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Acting Speaker: The Hon. Uriash Puqignak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit East)

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(Iqaluit West)

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(Kugluktuk)

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(Nanulik)

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Editors of Hansard
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday March 24, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): I'm sorry the equipment is new and we are having some problems with the audio. To the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Haviyok.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 79 - 1(3): Culture, Language, Elders & Youth Grants & Contributions

Hon. Donald Haviyok (interpretation): Today I rise to speak to you about my department's policies. Our department awards grants and contributions in support of individuals and organisations to promote, protect and preserve traditional Inuit culture, language and heritage in Nunavut.

The department of Culture Language Elders and Youth has two policies issued under the authority of the cabinet. The Financial Management Board approves the authority and accountability of the grants and contributions budget and the detailed breakdown is in the main estimates.

Mr Speaker our staff is using twelve of the two policies. These schedules set the criteria for our funding. These schedules are:

1. Culture Enhancement Contributions
2. Cultural Enhancement Grants
3. Cultural Organizations Contributions
4. Nunavut Performers Contribution
5. Geographical Names Research Contributions
6. Registered Heritage Centres Core Funding Operations Contributions
7. Special Heritage Projects Contributions
8. Oral Traditions Contributions
9. Inuit Language Development Contributions

10. Inuit Language Development Grants
11. Regional Inuit Communications Contributions
12. French Language Development Contributions

Mr. Speaker staff of the Culture and Heritage Division and the Senior Advisor for Youth are working closely on the review process. They are ensuring that elders and youth are receiving appropriate attention and that their funding proposals are not being overlooked.

We are working very hard to ensure that the money we have is being awarded appropriately and we are maintaining the principals of our department. Mr Speaker we are also pleased to have the French and Aboriginal Language Agreement to support our initiatives. This money is a key addition to the services we can provide Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 80 - 1(3): Childcare Training Program

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I am pleased to stand and make this statement on behalf of the Department of Education.

A 12-week Childcare Training Program, offered to Income Support Clients, started on February 21,2000. This program, delivered by Nunavut Arctic College in Iqaluit, will give Income Support Clients the skills needed to be able to work in childcare facilities. Students completing this course will receive a Record of Achievement.

It is hoped that this training will help alleviate the immediate staff shortage situation that has been identified by the local child care facilities as well as provide Income Support Clients with an opportunity to move toward self-sufficiency and eventual independence.

The Income Support and Career & Employment Development branches of my Department are jointly sponsoring this course.

Mr. Speaker, It is a goal of the Department of Education to help individuals find options to Income Support. This program initiative is an example of the approaches that the Department of Education will take throughout Nunavut. We plan to reduce overall dependency on the Income Support program, reduce our costs and at the same time allow individuals to find ways to become self-sufficient. Thank you Mr Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Orders of the Day, Item 3 Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 192 - 1(3): AWG Medal Winners

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I indicated my congratulations to the volunteers at the Arctic Winter Games, which were 2 individuals. There was a gold medal winner for the Russian games, in the traditional Inuit games, in the high kick. The name is Mosha Kanguk who one the gold medal, during the games in Whitehorse. I'm very proud of Mosha.

The other person who got a bronze medal was involved in the Inuit games ever since they started. As soon as he became able he began joining these games and he has brought home over twelve ulu medals. I would like to say his name, Jimmy Merkosak. Jimmy is studying aviation engineering and I am very proud of that achievement because he is working hard towards his education.

Also Mr. Speaker our young people in Iqaluit will have to begin to prepare for the next Arctic Winter Games. It will have to be something that we will have to be proud of. Our young people will represent us and we will have to see improvements because this is a very good activity for them to work towards. So, the arena should be a priority and other recreation facilities should remain a priority in our communities in keeping this for the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 193 - 1(3): Climate Change Meeting

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to inform you that I will be travelling to Rankin Inlet this evening to my constituency, where they plan to have a meeting regarding climate change. At the meeting this is what will be discussed. The first item of business will be the release and discussion of the working paper addressing the climate change in Hudson Bay, which is our area in the Keewatin. This was a document developed at the Circumpolar Ecosystems 2000, held in Churchill in early February with the help of scientists and government representatives from northern Manitoba and Nunavut, particularly the Keewatin.

Also, on their agenda will be their announcement of a Hudson Bay Coastal Management Strategy. On the same agenda under item 3 will include Canada's National Strategy on Climate Change and the effects that it is causing in the future. Item number 4 will include discussions of the Hudson Bay climate changes. So we can understand the impacts of climate change within our region and how it will affect us.

This is very important for our hunters in the region to be aware of. This meeting will start tomorrow March the twenty-fifth and will finish at the end of the week. The representatives that will be coming to the meeting are members from Manitoba, members

from the Kivalliq hunting and trapping organisations, members from the Department of Sustainable Development, land management groups and other bodies such as federal agencies including Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans and Northern Affairs.

I would just like to pass that information along and I will be back on Monday, but for this weekend I will be away and I'm giving you this notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Member's Statement 194 - 1(3): Passing of Harry Qaumagiaq

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would also like to inform members that I had to leave the session yesterday to attend a funeral. We had lost an important resident of Iqaluit and this person was someone we were very proud of. Harry Qaumagiaq lived in Iqaluit and we recently gave him an award of recognition for the twenty years he has been working at the Baffin Correction Centre.

He was the first Inuk that was given such an award here in Canada as a matter of fact. I would like to pay my condolences to his wife, his children, daughter Naulaq, sons Paul and Levi and all his other relatives are in our prayers.

I had known Harry for a long time. I, as a young person was involved with his work, because as you know I had spent some time in the correctional institute and he would try to help me as much as he could during the time I spent at the correction centre.

So, let us remember him and extend our condolences to his relatives and family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We all want to extend our condolences and we all feel the sorrow his family is feeling during the time of their loss. Returning our agenda items, Orders of the Day, Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 195 - 1(3): Kugluktuk AWG Participants

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a brief statement concerning the community of Kugluktuk, and their achievements in Whitehorse. They represented Nunavut for the first time at the Arctic Winter Games. I also am very pleased with the first gold medal recipient. The young lady from Kugluktuk, June Pagon. She did a remarkable job for her first competition and capturing the first gold for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker I would also like to thank the rest of the athletes. The young people in particular Christina Pamiuk, Camela Kaminguaq, and their coach Ernie Bernhardt. I would like to thank Ernie for teaching many young people in regards to the Arctic Winter Games. Also to those who represented Nunavut in female basketball from Kugluktuk -

Lisa Alikamik, Rosanna Tapan, Ms. Pigalak, Ms. MacDonald and their coach Mike Johnston.

I also want to thank our team in volleyball. Also the young gentleman Kevin Niptanatiak for being part of the mission staff. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication in sports and their athletic abilities.

Speaker (interpretation): Proceed Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker I was almost done. I hope to see you for the next Arctic Winter Games here in Iqaluit and Nuuk, Greenland, in 2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Members' statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Member's Statement 196 - 1(3): Tribute to Arviat Elders

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker today I would like to acknowledge and send my best wishes to my good friends in my home community of Arviat. Mr. Speaker both, John Angulajuak and Silas Angoyoaq are both well respected elders from my home community and can be included in the pioneer club of Nunavut. As they have contributed greatly in their respected ways to the realisation of the Nunavut dream.

Mr. Speaker both John and Silas are not totally up to par these days due to some health problems. Mr. Speaker both myself and the member from Baker Lake and I'm sure all the members of this house wish both John and Silas a speedy recovery back to good health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien and our best wishes go out to those gentlemen. Back to the orders of the day. Member for Hudson Bay.

Member's Statement 197 - 1(3): Standard Criteria

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker I have talked about this item before but I would like to talk about this item again. According to the wishes of the people that we represent this is call in English "standard Criteria" and it is mainly regarding arenas.

I don't think it is much use here because in Nunavut the weather is quite harsh and we should be utilising the environment in the north because with the standard criteria we utilise nowadays is not adequate because we use per capita basis. Today I could an example, on January twenty-first we started using the arena on January twenty-first and it was closed for a whole week. Just last week and this week the arena is still closed because of the weather, and with the climate change around the Hudson's Bay area, I am

very pleased to here the minister stating that she will be going there to deal with the climate change. I am sure that she will be able to do something about that, to address the climate change in the Hudson Bay area. I am very happy that they will be meeting to deal with the climate change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 198 - 1(3): Appreciation to Public Servants

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said and I believe in the past that our people are our most important resource. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased yesterday to hear the Minister of Finance acknowledge the hard work done by the public servants in the Government of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, much has been said in this House, especially by members across the floor about the capacity problems in their departments.

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that capacity problems can be addressed in part by ensuring that the Government of Nunavut is a first choice for people, not a last choice. That remuneration and benefits in place for our employees are competitive and creative.

Mr. Speaker, it does no one any good to have an overworked, burned out work force. Employees suffer, clients suffer, Nunavut as a whole suffers. Mr. Speaker, the increases for the northern allowance recently announced is a step in the right direction. I encourage the minister to continue his efforts to make the Government of Nunavut a work place that is itself reflective of what we are trying to achieve as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling thirteen letters signed by 15 Nunavut public servants regarding their concerns over negotiations, under tabling of document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 199 - 1(3): New Pelly Bay School

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to discuss what we heard yesterday, that Pelly Bay, Kugaaruk has been trying to get a school for many years and we finally got it and we are happy. On behalf of our residents and community I would like to thank the Minister of Education and also the Minister of Finance. On behalf of Kugaaruk residents we would like to thank you. I think it has been over ten years that we have been trying to get that facility in Kugaaruk.

Since we heard yesterday's news, on behalf of Kugaaruk residents I would like to thank all of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 200 - 1(3): Passing of Amittuq Constituents

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, although I don't like to talk about sad news, however in my community during the last year there have been some tragedies and sad occurrences. During the past year in December, one person passed away, Julia Issigaitok. Just in the past few days on the 21st, her father also passed away due to cancer.

The family today is facing some hardships, however we cannot do anything about the illnesses or deaths that do happen. This particular person who recently passed away has helped me quite a bit during my life. He has always tried to help me when I had personal problems and he was my good mentor as well. I would like to extend my condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Papatsiaq. Our thoughts are with the family and I also feel what they are going through and I just wanted to extend my sympathies to the family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. On behalf of the members of this House we extend our warmest condolences and thoughts to the families. Members' Statements. Member for Baker Lake, Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 201 - 1(3): Kivalliq Old Timers' Hockey Clubs

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, there is a renewed respect for the members of all the Kivalliq Old Timers' Hockey Clubs these days. The Rankin Inlet old timers' successful defence of the Kivalliq Cup Championship in Baker Lake earlier this month resulted more from pride and determination than from raw power.

The host team, Baker Lake A squad dumped Rankin Inlet 10-5 in round robin play but later lost to Rankin Inlet by a slim score of 9-4 to claim the coveted trophy. Leo Leroux organiser of the 2000 Kivalliq Cup says that it was obvious from the start that every team came to play.

Award winners are, tourney MVP Andy Aliayak from Rankin Inlet. Play off MVP Ronnie Naggie from Baker Lake. Top player from the tournament Steve Crukshuk from Arviat. Best forward of the tournament, Don Paniayak from Chesterfield Inlet. Top goaltender and we all recognized during the tournament that he won the cup for Rankin Inlet, Darryl Grier from Rankin Inlet.

>> *Applause*

Most sportsmanlike player, Peter Mannik from Repulse Bay and the top scorer of the whole tournament was Ronnie Naggie from Baker Lake. Mr. Speaker on that note, over

the last couple of weeks we have heard about the Arctic Winter Games and the successful athletes and the hired staff and the contributions they have made.

I would like to take this time to recognize all the athletes that didn't make it to this event and I would like to recognize them, plus all the people that open gyms and drive kids to airports and pick them up and the Billets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 202 - 1(3): Coral Harbour AWG Participants

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today also I would like to recognize the Coral Harbour athletes and their coaches. First of all, as I indicated, although Coral Harbour is a small community, they have achieved 12 medals. There were silver medallists in wrestling, the female wrestlers. Mimi Kadlak achieved a silver and a bronze medal. In Inuit wrestling, 55 kilograms, Amanda Ningeocheak did a very good job and achieved a silver medal.

Kathy Angootealuk also received a silver medal and there were some bantam hockey players in the tournament. Simeon Dion, won a bronze medal. The male wrestlers in the 62 kilogram category, Tony Eetuk achieved a silver medal and also a bronze medal in Inuit wrestling. The other person Joseph Nakoolak also received a silver medal and bronze medal in Inuit wrestling. In the bantam hockey Tooma Nester.

There were seven athletes who received silver medals. I would like to mention that Joseph Nakoolak and Tony Eetuk have been recognized and they will be going to the Canada Games in BC for wrestling. This is the very first time that Nunavummiut residents will be attending the Canada Games and they will be coming from Coral Harbour during the month of April.

We are very proud of those athletes who will be attending the games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Member for Qikiqtaaluk South, Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 203 - 1(3): Recreational Facilities for Smaller Communities

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I envy some of the members who are sitting here because even the smaller communities do have their recreational facilities. Prior to the Arctic Winter Games starting I am sure the communities lacking recreational

facilities, I hope they do get their recreational facilities prior to the Arctic Winter Games. The recreational facilities are very beneficial to our young people to live a better, healthier life. The smaller communities should have equal recreational facilities as the Nunavut Government had stated that even the smaller communities will be treated the same in all the communities of Nunavut once the Nunavut Government starts.

In regards to recreational facilities some of the smaller communities don't even have recreational facilities. So, therefore I request that they be treated equally so they will be allocated an equal amount of recreational facilities prior to Arctic Winter Games 2002 comes into effect. We all need to have proper recreational facilities in all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Your statement was very clear. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqumiut, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 204 - 1(3): Ministers' with Same Outfits

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is Friday and because it is the weekend I don't have much of a statement to make but I would like to congratulate my colleagues who are members of Cabinet. Two of them who are wearing the same clothes, so they look like the Bobsy twins. I was wondering if they were twins, so I would like some clarification later today.

I would also like to state again, Mr. Speaker, I do like the way you are dressed because your vest is seal skin and your vest is all black and I envy your vest. Perhaps you could give the same kind of vest to all the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Thank you. Going back to the Orders of the Day, Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Iqaluit, Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me very great pleasure today on behalf of the Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk and myself, the Minister of Health & Social Services to welcome in the gallery several students from Igloodik who are here doing their practicum in social work over the next several weeks.

Mr. Speaker, these students will be graduating in May with their diploma in social work. With them is Maureen Dougherty who is the co-ordinator for community and academic programs for Arctic College here in Iqaluit.

The students, when I say your names I would ask that you stand up and be recognized. Lizzie Nakik, Margaret Nutaragaitok, Marie Airut, Nagleena Nattar, Pitari Kavavau. I

should also mention Mr. Speaker, that in Igloolik we still have other students in the same program who are doing a work placement in Igloolik. I would just like to mention their names and congratulate them also for being involved in the diploma program in social work.

Selena Arreak, Evi Kunuk, Leah Ivalu, Sheppa Idlout and Norm Makpah. Mr. Speaker, over the last several days in this House we have had a lot of concerns with social worker placements and Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure and I am sure the members of this House, to say that we have people training from Nunavut to take over these responsible positions in our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. I would also like to congratulate the students. Going back to the orders of the day. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although Mr. Picco had recognized the students, he did not pronounce their names properly because all of these students come from my constituency I would like to recognize all the students and I will properly announce their names. They could stand up together.

Marie Airut, Lizzie Makik, Margaret Nukarakituk, Naglinag Nattak and Takarie Takowgak.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Back to the orders of the day. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a friend of mine that I worked with about ten years in Tuktoyaktuk and also an individual that I was on the volunteer fire department with in Tuk, ten years ago. Just a quick reminder to Patrick Galbraith, who is in the gallery here, I just want to let the members know that Pat and myself were the only volunteer firemen to get the fire truck stuck in the mud on the way to a fire. Thank you.

>>Laughter/Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Welcome to the gallery and to the Legislative Assembly. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 278 - 1(3): Housing Corporation Capital Spending

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister of Finance. I would just like to confirm that there isn't a misprint on Table 4 of the Budget Address. It states that the capital spending for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the year 20009/2001 is lower than the spending last year. I would like the minister to confirm that this is actually the case, that the overall capital spending for the Housing Corporation has been cut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I referred to Table 4, is the honourable member speaking about the 19 million and 60 thousand referred to in 1999/2000 versus the 19 million. The 60 thousand difference. If that is what he is referring to then he is correct. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for confirming that capital spending is down for housing this year even though it is only 60 thousand, the fact of the matter is that it is down. Could he explain to the House how this is consistent with his budget address in which he stated that housing is one of the two core priorities for this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I would say that it is consistent in how you re-profile the dollars within the department or the contributions to the Housing Corporation to begin with. We have moved from 90 million dollars in all various capacities of spending for capital estimates in the Housing Corporation and we moved 15 million dollars, and the minister will get into the details when the budget comes before the Committee of the Whole, 15 million dollars is specifically targeted for social housing, built housing, owned and operated by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

In addition to that Mr. Speaker, we have another million dollars again, when the minister brings forward her details to the Committee of the Whole that they will get into the details of the estimates. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, regardless of whether it's been profiled or not, it totally surprises me the fact that this government has said that housing is it's top 2 priority Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions. It's printed in the Bathurst mandate that housing is one of the top 2 priorities and there is an actual decrease in funding for it.

I can't believe that happened and look forward in getting an explanation to how that could have happened. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: The honourable member is suggesting that 60,000 decrease. It's like an adjustment. We're talking about 19 million dollars and the honourable member thinks 60,000 are significant. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My next question is for the Minister of Finance. I asked for some clarification Mr. Speaker on table 1 on the summary of fiscal position for the government of Nunavut. On the year 2000-2001 main estimates, it has estimated appropriation lapses of 5 million for capital projects.

Mr. Speaker my interpretation of that is they plan of lapsing 5 million dollars for the capital. I'm just wondered if its money they plan on lapsing. Why is it in the budget. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. You were asking a different question than your first one. Minister of Finance Mr. Ng, would you like to respond.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, the plan is to carry over approximately 5 million dollars. Capital projects for the 99-2000 year that will not be completed on March 31st. So, there is approximately 5 million dollars that will go over to the 2000-2001 year. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just like to thank the minister for clarifying that. So, than that 5 million out of this year's capital projects that's going to be carried forward to the next years capital projects. Is that correct Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes that is correct.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'd like to ask the Finance Minister if during the departmental briefings if we're going to be provided with what projects the 5 million-dollar consists of. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will try to provide as much information as any member wants. Thank you.

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

Question 279 - 1(3): Budget Detail

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a question also to the minister of finance. In reference to the budget information that we received. I don't have any detail. I'm assuming that when we access to further information we'll get the information required.

But under page 25 and 26 it says that the Keewatin and the Baffin. It says the Baffin region and the Keewatin. There's reference to the Baffin and the Keewatin regions that when you look at the numbers they all indicate 0 for the year 2000 and I'm wondering why this is the case. I just would like to clarify that for me Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable member may be referring to the 2 departments, the Legislative Assembly and the Executive and Intergovernmental affairs where there is no distribution of budgets outside of headquarters. Having said that all the departments have the details. They're the ones that provided and we summarised it in the budget estimates. When it comes before the committee of the whole, all the details will be provided as much as possible. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In reference to the detail of the budget. There is a great difference in the numbers provided and thank you for telling me that we will be getting the finer details. But when you look at the breakdown of the dollars, it's difficult to assume what the numbers are and I'll be looking for the information later. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. I did not hear a question. Orders of the day. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 280 - 1(3): Distribution of Income Support Programs

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker I believe it was last May when we met I asked a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the income support programmes and how they are distributed differently in the communities.

At that time he said he would gather information throughout the winter months. And, I'm just wondering if he has collected the data required for the information particularly for the Baffin region. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Hon. James Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no we have not done that at this time. But, the staff is working on it. I was asking for the comprehensive review as to the income support program and how they are being distributed.

This has been an on going effort and as we know the department has not been expanded since 1995. That is not the main concern but what we want to find out are ways as to how we can better access that program and how we can make our people less depended on the Nunavut government.

And, so we wanted to do a whole review. So in the following week, I'll be able to inform you as to who will be in the working group. They'll be coming to your communities for visits for consultations.

And, they'll also be some discussions as to whether there should be a whole meeting to that effect. At first I was thinking, Mr. Speaker, that maybe they should be able to meet and discuss the issue that the member raised concerning the Baffin region.

However, we're looking at the bigger picture and we decided that there should be a complete comprehensive review and I'll be able to tell you who will be on that working review committee. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The minister indicates who will be on that working review committee members in the following week. I understand that this has been on going for a while now and he said it hasn't been worked on. I know that the people who receive the income support cheques in different forms.

So he says there will be people that will be doing a review. How soon does he expect the committee to perform the review.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The review will be comprehensive. They will include every aspect of the income support programmes and how they are distributed and we also know at this time much of the information that we want to find out just exactly how we can improve the distribution of the income support cheques, programmes and other services.

For example, for those who get income support, they only need temporary aid. For example people who work throughout the summer months need to get unemployment insurance benefits.

Because it's such a tedious process that they come to income support for assistance. And so we'll be looking at all the aspects of the income support programmes and I look forward to working with the Yukon and the Territorial governments.

The ministers on the area are planning to meet in Whitehorse to discuss these issues along with the Federal Government minister regarding income support programmes. This is scheduled for late May, early June.

What we want to do is look at this with the Federal Government to see if we can make changes or improvements in the way the income support programmes are being handled and for better staff management within that field. So what I'm trying to say to the member is all of the programmes will be comprehensively reviewed concerning income support along with the student financial assistance from Arctic College programmes. All of these components will be looked at. I look forward that we should have the information at the end of three months. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my question regarding income support to the minister. He indicates that he'll be holding meetings with other counterparts and we'll be able to respond to my question at their review and what processes they plan on taking to their review. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. No I will not. What I was trying to say was this. What forms of review will take place. We want to look at the individual components, we want to be able to discuss all the components either by teleconference or in person. We want to get access to people's suggestions and ideas and consult with the people. We want to make it an all-inclusive review over the next three months. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary to my question to the minister responsible for income support. In my first preamble to my question, I indicated that income support cheques are distributed in different forms in the Baffin region.

People are interested in obtaining a response as soon as possible where by they can get their cheques issued in a consistent manner across the board. This was my question last fall and now he tells me he can't answer me until a few months from now. So this is a

question dating back to last spring. It involves the distribution of income support cheques. If I could go back to that, I may have to repeat myself in June and I understand that I'll be able to getting a response only then. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Although I did not hear a question, you may respond Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I myself did not hear a specific question but I would like to respond anyway. It being Friday I can go and find out right away. In fact this coming week I can give him a written response because there are different reasons for many different forms of distribution. It depends on you status and your family members. And so even if I don't give him specific numbers at this time as to how things are distributed differently. I can give the information next week. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Oral questions. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Akesuk.

Question 281 - 1(3): Capital Spending for the Department of Education

Mr. Akesuk: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the minister of education. In written form looking at the information that was presented concern 15.3 million dollars allocated for capital projects. According to the written information I had not seen in front of him whether there is room for expansion under the capital projects because their classrooms are filled to capacity. Our population numbers continue to grow and for the job entrance numbers, we also expect an increase for the working force.

And this figure of 15.3 million dollars seems to me there should be expansion of school. That is my question to the minister. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, what we do is put together. Somebody was mentioning Clyde River, Pond Inlet and Kugarjuk Schools. As well as schools in Repulse Bay. Just make a brief comment. This is what happens if there an emergency or if there is a safety hazard or life threatening situation or if the building is not up to standards whatever the reason may be as well as space not big enough.

I could indicate individually say for example in Baker Lake it's a health hazard. You walk into the school and there are pieces falling on your head. We can also say concerning the schools in other regions, for example in Kugaruuk they're very overcrowded. So, within the 15 million dollars, the community hall is being used as a school and there is room for over crowding and expansion provisions but also I want to add even though I said this in Rankin Inlet.

That for the five year plan, these capital projects which are bound for the schools are not defined well enough in the 5-year plan. We want to do is a 20 year plan instead. So that we can assess emergency growth and other issue like that expansion of population numbers per capita numbers. Is there an economy that is prosperous. All these other issues that have to be looked at and we're going to start this 20 planning basis rather than a 5 year plan. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. He indicates that he plans to do a 20 year planning assessment. You have many communities within Nunavut, will it take a while before these communities will be reviewed or will there be done on a priority basis. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We want to do this as a priority because in the next budget these same issues will be raised and so this is going to be we want to do this as a priority in this fiscal year. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. minister. Back to our orders item number 6, oral questions. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 282 - 1(3): Inadequacy of Hall Beach School

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Before I raise a question I would like to thank the people that I stayed with in Rankin Inlet. I tried to thank them yesterday but they didn't hear me over the TV. However my question is directed to the Minister of Education. As he indicated if there are safety hazards in schools or there is overcrowding.

Then it becomes a priority. In the capital plan, I indicated that my community school should become a priority because it's become too small. We have requested an expansion of the school for the last 5 years and they have extended up to grade 8. They have not done anything about this expansion. Now they have the school is too small now for the students who are attending. Perhaps the minister can look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a plan that would continue to be utilized as it was because they didn't have any health or safety hazards in that school. So they thought that maybe they could still use that school for a number of years. There were some other schools that were a higher priority. When we went to Pond Inlet we entered the school and there were classes even being held in the hallways.

So this 20 year capital plan, once we start considering this plan we will surely consider the other school as well and try and extend or put in classroom additions. The funding that is being used by the Government has to be used by all schools equally and there are some capital projects such as arenas and upgrades of airports and airstrips, all of these capital projects have to be considered in one plan.

So on this 20 year capital plan we can look towards expansion and with the funding that we will have I think we will be in better shape than we are today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During our first session last year I tabled a petition coming from my community requesting a school expansion. I tabled that letter and also in Rankin Inlet when we had our session, they also requested the school's expansion again this time in a more urgent way. The minister replied last year that if we could find funding for the school then we could work out some solutions for that particular school.

They had already indicated that they had the design for the school expansion however, they started having problems with that and that's why I have been requesting for the minister to look into our school because this is becoming quite urgent for the students in our community. I don't know how else I can convince the minister to look into this serious matter, it is becoming a very serious matter because of overcrowding and it could create health problems for the children in that school. Aren't these things considered urgent. Thank you.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan that we used required funding and as we indicated there are some other priorities that we have to consider especially when it concerns health hazards. In regards to the design of the school expansion, it was put out by GNWT and we will indicate again that they didn't have the actual funding for the expansion, they just made plans for the construction.

They didn't even have any contractors to do the work, although they already had the designs planned within the five year capital plan. They were just in the planning stages at the time when the GNWT decided not to go ahead with the expansion, there were a lot of things that were planned for schools, however they were not put forward by the GNWT.

So the GNWT decided that the Nunavut Government would be able to take on this responsibility, the funding for capital projects and although we knew that we wouldn't have enough funding for these capital projects we had to take on this responsibility. So we have had to decide which schools needed attention, and I would like to inform the member that in the GNWT's five year plan, Hall Beach was not included for a school expansion.

There are 26 communities in Nunavut, and if he could look at all the schools in the 26 communities perhaps he could see that Hall Beach is after all, one priority that should be considered because there are some schools that are just in bad shape. Yes I can see that Hall Beach has an overcrowding problem but there are other communities that need more attention right away. I know that there were some plans made for some schools but they didn't go ahead with the plans. For that reason we have had to decide which communities needed the attention more and looking at the budget today, we just don't have the funding required for all the schools to be repaired. Therefore, like I indicated we decided that maybe it would be best to have a 20 year capital plan so things could be in better shape in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Member for Amittuq, Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I understand his response and his concern. It is his job to decide which schools need more attention and which should be a priority and I understand his response. However, I am representing my community and they have had their concerns raised regarding schools.

When he was in my community we had a public meeting and he was asked by someone other than myself, I think he knows very well who asked him the question, his reply was that he was very happy to be asked the question because now he knows that I am not the only person that wants to deal with this issue.

One of my constituents asked this very same important question and he indicated that he would be happy to deal with this issue right away. I just want clarification on this response he made to one of my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I understand where the member is coming from. At the time when we had the meeting I stated that if the school is too small for the students and it is becoming a serious problem that perhaps we could consider it. However, we have said this to every community in Nunavut. That's why we would like to do this comprehensive review and forward it to the communities so we could work well together with the community.

Yes, we understand that there are schools that have this overcrowding problem and this has become serious in some places, I didn't say in Hall Beach that we would build a school next year, I didn't say that. We have to deal with all the schools and if all the schools say that they have a serious problem then the government has the responsibility to look into serious matters and that is how I responded to his constituent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Going back to the orders. Oral Questions. Perhaps, if I can just remind members that during oral question period if you

get a good response from the minister please try and make your supplementary questions short. This is just a reminder to the members. If you have supplementary questions, try and make them short please. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 283 - 1(3): Criteria for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth Funding

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sometimes on this side of the House we don't have any questions and sometimes we have too many. I am just trying to sort out who is going to be the lucky minister today; I have questions for Education, for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Minister of Housing, the Premier. In yesterday's budget speech, the Minister of Finance made a nice presentation on the budget. There were many good things in the budget, I guess there were a lot of things I would like to see there but unfortunately that's the way it is. There are only so many dollars to go around.

My question then today is to the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Finance indicated that there was 500 thousand dollars allocated for youth centres throughout Nunavut. My question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is what criteria is the minister going to use to allocate these funds throughout Nunavut given the fact that we have many communities that are in need of this money. I know for a fact that my home community of Arviat will get very excited about this funding and would like to know how to access it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng. I'm sorry, Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Haviyok.

Hon. Donald Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to answer this a little bit later, but Mr. Speaker, on the 500 thousand dollars for youth centres. The communities when they see that we have funding for such projects, or for renovations or for youth centres in communities, when the communities are given a house or a building they may also require funding for operations.

That is how it will be dealt with, perhaps that will answer your question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Haviyok. Mr. O'Brien, Member for Arviat.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't think the minister, as a matter of fact the minister did not answer my question. My question is again, what criteria does the minister have in place so that the selection process of who will actually be able to access this money, is there an application process in place, what is the criteria, so that the various communities can apply for this funding. Is there criteria in place for the allocation of this money.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Haviyok.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we have finalized these types of applications for funding for such projects. I will try to answer your question. This application we use will be handled through the department to decide who will get the funding. We will look through the process in the department once the regions have requested contributions or grants from our department for these grants we will go through this process. If I didn't answer your question, I will try to answer your question through the written statement that you make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Member for Arviat.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister is correct he did not answer my question. We are on oral questions, this is not posed as a written question. Mr. Speaker, I find it somewhat strange that on one hand we are allocating close to a half a million dollars for youth centres but we don't seem to have a policy in place as to how we are going to allocate it.

I think the minister at this point in time before the figures appear in the budget, there should be a plan in place as to how the money is going to be allocated, how people can access these funds. I hope this is not just the tip of the iceberg as far as what funding is being proposed here for various projects. So I would ask the minister once again, does he have a plan in place as to how he is going to allocate this funding, what criteria he has in place so that the various communities can look at what their needs are and whether or not they will meet the funding criteria that the minister will or will not set up. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the question, and I apologize. The funding that we requested for this department for youth initiatives, our staff is at the moment trying to finalize the funding so that we can try to meet the demands of the youth in the communities and to find out what the initiatives are and the issues here very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister Havioyak. Member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it will be very difficult to pass such a budget item without having the criteria in place. As excited as we are about this budget item, I would suggest to the minister that within the next many hours that a plan be put in place or otherwise it will be very difficult for members to pass this item and we certainly want to pass it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. We are now on oral questions. Oral Questions. Item 6 on the orders of the day. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 284 - 1(3): Increase in Northern Allowance

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my member's statement earlier I was very pleased to hear the Minister of Finance in his budget address talk about the 15 percent increase in the northern allowance. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated on January 17th in a press release that this increase in northern allowance benefit is going to be paid to all employees in the department, boards and agencies effective April 1st.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance why, in his budget address, it states that these changes will take effect for the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, Hay Plan and excluded employees on April 1st, but for members of the Nunavut Employees Union this increase will take effect once the contract is ratified.

I would like to ask the minister why, as he had indicated in January, why it is not taking place on April 1st. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker We had intended to pay it to all our employees on April 1st 2000 but as you know there is a collective agreement process and negotiations that are taking place between the Northern Employees Union and our government. They pointed out to us that it is part of the overall package that they want to have under consideration as part of the negotiations and so because of that it was not pursued Mr. Speaker. Thank you

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Finance. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Finance when the announcement was made in January was it intended by the minister or his department to have something that was there outside and automatically put on for everybody so that when the Nunavut Employees Union said this is still something they would like to negotiate, that it would be on top of that amount. Based on that announcement they would have anticipated they still might want to negotiate but on top of the fifteen percent increase prior to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated we are in active negotiations now with our partners, the Northern Employees Union. I don't think it would be proper to discuss any of those details at this level. I can say they are aware that The Federation of Nunavut Teachers and our other excluded employees as of April 1, 2000 will get a minimum of fifteen percent allowance added to their pay and benefits package Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Tootoo, your supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I believe, reading the press release of January seventeenth, it is out there for all employees effective April 1. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take that and ask the Minister of Finance if in fact he gave it out to all employees and now, it seems, they have taken it back and are holding it over their head until they sign a collective agreement before they get it. I'm just wondering if that was the plan to do that because it seems like you're giving something out to everyone and then you're taking it back and holding it contingent on the collective agreement being signed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Once again, I will just say that they are aware of the proposal. They did quite frankly take exception to the fact that we even offered it, if the members may recall from some of the articles in the newspaper and some of the discussions that took place in interviews with their executive. But having said that Mr, Speaker, let's remember that any agreement that is ratified is retroactive to April 1. So nobody is losing from that perspective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Item number 6 in our orders of the day. Member for Baker Lake. Mr. McLean.

Question 285 - 1(3): Income Support & Tax Considerations

McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tax time is coming and going and with the creation of Nunavut a few items have been pointed out to me in regards to T5007 supplementaries and T4 slips for this accounting year. It appears where there are 2 spouses, husband and wife and family, that received social assistance last year in Nunavut the government of the Northwest Territories issued duplicate forms T5007s, one to each spouse.

If this error is not caught and the duplicate 5007 is not cancelled the family income is essentially doubled. This could effect the calculation of GST and Child Tax Credits by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. Tax filers may experience a reduction in their year 2000 tax credits. Is the minister aware of this and what measures has he taken to see that these badly needed income tax refunds are not jeopardised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Ng for the Department of Finance.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker I am not aware of that problem but certainly if it is a problem we will act upon it to rectify it so our constituents are not adversely affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second question is that in April 1999 the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency notified Nunavut Employers that a result of the

creation of Nunavut, employers would be required to issue two T4s. One for the NWT earnings and the second for the Nunavut earnings. We enclosed a copy of the processing.

Mr. Speaker, my question here is if the two T4s weren't issued that this could really affect both parties; the recipient of the tax return plus the much needed revenue for this territory. Is the minister's department on top of this to make sure that we get the revenue we deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all Mr. Speaker the member is correct because the Territory of Nunavut came into existence on April 1, the Government employees would have transferred over as far as their employer goes. Not just for the government but for any other organization that is operating in Nunavut. So they should have had a T4, in the case of government employees, from the NWT for January first to March thirty-first and for the Territory of Nunavut from April first to December thirty-first.

But in the instance the member raises about tax collection. Of course members realize that the federal government undertakes on our behalf the collection of our taxes on the part of the filing of annual tax for deemed residents on December 31, 1999.

So if someone was to deem Nunavut as a residency that is where the taxation revenue for that tax rate for the provincial or territorial portion of that would go. So in other words we would not lose out provided that individuals residing in Nunavut claim that their place of residency was Nunavut on December 31. Now I will check with my officials that all the information that I provided is correct but that is my understanding Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The accounting firms in Nunavut have been notifying me regarding what they have seen in certain circumstances where T4s have been issued from one territory. The reason I bring this up is that the smaller communities like my own rely on these tax refunds to purchase boats and motors and snowmobiles and stuff like that. I will be inundated with questions and concerns and I just want the honourable minister to confirm that this will be taken care of.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is a legitimate concern and because we are right in the middle of tax season I will find out right away if the circumstances are as the member says. I will try to clarify or rectify any situation where there may be problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. At this time question period is concluded. Before we go to item number 6 we will take a forty-five minute break. We will resume with item number 6. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:52 and resumed at 12:45*

Speaker (interpretation): The House will come back to order. Item 6 Written Questions. Item 7 Returns to Written Questions Mr. Clerk.

Item 7: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 2 – 1(3): Petroleum Products Contracts

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to question 2 – 1(3) filed by the Hon. Minister responsible for Public Works and Housing. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Quirke. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10, Replies to Budget Address. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11, Petitions. Petitions. Item 12, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14, Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 43 - 1(3): Letters Regarding Concerns Over Negotiations

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table, as I mentioned this morning, 13 letters signed by 15 Nunavut public servants that were addressed to me as a Member of the Legislative Assembly from two communities. From Iqaluit and one from Rankin Inlet and I would like to table these. They are regarding the individuals' concerns over the direction and the tone of the negotiations between the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Employees Union. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Hunter. Tabling of Documents. My apologies, Mr. Tootoo. Member for Arviat, Mr. O'Brien.

Tabled Document 44 - 1(3): Letter from Arviat DEA Regarding School Overcrowding

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document from the Chairperson of the Arviat DEA in reference to the overcrowding in the school system and the need for a middle school. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akesuk.

Tabled Document 45 - 1(3): Letters Regarding Concerns Over Negotiations

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also have from Baffin South a number of letters concerning negotiations between the Nunavut Employees Union and the government regarding their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Nutarak.

Tabled Document 46 - 1(3): Letters Regarding Concerns Over Negotiations

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Employees' Union concerns coming from the Pond Inlet staff for tabling. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak, member for Mitimatilik. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 15, Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 15: Notices of Motions

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday March 27, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Tunnuniq that the 2000/2001 Main Estimates, 2000/2001 Capital Estimates and Pre-Budget Consultation Report of the Government of Nunavut be moved into the Committee of the Whole today.

Furthermore Mr. Speaker, I move that the 2000/2001 departmental business plans of the Government of Nunavut be deemed to have been moved into the Committee of the Whole upon their tabling in the House for subsequent consideration alongside 2000/2001 Departmental Main Estimates and Capital Estimates.

Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 16, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Back to our agenda. Motions. Motions. Item 17. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 17: Motions

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable member for Tunnuniq (interpretation ends) that the 2000/2001 Main Estimates, 2000/2001 Capital Estimates and Pre-Budget Consultation Report of the Government of Nunavut be moved into the Committee of the Whole today.

And, furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I move that the 2000/2001 Departmental Business Plans for the Government of Nunavut be deemed to have been moved into the Committee of the Whole upon their tabling in the House for subsequent consideration alongside the 2000/2001 Departmental Main Estimates and Capital Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays. There are no nays, you may proceed with your motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour. You have to read your motion again. Mr. Akesuk.

Motion 15 - 1(3): Main Estimates, Capital Estimates and Budget Consultation Report to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Tunnuniq that the 2000/2001 Main Estimates, 2000/2001 Capital Estimates and Pre-Budget Consultation Report of the Government of Nunavut be moved into the Committee of the Whole today.

And, furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I move that the 2000/2001 Departmental Business Plans for the Government of Nunavut be deemed to have been moved into the Committee of the Whole upon their tabling in the House for subsequent consideration alongside the 2000/2001 Departmental Main Estimates and Capital Estimates. I seek unanimous consent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Back to the orders of the day. Item 18, First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 18: First Reading of Bills

Bill 14 – Interim Appropriations Act, April 1st to May 31st, 2000 - First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Nanulik that Bill 14 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1st to May 31st, 2000 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. The motion is in order. Those in favour. Those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 18, First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 14 – Interim Appropriations Act, April 1st to May 31st, 2000 - Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin South, that Bill 14 – Interim Appropriation Act, April 1st to May 31st, 2000 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill authorises the Government of Nunavut to make operations and maintenance expenditures and capital expenditures for the 2000/2001 fiscal year from April 1st to May 31st, 2000. This will allow the Government of Nunavut to continue to operate until the Legislative Assembly concludes debate on the Appropriation Act, 2000/2001. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour. Those opposed. The motion is carried. Second reading of Bill 14 is approved and it is ready to be moved into committee of the whole for consideration. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Minister's Statement 50 – 1(3), the NNI policy. Tabled Document 27 – 1(3). Bill 13, Appropriation Act, Tabled Document 41 – 1(3), with Mr. Iqittuq in the Chair. Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqittuq) (interpretation): Thank you for finally being able to sit down in committee of the whole. First of all I would like to recognize Manasie Akuluk my common-law. Before we proceed I think we should take a five minute break.

>>Committee recessed for five minutes

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for returning to the House. Before we begin there is a new information item. Our Sergeant At Arms, Jayco Ishulutak has just received a granddaughter this morning. Congratulations to the Sergeant At Arms. Going back to our agenda. Minister's Statement 50 – 1(3), Tabled Document 27 – 1(3), and also Bill 13, and Tabled Document 41 – 1(3).

We were dealing with this tabled document. Do you want to proceed with this item. I am going to ask our Premier to go to the witness table with his witness. My apologies, they don't have a microphone set up at the witness table.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): That's okay. I will try to answer any questions.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. The Premier is sitting at his seat right now and he will try to answer questions appropriately. Mr. Premier do you have any opening remarks. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I already made my opening remarks in Rankin Inlet. But if there are any questions I am open to trying to answer them all right now as we have all the information items with us. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. I think we can proceed now. Comments from the members. Who wishes to have the opening comment. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was just looking to ask some questions of the Premier. I have no opening comments to make.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I already made my opening statements in Rankin Inlet during our last session so I am just here for questions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Comments or questions from the members. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, overall I don't have any great reservations about the document. There has been a lot of work put into it and I think mostly everybody is fairly content with it, although I do have some questions to further clarify the rationale as to why certain decisions have been made.

I might add that I was a little disappointed that we didn't have an opportunity to discuss the document and debate it in the House before it was released last week. Having said that, going to my question, under section 11.4, it states that the bid adjustment values for the award of purchased goods and services will be applied to the first 100 thousand dollars. I am curious as to what rationale was used when they made this decision and what impact the Premier feels this will have for example, on the small businessman in communities where they will be for the most part. The option they will have is that the contractor will only be forced to purchase up to 100 thousand dollars from the local contractor.

If it were higher that would provide more business opportunities for the local contractor. The way it states now is that after the first 100 thousand dollars the contractor can then go outside and purchase materials. If there is a 10 million dollar school that we are looking at, they would probably have 4 million dollars worth of materials but there is only 100 thousand dollars that has to be spent in the community because of that ceiling that they put on it, up to 100 thousand. Can you explain the rationale for that.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The document that we tabled yesterday on 11.4, it's been further confined to just goods, and not services for the first 100 thousand dollars. The intent there is that the goods that we receive today, such as wood and other

supplies, come from the south. So the intent of that limitation for that first 100 thousand dollars. But for services in Nunavut there is no limitation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. We are discussing Tabled Document 50 – 1(3). Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I realize now that it is only goods and that explains my second question. I think we all realize that we have to get our wooden materials from down south at this point. I guess my concern or question to the Premier is, given that fact that there is a 100 thousand limit on the purchase of goods, if it were greater wouldn't the Premier agree that this would give the local businessman who makes his living off importing these products from the south, that would give them a greater opportunity to make more profits so they could provide for the families in a better way.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The first 100 thousand dollars, for the northern person that provides supplies it would give them an incentive. The whole policy applies, it is not just for goods but to provide services, and the whole policy applies and they will get an incentive and provide employment and training opportunities for Inuit for example. They will be provided bonuses.

So if they are just providing supplies and they are just getting supplies from the south, that does include a lot of benefits for the people of Nunavut. But for the first 100 thousand dollars they will get a benefit through this policy as well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you Premier. Premier maybe you can shed some more light on this issue for me and I don't have a total grasp of the whole picture here but I think I have a general idea. Just getting some help from my colleagues here, but it is not very constructive help.

If for example, a southern firm, because we still have a grandfather clause in here, there is a sunset period of two years. If a southern firm, an outside firm gets a contract for 10 million dollars, basically that means that they only have to spend up to 100 thousand dollars towards materials from the local contractors, our local supplier or lumber dealer or whatever. They then can go elsewhere for the rest of the materials. Is that correct.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. They can go wherever they want, but I am sure that if they produce the goods here in our territory then they will get preferential treatment. This policy is directed towards Nunavut businesses and for those businesses

that were covered under the old Business Incentive Policy, they will continue to have two years to change their practices to comply with our policy. The policy is directed towards Nunavut businesses and providing incentives for them to benefit from any contracts that we issue as a government. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will leave that question as I am sure that some of the other members have questions on the same issue and are not really satisfied with the answer I received but I will leave it for some of the other members.

Now going to the grandfather clause, I would like to know if the Premier could explain how they make a decision on allowing the grandfather clause to take place. I know there are a number of companies, many companies from the south or outside of Nunavut, that should be grandfathered. Of course there are probably just as many others that shouldn't because they probably haven't contributed as much to Nunavut. So I would like to ask the Premier how do they come out with a rationale to make this decision.

I assume that they are companies that are now doing business in Nunavut. Is that the case the way the grandfather clause will operate for the next two years.

Chairperson: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under the old Business Incentive Policy which we are still under today, some companies had been provided with coverage under that policy. We are now going to be continuing that for two years, to allow those companies to adjust their business practices to comply with our new policy. We wanted to ensure that our policy benefits Nunavut in that the benefits that we spend as a government flow to our residents. That is the intent of our policy.

If we open it up to other companies that won't do any practices, or locate in our territory, what's the purpose of having a policy. So the intent of the policy is to benefit Nunavummiut and if those companies were to comply with the policy and adjust their practices they have to be able to do that. If you look at past practice, businesses are quite adaptable. If you look under the Land Claim Agreement Inuit firms will get some status under government contracts. Before the land claim agreement was signed there weren't that many companies and look at today, how many Inuit companies are there. There are numerous Inuit companies.

So these businesses are quite capable of adapting their practices to current government policies and that's the intent of the policy is to allow for businesses to comply with the policy and at the same time benefit the people of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): At this time I am sort of confused as to what we are dealing with but now our Deputy Clerk just indicated to me that perhaps I can ask Mr. O'Brien if he is referring to this document that was tabled earlier. Yesterday we tabled the

document and I am just asking Mr. O'Brien if he is referring to that particular document that was tabled yesterday.

Mr. O'Brien: Yes, I am Mr. Chairman, asking questions in reference to the document.

Chairperson (interpretation): I apologize, this tabled document that was tabled yesterday is not in our orders of the day. I think we are dealing with a document that was tabled in the Rankin Inlet session. I think we should be referring to that one first, as this is not on our agenda at this time. If you could understand me. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to NNI policy, Minister's Statement 51 – 1(3) I will be posing further questions under this. Under the land claims agreement, article 24, we should be covering this. I want more clarification on this from the Premier.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Before we tabled this particular document, the previous one we had didn't even have a number on it when it was introduced. They will be given more programs and services and if these private business owners are Inuit people they will be receiving assistance and services. We will have Inuit businesses assisted as a priority and we had the assistance of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated when we were drafting the Ikajuuti policy or the NNI policy. I hope I responded to your questions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In his previous opening remarks he had stated that I am very pleased to table the policy to the Legislative Assembly and I expect to hear input from the regular members of the Assembly. So that is the last remark that he had made in the Rankin Inlet session. We were going to deal with the NNI but since we were pressed for time we did the opening remarks on our last day and we didn't even have a chance to question the policy.

Perhaps, I am sure that he was expecting to get input but we heard on the news on the radio that the Premier would take this NNI into effect by April 1st. So I was wondering if he will implement this on April 1st, even though he did not get any input from the regular members. That is why I want further clarification.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is not new and I have given the opportunity to the regular members on February 22, I think it was about a week before the session was over, I wanted to get input from them, from my colleagues here and we were unable to deal with this issue on the last day. I did the opening remarks

and stated at that time that I would give the members another week to consult and get input from my colleagues.

We kept that open for anybody but I did not hear any input from the members and we had to implement this and bring it into effect for April 1st. So it will take effect on April 1st, because we have to inform all our staff and we have to train on the new system. I think there are over 90 businesses so they have to know the policy. The private businesses will have to be consulted prior to April 1st. In view of that we have to consult with the communities. If we defer this policy we would have to use the old policy, which does not reflect Inuit needs. So therefore the contracts will be coming up in the new fiscal year and the private businesses which belong to Inuit people won't have the opportunity if we use the old BIP. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. I am not anticipating the completion of this yet, but our Premier stated that this would take effect on April 1st. He did his opening remarks last month. Did you consult with all the interested groups or private businesses whether they had a problem with this policy prior to April 1st. Or because the NNI is going to be in effect on April 1st that is why you had put this information on the radio. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The public has heard about the NNI policy since we started in July last year when we started working with NTI and we struck a subcommittee in December. They held meetings with various interested groups last year and the public was invited to have input to the policy if they had any concerns.

After we heard the concerns from the public we incorporated them into the draft policy. In February we dealt with that again in Rankin Inlet. There were people who were quite concerned and we got their input and made amendments to the NNI. I would like to thank those people who gave us their input.

Chairperson: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My last question in regards to the policy. NNI policy, I would like to ask the Premier as to how long he dealt with this policy. Did it take him a year or a week to complete the NNI. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. When we started with it, as I have stated before we started dealing with it in the beginning of July and we had to work with NTI and we started meeting with them in July and also in September. I am sorry, we struck up

a subcommittee to consult with the public. It has been approximately half a year since we have been dealing with this policy. We have included that if we run into any problems some time in the future there is a provision in here that we will be able to make amendments. If we run into any problems we will be able to make amendments any time. So therefore we would like to review it again by next year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. I have on my list Mr. McLean and Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It has been a long time coming, this policy. I am pleased to see that after all these years we are finally blending Article 24 and the old Business Incentive Policy because as a businessman in Nunavut every time I went to a tender and I had to bid against Inuit businesses I heard the same old story.

Finally now it is nice to see that it is in print, what an Inuit firm status means, because there is a large misconception out there among the business community what Inuit status means. I am relieved, probably more relieved than anyone in this room, because I am a long-term businessman, to see it finally in writing. I think it is going to help all of us work closer together.

It is a policy, I have heard a lot of comments, but it is a policy that is here and we can debate it for the next 20 years, but if we don't actually put it in place we won't know the ups and downs of it. I have my concerns with it and I could probably talk to this topic for the next three weeks and I am sure that none of my colleagues want to see me do that so I will just keep my questions really brief.

I am glad that this government has finally showed some initiative to bring a policy forward that reflects the business interests of Nunavut and I fully support it. Like I said it's a policy and we'll know by this time next year after the contracting season, and I'll hear about it, the problems involved and we can review it again. I am glad when the Premier said that, that we will review it in a year from now and we will look at the problems that it has placed on the business community and maybe review it and revise it.

When I was contracting my biggest concern was not necessarily falling within the guidelines of a policy. The biggest concern sometimes is getting people in to inspect the work that was done, and getting a prompt payment, because a lot of small business relies on fast payment of the bills and one of the things I don't see in here is when you do a progress claim whether it is contracting or supplying I don't see the pay period and I guess that follows under the Financial Administration Act.

The old Business Incentive Policy was twenty days upon invoice received. A lot of these communities don't have banks so it is very difficult to get paid and we all know what the mail service is like in our communities. When a cheque is cut by the department of finance within the twenty days it could take another twenty days to get it to the contractor. By then the contractor is calling the bank begging for a higher operating line. I don't think the larger companies would argue with that either.

One of the things that I would like to see implemented in this, Mr. Premier, is a contracting invoice on a progress report paid within fourteen days. I know whoa ! Whoa! All the people running around saying this is impossible to do. But we also have to remember that this a small territory and when we are up and running and have most civil servants in place we are probably going to be one of the territories that have more civil servants in place than any other jurisdiction in Canada.

The thing is the second largest employer in Nunavut and probably the biggest trainer of the work force is the private sector. So Mr. Premier I wonder if you would consider making the pay period on progress claims fourteen days. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Right now every vendor is twenty days so everything is twenty days but we are open to suggestions and that is a wonderful suggestion. We will look into that. Thank you.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, that is great news and I think the business community will be applauding that sort of policy decision, I know I sure would. The other thing that has come up, and like I say I'm not speaking from the Iqaluit perspective, I'm speaking from the small community perspective, that the old business incentive policy was, too me as a small business man, a hindrance and I will tell you why.

If a contract came out to supply, for example if I'm a small contractor in a community and I happen to have a consulting business, or a tourism operation business, or just a small businessperson as usual, and a small contract comes out for ten thousand dollars for the supplying of material for a project in the community. So I figure with my business connections and my business experience as a small businessperson that I could probably supply these goods and compete with the larger firms. If I tendered on the project and I didn't meet the criteria of what a northern supplier is then you had no chance because you didn't stock an inventory. That is one of the things that was frustrating in the past for small businesspeople to get into. We've got to remind ourselves and the civil servants forget about this.

A business is a business but this is Nunavut and in order for us to encourage small business development we need to be more flexible in the requirements for supplying goods and services to the government. If you look now there is probably only 4 or 5 major suppliers of building materials in Nunavut. Now if an entrepreneur is aspiring in the business community to maybe being a northern supplier there was these stipulations in the past that hindered him from doing that, and the civil servants give you no flexibility whatsoever, and that is what I am saying.

Sometimes small business can't get to the next step because of what we throw at them and I have experienced this numerous times and I have heard other people say it. So I wonder if you have considered that in this policy. As long as you fit the criteria for what

I like in here would it be possible to provide all services, if you feel and are given the chance and that is all a lot of small business people ask for, is the chance to bid on projects and contracts. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. As I stated before we are removing any application policy for businesses outside of Nunavut. So that is a start, that the policy provides benefits for businesses inside Nunavut. So, if you provide additional benefits to the community such as employing or creating Inuit employment you will get benefits out of the policy.

So it depends a lot on your practices as well as if you are providing benefits to your community I'm sure that the provisions of the policy will benefit any business person regardless if you are small or big, in our territory. They have a higher chance if they provide adequate benefits to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Time is ticking and if you have any questions please try to ask your questions briefly because we have to recess by 2 o'clock. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I have about 3 questions and I'll try to make them short. Mr. Premier on this policy I don't see anything for incentives for northern manufacturing to start. Is this being looked at. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I hope that we get into that in the future. The first one hundred thousand dollars is covered for suppliers. But if we can manufacture our own goods then I'm sure we can draft a policy once there is a sector. Maybe there is one right now, I'm sure that we can look at that in the future. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: That is very good news also and I would like to know when. But my second question is if contracts that are carried over from last year that have additional funds this year, will this policy affect it. Thank you.

Chairperson: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. All contracts that were signed last year or even up to the first are under the old policy. The new policy is initiated after April 1, 2000. So all businesses will continue to be covered under the old policy until April the first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I feel like I am pressured to ask questions and be short because I could go on for hours about this policy. My last question, and I know it will have an effect, are we going to make sure that all the Hamlets of Nunavut implement this policy and if they don't how do we deal with that because it is our money that we give to them to start with. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are trying it for this year. The old policy covered Hamlets, but it was never enforced. But we do have provisions in the new policy that deal with monitoring and enforcement. So, each of the departments that contract out will be charged with enforcing the policy. So they will be challenged this year for Hamlets, but I'm sure we will have to review it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Since this has not been tabled the reference keeps referring to the previous tabled document. Even though these are not on the order papers. I think now we will discuss topics from Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman that is one thing I would like to clarify, because right now we are discussing according to the Chairman, the draft document tabled in Rankin Inlet. I would like to be able to talk to the policy itself which as yet hasn't come to the committee of the whole and right now we are talking about a draft policy that is redundant because there has been a new policy put in place to replace it, with some changes.

I have questions on some of the changes and things like that. I think we should be able to talk to the policy itself. Not a draft policy that no longer exists. So I've got some general questions. But I think we should wait until later until the policy itself has been referred to the committee of the whole and then we can come back to it and refer to specific points within that policy. So given that Mr. Chairperson, in the draft policy it states goods and services and the premier had already indicated that its just on goods and I would like to ask if there was a rationale as to why services such as construction or any types of contracts weren't looked at for providing a ceiling or a cap on them as far as what the subsidy would be.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The reason why we just looked at goods is because the shipment of goods doesn't provide many benefits for the people of Nunavut. Our services are provided in Nunavut so any caps that are put in place are set out up front like if you are based in Nunavut you get fourteen percent and if you are local company then you get 3 percent, and if you are an Inuit company you get 3 percent on top of that. So, there is a twenty percent incentive under the policy. So, those are the limits in place on bids that are given to Nunavut Government on contracts issued by the Nunavut Government. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr Chairman. Mr. Chairman it is my understanding that the whole purpose of this policy is to help Nunavut business to offset the cost of doing business in the North and of being here. I agree that is important however, if for example you take a look at a 10 million dollar project, if someone is eligible for twenty percent of that then that is a substantial amount of money. Now twenty percent of 10 million dollars, is it costing that individual or company that much more to do that business in the north.

Can we afford to basically give that kind of money away. Is there a way or a limit on how much it is. Whether it should be half a million dollars or five million dollars or whatever. Should there be a limit to what we are providing as a subsidy. That twenty percent amounts to a substantial amount of money. I'm just wondering if it is necessary and if we can afford to give this money away.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. The Business Incentive Policy already provided twenty percent but what we have done is we reclassify how that twenty percent will be applied. So we have been working under twenty percent incentive all throughout what we have been doing. Re-profiling how that will be applied. So we won't be paying any more or not much more than what we have paid already under contracts that we issue as a government. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I wasn't asking if we were paying more I was just asking him if there was an analysis or something done looking at capping the amount that is paid on a 10 million dollar project. At 20% that's a substantial amount of money that a bidder from the north, an Inuit firm from the north, could be potentially eligible for. I am just wondering if on a large project like that is that a little bit overdoing it as far as how much leverage they have over a southern, or any other outside firm on applying for that contract.

I am not saying that whether we are paying more or whatever, but if there was a cap or a ceiling looked at other than the 20% on the large contracts. Was that looked at and if not, is there a rationale as to why you feel that something, if that is something that we can afford to do. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am not sure whether capping contracts was reviewed. Like the 100 thousand dollar cap on goods, like if it is a 10 million dollar contract and a lot of it is goods, then only the first 100 thousand dollars is covered under

this policy. So for services there is no real limit because they provide employment to the people of Nunavut. So that is where the cap applies. For large scale contracts they won't get a lot of benefits under the policy for goods, but for services the amount of employment that is provided to the residents of Nunavut will be covered under this policy. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Premier, I realize that this document was developed with NTI's involvement. I am just wondering if he could indicate as to whether they were in full agreement with all aspects of it or if they weren't were there some areas that they didn't agree with totally. If he could indicate whether there were any of those areas. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. There were negotiations like on anything, and an agreement was reached and I had a joint press conference with Mr. Quassa the President of NTI so they are on side with this policy. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in light of the clock I would like to ask that we return to this topic in the next committee of the whole and at this time report progress. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. 1 abstention. At this time we shall adjourn the Committee of the Whole and we will ask the Speaker to return.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Report of the Committee of the Whole.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 50 - 1(3) and Tabled Document 27 - 1(3) and Tabled Document 41 - 1(3) as well as Bill 13 and would like to report progress, and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order. Is there a seconder to the motion. Thank you. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting at 3 o'clock of full caucus. Meeting at 4 o'clock of Ajaqtiit Standing Committee. Orders of the Day for Monday March 27th. I am sorry Mr. Speaker, a meeting at 4 o'clock of the Standing Committee on Culture and Education. My apologies. Orders of the Day for Monday March 27th, at half past one.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 50-1(3)
 - Tabled document 27-1(3)
 - Bill 13 and associated tabled document 41 - 1(3)
 - Bill 14
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills,
23. Orders of the Day.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. The House is adjourned until Monday March 27th at 1:30 in the afternoon. I would ask all the members to return to the House for a presentation in about 10 minutes. We will be given a presentation shortly.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 2:15 p.m.*

