1991, but the limit of the Stabilization Fund is something that we would be looking at as part of the proposal that has been recommended by the Financial Management Board as to the long-term objectives of Petroleum Products.

In order to clarify the Stabilization Fund, a little bit of terminology, so people can really understand basically what it is. The Stabilization Fund is an account where Petroleum Products profits and losses flow through, so it is kind of like a retained earnings account that you would probably see in a profit oriented business. Given the substantial increase in retail price, the retail price of crude as of late, we may have to look at the options of increasing the limit beyond the 5 million dollars if we want to maintain the retail prices at the current limit in the short term.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I said, Mr. Green's comments kind of lead into my next question. Is this Stabilization Fund is what's enabled the department to maintain the prices that are out there, charged to the public for fuel. And, saying that in the Minister's Statement, that if they didn't raise the price of fuel, and pass it on to the consumer, they're in danger of exceeding the 5 million dollars. So, isn't that saying that this year it cost us that much more, or how much more over the 5 million dollars would it have cost us to maintain the same fuel prices that were in effect before January 1st. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. At division the balance of the Stabilization fund was at its maximum limit of 5 million dollars. As per the formula that was arrived at for the division of assets and liabilities, Petroleum Products portion, or the GN's portion of the Revolving Fund was 2.2 million dollars effective April 1. Given the unit cost of fuel increase on an average of 9 cents per litre this year, this would have resulted if we didn't have a fuel price increase, Petroleum Products was looking a loss of 4.5 million dollars, and if you combine that with the 2.2 million dollars that has already existed in the Stabilization Fund, we would have exceeded the maximum allowable limit.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. So basically what you are saying is that, if we would have raised the Stabilization Fund from 5 million to 7 million dollars, the prices could have stayed the same. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is correct.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Was that an option that was looked at or not, prior to increasing the prices and if it wasn't why. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It was one of the options that we looked at. Unfortunately, with the way the world crude was moving, and with our future projections for 2000 and 2001, we were still forecasting a deficit even with the 5 cent increase that the, we were forecasting a balance in the Stabilization Fund of close to 4.5 million dollars. So increasing the Stabilization Fund limit could solve the problem in the short-term, but it certainly does nothing to solve the mandate of Petroleum Products which is to recover its operating costs from retail sales in the long run.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess one question that immediately comes to mind is that we can't go over that 5 million dollar Stabilization Fund that is there and saying that it is a legislated amount and that is why. So are all the budgets that, like you said earlier, all the budgets are like that, as in our own example of going over budget such as the unfortunate predicament where the health boards have gone into a deficit. I don't know what stopped. The reason for that was to meet the needs that are out there. You know, for people in health care and that, I am just wondering why the needs of hunters and other people that use fuel is something that was not deemed as important to allow the department to go over the 5 million dollars.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately, given the nature of the industry that Petroleum Products is involved in, we certainly did look at the options of the increasing the Stabilization Fund, but at the same time, we also looked at the different consumer groups to see if there are any alternate ways of trying to put a ceiling on some prices. But unfortunately, that the way our pricing structure and the way that our

database systems are structured, it would be very difficult for us to implement a policy where we could put a ceiling on retail prices of this particular group.

So what we did do is we looked at the overall subsidies of products that were being subsidized. I can give you an example, where diesel fuel was being subsidized we needed a 9 cent increase in diesel fuel in order to recover our objective. We needed an 18 cent increase in gasoline per litre in order to recover our objective, and we had a surplus, we were at a surplus balance on the aviation fuel of 4 cents a litre.

So what we did is, we kind of looked at the option of doing cross subsidies across products and then we looked at cross subsidies across the various communities so that we would have a flat rate and that does keep the, we did absorb a 4 cent per litre increase through the Stabilization Fund. But when we looked at the Stabilization Fund we were looking at what it could sustain for this year and what impact the 5 cent increase would have on the next fiscal year. So at that point in time that is how we decided to proceed with the 5 cent increase.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My last one for now is, I guess who has, just in simple terms, who has the authority to change that amount of the Stabilization Fund. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If there are any amendments that need to be done or changes, I think the members are aware that it could be done through the members, through the Legislative Assembly. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): While we're discussing the fuel increase, we heard about the increase that was enforced or starting right away and I think in our community, in the community that I represent, it must be the highest. The prices I think are the highest in our community and they complain about not having enough money for hunting, food or grub, and this a big concern in our community. I know since the fuel price increases have been implemented, it'll affect a lot of the hunters and homeowners. Hunters have to buy gas for hunting and you need fuel to keep your house heated. My question is how can the hunters be assisted or subsidized with the fuel increases being implemented.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We are following the global price increase and we realize that the hunters will be going through a hard

time, and there is 5 million dollars that is subsidized through the Price Stabilization Fund. There is a letter that I wrote to the NTI, because we buy this fuel and gas, we wrote a letter to NTI and stated that we have subsidized over 9 million dollars.

Just recently during question period, I stated that this could be done through different ways of supporting or subsidising hunters and I have discussed this with Sustainable Development and Paul Quassa, and because there is a fuel price increase, and there is a Stabilization Fund, I know everybody is concerned about this. We feel for the hunters, but it has been implemented, it had to be done. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This isn't really a question it is a comment from the Hamlets. I understand that the Hamlets are concerned about homeowners. They have to pay for electricity, fuel and insurance and they have to pay for mortgages. When a person is a homeowner there are a lot of expenses that have to be paid. I'm just concerned about them because with this fuel price increase I know it will effect them. This is mainly a comment. With prices being so high in the north it is very hard to keep up sometimes in paying expenses.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any comments or responses, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I think he stated it was a comment, and I understand what he is saying.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think this question was brought up earlier but I didn't really understand the response. The question was, who implements the fuel price increases. That's my question, I didn't really understand the response earlier.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The fuel price increases are made through the FMB. When the minister's cabinet is dealing with the budget they are called the FMB. There was a global fuel price increase and when this happens it is approved by the FMB.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think I understand the response now. As a minister you are the ones that have implemented the fuel price increases following the global fuel price increase. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Fuel increases have been implemented all over the world. You understood my response and that's correct.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. While you are dealing with this issue in the years to come it seemed that this was implemented without any consultation with the regular members. In the years to come is that the way the cabinet is going to work, without getting any input from the regular members.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The fuel price increases, we are working in a new government and I know this is one of the first items that have been brought up that the members are very concerned about and we realize that this has happened. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Are we going to be informed about these things without having any input from the members.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If there are changes to the regulations the members are able to look at the budget and look at where they could take some money to increase the 5 million dollars that is used for the price stabilization factor. If that is increased or if there were more funds that could be used or put into that fund, the members could look at finding more funds from different departments. That would be one way to increase the fund.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I understand the response and I am aware that it's new, this is a new government, and we are all aware that as a new government, we are going to be looking at making changes to regulations. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are going to have to work together to make sure that these changes are done properly. That's just a comment we are going to need to communicate with each other to ensure these regulations are done properly.

Chairperson (interpretation): I will give the Minister of Finance a chance to respond. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It wasn't in response to the question. I was considering raising a point of order, Mr. Chairman, but I won't. What I wanted to do was raise a question on a comment that Mr. Hunter made earlier. Now I don't have the Hansards here before me, but from my recollection of what was said, Mr. Chairman, was that he asked the witnesses whether they would consider going over budget in the stabilization fund in order to protect consumers from a potential price increase in gasoline prices.

I would suggest to you Mr. Chairman, if that is what he said, and we will have an opportunity to review that in the Hansard, I would suggest Mr. Chairman, that is an irresponsible statement coming from a member of this House and suggesting that we contravene our own legislation for political purposes. Now I will have an opportunity, once the Hansards come out to review that but I would like to bring that point up to this House and ask the member himself whether he could clarify those remarks. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo would you like to respond. We are running out of time and I will give Mr. Tootoo a chance to speak but there are other members that haven't had a chance.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. Kelvin's query, I believe I indicated that what I was getting at is the budgets are set and we set them and in cases like where the Health Boards go over to meet the needs if it wasn't done in this case, if going over the price stabilization fund meant maintaining a level out there, if that was something that was looked at or not. As Mr. Kelvin knows that if departments go over they can come forward with a supplementary appropriation after the fact to make up for those over expenditures. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Point Of Order

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Point of order, Mr. Chairman. The Honourable Member referred to me as Mr. Kelvin on two occasions. I don't know if it was intentional or not, but I will ask that he properly address all members of this House. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. In the House I would like to remind all members that we cannot use the first name of a person, please keep in mind that we address members by their surnames. Mr. Tootoo.

Point of Order

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Then I too would like to raise a point of order that the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay referred to me by my first name earlier as well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I am sure that everything is okay now since both of you have raised points of order. At this time we will have Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na, Mr. Chairman. I am a rookie Member of the Legislative Assembly and I don't have the experience and wealth of knowledge that they have on the other side of the table, so I don't want to get into one of these contests of points of order today, please. So if I ask a question, it's because of my ignorance, not because I am trying to be smart. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Getting to POL, which I take a great delight on, you are talking about when, just a little story here for a Friday afternoon, I know we're all in a hurry. But I was probably one of the last POL operators in the private sector in the old Northwest Territories, as my colleague, Mr. Mercer was when we sold it out of the back of the Hudson Bay stores in the back of 45 gallon drums. When we did get into the POL in 1972, I was very happy that I didn't have to go out there and shovel out drums and wobble pump five pounds of gas to my customers, because it was very expensive then.

But continuing on, my questions are just simple questions that I think should be easy. When we purchase fuel, do we go to one wholesale supplier for a bulk purchase of fuel from one supplier, or is it bought from two or three suppliers.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. We had a three year contract signed with NTCL to buy the bulk fuel for the Government of Nunavut. So this contract doesn't expire until October 15, 2001. So this was the first year of the three year contract, wherein NTCL purchases and transports the fuel into Nunavut.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Do they deliver fuel to every community in Nunavut. Do they have the contract for every community in Nunavut.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes they do.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: If they have a three year contract does that include the purchasing of it.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The contract with NTCL is to purchase and to transport the fuel into the communities for the next three years. Basically what happens is that we now know what the transportation costs will be for the next two years of this

contract. The price of fuel, when NTCL purchases it, is bought at whatever the racking price is the day that they buy it to transport it, to get it ready to transport it into Nunavut.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. So what you are saying is that whoever tenders the fuel, if we put a tender out for fuel in Nunavut, most of those who bid on it are given the same price from the Iraqi's, is that correct. So the difference in the fuel contracts would be on the freight delivery.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That statement is correct.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: No. Just ballpark this figure. What is the average cost per litre for delivery in Nunavut. I know it is different in Pelly Bay and in Arctic Bay and Arviat, but what is the per litre cost for delivery of fuel into Nunavut.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The cost to deliver fuel into the Keewatin is 13 cents a litre, to bring it into the Kitikmeot is 33 cents a litre and for the Baffin, including Iqaluit, is 11 cents. But if you include the bulk sales to Iqaluit then the Baffin region would be 16 cents a litre.

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Uriash, good thing I looked up again, I was almost...Thirty three cents a litre to deliver fuel into the Kitikmeot communities, is that because it has to go up the Mackenzie River. Is that why the high cost compared to the 13 cents a litre here in the Keewatin.

Mr. Green: That is a correct statement.

Chairperson (interpretation): Please recognize the chair if you are going to be making comments. It is very hard to go through the Chairperson but in order to carry out our proceedings, please recognize the chair before you make any comments. I would appreciate that. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. When you talk about 13 cents a litre into the Keewatin, does that include the freight from Winnipeg to Churchill in that price or is it brought around via Montreal. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That includes the route charges as well. So basically the 13 cents in the Keewatin is from Churchill into the Keewatin region.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. I was rudely interrupted by my colleague across the House there and I misunderstood the answer. So you said that it is 13 cents a litre from Churchill into the Keewatin. What's the rail charge from Winnipeg to Churchill, do you know.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The rail freight is 4 cents a litre.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. That's good information. There's one other question that I have and I have a few more so I would like to thank my colleagues for letting me ask. What's the administration costs, roughly, in the neighbourhood, I don't need it down to the dollar, for administering POL in Nunavut. Like what are the head office charges for administration.

Chairperson: Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The headquarters, finance and administration costs are 2 million dollars. The headquarters operation, that is for repair and maintenance to the tank farms is 1.5 and there is 2.4 million dollars that each regional office staff is responsible for the resupply, general maintenance, utilities at the tank farms, so on and so forth. So it's around close to 5.5 million dollars in headquarters expense.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to inform the members here that we will be recessing here at 2 o'clock and it is now 2 o'clock. At this time I would like to thank the two officials who have been here and ask the Speaker to return to the chair.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 9 and the Minister's Statement 51-1(3) and would like to report that Bill 9 is ready for third reading, and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Is there a seconder to the motion. Mr. Nutarak seconds the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 9 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: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon at 3 in the afternoon, meeting of the Standing Committee on Culture, Education and Health at the hotel boardroom. Orders of the Day for Monday, February 28th at 1:30.

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 Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 50-1(3)
 - Minister's Statement 51-1(3)
 - Tabled document 24-1(3), 25-1(3), 27-1(3),
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. The House stands recessed until Monday, February 28 at 1:30.

>>*House recessed at 2:03 p.m.*

