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Rankin Inlet

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
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Hon. Donald Havioyak
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Hon. Manitok Thompson
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Rankin Inlet, Nunavut
Tuesday, February 29, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak could you please begin with the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker's Ruling: Point of Privilege

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Before we go to Orders of the Day, on February 23, 2000, the member for Cambridge Bay rose on a point of privilege concerning media coverage of the oral question period of February 22. Specifically the member's point of privilege concerned alleged inaccuracies in the CBC Radio's morning news coverage of questions asked during the previous day's sitting.

I have reviewed Hansard on the day in question and find that the member's material argument and his point of privilege, that only two members questioned him directly on that day on the issue of budget surpluses, to be accurate. The question of whether the media coverage accurately reflected the temperament of members on this issue is not one which the Speaker can reasonably comment on.

I would like to take this opportunity to use this incident to remind all members that rule 20(1) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly specifically provides for cases where any member is of the view that his or her actions or comments have been unfairly or inaccurately commented upon outside of the House, members may use the House as a forum in which they may issue clarifications or explanations on such matters.

(interpretation) Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 71 - 1(3): Arctic Winter Games

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that Team Nunavut has been selected and is preparing to attend the

2000 Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse between March 5th and 11th. There are 1,700 participants that will represent nine contingents from the circumpolar regions at the games.

Members of Nunavut's first contingent to these games went through a number of qualifying rounds to make the team. Regional trials were attended by 900 athletes and coaches - that is about 300 per region. Of those, 535 qualified for the Territorial trials. The final composition of Team Nunavut is as follows: 199 athletes, 29 coaches, 12 mission staff, 6 cultural representatives, 3 chaperones. That makes a total of 249 members for Team Nunavut in Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that their hard work and dedication will serve as an inspiration to other Nunavummiut who aspire to attend these games in the future. Their efforts to date should make us proud to see them representing our territory and competing in the colours of Team Nunavut for the very first time at these Arctic Winter Games.

The Government of Nunavut is proud to support them in its efforts to fulfil the Bathurst Mandate Initiative of promoting healthy communities. Mr. Speaker, I ask members to join me in congratulating Team Nunavut 2000 and wishing them good luck. Go, Nunavut, go. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. I would like to notify all the Members of the Assembly that I will be providing a supply of miniature Nunavut flags, coats of arms and flag lapel pins to you to give to all those participating in the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you.

Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 72 - 1(3): Climate Change

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak today to express a growing concern of Nunavummiut. I am referring to the topic of climate change and the effects it will have on Nunavut and Nunavummiut in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, when we hear people talk about climate change, they are referring to the build up of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, and these gases interfere directly with our climate. People who have studied climate change believe that human activities are upsetting a natural balance that has existed in our atmosphere for thousands of years.

The source of this problem lies with the world's heavy use of energy. The burning of oil and gas to heat our homes and our cars and the heavy reliance of our industries on fossil fuels, results in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases being released into the air, eventually accumulating in the atmosphere and causing the earth to heat up.

Attached to my statement today are two charts that I saw for the first time when I attended the Canadian Council of Environment Ministers meeting in Alberta in December. Environment Canada scientists have developed projections on climate changes in Canada over the next 80 years based on our energy consumption levels continuing at today's level.

Mr. Speaker, these tables show that in roughly half of the Nunavut Territory, the average winter temperatures over the next 80 years are projected to increase between 15 and 20 degrees. Although Nunavummiut have heard little of the science of climate change up until now, I know they will quickly understand the implications of a 15 to 20 degree change by the time their grandchildren and great grandchildren are adults. Scientists are also predicting that rain and snowfall will increase in Nunavut as a result of climate change. It is estimated that Nunavut accounts for less than 1% of the national greenhouse gas emissions for Canada.

So we have a unique point of view on climate change. We are one of the smallest contributors to the problem, but one of the biggest recipients of its impacts. Mr. Speaker, I have asked my department officials to begin working with other agencies in Nunavut on a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. We will also be accessing the Government of Canada's Climate Change Action Fund to increase public awareness in Nunavut on climate change.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in March I will be participating in a meeting of Canada's Energy and Environment Ministers. This is the forum where Canada's plans for addressing climate change are discussed. In the days ahead, this House can expect me to report back on our progress on all three initiatives. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 73 - 1(3): Expansion of the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today to inform you of our plans to expand the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre to enable it to provide regional birthing services for families in Kivalliq communities.

Mr. Speaker, at the moment, the midwives and maternity workers in the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre give care to all pregnant women in Rankin Inlet. That is an average of 60 clients per year. They are able to deliver about 30 babies per year to those women whose pregnancies are considered low risk. Mr. Speaker, until now the birthing centre could accept only a few women from other Kivalliq communities for care, but the demand for more women to receive care and possibly deliver in Rankin Inlet has been increasing.

I am pleased to tell you Mr. Speaker, that plans are now underway to enable the birthing centre to meet those demands and we believe that we will be ready to offer services to more women outside of Rankin Inlet by May 2000. Also I am very excited to tell you that

the birthing centre has developed a formalised teaching program, which is being given to the two Inuit maternity workers presently working with the midwives in the Centre. When they complete their training, which should take about 3 to 5 years, these individuals will then be ready to become registered midwives, whose qualifications will be recognized across Canada. I want to take a moment to offer my encouragement and support to Nowyah Williams and Diane Tiktak as they pursue their dream of becoming registered midwives.

Mr. Speaker, throughout history, midwives have played an important part in the birthing process for women and their families in many cultures including Inuit. There is no doubt that doctors and hospitals offer important life saving equipment and skills necessary during crisis deliveries. But Mr. Speaker, the services provided by midwives go far beyond the moment that the baby is born. They begin their work early in a woman's pregnancy and they continue to provide care after the baby is born. Midwives work to promote and protect women's health while providing care, support and education to the women and their families.

Mr. Speaker, in only a few years the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre has grown from a pilot project serving one community to become a midwife service for the Kivalliq. Mr. Speaker, this centre has been recognized nationally by other professionals as an excellent model of community based midwifery. I commend everyone at the centre and the Keewatin Regional Health & Social Services Board for their commitment to this program. We will continue to observe the Rankin midwifery program and expect this to be an excellent model for future projects across Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 161 - 1(3): Appreciation for Sessional Support

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Since today is our last day in the Rankin Inlet session, I would like to thank all the staff of the Legislative Assembly and John Quirke and his staff and also the co-ordinators and the Principal of this school. Also all the residents of Rankin Inlet, for their hospitality was incredible.

We keep saying that we want to be more open to the people and that we want to have closer relationships with all the constituencies and I am very glad that we are able to speak to the residents of Rankin Inlet openly. To our families who are still at home, I thank them, although we are not with them, I want to thank my wife Rosie and I thank my children for being patient and also my constituency I would like to thank them for giving me their support. With their support we can move forward and I would also like to thank the Members of the Legislative Assembly because this is a learning experience.

Lastly I would like to thank our tireless interpreters, for they work very well together and especially the ones that have been interpreting, Mary and Blandina, I acknowledge them for their work in partnership which each other. With these interpreters we can be heard nation-wide, perhaps without them nobody would understand what is happening in the House. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 162 - 1(3): Appreciation for Support during Session

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Today I rise to thank the people of Rankin Inlet for their outstanding hospitality and especially Shawn Maley and Sandy Kusugak for their tireless hard work in organising this event. The two weeks we have been here has made me realize that the Nunavut Government is definitely closer to the people. The busy social schedule was great, even though I could not attend all the events.

It was great to hear the concerns of the elders, youth and hockey players. My observations of my fellow colleagues, they seem to have enjoyed themselves and the Kivalliq is a warm place, weather aside. I want to thank the Premier, Cabinet, fellow MLAs for agreeing to sit in Rankin Inlet. I had an opportunity to see a lot of old friends.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the practice of moving the Legislative Assembly at least once a year to another community continues, so we can hear the concerns of the people of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that a few announcements were made during this session that are very important to the citizens of Nunavut.

Manitok Thompson, Minister of Housing, on the continuing efforts of the Housing Task Force. Minister Kilabuk on his efforts on community mobilization. Minister Ng, on his surplus and his Inuit Employment Plan. The Premier's statement on decentralization and training. Minister Havioyak, his statement on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Task Force. Minister Arvaluk, which is important, now we get SFA twice a month, and Minister Anawak on the three JP's. Last but not least, Minister Picco's statement on our very own Nunavut Power Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, these may not be ground breaking announcements but they affect all the citizens and the people of Nunavut. Last but not least as was stated in the announcement by Minister Anawak, I want to wish the whole 249 members of the first Team Nunavut going to the Arctic Winter Games, Godspeed and good luck. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 163 - 1(3): Nattilik Arctic Winter Games Participants

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that I am quite proud of, that Nunavut was established and we should have representatives of our own. Mr. Speaker, there are two representatives going to Whitehorse to the Arctic Winter Games, and I am very proud of these athletes.

These athletes come from Taloyoak, Mark Lyall, Hanna Manilaq, Collin Tucktoo, Tariya Avak, I apologize for mispronouncing your name. Also from Gjoa Haven, Nancy Ilisituk, Sheila Kamookak, Cheryl Anne Puqiqnak, Flora Ruben, Paula Porter, Austine Porter.

Mr. Speaker, since this is our first Team Nunavut, we are very proud of these athletes and also my colleague from Rankin West has stated that she would like to encourage all the Members of the Legislative Assembly to congratulate all the athletes going to Whitehorse. We are so proud of these athletes representing Nunavut. So these are the athletes going from the two communities in my constituency going to Whitehorse as part of the 249 athletes. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 164 - 1(3): Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to say how happy I am in regards to Mr. Picco's statement on the expansion of the birthing centre and I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Picco for working very hard to support the birthing centre in Rankin Inlet.

Since midwifery is part of traditional way of life and it has been the practice for a long time, we have used traditional midwifery in the past, but in this current year there are many, many people from the Kivalliq area who have been born in Churchill, Manitoba and there have been many pregnant women going down to Churchill, Manitoba and Winnipeg for their maternity leave.

Sometimes they would stay away from home for two months or more and would leave their family behind to go have their baby down there even though they were very healthy. There are many people who have been born in Manitoba from the Keewatin Region so therefore, I would like to thank the Minister and Keewatin people for supporting the Kivalliq birthing centre. We are very appreciative of getting the birthing centre. I would also like to thank the stewards taking the midwifery training course. In this way we can regain our traditional way of life. I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services and the staff at the nursing station and the midwifery centre and the elders for the training part of it. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 165 - 1(3): Hamlet of Clyde River Financial Status

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Before I go on to my statement, I would like to thank the residents of Rankin Inlet for their hospitality and their suggestions and their concerns that they have passed on to us. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the House's attention to this serious financial situation facing the Hamlet of Clyde River. This morning I received a letter from the Senior Administrative Officer at Clyde River, concerning the Hamlet's deficit position.

Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling this letter today and I would encourage the Minister of Community Government and Transportation to consider it seriously. Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot about capacity problems in the Territorial Government. But we cannot forget the capacity problems facing the Hamlets. These problems are not of their own making, and the residents of the smaller communities should not have to suffer simply because they want to live in their home communities.

Mr. Speaker, the letter to me asks the Government to review the municipal funding formula and the water and sewage subsidy program, so as to improve the financial capacity of Clyde River to provide the programs and services that the people need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 166 - 1(3): Inuinnaqtun Language

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): I would like to make some comments in regards to speaking in my language of Inuinnaqtun. During question period I was told to talk in the English language and I wasn't pleased with this.

I want to point out to you that from Kugluktuk and in western Kitikmeot, we speak Inuinnaqtun, it is our language. I will continue to use my language seriously, and you should be aware as the members here we have Inuinnaqtun language in our communities, in our region and we will continue to use this language and our written language. I want you to know that sometimes we have difficulty with our own language as yet, west Kitikmeot. But we are proud of this language and I want this western Kitikmeot language of Inuinnaqtun to be known.

When I'm talking in my own language Inuinnaqtun in the House, I will continue to talk so that my people of constituency will know that what I am saying, or understand what I am saying in the House.

In closing, I would like to thank the Rankin Inlet community where we are treated just like being at home and it is nice to see some of the people that I haven't seen. In regards

to the other item, last night they put up a talent show and I was proud of that and we saw lots of people who were drum dancing and singing. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 167 - 1(3): Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I know there was a lot of work here and I'd like to thank the people who made it possible by organising it. I'd like to thank Shawn Maley, Regional Superintendent, CGT, who was the head co-ordinator for Rankin Inlet staff in setting up the session. Ralph Ruediger and Ed Rempel from DPWTTS. Margo Aksalnik, Principal of Maani Ulujuk School for letting us use her school for two weeks. Cheryl Forbes, Clare Harington, Sara Ayaroak, Leo Ussak for the great singing at the opening and signing of the MOU with Manitoba. The Nunavut song is great.

Liz Courtney and the grade two class for their presentation to the Minister of Health about being tobacco free. The young choir for singing at the airport. Mr. and Mrs. Aupilardjuk, and their grandson for their prayers, qulliq lighting and drum dancing. Darcey Scobie and Ben Porter for all their hard work. Wendy Scobie for the great treats in the coffee room. I'd like to thank Theresa Tungillik for organising the talent show and the fashion show. I would like to thank Cathy Towtongie who also organized the event.

Ray Mercer for his help during the unveiling of the Nunavut logo. Harry Adams for all his assistance in the school, and Maani Ulujuk School staff and students for allowing us the use of the gym in the school. And of course the High School staff and students for the use of their school and the volleyball games.

The camera crew, Luke Angidlik, Sam Iqillik, Joe Hidalgo for their hard work on making sure our sessions were broadcast. I also appreciate the hard work of Sandy Kusugak. I'd like to recognize our staff member for the Legislative Assembly, Erie Leighfield, she is a very hard working and patient woman to work with. I'd like to thank the residents of Rankin Inlet for allowing our members to feel welcome. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 168 - 1(3): Appreciation of Support

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I did thank the residents of Rankin Inlet but I wanted to recognize the Minister of Education for allowing us to use the facilities here at Rankin Inlet. I'd like also to thank my family back home for being patient with me and Joanna Nutarak, my wife. Of course, they have to endure to the end, as we have to finish our work wherever we have to meet and I'd like to thank them for their patience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 169 - 1(3): Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today along with the Members of the Legislative Assembly for the great hospitality Rankin Inlet residents have shown to us. I'd like to thank all the people who have done a lot of work for us in order to have this Assembly here.

We have to work hard in order that in the future our younger students' children will be able to carry on the work that we started for them and I never thought that I would become an MLA myself. For my children and my wife, I'd like to thank them because they have been very patient with me and they are very understanding.

I'd like to thank the rest of the MLAs. It seemed like I'm sitting way alone in the corner and I'd like to thank all the residents of Rankin Inlet and the MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 170 - 1(3): Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the people of Rankin Inlet for their hospitality and especially their warmth. I would especially like to thank Ron and Gretty Roach, and Howard Green and Joyce for inviting me for supper and a trip to their cabin on the land.

Mr. Speaker, a special thanks John Patterk and his wife Marina for their hospitality and excellent caribou stew. The Legislative staff and translators and our EAs and those fine Siniktavik staff.

Mr. and Mrs. Forbes on behalf of the Premier and me for an excellent meal and a good time. And Mr. Speaker, a special hello to my wife and kids home in Iqaluit, daddy is coming home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Member's Statement 171 - 1(3) Rankin Inlet Session Progress

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I never thought you would get to me Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to just summarise first of all the past two and a half weeks while we have been sitting here in Rankin Inlet for House business. As you know we've carried out three pieces of legislation, we've dealt with the Ikuma Report, we're into substantive discussions now on POL pricing.

For other business outside the House, we've had the opportunity to meet with the Keewatin Mayors, the Keewatin and the Rankin Inlet Chambers of Commerce, with elders, we have signed the MOU with Manitoba, we've had the unveiling of the official Government of Nunavut logo, and meetings with the Nunavut Youth Abroad.

This is in addition to the many other meetings that ministers I know undertook with other groups and organizations and one of the Standing Committees also had some public hearings, I believe on the Electoral Boundaries or the Elections Report while they were in Rankin Inlet. We have also had an opportunity, many of us to go to some other communities, Whale Cove, Repulse, and Chesterfield Inlet afforded us that opportunity through the host MLAs.

On the social side of things, there has been old timers hockey, there has been square dances, a fashion show, volleyball with the students and I have been fortunate to be able to attend all of those Mr. Speaker. I think we have all recognized we have been received with warmth and with hospitality from the residents of Rankin Inlet.

I'd like to recognize and thank also the school for us imposing on them using this fine facility, to the Legislative Assembly staff, to the government staff, the interpreters, the Sinktarvik staff that have had to put up many of us for two and a half weeks and to the residents and the Mayor Simon Upatauyak, and specifically I want to mention both Shawn Maley and Sandy Kusugak who many of us have spent a lot of time prior to our coming here and assisting the Leg staff Mr. Quirke in making the arrangements and organizing things on our behalf.

On a personal note, I would like to also recognize and thank both Leonard and Cheryl Forbes for opening up their home to me. I hope that one day Mr. Speaker, in Cambridge Bay we will have an opportunity to attempt to match the hospitality and organizational efforts that have been put in place while we have been here in Rankin Inlet.

As you know, I have been one of the advocates of holding sessions outside of Iqaluit, and I would ask all members to join me in congratulating the residents of Rankin Inlet, they have proved to us that it can be done successfully.

And also, on a final note, the Premier had to go to a conference call and he asked me to convey his best wishes and thanks to the residents of Rankin Inlet, Whale Cove, Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet for the warm welcome that he received while he attended those functions in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 172- 1(3): Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Ng said all the words that I wanted to say so I will sit down again. Well, Mr. Ng forgot some, first of all

I would like to thank the communities of Chesterfield Inlet and Repulse Bay for welcoming us, and the government will now be open to the concerns of the communities.

I would like to mention the school, the Maani Ulujuk school teachers, I would like to thank them very much for accommodating us. I would also like to say that Coral Harbour is one of the smallest communities in Nunavut but for this year, there are quite a number of people that are going to the Whitehorse Arctic Winter Games, I am not going to be saying all the names, but there are twenty two athletes that are going to be going to Whitehorse for the Arctic Winter Games, and I wish them well from the people of Nunavut.

It shows you that even if you're the smallest community in the whole of Nunavut, you can still be a part of the activities. And also to the elders and the people who participated in the opening ceremonies and in other activities, I recognize them all, and also the people of Whale Cove who we were able to have a meeting with us this morning.

There was also a scholastic book award for "The Lonely Inukshuk", that we recognized this morning, and I am very glad that I was able to participate on behalf of the Premier. We have quite a lot of activities that we have had to do over the past two and a half weeks and I would like to mention my wife who I believe is very patient. She left for Greenland today and I will be arriving into Iqaluit tomorrow so I don't believe I will see her for a month and myself too for our patience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 173 - 1(3): Rankin Inlet Session

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today on this, the last day of the Rankin Inlet sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we began this sitting during a week of cold winds and grey clouds. Perhaps it is an omen that we conclude under the light of a clear afternoon and a blue sky that heralds the imminent return of spring. I would like to thank the people of Rankin Inlet once again for their hospitality to us all and for their interest in our proceedings and for their community events that we all enjoyed.

This has been a memorable experience for us all. Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention the elders group that spoke so eloquently at the hearing of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit on the review of the Elections Act.

Once again, Mr. Speaker the comments we heard that day remind us all that the wisdom of the elders can guide us on these issues. This was Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in action. Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by thanking you for presiding over a spirited sitting here in Rankin Inlet. As an Assembly we've discussed and brought into the open a number of initiatives and issues. It has been gratifying to see the public has been in frequent attendance.

We now look forward to reconvening in Iqaluit in just three weeks time to begin the budget session which I am confident will be a lively one. Mr. Speaker, while having been here has allowed me to visit with relatives and friends, it will be good to go home tomorrow to my family and constituents, as I'm sure it will be for all of us. It has been a long time for many members of this House to go without the support of their loved ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements, Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 174 - 1(3): Appreciation to Rankin Inlet Residents

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I don't want to be left out so I would like to say thank you to the people of Rankin Inlet. Especially Joani Ungalak who invited us for meals very frequently and also Raymond Ningeocheak. I would like to thank them and also my sister who I've been billeting with. I want to thank her very much for supporting me and I haven't seen her for a very long time. Also my wife who has been ill for some time and also my father for being very patient while I'm still here. I love them all and also my children.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Members' Statements. Back to the orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to welcome to the Assembly some of the people we talked about earlier today. From the Rankin Inlet Birthing Centre, here in Rankin Inlet: midwife Rachel Monday, maternity worker Diane Tiktak and Sue Leiffer, Director of Patient Services at the Keewatin Health and Social Services Board. It is my understanding that Sue is one of those people who has had their baby here at the birthing centre. So, welcome to you all.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are so many people that I would like to recognize, please bear with me and I will keep it as brief as possible. First of all I would like to recognize my adopted son and my grandchild Manitok, the father is Herman Bruce who is wearing a red coat over there.

Also, I would like to recognize the people who came in from Whale Cove by charter. I wanted to show them how the House sits. We have the people from Whale Cove up there.

I asked them to bring their kamiks and their amautiqs for show and there they are up there.

Barry Nangmalik, Doreen Kriedlik, Rene Putulik, Alana Copeland, Mukpah Kriedlik, Greg Myers, Rachel Misheralak, Maxine Angoo, Terryrose Teenar, Russel Mullands, Delores Muktaak, Pamela Arualak, Johnathan Angoo, Rodney Sabarine and their escort David Beaver, Principal of Inublak School. So that's the students, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, I'm not very good with names, I recognize people over there but I would like to recognise a person who is originally from Rankin Inlet Mike Courtney. I thank him for his hard work.

I would like to recognize our pages Silu Ittinuar, Charlotte Kusugak, Tamara Nahadlulik, Sam Pilikapsie and William Tiktak and also our sergeant at arms Mr. Manernaluk. It is exceptionally nice when we have pages and Sergeant at arms who work very hard and are familiar with the proceedings of the House.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I would like to recognise our interpreters for being very supportive. They start work in the morning and they work constantly until everything is done. Thank you

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akesuk. I would like to recognize all those people in the gallery that have not been formally recognized. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 250 - 1(3): Location of Nunavut Power Corporation Headquarters

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, this will be the last time I will rise in Rankin Inlet. The Minister responsible for our very own Nunavut Power Corporation. For the record can the Minister advise the House today where the headquarters for the new Nunavut Power Corporation will be located. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that I will be hearing many more questions from Mr. McLean over the coming months and years and I for one am looking forward to that. Mr. Speaker, I can confirm the assumption that we are working under is Baker Lake will be the headquarters for the new Nunavut Power Corporation. Indeed I believe the Premier has written a letter to officially say that to the mayor of Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: We will be dancing in the streets in Baker Lake tonight. Can the Minister answer the next question. What are the Minister's best estimates for how many headquarters positions will be located in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker that is an excellent question. Right now we are working under the assumption that through the Ikuma report, which we discussed in the House last week, that it will depend on the level of outsourcing that we will do through the request for expressions of interest with the three short listed corporations. To see what level of capacity that we will build over the next couple of years. That will determine Mr. Speaker, how many jobs will be moved to Baker Lake.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you. Is the minister able to explain to me if the Power Corporation is going to have any type of training program now. Or will it be implementing one shortly, because my understanding is that the head office function will be set up by March 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker in the Ikuma Report we briefly touch on the training aspect for the Nunavut Power Corporation. I think one of the exciting things that we see in the new Nunavut Power Corporation is the opportunity for the Nunavut Government with our own crown corporation to look at training aspects and training needs for people on the ground.

Once we get our CEO in place, which will probably over the next four to six weeks and our board up and running, then we will be looking at what opportunities there are, in regards to the outsourcing that we talked about earlier. To see what type of training programs we can put on the ground and in place for the people of Baker Lake to get some of those jobs. They can include on the job training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 251 - 1(3): Government Subsidies

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister responsible for Finance and Administration. Mr. Speaker last June, I asked the Minister if his department would be looking at what we are paying in subsidies and where they are going and is that the best use of our subsidies.

In light of what we heard yesterday that our government is subsidising the federal government for fuel, I would like to ask the minister if he has made any progress or is there a progress report on the different subsidies provided by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Finance and Administration.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I regret to say that no we haven't. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, it's nice getting those types of answers, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the Minister can take a look at doing some type of review, because looking at the petroleum products division where we find we are subsidising the federal government to the tune of nearly a quarter of a million dollars, it is scary. Are there more subsidies that are like that, that we don't know about. I would like to ask the minister if he would commit to doing a review of the subsidies that are out there and put a time frame to it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes I can commit to doing a review to see exactly what subsidies that we have across all departments.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I appreciate that response from the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask if he could commit to a time frame as to when we could possibly look at seeing this type of report. I would think the budget session is coming up already in three weeks. It is not likely that something like this would come into effect in this fiscal year, but if we look at it now then maybe we can implement and plan for some possible changes that we may find in the next budget session. Mr. Speaker if I could get an idea of a time frame on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it might be appropriate during the budget review of some department if they ask questions on what they would have. In respect to compiling government wide what subsidies are out there I would say realistically with the budget session planned to last until the Easter weekend which is the latter part of April. Realistically, we are probable looking at June, July possibly the fall before this kind of information would be compiled. I don't want to give too early a date, given that it takes a bit of work on behalf of all departments and the government as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, maybe I could ask the minister as we saw yesterday there are subsidies that are going to non-government agencies and companies. Also our subsidies in the report that we saw yesterday from the committee of the whole, it shows that we subsidise a number of our own government departments and corporations. I'm wondering if those too will be looked at. If there is a better way of providing that subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in trying to put together the information we would try to be as comprehensive as possible and try to cover all aspects of where the subsidies are going. Whether it is to a crown corporation or a non-governmental organization or other levels of governments. We will try to be as comprehensive as we can in trying to put together that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 252 - 1(3): Level of Eye Care

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, residents of Taloyoak have recently expressed concern about the level of eye care that they are currently receiving. At present eye doctors only come to the community for a few days at a time.

This is not enough time to allow for appointments of all those who need them. People are going without the necessary care they need. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister. Why do eye doctors spend so little time in communities like Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker that is an excellent question and it has come up to me as the minister of health over the last two months, not only from the

member's community but from other communities. From my understanding Mr. Speaker we signed off an agreement with the NIHB, which are the non-insured health benefits on April of 1999. At that time we were only allowed to offer a fixed number of days of service based on the population.

That is why the number of days being spent right now giving eye services in Taloyoak, for example Mr. Speaker, a smaller community like Taloyoak would get two visits a year for about three days at a time. A larger community like Cambridge Bay would get three visits a year. So, I hope that helps to answer the question.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for the quick response. When we talk about three days, yes I know they could stay in our community for three days. But what is the department doing to improve the level of eye care to the residents of smaller communities. So that it can be better co-ordinated.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister for Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, again a good question from the member. Right now the contract that we signed with the NIHB tells us how many days we can serve a community and so on. That is set by the federal government, and that is the uninsured health benefits. That contract or agreement is up 2001 and we will be working to increase those days for our smaller communities, and indeed for all our communities in Nunavut. So we can have more days allowed for eye care and eye care exams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, when can the residents of Taloyoak expect to see an eye doctor. I see you will be looking into it next year for the smaller communities. I know the smaller communities will be looking to see the eye doctors stay in the communities for a longer time. When can the residents of Taloyoak expect to see an eye doctor in their community on a more regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker, according to the information provided to me right now at the present time, Taloyoak gets two visits a year for a minimum of three days of the eye team. Now I would expect Speaker, that the eye team would have already been in Taloyoak and I would believe another visit would be coming up. I can confirm that with our Kitikmeot Board office in Cambridge Bay to see when the next visit for the eye team is expected.

Again through the contract of NIHB, the Federal Government that pays for these services tells us how many days we can get and it's based on the population. So for a smaller

community, like I said, it's for at least two visits a year of three days each. We are going to try, when that agreement comes up, to bring that total up so that the smaller communities and even the larger communities can get more service under that contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 253 - 1(3): Climate Change

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Sustainable Development in regards to the climate change. First of all, I would like to say that I grew up as a hunter and having to stay outside all the time. I too can notice the change from the past to the present. The weather did not just start changing. It started warming up quite a long time ago and it kind of cooled down in the mid years as I was growing up.

In your statements you have stated that scientists have done research on the climate and I could tell you that the elders know the environment very well because they have lived it. Why have you not involved the elders in the climate change study. That way you could use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to study how the weather pattern is from the past to date utilising the elders. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I would like to further explain my Minister's Statement, as I have stated that I have seen them for the first time that's why I tabled them in my Minister's Statement.

The scientists have done studies for quite a number of years. They've been keeping close watch on the climate and weather and they now understand that the weather is getting warmer. I just tabled the Federal Government scientists' reports so that was part of my Minister's Statement. To date, we have not made any plans about whether we should use the elders on global warming.

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

Question 254 - 1(3): Pension Payments

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to direct this question to the Premier, but perhaps I should direct it to the Deputy Premier. Mr. Speaker, the elders are not receiving their elders pension for quite a long time and today we have no other means to survive except by getting some money. I know that these elders don't have jobs.

They receive their pensions too late. I know that this is the Federal Government's responsibility and it's in their jurisdiction. So therefore, I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if the Nunavut Government could take the responsibility over the old age pension cheques.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Deputy Premier Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the member is correct, it is a Federal program and because of that they have responsibilities for the payments but that is a very specific problems on timing issues. Certainly it is an issue that we could raise on behalf of all our constituents so if it is a universal problem then we could try to deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In regards to my question, when we met with the elders they mentioned this problem and their concern and I would also like you to find out from the Federal Government if they can issue the cheques at an earlier time because the elders would like to see this problem resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. I did not hear a question. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 255 - 1(3): Federal Budget

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is again for the Minister responsible for Finance and Administration. Mr. Speaker, I'd heard that the Minister of Finance was interviewed on the radio regarding the Federal Budget address. I would like to ask the minister if he would take the opportunity to formally advise the House as to any preliminary reaction from yesterday's budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I think in the radio interview I did this morning I generally said that in respect of Nunavut residents that the changes that have been proposed and the announcements made about the reinvestments are generally very positive for Nunavut as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the Minister's answer. I was just wondering if there was going to be a more, you know if he's planning on making a more detailed reply or statement in regards to how this affects Nunavut and if there's anything that we as regular members could help him push for our cause here in Nunavut to address to his Federal colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be an analysis from our Department of Finance and Administration on the Federal budget's announcements yesterday. Right now I'm in the process of having it translated and it's almost complete. I was going to provide a copy of that to all the members of this House. It summarises the initiatives in respect of tax reduction and some of the investment initiatives announced in the Federal budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does, I know I just asked the Minister if he plans on responding to his colleagues at the Federal level. Is that something that's normally done if they're happy with it or not. If so, I noticed there's something I know that we've all said is a priority for this government and that's housing and I didn't hear anything and I don't believe there is anything in regards to housing, new housing dollars or initiatives pointed out in the Federal budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Responsible for Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that historically, obviously Finance Ministers and Premiers are generally asked for comments by media after the Federal Budget as was the case this morning when I did the interview with CBC North in Iqaluit. I think in respect of the Premier, right now the Premier is on a conference call with his colleagues across the country again on the issue of the budget released yesterday and some of the initiatives.

I think there will be a response coming forward this afternoon as a result of that Premier's conference. But historically, no, finance ministers themselves don't normally, without having a scheduled meeting with the Federal Finance Minister, bring up these things in person.

But I would say that I know that one of the initiatives in respect to infrastructure reinvestment or a joint shared infrastructure program, there is a commitment by the Federal Finance Minister to have some program criteria in place prior to the end of the 2000 year and I would expect in that particular area there would be some ongoing discussions whether its at the officials level or at the political level to hash out and finalise stuff on that criteria, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 256 - 1(3): Hunters' Compensation Budget

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Can the Minister confirm to me that the Hunter's compensation budget for all of Nunavut is 15 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm here that the 15 thousand dollars is directed towards that. You're correct.

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

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, 15 thousand dollars is not a lot to help out the hunters in Nunavut if they have any kind of acts of god or any problems. Is the Minister looking at reprioritising some funding in his department and increasing that funding because 15 thousand dollars in my opinion would only take care of one person in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the MLA that even though it's only at 15 thousand dollars, the procedures and the rules that we have to follow for the people who usually get the harvesters support program, this is only for disaster purposes and for the people who have serious conditions, in order to have their harvesters support program, this has to be reviewed again. It will be reviewed, we're reviewing it at the moment and at the next Legislative Assembly we will be discussing this once everything has been reviewed.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. He answered my question. So we can expect to see a new policy in place that will reflect the change in needs in Nunavut. That this policy will be put forward in the next sitting of the House. I think that's correct. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Oral questions. Written questions. Item 8, Returns to written questions. Mr. Picco.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 3 – 1(3): Gjoa Haven Water Contamination

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have a return to a written question asked by the Honourable Member from Gjoa Haven. The first five questions were asked by Mr. Puqiqnak and the rest are by the department of Health and Social Services as additional information on this very serious issue.

Mr. Speaker,

1. What is a blood worm?

The larvae that are in the Gjoa Haven water supply are not what we would call a blood worm in English. They are the larvae of the common midge fly.

2. What size are Niviagait larvae?

The larvae are approximately Mr. Speaker, a half inch long.

3. Where do the Niviagait larvae live?

They live in lakes, ponds and water reservoirs throughout the world.

4. What do the Niviagait larvae eat?

The larvae feed on water plants and water animals.

5. How often do the Niviagait reproduce?

Answer, they do not reproduce, Mr. Speaker, the larvae transform into Niviagait and the Niviagait mate and the female lays eggs in the water. The eggs hatch into the water and the larvae can grow over winter in the bottom of lakes, ponds and water reservoirs.

6. Are they resistant to chlorine?

Chlorine does kill the Niviagait larvae. We're not sure how long it takes to kill them. It might depend on the temperature of the water. The Niviagait larvae are not harmful to human health.

7. What are they?

They are flies similar to mosquitoes. They are common everywhere. They are found near lakes and ponds and water reservoirs and they can be observed in great swarms during the warmer ice free months. They differ Mr. Speaker, from mosquitoes in that they do not bite.

8. What are the consequences to human health of having them in your domestic water supply?

They don't pose any risk to human health.

9. Why is this problem happening in Gjoa Haven?

All water reservoirs in Nunavut contain these larvae. At least two communities have reported finding them in their domestic water supply in recent years. This problem often arises when a community is outgrowing the water reservoir. When the water is pumped out of the reservoir some bottom sediment is taken up at the same time. Since that is where the Niviagait larvae live, they get taken up with the rest of the sediment.

10. What is the role of Health and Social Services in this issue?

It is the role of health protection personnel to identify the causes of such problems and determine the effect on human health. While the larvae have no effect on health, they do present an unpleasant appearance and actions that reduce the intake of the bottom sediment into the domestic water supply will eliminate the problem, Mr. Speaker. The root cause of the problem lies within the mandate of another department of government. It is passed out to that department's action. Interdepartmental action is necessary to identify potential problems and work together for the benefit of all the people in the communities.

Now let me say Mr. Speaker, at the same time for the record, that this is a very serious issue and I appreciate the work of the member Mr. Puqiqnak for bringing this forth to our Department of Health and Mr. Anawak's Department of Community Government and Transportation. It's beginning now to come to a conclusion. I would also like to thank the Mayor of Gjoa Haven. I spoke with him last Friday about this issue. And again, Mr. Speaker, we are trying to do what we can. Mr. Anawak's department has been working very hard. The problem as I understand has almost been rectified, as I understand. That screen is coming in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Returns to written questions. Item 9, Replies to opening address. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to reply to the Commissioner's Address. This has been a very busy year for me getting to know what an MLA is all about. The first thing I learned is that being an MLA means never having enough time at home. Right after being elected we started work. In the past year, I've only been home a few weeks before I had to get back on the road for committee work and travel.

(interpretation ends) I have also found out how much work that committees of the Assembly must do including reading a great deal of material and I have lots of committee work to keep busy. I was given the privilege of being chair of the Government Operations Committee. I'm also a member of the Ajauqtiit Committee and the Management Services Board.

I wish to thank my colleagues for entrusting me as one of the co-chairs of full caucus and recently to be asked to be chair of regular caucus members. I'd also like to thank my constituents for being so understanding about why my work load means I don't have as much time to be in my constituency as I would like. Sometimes they are surprised to see me in town for more than a few days at a time. Mr. Speaker, my family too are getting used to me being away although it is hard on my two little girls it is also hard for me to be away from them.

(interpretation) There are always requests from constituents, but I am pleased that I have good access to ministers, they have helped me and they are often available if I need to talk to them.

(interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to officially invite Mr. Kilabuk to Cape Dorset this summer so he could see for himself how important the soapstone source is in Kangusujuaq. Over 100 miles from Cape Dorset, this important asset of soapstone is important to people from both Kimmirut and Cape Dorset. Sadly a young man was killed at the quarry last year.

I want the minister to see this important site and then work with us to help make it safe. Our constituents are also anxious to see the Hon. Manitok Thompson and show her our housing needs so I would like to invite her too.

(interpretation) Housing was one of the top priorities in my campaign and I am looking forward to receiving the report of the Task Force on Housing and I am optimistic that the work of this group will provide some relief to the severe housing crisis we are now experiencing in Nunavut. When I look at housing pressures in my home community of Cape Dorset, it is obvious that housing relief is needed right away.

(interpretation ends) It is plain to see from the one bedroom list and one person required a three bedroom unit, there are at present no houses available in Cape Dorset. No one who has a house is moving out. This list will only grow. The Director of Housing and Public Works, Mr. Bob Workman, tells me that there are still quite a few applications to be processed. There are also a lot of people who aren't even bothering to apply for housing since they know that no housing is available. These are often young people who want to be on their own but are forced to remain with their relatives.

Community Learning Centre. Education is also a top priority in my constituency. I attended the Annual General Meeting of the District Education Authority of Cape Dorset recently. One of the community's biggest concerns is that we have an urgent need for a community learning centre. Right now the community learning centre has been taking up space in the school and space for the high school is too small. We need to train Cape Dorset residents for decentralized jobs which have been promised to Cape Dorset, but I am told that Arctic College has not been able to offer management training courses because they don't have the space, Mr. Speaker.

This course is needed if we are to have local people ready to take up those new jobs. The new community learning centre has been planned with full community involvement.

(interpretation) The new building design includes a full arts and crafts studio. Cape Dorset artists are famous around the world, our young people must learn the skills of the older artists who have put Cape Dorset on the map in the art world. The West Baffin Co-op has been very involved in the planning of the new community learning centre and the co-op will help train local artists in this new arts and crafts studio.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, our planned community learning centre is a story of frustration and delay. Our community was expecting this important building to have been completed in 1999. The community learning centre was in the GNWT capital plan and was approved to go ahead. I have seen the project brief. Project briefs are prepared for projects which are about to commence. The project was even given a number and a code. A project team was put together and here is the planning which was approved. 1997 - Geo-technical survey, design and tender. 1998 - site preparation, 1999 - construction.

Thorough community consultations took place on what should go on in the new centre, a good site was selected, an architect was hired and the design was begun. It was recommended that money could be saved by using a basic design for the community learning centre already built in Cambridge Bay, since the requirements in Cape Dorset were similar to those of Cambridge Bay. The design for a fine arts room an adult basic education room, two other class rooms and a computer class room, general office and counselling office. Unfortunately the project did not start on time. From what I understand DPW issued a contract for a gravel pad work to be done in 1998. It seems that no one was available to do that work in Cape Dorset that summer, although some work was done on the site.

A project officer was assigned to the building, funds were carried over for 1999 and then nothing happened. Mr. Speaker, no one seems to know why this very important project for our community suddenly stalled in 1999. I am not blaming anyone, maybe it got lost somehow in the division process. Arctic College officials tell me that the learning centre in Cape Dorset is still a top priority for the Baffin capital plan.

I am not so concerned about what went wrong, that is water under the bridge, I just want to work hard to get the project back on track. This delay is holding up a lot of important development in Cape Dorset, for example, I have learned that Arctic College is holding back on installing new computers and new internet capacity in the present learning centre in the school because it makes sense to install the system in the new community learning centre which the College is still expecting will be built.

So while we wait for this project to be brought back to life the adult students are without the advantage of internet access and upgraded computers. The other reason to build the new centre is that the present CLC is taking up space which is very much needed for the high school students in Peter Pitseolak School. Both our community schools are full, the junior high school, Sam Pudlat School, had 215 students last year and this year we have 251. Thirty six more students. The high school, Peter Pitseolak, is also full. It has 240 students, 25 more than last year. The anticipation for the year 2000/2001 is that this will get even higher if the decentralized positions are filled from other people from outside of Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, when the new community learning centre is built it will free up class space which is very much needed in the high school to offer learning programs. Mr. Speaker, I hope that I have convinced you all and especially the Minister of Education, that this

community learning centre is really needed in Cape Dorset. It is needed so our people can get training for the new jobs which are coming to our community, it's needed to continue the tradition of world class artistic excellence in Cape Dorset. It's needed to train adults and it's needed to free up much needed space in Peter Pitseolak school.

Mr. Speaker, Cape Dorset water pipe line. Cape Dorset also has another urgent need and that has to do with the water supply. Mr. Puqiqnak knows that a safe and reliable water supply is very important in every community. We are not the only community who has a serious problem with our water supply. Our water comes from "T" lake which is about a mile away, and several hundred feet above our community. Water is delivered by pipeline and the problem is this line is over 20 years old with galvanised iron. Mr. Speaker, this problem has been known for some years. The Hamlet tells me the pipeline was due for replacement in 1998/99 in the GNWT capital plan. For some reason it never happened.

(interpretation) Now the problem with the pipeline is getting worse. It was explained to me by Timoon Toonoo, Cape Dorset's SAO, that over the years with the water rushing through that pipe it has worn away the galvanised coating inside the pipe so the iron inside the pipe is now exposed and water causes the iron to rust.

(interpretation ends) Water has caused the iron to rust in the pipe so we have iron in our water and we have pieces of rust flaking off and getting into our water as well. Hamlet employees try to clean this rust out of the system by flushing the pipe at the bottom, recently five pounds of rust was taken out of the bottom of the pipe line. One day there was eleven pounds of iron and sediment that had to be taken out of the bottom of the pipe. Also the pipeline itself is not in the best of shape. The Hamlet cannot use spare connectors to repair the pipe anymore. Repairs are being made with duct tape. After 20 years the supports for the pipeline are slipping and sliding on the hillside and now there are low spots in the pipeline and when water sits in the low spots it freezes and there is no reliable method of repairing the pipeline when it is frozen. The heat trace has to be turned off and that section of the pipe taken apart and taken to town for defrosting.

This costs a lot, and we are lucky there haven't been more serious freezing problems. Several times we had to use the water from Dead Dog Lake, while frozen spots in the pipe were cleared. That lake is shallow because the river was re-routed. We have to pump very close to the bottom of the lake in winter to get the water. The pump stirs sediments on the bottom making it undesirable and unsafe. The heat trace is very awkward and expensive to repair, copper clad electrical heating cable is located inside the pipe so the line has to be almost taken apart to deal with any problems.

We need an external heat trace, and the heat trace also requires a lot of electricity, up to 200 thousand dollars per year. Our SAO tells me that total maintenance costs were about 300 thousand per year. We need a new pipeline laid out with a proper rate of slope. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the minister for sending in senior Public Works and Community Government officials to look at this situation. I am very hopeful that they have put in place a plan to fix this problem soon. I also know that the Minister of

Community Government is well aware of these problems and this is something that I will be looking for with great interest in the coming budget session.

Community Breakwater in Cape Dorset. Another important project which seems to have been falling by the side of the road in Cape Dorset, is the community breakwater. Mr. Speaker, our community has a marine economy. Our people depend on water not just for hunting and fishing but also for a source of soapstone. We have a pretty big tide and on certain days with strong winds our boats cannot get proper shelter in our harbour.

Last year a storm damaged a lot of boats and the Peterhead Boat owned by Nuna Parr dragged its' anchor in the wind and was so damaged that it has not sailed since. Lake Winnipeg boats turned over, motors and all were lost as well. The solution Mr. Speaker, is a breakwater. My constituents know exactly where the breakwater should be built since a lot of planning and discussion has gone on over the years. Mr. Speaker, this breakwater will cost money but it will save our community's vessels from costly damage in our severe fall weather.

Kimmirut Arena. Mr. Speaker, the story of the effort to get an arena is a long story of frustration and hard work. Since the GNWT announced a program to build arenas and encourage healthy lifestyle opportunities for youth in all communities including the smaller communities, our citizens have been waiting for their arena. The people of Kimmirut have been very pleased to see smaller communities such as Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet get arenas, we are happy for them. I was pleased to see that even a smaller community of Whale Cove has a full sized arena.

Kimmirut, whose population was 397 in 1996 census is still waiting. I was going to say that the people of Kimmirut are patiently waiting, but Mr. Speaker, their patience is running out. The problem has been made worse in the confusion which has occurred in the division process. Our arena project was in the GNWT capital plan just before division. In fact Kimmirut arena has been in the GNWT capital plan since 1990.

Residents of Kimmirut remember being assured that the arena would be built this current year and residents worked carefully to select a site and there was even a kind of celebration when the site was selected. The next thing we knew everything was under review. The Mayor of Kimmirut, Mickey Akavak, has been working very hard on this arena project. Previous Mayors of Kimmirut have worked on this project. Three previous MLAs have worked on this project. Mayor Akavak has shared some highlights from his extensive files on this project Mr. Speaker. The files show that the arena was in the GNWT five year capital plan for 1987. At that time it was scheduled for completion in 1992/93. It was delayed again to be built over two years in 1995/96 and 96/97.

Mayor Akavak was shown a project brief in May 1998. This was a signal to him that the project was finally going ahead. The arena was also in the last five year capital plan for the GNWT. It was to have been completed in 1999. The Hamlet is still waiting. The Mayor's thick file also contains many letters written about this much sought after project in Kimmirut. One letter in particular expresses the view of constituents very well. It was

written by the Mayor of Broughton Island, Mayor Lootie Toomasie to Mayor Akavak and dated January 30, 1998. I would like to quote from this letter because Mayor Toomasie clearly described the tremendous benefit that he felt having this facility in your community.

He said, "over the past two years the arena here in Broughton Island has been a centrepiece of activity and social interaction. At this point in time we have on average 150 to 250 people per night". We are grateful for the support of Broughton Island and we are grateful that the Baffin Leader's Summit that met in December of last year approved motion number 21 that the Baffin leaders once again expressed their support for the building of an arena in Kimmirut at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Speaker, in April 1999, the Deputy Minister of Community Government wrote the mayor with the bad news that this long awaited arena was not on the list for capital plans for 1999/2000.

But a new sewage lagoon was on this list. This is because the new sewage lagoon, classed as regulatory requirement, met the department's criteria for high priority capital items. The department decided that top priority should go to capital projects which enter one of the three classes. Where there is a contract with built in safety contracts or where there is a regulatory requirement.

Mayor Akavak and his council feel that youth and recreation are even more important than a new sewage lagoon. The mayor tells me that there seems to be growing vandalism in Kimmirut which involves young children. Mayor Akavak says that even some of the younger children seem to be frustrated having heard that the arena was coming in 1999.

The Kimmirut sewage lagoon project was in the Nunavut Government's main estimate for 1999/2000 in the amount of 445 thousand dollars, however the project was never started because the Community Government and Transportation gave approval to the Hamlet too late in 1999/2000 construction season. The Kimmirut Hamlet Council has considered this carefully.

Mr Speaker, if the project is to be carried over to the coming year the mayor tells me that he and his council have decided they will be willing to accept deferral of the sewage lagoon even though it has been condemned. They are all so anxious to have their new arena that nothing else is more important.

The mayor has also pointed out that the Hamlet Council recently agreed to go with the Soper Lake arena location, because of complication in the hilltop location. Clean up of the site is required and the new location will be a lot less to develop. Having waited so long the council is hopeful that the arena will be built in one year when it is approved.

If the money for the sewage lagoon is in the capital plan for the coming year, the council has suggested that the money be relocated to the arena project to help make sure it could be built in one year. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the efforts of the Hamlet

Council in Kimmirut to reduce their local government expenditures over the last couple of years. Our government should finally reward the residents of Kimmirut with their long awaited arena by building it this coming fiscal year.

Kimmirut housing pressures: Kimmirut is also facing serious housing pressures. This is particularly acute with young people. Their population is growing fast but no public housing units are available.

As Kolola Pitsiulak, the manager for Kimmirut Housing Association told me, this causes social problems like overcrowding and higher utility and maintenance costs. The housing association did a rough survey last October. This was not a comprehensive needs assessment but it gave me a picture of the pressure on the local authority. Right now there are ten approved applicants on the waiting list who need one or two bedroom units, and a further four applicants who are waiting for approval. Mr. Speaker there are a large number of Kimmirut residents who are eligible for housing but have not applied because they know there is no housing available.

The housing authority did a survey that identified a total of 24 needed one or two bedroom units. There are also three who were identified as needing three or four bedroom units, but are not eligible mostly due to arrears. The local housing authority recommends that if new units are to be built, the need of each community should be taken into account in deciding what should be built. The Kimmirut Housing Authority does not want to be told this is what you will get without consultation in Kimmirut.

The association recommends that the housing corporation should consider multiplex one bedroom units. Kolola Pitsiulak noted recently that the interest in home ownership seems to be declining. This aggravates the housing shortage in Kimmirut. In decentralised communities where new housing is being built for the new government staff this often provides relief for the local housing authorities since public housing tenants sometimes move into the new housing. However, small communities like Kimmirut don't have that advantage.

The local housing association is also facing a continued pressure on its O&M budgets. As Mr. Pitsiulak put it in a recent letter to me, O&M budget funding is shrinking while the expenses of doing business are rising. The latest example is the increase in the price of fuel announced in January 1, 2000. The shrinking O&M budget has also meant that local housing authorities have been unable to give their hardworking employees pay increases in Kimmirut. The local housing authority employees are stuck at 1993 pay levels.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I have outlined the strong priorities placed on education and housing for my constituency, in both communities. This is a reflection of the hard work which has been done in Cape Dorset to plan for the new community learning centre, in the housing pressure which is obviously being felt in Cape Dorset and Kimmirut. As well Kimmirut is wanting its new arena and Cape Dorset is in great need of a breakwater. I look forward to working with the cabinet and my fellow MLAs to achieve these goals for my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Congratulations for your first reply to the Commissioner's Address.

Speaker (interpretation): Before we take a break I would like to recognize a person who just walked in, Raymond Ningeochiak, second Vice President of Nunavut Tungavik Incorporated and Paul Kaludjak of KIA, Rosie Oolooyuk, Chairperson of the Keewatin Health Board and last but not least Ollie Ittinuar, Chairperson of the Elders committee. At this time we will take a twenty minute break. Please stay here because the Premier will be making a presentation and we will be having snacks out in the hallway.

>> *House Recessed for 20 minutes*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you please be seated. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 38 - 1(3): Hamlet Council Documents

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table these documents directed to the Minister of Community Government from our Hamlet Council. Thank you.

Tabled Document 39 - 1(3): Consultant Contracts

Speaker: I wish to table the list of consultant contracts entered into by the Legislative Assembly from the period of April 1 to October 31, 1999.

Tabling of documents, thank you. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion 13 - 1(3): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 2, 2000 I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable member for Cambridge Bay, notwithstanding rule 4, when the House adjourns on Tuesday February 29, 2000 that it shall be adjourned until March 22, 2000. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will ask to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Notice of motion.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion on extended adjournment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. The member for Iqaluit Centre in seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion 12-1 (3). Do you have any nays. Mr. Tootoo you have unanimous consent.

Motion 13 – 1(3): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable member from Cambridge Bay, that notwithstanding rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Tuesday, February 29, 2000, it shall adjourn to Wednesday, March 22, 2000.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. There is a motion on the floor. Questions or comments to the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Ministers' Statements 50-1(3). 51-1(3), Tabled Document 24-1(3), Tabled Document 25-1(3) and Tabled Document 27-1(3) with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the chair. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. Yesterday in committee of the whole we dealt with Minister's Statement 51-1(3), fuel price increases. Do you want to deal with tabled document 24-1(3), and tabled document 25-1(3) on fuel price increases. Are you agreed.

We will just go on to deal with the fuel price increases. To conclude, perhaps the Minister can go to the witness table along with her official. Thank you. The minister responsible for POL. Could you introduce your official and yourself before the floor opens for questions.

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. My name is Manito Thompson, Minister responsible for petroleum products, and Housing and PWTTS and my official is the only person who is knowledgeable about petroleum products, Mr. Roy Green. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson .

Chairperson (interpretation): Are there any comments or questions in regards to the fuel price increases. Mr. Tootoo go ahead.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman maybe I could just ask the Minister, yesterday it was very good to see the breakdown of the costs in a particular community say if it is eighty-three cents a litre the breakdown was given for Rankin. I was wondering if the minister can provide us with that information for all the communities in Nunavut. I'm not asking for it right now but I am looking for a commitment to provide that information some time in the near future. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manikot Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes we will go ahead and I will try to do it as soon as possible. To get you the information on the breakdown on the prices of fuel per community and then we will give it to all the members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister responsible for petroleum products. Any questions. Mr Tootoo do you have another question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a couple of easy questions today. I've heard a number of different comments that when we buy our fuel, I understand that it is NTCL that buys our fuel for us, but maybe I could just ask Mr. Green that when is it that we buy our fuel for this coming sealift season, and if it is the same every year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. There is no quorum in the House. There is no quorum at this point. We will wait 5 minutes until we get a quorum. Then we will resume again once we get a quorum. We now have a quorum. Thank you for getting back to your seats. Madame Minister, if you would like to respond to the question.

Hon. Manikot Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. That other question was directed to Mr. Green so I'll just refer this question to Mr. Green.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr Green if you would like to respond.

Mr. Green: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The fuel order for 2000 re-supply will be sent to NTCL by April 5, 2000. That begins in July and finishes by October 15.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Green. Any other questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Committee Motion 39 - 1(3): Consultation regarding Fuel Price Increases

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman although I don't have a question I would like to move a motion, that the committee of the whole would like the members of the Legislative Assembly to be consulted prior to fuel price increases and to be given notice ahead of time. So that the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public

will have the opportunity to discuss and give input to the fuel price increases in the future.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Nutarak has a motion. Is there a seconder. There is a motion on the floor. Mr. Nutarak, for information to the public on fuel price increases. Are there any comments on the first motion. To the first motion. All those in favour. It is carried. Committee motion for information to the public on fuel prices.

Committee Motion 40 - 1(3): Plain Language Information on Fuel Prices

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Chairperson I move that this committee recommends that plain language information be made available to the public at the time of a fuel price increase. To ensure they understand the reasons for an increase. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Your motion is in order. Are there any comments to the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Mr. Akasuk.

Committee Motion 41 - 1(3): Review of Petroleum Products division

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Recommendation for the revision of the administration of the petroleum products division. Mr. Chairman I move that this committee recommends the current administration of the petroleum products division be reviewed, with a view to identifying options for increasing efficiency and reducing the administrative cost of the fuel supply chain. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk, the motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. Member for Cambridge Bay.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Recorded vote.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is going to be a recorded vote on this motion. You will stand when we call your name. All those in favour please stand up and I will call your name. Starting from Mr. Akasuk I'm going to ask for those people in favour. Please stand up if you are in favour of the motion and if you're not please stay seated. Mr. Akasuk please stand up if you are in favour of your motion. Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

I apologise, I just made a little mistake. All those in favour please stand up. Thank you. Mr. Nutarak, Mr. McLean, Mr. Tootoo. I will just do it my way so I can chair the meeting orderly. I'll start off from here again. Mr. Alakannuark, Mr. McLean, Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Akasuk, Mr. Nutarak, Mr. Puqiqnak, are in favour of the motion. Thank you opposed. Please stand up those who oppose the motion. Abstentions.

All those who abstain. Please stand up: Ms. Thompson, Mr. Picco, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Ng, Mr. Okalik, Mr. Havioyak, Mr. Arvaluk, Mr. Anawak. So that is how fast I forget names

Thank you. I will also, just a minute Mr. Akesuk after I have tallied the votes. There were 6 members in favour, 0 opposed, and 8 who abstained. The motion is carried. Mr. Akesuk.

Committee Motion 42 - 1(3): Review of Fuel Subsidy

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, (interpretation ends) I move that the committee recommends that the current fuel subsidy be reviewed, with a view to reducing fuel subsidies to government and commercial operations, and targeting fuel subsidies to individuals in Nunavut.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk has a motion. The motion is in order. Any comments to the motion. So we will have a vote on this motion with a different process from the previous motion. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Thank you Mr. Akesuk.

Committee Motion 43 - 1(3): Review of Fuel Stabilisation Fund

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My last motion Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I move that this committee recommends a review of the price stabilisation fund with a view to increasing the maximum allowable limit. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. If none then, all those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairperson I have a couple of motions to make. Mr. Chairperson I move that this committee recommends that the overall objective of using the price stabilisation fund for fuel subsidies be aimed at keeping fuel prices at a level people can afford to pay. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. ...I will ask you to re-read it. Thank you for explaining the mistake. Please go ahead and re-read the correct motion.

Committee Motion 44 - 1(3): Review of Local Fuel Delivery Contracting Procedures (Withdrawn)

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairperson I move that this committee recommends that a review be undertaken of the contracting procedures for local fuel delivery with a view to ensuring that the issues of final prices to the government and the retail price to the consumer are key factors in the selection process. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion that you just read, we don't have a copy. It will have to be handed out to the motion. Does everyone have a copy of the motion. If everyone does have a copy of the motion then that is okay. But we need a copy of that motion at the head table. Thank you. The motion is in order. Comments or questions to the motion. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It states in the motion here to undertake a review of contracting procedures for local fuel delivery. I think it is the government that sets the price of fuel. The price of fuel is already set. I don't think the contractors set the price of fuel. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Can anybody who is knowledgeable about that respond to the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that is the case in every situation in Nunavut. In some cases there are independent suppliers that aren't regulated and they can raise the price up from what they purchase it from the government. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: This question is that I don't think that there are that many people out there. The majority of people who deliver the fuel are contracted to the government. I suspect the only ones are in Iqaluit. All the others the government would set the price of gas at the pump. I would think this problem would be localised to Iqaluit.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Maybe Mr. Green would you elaborate and make clarification on this. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manik Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. What Mr. Anawak just mentioned is true. The only place that is different is where local Iqaluit people use that procedure. But the contractors are not usually the people who will set the price on fuel delivery. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister for Petroleum products. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): I would like to ask this question but I'm not sure who I should ask this too, but the contractors in Iqaluit are still under the ruling of the government. As Canadians, what is the fuel or oil price procedures and this is how I perceive the motion is meant to be read.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor moved by Mr. Tootoo. The minister and her officials have made a clarification. Are there any comments or questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairperson I would just like to clarify as to why we put the motion together like that. In every community there is a set rate that the government sets for the fuel. However, if you run out of fuel there are additional charges such as call out charges and etc. I was looking at those types of things. We want to make sure that the consumers best interests are looked after throughout this process. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: I am not disagreeing with the principle of the motion rather this motion would recommend to the government to interfere with the private enterprise pricing system. That is the only question I have. I don't think this government, unless you are specifically saying to, undertakes a contract with the private supplier, will we be protected and not be seen as interfering with private enterprise.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't believe that we are trying at all to say the government would at all interfere in private contracts. I think we are just saying to take a review of the procedures and to ensure that all those factors are considered. If you have one bidder saying that he is going to buy it from the government at price "X" and sell it at a 10 cent increase or, if you have someone else say they will buy it for the same price and sell it at a 20 cent increase, then that should be a factor in the selection process. I'm not talking about trying to interfere or anything like that.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Basically, when the government contracts out fuel delivery services and gas delivery to all the communities, the contractors determine their hours. I wouldn't want to interfere if some entrepreneur buys from the contractor to sell after hours, let say after hours of the other gas stations. I wouldn't want to interfere as long as the price remains constant, as the government sets it to the contractors. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, I think there is going to be a movement and I'm detecting it in this region. There will be a movement outside the POL contractors that will want to get into distributing gasoline and petroleum products. If these individuals are successful at doing this then there is not going to be any regulation on what they can sell the price of gasoline or home heating fuel for. The bad thing about that is if you're stuck for gas and you got a private individual buying it from the contractor say at eighty cents a litre and reselling after hours for a \$1.20 a litre.

We are the ones who come under fire for this. And I know we are going to come under fire for this. That is a problem I see coming. I don't know if POL is thinking about

changing their policies, but I'm getting indications that one gas station in some of the larger communities is not enough, and that gasoline is being sold between nine or eight-thirty and five and then it is very difficult to get gasoline in an emergency situation after hours, and I think there is going to be a need for private sectors to set up gas stations to serve the public after hours, and on weekends.

But there is also and I know this for a fact, because I made the phone calls myself that if an individual, a home owner runs out of fuel oil in the middle of the night due to a busy work week and scheduling, I know people in my community run out in the middle of the night and there is no way possible these individuals can meet the minimum purchase requirements, which varies from community "X" to community "Y". I know there is no standard there, because I did the checking myself. So, a person in Arviat may end up waking this contractor up at two o'clock in the morning and purchasing five hundred dollars worth of fuel products where in a community like Rankin Inlet he may only have to purchase fifty dollars of fuel products.

I don't know what the standard is in Chesterfield Inlet, but they are all different, to my recollection. That is a direct hit to the consumer and we have heard that in the House what the price of home heating fuel and gasoline is. But sometimes the minimum standards set by individual contractors are higher than acceptable to people who purchase fuel in a community and it may be five hundred dollars before you get enough fuel to get your house warm again.

I know that from first hand experience that this is happening in this region. Because I've talked to bankers about it and it is a concern to them. I think that is what this motion is getting to. We're not trying dictate to the private sector, but what we are doing here is let's have uniformity across the board. Because, I know that if the minister and her department checked in this region, that the disparities are huge. In Rankin Inlet you can, if you are short of cash you can go up to the gas station here and buy twenty litres of fuel oil to tide you over to pay day.

It is no secret that a lot of people in Nunavut live paycheque to paycheque. Some people do not have six or seven hundred dollars to purchase fuel at the minimum requirements. So I think that is what we are getting at here in protecting the consumer. I don't think we want to quash the private sector. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you. In reading the motion it does say regulating fuel prices which are regulated but I do agree with the comments made by the member from Baker Lake that there needs to be a uniformity of charges outside of regular business hours. Again, I would agree there needs to be some kind of a guideline to the contractors on call out charges after hours. But on this particular motion, to me, it is fine it if you are able to interpret that motion to mean that. But basically what this does is talk about the price I pay at the gas station.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe that the whole concept of this motion was that when the Nunavut Government awarded fuel contracts that it would consider the lowest possible bidder. I think it is no secret if it costs us more to do something that cost will be passed on to the consumer. So I guess that all we are trying to say here is simply that. These things should be taken into consideration as key factors during the selection process. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manik Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. When Mr. Tootoo mentioned the motion we understood what he was trying to get us to do. We agree with what his motion was earlier. Maybe just the wording of the motion should be changed a bit to address what his concern is, because we can do that as a department. We can review the fuel contractors call-out charges, and pricing procedures for private operators. It is probably just the wording of the motion that is confusing people or the members. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): If there is to be an amendment to the motion you will need to do it officially through a proper motion. More comments Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairperson I believe what I'm hearing is that there is no opposition to the motion but maybe what we can do is pull that one back and reintroduce it in Iqaluit or at another time. Have it re-worded so everyone is happy with it, and then deal with it when we reconvene in Iqaluit.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. I will ask you now if you are withdrawing the motion.

Mr. Tootoo: Yes Mr. Chairperson. I will withdraw that motion now.

Chairperson (interpretation): The motion is withdrawn.

Committee Motion 45 - 1(3): Affordable Fuel Prices

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman then I have one more motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends that the overall government objective of using the price stabilisation fund, fuel subsidies and other targeted programs be aimed at keeping fuel prices at a level people can afford to pay. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk : Thank you. The only problem I have is that most of the prices whether it's fuel or consumer goods, all the prices that most of us cannot afford. I am just

wondering what is the aim of keeping fuel prices at a level most us can afford to pay. What is it eighty cents, fifty cents.

I guess what will happen is that the fuel prices per barrel around the world will continue to increase for example, then we continue to subsidise fuel prices more and more. Something else has to give. Because the government will have to increase the limit of the five million dollar buffer zone in order to increase that price stabilisation fund ceiling. Then do we cancel the building of a school, or cancel something else in the government programs. Because it will require a few million dollars to keep that cap that is requested in this motion. So I have these two questions Mr. Chairperson.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, again here the intent of this motion is to ensure that people can afford to buy gasoline to go hunting. As far as what levels people can afford to pay, I think that sounds like an excellent task for the government to undertake to review and make recommendations on, and then try and work around that.

Say we don't subsidise fuel anymore will it continue to go up and up. Will the people on income support, will the minister responsible for income support provide extra funding to those individuals to buy that fuel, as the cost of living is going up. It is the same thing with the municipalities.

The money is all coming from the same place. So if we are not going to subsidise it from one level the money is coming from somewhere else. The way that the public of Nunavut are being paid and the way the municipalities are funded is adequate. If there isn't any control then it must come from somewhere. If we don't try to keep it at a price where people can afford to buy it then where else is the money going to come from in order for people to go hunting and provide country food for their family. Those are the areas and people we need to protect so they can do that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk: I find this motion to have a very narrow vision. Because you cannot govern the budget process through the price stabilisation fund alone. You cannot say that we might go up another five or ten cents to keep the price of fuel at the level people can afford to pay, then therefore, we will decrease some programs in other areas. You cannot have the government basing their operations on the fuel prices.

You have to look at all your programs and set your priorities. For example, the government priority announced was education and housing, and you cannot just change your priorities in the middle of the session, and change it to the importance of the fuel stabilisation fund over everything else. The problem I have here is that everything will be based on how the price of fuel rises and lowers around the world. I am having a hard time

when I'm looking at the government performing the budget process under that motion. Thank you .

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Tootoo, any further comments.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't think we're trying to change any priorities that the government has set forth. We had all agreed that housing, education and health care were the priorities. Maybe if the minister would like me to read the motion over again, it might become a little clearer.

That the committee recommend that the overall government objectives of using the price stabilisation fund, the fuel subsidies and other targeted programs be aimed at keeping fuel prices at levels that people can afford to pay. Those are programs Mr. Chairman, that are already in existence. We're trying to use those programs to make sure that the best use of those and that that be the objective of the government to use those programs to keep fuel prices at a level that people can afford to pay. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

And maybe to go a little further, if any changes to that have to come forward, they have to come from the department to FMB, to Cabinet then to this House so it's not changing anything. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think I understand what the members are trying to move but there's some contradictions in the different motions. The motions aren't numbered so, if I refer back to your earlier motion that the committee passed, which was the recommendation for reviewing the fuel subsidy, you said to reduce the fuel subsidy to commercial and government operations.

Well if you reduce the fuel subsidy to commercial operations, for example, the Northern Store, the Coop, individual private businesses, if you reduce their fuel subsidy, and ask them to pay market rate or whatever, retail rate, then they're going to increase their prices on food and so on and so forth to cover the cost of the reduction of the fuel subsidy. You say, the fuel subsidies should be used to come up with some kind of price that people can afford, and who can say what people can afford.

What David Iqaqrialu can afford and what Mr. Tootoo can afford or what Mr. Picco can afford, will be different than what someone who is on social assistance can afford. And what someone doing minimum wage can afford will be different than what someone else can afford. So who decides that. And if you're asking to reduce all subsidies to commercial establishments, which is your other previous motion, you're contradicting yourself on this one because you're asking that the fuel subsidies be used to help people, but once you cut the fuel subsidies, someone has to pay the difference.

The difference will be paid by the consumer and that consumer may not be just the person who buys fuel, but the person who buys food and groceries and everything because the business person will have to pay for that extra fuel cost. When you reduce it to governments, I think you're trying to say the federal government, because that's the subsidy you talked about earlier, if you asked this government to be cut on their fuel subsidy, which includes municipal governments who get their subsidy from MACA, you're asking for health centres, schools and everything. If you reduce their subsidy for fuel which this government pays, then someone else has to make up the difference and that money will have to come from the programs and services of this government. So, Mr. Chairman, I think there's a couple of contradictions in this.

So if you're asking to review the subsidy of government and then at the same time you're asking to put it towards individuals, it's a contradiction, because when you reduce the price for someone, someone else has to pay for it. Thank you Mr. Chairman. That's why by the way Mr. Chairman, that's why you have the stabilisation fund in place because the stabilisation fund keeps the level of fuel costs to a price that can be borne out through the stabilisation fund. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Those questions were already brought up and please keep to the motion at hand.

Hon. Ed Picco: Maybe the committee could explain the contradiction in the two motions, one asking for reducing the fuel subsidy to commercial and business and then this one, using those same fuel subsidies that you asked to reduce to lower the fuel costs. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Picco. Hunter Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe we can ask Minister Picco, if it should be more important to subsidize other governments and airlines and companies that don't even have a basis of operations in Nunavut to subsidize those types of organisations than it is to subsidize our elders and our hunters that are trying to heat and feed their families. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco, I will give you the opportunity to make a comment but I have another name on my list.

Hon. Ed Picco: I'm not saying that at all. All I'm saying is that when you reduce the subsidy to one group, you want to reduce the subsidy to the airlines, but the airlines are going to increase their ticket prices. And if you reduce the subsidy to a business, they're going to have to recover their costs somehow. I'm not here to debate, I'm asking you a question and you can come back and clarify. I'm not here to argue with the member, and if the member wants to talk about elders and so on and so forth, I agree him and everyone agrees with that.

I don't think that we have to get into that rhetoric, all I'm saying is that in one motion, they're actually asking to review all subsidies, this motion they're saying review the subsidies and put them toward the consumer and say what the consumer can pay. Mr. Chairman, this is the same debate all across Canada, deciding what people can pay. We've seen the prices of fuel increase, we don't generate fuel here in Nunavut, we have to buy it at the world market prices. Those costs are outside what we can control. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. I will give this person an opportunity to ask a question. I think it will be easier. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't mind the intent of the motion but I don't know how you're capable of drafting this motion and as a government the price of fuel went up so we increased the price. We of course, can feel the price increases but we did have a buffer and in regards to Mr. Picco's comments, the elders are also consumers and there's also subsidies for businesses. If we should decrease the subsidy, then they will just pass on the increase to the customer.

I can use the example of an airline where if there's an increase in the fuel, then they will increase the price to the consumer. We as a government, we're not in opposition, we are a consensus government. We have feelings and we're not going to make a drastic increase in the rates. I don't mind trying to put this motion ahead but we as a government, the way I see it, I think that you see the government as a body that has no feelings. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. We're starting to talk about the same issues over again. There is a motion on the floor. It can go either way. It could be carried or defeated. Because we're talking about the same issues, I would like to ask Mr. Tootoo to keep the process going and not ask the same questions.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe to try and bring the debate to a close is if I can suggest an amendment to the motion. It's a very small one. Again the intent of what we're trying to do here with our recommendations is to focus on where the need is.

Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommends the overall government objective of using the price stabilisation fund, the fuel subsidies and any other targeted programs be aimed at trying to keep fuel prices at a level people can afford to pay.

Mr. Chairman, the amendment there is adding, trying to keep the fuel prices at levels that people can afford to pay. I believe some of the concern from the other side of the floor is that it would force the government to keep prices at a certain level. I think this would help to alleviate those fears. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Before I give the two other people an opportunity I would like to give these two an opportunity. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. People who are making the comments, they're just debating back and forth, they are the same people. We have been talking about the fuel price increases for the last three days. It's okay with me if we keep the debate going but I would like to say that the POL people that are working in my department have already been asked to look into the issue and these motions.

We know where these motions are coming from. Even though there are amendments made to these motions, there has been ongoing debate for the last two days and everything in regards to petroleum products will be reviewed as directed. I just wanted to make those comments and I just hope that I'm coming across.

(interpretation ends) We are going to do a review of the whole petroleum products and the recommendations are just coming from the discussions that we have had previously and I really do appreciate the comments and the questions that were raised. We'll do our best to review every aspect of our department in PPD. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for those comments Madame Minister but of course we're putting out our opinions and of course we have the right to table motions that reflect our thoughts and needs and that is a show of a consensus government. Mr. Tootoo. I apologise, Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Everybody's pretty well said what they had to say.

Chairperson (interpretation): There has to be an amendment to the motion. We'll take a few minutes break while we're drafting the amendment. We'll take a ten minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 5:13 p.m. and resumed at 5:27 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): We can now start returning to our chairs. We were almost done. We can proceed. Thank you. The amendment to the motion can be read Mr. Tootoo.

Committee Motion 46 – 1(3): Amendment to CM 45 – 1(3)

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I move that motion 45-1 (3) be amended to add "trying to keep" after at and delete the "keeping". Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Questions to the amended motion. James.

Hon. James Arvaluk: I'm not fussy over the changing of words because "trying" and "recommend" are the same thing to me in this case. The only thing that I want to clarify here is that the government is already trying to do these kinds of things. I would like to mention Mr. Chairman, your comment that your vote can be defeated or approved but in

the consensus government, on the motion to deal with the caring for the people, you don't expect me to vote against the motion. I think this is clear from this side that we don't expect to vote against a motion the way it is written. I just want to make those clarifications.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. I'm all alone and it seems like if I wasn't chairing I would have a lot of comments to make. Questions to the amended motion.

We don't have a quorum at the present with the regular members. Do you wish to vote on the amended motion. We don't have a quorum.

At this point in time we have no quorum in the House. I am confused now as to what to do. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe if we just break for five minutes and just have some discussions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, for the rest of the regular members, you may consult with your colleagues so that you can agree with each other because we have to complete this motion and complete this item. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes it would be good to complete this item but when they're asking questions to us we are always available but because we are asking questions they are walking out.

Chairperson (interpretation): We can only deal with the amended motion. As a government it seems like we're just going around in circles. We have to conduct ourselves orderly and we have to respect each other. To the amended motion are there any comments. If there are no more further questions or comments to the amended motion, all those in favour of the motion. Thank you. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

To the amended motion, are there any other motions to the amended motion.

You had voted on the amended motion. Motion as a whole, we have to pass the motion as a whole. Are there any comments to the amended motion as a whole. To the amended motion as a whole, please raise your hand if you are in favour. Thank you. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried and I'm happy now.

I think we still have one more motion and then no further motions. Alright then. The item on Minister's Statement 50 - 1(3) , is completed on fuel price increases.

There are no further motions on the floor. What's the wish of the committee. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): I would like to deal with tabled document 27-1-(3) NNI. So I would like to deal with that tabled document now. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's statement 51-1(3) and Tabled Document 27-1(3) do you agree. First of all I should thank the minister and her official but I apologise for the confusion. I would like to thank the Minister Responsible for Petroleum Products and her official. I know that this was not an easy task. Closing remarks.

Hon. Manitok Thompson Thank you, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to recognize my sister who is sitting in the back in the red parka. Thank you.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for sitting at the witness table. I apologise Mr. Premier, I had tried to introduce you ahead of time. The committee members would like to deal with Minister's Statement 50-1(3) and tabled document 27-1(3). Do you agree. Mr. Premier if you have opening comments or remarks.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to elaborate on Nunavummiut Naminagaqtunit Ikajuqti and if there are any further questions you may ask questions and I have officials just waiting for us and I know that it is going to be following a bit behind but Mr. Chairperson we have been dealing with this for some time.

The Nunavut Government and NTI have been working hard in regards to NNI. We have established a committee as we have stated on February 22. This NNI is trying to abide by Article 24 of the land claims agreement. This 27-1(3) is trying to reflect the land claims agreement. We would like to give further support to the private sector in Nunavut. This NNI was prepared to follow the Business Incentive Policy to date, but we want to start coming up with a new policy. I would like to let you know that if we are going to be implementing this then we are going to need to start as soon as possible.

I would like to consult with the interested parties and on April 1 this will have to come into force and we have to let our staff know that if we are to come up with a new NNI policy. We will have to consult with NTI again if we are going to make amendments. To conform with article 24 we are open to hearing and getting input from my colleagues. Also at this point we are pressed for time but I would like to be open to all of you. I don't think we will be able to hear all the comments from the interested parties.

But I will make my office available to my colleagues if they have any comments. I will extend this for another week but this policy will come into force next month and I want to remind you that in the Bathurst Mandate that we wanted to give further support to Nunavummiut to develop and enhance. So, that is the objective of this NNI. I also would like to state that if we are going to be utilising the government funding of the Nunavut

Government, we have to give further support to the communities' private sectors. If there are any comments or questions then my office will be open. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. We have some time to work with this tabled document. Go ahead and sit down with your officials at the witness stand.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Mr. Chairman it seems that fifteen minutes is not going to be long enough. Maybe the tabling of the document is good enough and I would request to adjourn for the day because of the fact that we are running out of time. We can't question anything at the moment we will have to adjourn the meeting. Mr Chairman, I apologise once again. Sometimes I misunderstand and when you hear something completely different...

Chairperson (interpretation): Those in favour of dealing with the report in progress at a later date. Those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. The majority rules, we will have the Speaker come back. I would like to suggest we take a break before we go back to our regular duties. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I don't know that this is a point of order but there are people down there that want to be heard. They have input on the NNI proposal but nobody recognized the clock from here, and it seems that we are just going all over the place here. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for those comments but the majority ruled to report progress, and we will have to get the Speaker to appear. We have no alternative and you cannot debate. Thank you. Sergeant at Arms.

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker your committee has been considering Ministers' Statements 50-1(3) and 51-1(3); and Tabled Documents 24-1(3) and 25-1(3) and 27-1-(3) and would like to report that Minister's Statement 51-1(3) and Tabled Document 24-1(3) and 25-1(3) are concluded, and Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder . Mr. Tootoo seconds. All in favour. Opposed. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker I would like to ask if I could please have Mr. Iqaqrialu repeat which items were dealt with in the committee of the whole.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion has already been approved. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I was not putting my hand up to second the motion I was putting my hand up to ask a question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo, I recognized you as a seconder and the motion was voted. Motion is carried, third reading of bills. Mr Anawak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 9 - An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts Relating to Judges - Third Reading

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the honourable member from Rankin South, that Bill 9 - An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts Relating to Judges be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Anawak tabled the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried and bill 9 has had its third reading. Third reading of bills.

Before I go to orders of the day I would like to recognize the Rankin Cadet Corps who have been helping us since we started. Assisting with our breaks and anything else the members have wanted. They are Alister Simaktuk, Leo Rasuk and Wayne Towtongie.

>>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 22 Orders of the Day.

Item 22 Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 22, at 1:30 in the afternoon.

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)
 - Tabled Document 27-1(3)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. On behalf of the members, I would like to thank the community of Rankin Inlet for making us feel very welcome in their community. I would like to thank our sergeant at arms Anthony Manomalik, and our pages for assisting us with our work. I ask members to join me to have our picture taken with the pages and the sergeant at arms. I now adjourn this session until Wednesday March 22, 2000 at 1:30.

Sergeant at arms.

>>*House Adjourned at 5:53 p.m.*

