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Speaker: The Hon. Kevin O'Brien, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Arviat)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday March 31, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to ask Mr. Alakannuark to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: It has been a busy week. An exciting week. The Governor General is still here. So let us try to have a good day today. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 94 - 1(3): Review of Nunavut's First Year

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We are on the eve of our first anniversary as a government and I welcome this opportunity to share with you the progress we have been making.

I am very pleased to say that interest in Nunavut has not waned since April 1 last year. I am happy to say as the world watches us we are still very much in the lime light in our new government.

In fact in many ways, interest in Nunavut has grown since last year, and it continues to grow, having a positive impact on key sectors of our economy such as tourism. I think we can all appreciate when one area of the economy is experiencing success there is also spin off to other sectors.

During the past year there has been numerous and varied visitors to our territory. I believe we were all pleased yesterday to have welcomed Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson and her husband his Excellency John Ralston Saul to the Assembly.

Last fall the Right Honourable Jean Chretien accompanied by his Excellency the President of the Republic of France Jacque Chirac. They honoured us with their company.

Last week also the Speaker of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly our fellow Inuk George Hickey was welcomed in this Chamber.

We have had Shinto priests this summer visiting from Japan, as well as visits from the Israeli Consul General. The Australian Minister of Aboriginal Affairs was also here and the Honourable Jonathan Motzfeldt Premier of Greenland.

And once again, the media from around the world are in Nunavut to tell our story on this our first anniversary.

This exposure for the most part has been very positive on Nunavut and it continues to raise our profile nationally and internationally.

Tourism is growing industry worldwide and we here in Nunavut must capitalise on the fashion people have for the rugged beauty of our land and the strong interest have been taken for political and social development.

As each member of this assembly can attest it has been a busy year.

During the past twelve months our government has been diligently involved in building the Territory envisioned by Nunavummiut. We have asked their opinions and they have answered whole heartily. We welcome this feedback as this is their government.

As a new Territory we need strong allies. We have begun a strong relationship with Greenland, our closest International neighbour. As I mentioned earlier, we need to recognise that we need strong allies as we build a stronger Nunavut. We have signed an agreement with Manitoba our largest trading partner to work together for the benefit of both our jurisdictions.

We have met with our territorial counterparts in the west from the Yukon and the Northwest Territories to form a Northern Leaders Forum in part to strengthen our position on issues of common interest.

Through this relationships our voice will grow ever stronger as we stand to claim our share as member of the Canadian Federation. We have been very busy outside our borders. We have been even busier inside them.

(interpretation ends) Our progress has continue to grow since last year when we began with the staffing compliment of 25 percent throughout government and that number now exceeds 75 percent of our total staffing capacity.

Despite the challenges we face we made a smooth transition from the former government - truly a remarkable accomplishment and one that reflects highly with the staff we have.

We established a Decentralization Secretariat. A reflection of our commitment to decentralise government so Nunavummiut benefit from employment and economic opportunity across Nunavut.

After listening to the priorities of Nunavut we developed the Bathurst Mandate which will guide us in our work. (interpretation) Through Maligarnik Qimirqujiit we have begun reviewing the laws we inherited from the former government to ensure that they reflect values and needs of Nunavummiut.

We launched the visual identity program which became the symbol that identifies Nunavut within Canada and throughout the world while at the same time promoting the talent and vision of our artists.

As our territory continues to grow, we want to ensure the businesses are able to take advantages of Nunavut's growth and development. Through this our government after consultation with the business community and with the aid of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated introduced a new business incentive policy that is reflective of the spirit and intent of article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims agreement. Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti.

(interpretation ends) The government of Nunavut is proceeding with its work and will continue to be guided in the decision making by the *Bathurst Mandate*.

There were exciting initiatives announced by my colleague the Honourable Kelvin Ng in his past budget address before the Assembly last week. These initiatives will have our communities grow strong.

Our government is committed to moving towards healthy communities and simplicity and unity in government, self-reliance for Nunavummiut and continued learning. We hope to provide infrastructure and human resource to allow each and everyone to reach his or her potential.

(interpretation) April 1, 1999 wasn't the end of a dream. It was the beginning of a new dream a new journey and new challenge. Many thought Nunavut was unachievable; we proved them wrong.

(interpretation ends) We should always remember though through their diligence and with so much commitment through many years leading to the creation of Nunavut. Without their vision and dedication we would not have been able to achieve what we have.

Our hopes and desire for Nunavut are also not a dream: they are achievable. We want a Nunavut;

- where people can achieve their potential,

- where strong links exist between communities and southern Canada,
- where health and social conditions are equal to those enjoyed by other Canadians,
- where equal opportunities exists for everyone,
- where Nunavut enjoys growing prosperity while remaining debt free.

(interpretation) These are some of the goals for the future. They are realistic and they are achievable. We are building a stronger Nunavut and I welcome everyone who wants to grab hold and be a part of our journey for our future. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Okalik. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Before we move on to Item 3, I would like to take this opportunity to thank one of our Pages. Anna Stenton was with us since Monday. Anna is a student in Inukshuk high school in Iqaluit. Today is Anna's last day we wish her well in her studies.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3 Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 240 - 1(3): Appreciation to Interpreters

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Merci, Nakurmik, Qujarnamii, Ma'na, donka, gracias, arigato.

Mr. Speaker I would like today to talk about language in this House and the wonderful work our interpreters and our translators do. Mr. Speaker, this Legislative Assembly is about one of three Canadian Legislatures that works with more than one language on a daily basis.

This in itself is a reflection of the uniqueness of Nunavut as a whole. When we are in session five days a week, 6 plus hours a day our interpreters work tremendously hard to ensure all honourable members understand one another

Even if we do not always agree with each other, Mr. Speaker, the right of members to use the language of their choice is fundamental. To enjoy this right the professionalism and dedication of our interpreters are invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, all members of this House care passionately about the issues affecting their communities. That is why debate gets so heated. This is not a bad thing.

Mr. Speaker it is not appropriate for any member to dismiss differences of opinion or difficult issues blaming miscommunication or lack of understanding. The issues we deal with are complex, challenging and require patience.

It is the responsibility of each and everyone to choose our words well to ensure we are making the best effort possible to make ourselves understood. That is our responsibility. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 241 - 1(3): Nunavut's First Anniversary

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I rise today with great pleasure to make my statement in the company of my fellow members to mark the first anniversary of the Nunavut Government tomorrow.

It is evident that the Inuit are governing themselves now and making the decisions for the people. The decisions that we make today are going to have an impact on our children and our future generations.

I consider myself very privileged to be a part of this process. At times there will be challenges but that should never discourage us. That is the only way we can keep things going.

I would like to thank this opportunity to thank our staff who have been working very hard to make this a reality. I would like to especially to take this opportunity to thank the people who have worked very hard in creating the Nunavut Government.

In particular John Amagoalik and Paul Quassa. I know there are other people involved but I can not name them all right now. I thank them all for making Nunavut a reality and for the hard work they have done. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 242 - 1(3): Evangelists Visit to Taloyoak

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker I rise today to speak about Taloyoak in my riding of Nattilik. Yesterday they had some evangelists visit the community. The visitors chartered in their own plane and I understand they will be there for another day.

Mr. Speaker there are different organizations that promote community well being.

When they come to our communities we welcome them even if we do not participate in the actual event.

I expect that they will add to a sense of community well being.

In our past, our ancestors did not practise organized religion within Nunavut. Although this is not part of our traditional culture, it is common now to accept Christianity within our communities.

It a very useful belief system because they help us to deal with our hard times. We can discuss things that are heavy for us through our faith.

We should always encourage evangelists to visit our communities.

I hope our Nunavut Government will encourage visitors such as these. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker: Members statement Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 243 - 1(3): Tribute to Elder Iqaqrialu

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I made a statement regarding I was talking about our identification discs. Today being another day I would like to talk about when I was a young boy my father raised me and taught me how to hunt so I can sustain my life and my family.

This was very important for me when I was growing up as I depended on my father for everything. His name was Iqaqrialu and when the people came to change the surnames I appreciated it at the time and I indicated that I wanted to retain my father's last name which was Iqaqrialu.

To date this is very important for my identity and recently just last fall my father passed away. Just before he passed away I had a good talk with him and although he is not with me today, I appreciate that fact our MP for Nunavut, Nancy Lindell was able to visit my community and really appreciated her visit during that time.

I was with my father at his deathbed and he encouraged me to go forward with my work.

Although we have had deal with a lot to things all at one time. Mr. Speaker I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. Agreed. Proceed.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to indicate that I have been receiving a lot of support from my fellow members the past few weeks when my father-in-law also passed away and he has always been supportive of me during his lifetime.

For that I would like to express my gratitude to all my supporters because this has really encouraged me to work harder in the House. I would like to state also Mr. Speaker that name is Iqaqrialu and everybody calls me Iqaqrialu. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 244 - 1(3): Tribute to Tagak Curley and other Leaders

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. When we talk about surnames I recall Elijah Manirajak, Ipleelie Kilabuk who unfortunately just recently passed away, there was James Arvaluk, Meeka Kilabuk, Eric Tagoona, Michael Amarok, Peter Ittinuar, Joanasie Salomonie, Jackie Napayok, and Mark Evaluarjuk. These people were heavily involved in the Creation of Nunavut.

But today I just wanted to mention in particular those who worked really hard and also the first President of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, who has also been a member of the NWT legislature.

He was also one of the cabinet ministers of the NWT. He exposed Nunatsiaq to the world when he was at Expo in 1986, and is the President of the Nunavut Construction Corporation. He has worked diligently and looking at his success today, he has worked in everything that we have tried to construct within Nunavut.

He has lived in Rankin Inlet and Coral Harbour. I would like to recognize Tagak Curley today because he was one the prominent leaders who created Nunavut. I think the people Nunavut should appreciate the hard work he has done and recognize what he has achieved.

Again, I just want to indicate that Tagak Curley should be recognized as one of our prominent leaders all across Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 245 - 1(3): Tribute to Ludy Pudluk

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual who worked for 21 years. Right from the start he was involved in Inuit politics. I would like to pay tribute to Ludy Pudluk who has been one of the prominent leaders in the creation of our government.

He was the longest serving member of the NWT Legislature. Over the years I have grown to respect Mr. Pudluk and I wanted to recognize him for his hard work. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 246 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq Handicraft Products

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Today this morning I rise to recognise artists from my constituency. As we can see out in the hall there are many Inuit weaving displays and I was very proud to see that some members of my constituents were involved in weaving. I am very proud to say that their crafts are being displayed in that great hall there and if you would like to purchase any of those items you can contact my office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 247 – 1(3): Appreciation of Interpreters, Members & Assembly Staff

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just hang on a sec. I too would like to take the opportunity to thank the interpreters for their hard work. I do know Mr. Speaker, that Inuktitut speakers, sometimes it is very hard to try to put them into English when we speak in Inuktitut and I appreciate their hard work. I am also smiling at my parents my mother and father, if they can see me through the TV.

Today being Friday and tomorrow, we will have our one-year anniversary as the Government of Nunavut. Sorry I have to clear my voice. Last year when we became Members of the Legislative Assembly and when we were making our speeches my hair at the time was black, but within a year I have salt and pepper hair now. Although I am one of the youngest Ministers I have one of the harder departments to deal with and I wanted to say that within one year I have grey hair now and I want people to appreciate the hard work that I have done.

John Quirke and I are the youngest staff but within a year we have grey hair and Mr. Alakannuark was one of the harder working members and look at Mr. Arvaluk he's losing his hair now too. I just wanted to thank all the Members and all the staff for having supported me, it has been a very difficult year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter, Applause*

Speaker: Member's Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 248 – 1(3): Anniversary of Nunavut

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today also in recognition of our first anniversary which will be tomorrow. I am very proud of the work that we have done while representing my communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik. I too, like Olayuk Akesuk this is my very first term as a Member, just like the Member for Cape Dorset and Kimmirut and I do appreciate the support I have been receiving.

This is the very first Government of Nunavut and I think we have come a long way in a year and I think we should appreciate everyone that has worked for us. Namely, my grandson, I would like to mention his name because he is looking up to me, me being his grandfather and I would like to encourage him to work hard in his growing years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 249 – 1(3): A Shining Light

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today being Friday, March 31, 2000, there is not going to be a last day of March 31 again until next year. When Ovide made a Members statement, when I looked at him some of his hair were shining from the lights although he sat down I guess his hair shone again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Member's statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 250 – 1(3): Appreciation of Nunavut

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was not too long ago it seems like that we had debates amongst ourselves and with the help of Tagak Curley we negotiated with the Federal Government in regards to our land claims to see how we could be more independent and have our own government.

But now, today, is the first anniversary and I would like to congratulate what Jack Anawak mentioned, the names Jack Anawak mentioned earlier. When we had our negotiations it seemed that it was a long time ago but it was not too long ago. We were able to get some funding from the federal government at the time when Hugh Faulkner was the Minister to get some funding for negotiations. Like Hugh Faulkner when I saw him on TV. he has changed greatly although I do not seem to have changed as much as him.

Because the first anniversary of our government will be tomorrow, I was very surprised this morning, I am sorry I was late this morning, but I was with the Governor General at

Aqsaarnit school to accompany her during her visit to the school. I remember years ago when I first started to go to school we were asked to talk in English all the time, not in Inuktitut. We could not take the Inuktitut curriculum because we were not allowed to. It was very surprising when my name was mentioned at the beginning and they introduced me as the Minister of Education and there was this choir, the choir sang songs in Inuktitut and they had traditional drum dancing and that was very touching. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Member's Statement 251 – 1(3): Nunavut Anniversary & Toonik Tyme

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the anniversary of our new government. We will be having Toonik Tyme activities starting with the bingo tonight and other activities in the days to come. You will all be able to attend Toonik Tyme activities during the day and night and I would like everybody to feel free to attend all the festivities that are going to be happening within in the upcoming days. So, I would like to thank Canadian Airlines for sponsoring us and we have a representative that is here, Eva Onalik, and I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to attend the festivities.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Moving on to Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 252 – 1(3): Appreciation of Assembly Staff

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): I rise today to thank John Quirke and the staff of the Legislative Assembly. They have been working very hard in the year that we have been Members of the Legislative Assembly and I would like to give them my appreciation and I know that the job that they are doing is running smoothly and I would like to say job well done. Sometimes some of us Members who are new tend to make mistakes in the House, so they are able to correct our mistakes and sometimes we have argued amongst each other but usually everything goes well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Moving onto Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Just before we start, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our Member of Parliament also one of my constituents Nancy Karetak-Lindell.

>>Applause

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize Peter Kaludjuak who is a resident of Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to say that it is good that it's Friday. Manitoq forgot to mention the colour of my hair as well. First of all I would like to thank all my constituents for putting me into the Legislature and now that I am celebrating the first anniversary of our being elected I would like to recognize in the gallery first of all my wife Rosie, and right beside her is my daughter Lynn from Pangnirtung.

As well in the gallery too, I rise today as if I was to pay all my debts as a Minister and as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut I have been reminded many times that I would like to give my appreciation to my parents. When you have support from your parents it makes your job a lot easier and when you have a close-knit family it makes it a lot easier for us to continue with our jobs in a much easier setting.

When I was a child my parents must have thought that I was such an energetic child that I would not be able to make it to the position I am in today. My mother is here with us today and I would like to give my appreciation to her for taking care of me and making me what I am today. I would like to recognize my mother to stand up. She is from Pangnirtung but she is here today, my mother.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my employee and that individual has been working very hard for me Phil Bourdeau sitting over there he has supported me and assisted me in a very good way in the year that I have been a Member and Minister.

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognized Mayor Taptuna yesterday and today I would like to recognize one of the councillors from Kugluktuk, and he's also the local Anglican minister in the community of Kugluktuk, Sam Kikpak.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize in the gallery, my brother-in-law Peter he is in the gallery. Levi already recognized him but I would like to as well. From Qikiqtarjuak an Elder who has supported me throughout my membership at the Legislature even though I did not mention his name I would like him to stand up. I would like to welcome them to the House. I would also like to welcome the kids that are just coming in, and make them feel welcome in the House.

Perhaps they do not really understand the debates that we are holding right now but perhaps when they grow up they will remember some of the stuff that we are saying. I would like to welcome the children that are here and the people that take care of them in the gallery. I would like to appreciate all the people in the gallery for coming to see us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my honourable colleague Peter Kilabuk in his haste and excitement because his family is here, his mother is here, forgot to mention her name. So on his behalf I would like to again recognize Mrs. Annie Kilabuk. Thank you.

>>*Laughter and applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My list just got longer Mr. Speaker. I would like to start with recognizing all the very dedicated hard working day-care employees that are here in the gallery today and I would also like to recognize the children that they brought with them. I appreciate the fact that you see the signs they are wearing, they are our future.

So I would like to recognize them and thank them for coming today. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize a good friend of mine, who must have just stepped out I guess, sorry Mr. Speaker, because I was going to recognize our MP Nancy Karetak-Lindell. I had the pleasure of serving with her on the Sport North Board of Directors for a few years. I would like to say that it was a pleasure serving with her on the Sport North Board and on the community organizations, sport-related organizations in Arviat and I would like to recognize her here.

Also Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize an individual that I mentioned in my Member's statement on Monday. Mr. Speaker, that individual is here in his capacity at the Department of Education, but I would like to recognize him for something I feel is more important; that this individual is one of the founding members of the Kamatsiaq Crisis Line, Mr. Errol Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the time leading up to April 1 we had to work, of course, with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. I would like to recognize the presence in the gallery of Shirley Sarafini who is the Deputy Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Jim Moore, who is the assistant Deputy Minister of Indian

and Northern Affairs and Wilf Atwood. We have had to work with these people during the lead up to April 1, 1999 and we will continue to work with them. Qujannamiik, thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the interpreters especially one of them that happens to be my niece. I call her my illuannuk, but my illuannuks are becoming more and more numerous because the interpreters have resorted to calling me illuanuk and even Olayuk is trying to have illuanuks now. So, I would like to recognize the interpreters could you stand up illuanuk so everybody can see you. That's my illuanuk Mary Nashook. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Since all the Members are finished I would just like to recognize somebody in the gallery, it's a gentleman I grew up with from my home town of Glace Bay, Nova Scotia, went to school with, Mr. Wilf Atwood who is the regional director of Indian and Northern Affairs. Wilf.

>>Applause

Moving onto Item 6. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 349 – 1(3): Review of Nunavut Day-Care Centres

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Speaker I was pleased to see a couple of days ago, March 28, the news release by his department regarding the review that's being done on the Nunavut day-cares. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if this is the same review that was talked about at the beginning of the month in the media. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have, we want to just very quickly get it done by April 30. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I guess it is the same review that was discussed at the beginning of the month Mr. Speaker. Maybe I'll just ask the Minister why the press release didn't come out until the end of the month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister for Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We wanted to have the terms of reference fine-tuned so that we will not just be looking at broad issues and not come up with just anything, we wanted to do specific things. For example, we need to look at long-term solutions especially in this situation in Iqaluit.

I have asked my staff to provide a report with options and recommendations to meet specific day-care needs in Iqaluit. That's one part and I would also like to see specific recommendations for other day-care centres across Nunavut. So we could not issue anything unless we have some specific idea on how we wanted to do this. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I can echo the Minister's concerns or comments that it is this whole issue of day-cares is something that is an issue not only here in Iqaluit but all over Nunavut. Mr. Speaker by conducting this review and the Minister's comments, is the Minister indicating that his department has a responsibility to ensure that we have adequate day-care facilities and that in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister for Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker we did not have direct responsibility for the adequacy of the day-care centres. We have responsibility to contribute budgets and help as much as we can in terms of financial assistance subsidy programs for day-care centres and yes we recognize that. With that recognition I also wrote to all the day-care centres across Nunavut offering the interim assistance, 5-10 thousand dollars if we can receive a one-page proposal for example on the basis of their need and this is an interim measure.

Yes, we recognize this is important to the Department of Education and to the whole Government of Nunavut because it affects the employment for the parents it affects the early childhood education programs, we will be looking at all that during this review. A very quick review. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Supplementary Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker given the Minister's response that his department does have a role to play in the day-care system in ways of funding that he had indicated. Maybe if the Minister can explain then, I heard some comments in the media of his, that indicated that the day-cares were not a responsibility of this government and that they should go looking elsewhere for funding. So, I'm wondering if I can get some clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Certainly Mr. Speaker, I would love to clarify that. The day care programs across Nunavut and across Canada do their own fundraising. They get fundraising from the companies. They do bingoes and other fundraising programs and the government through their limited resources for day-care programs also participate in subsidising or assisting financially. We do the same thing in the Department of Education and what I was saying to the media that the Member is referring to is that we don't manage them, we do not manage all the day care centres.

They are independently run by the non-profit organizations and some groups for profit, some through the head start programs. The department doesn't actually hire the managers the workers or in fact handle the up-keep of the buildings. That is what I was trying to explain to the media. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 350 – 1(3): Inuit Events at AWG

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was participating in the first Arctic Winter Games and I was observing the Inuktitut games over there. Back in 1970 when the Arctic Winter games were first beginning and I was there I came to understand that the hosting of the games 2002 will be done by 2 countries, here in Iqaluit and in Nuuk, Greenland.

There has been apparently some kind of a problem, even though the Inuit games were begun by the members of the Canadian delegation they cannot decide whether to hold the Inuit games here in Iqaluit or in Nuuk, Greenland. So, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Government. Mr. Anawak would you give me accurate information as to what the status is on that Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we were very proud to represent Nunavut in Whitehorse in the Yukon. I think our fans were some of the loudest and this was a very proud day for all us Nunavummiut. In regards to the upcoming winter games that will be held in the year 2002, yes we will be co-hosting with Nuuk, Greenland. Well we have not debated about this issue and the discussions are ongoing at this time and a meeting with the Greenland delegation.

We have not quite decided which country the Inuit games will be held in. However, we Nunavummiut have stated that both countries should share Inuit games. Some Inuit games should be held in Iqaluit and some in Nuuk so that we can cover both countries when it comes to Inuit games. I think we can deal with this issue rapidly and all we have to do now is decide what kind of arrangements we will have for Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 351 - 1(3): Update on Elder Patients

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I raised an urgent matter. Up to today I still have not received a response, so I will redirect my question to the Premier to see if he can update my question Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Would the member clarify the question so the Premier knows what your are referring to.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I did not mention what I was going to ask about. There were two people, one from Qikiqtarjuaq and one from Clyde River, that have gone to the hospital for medical reasons. I was asking a question about that and indicated that I would like to receive a response today because this is an urgent matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure the member that this matter is being dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could you keep me informed as to what is happening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier for that brief answer. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 352 - 1(3): Gjoa Haven Day Care Centre

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Public Works. In my riding they have been requesting a day care centre, but all the buildings that are being utilised are in Gjoa Haven. I wanted to get some information yesterday during my member's statements in Rankin Inlet during our last session there. I had raised this question to the minister to see what kind of arrangements they will have with our buildings in Gjoa Haven.

When I talked to the minister about it, she was telling me that they were making progress on it and going through blue prints for the design of the building. So, I would like to direct my question to the minister of public works to see if she would give me a copy of the blueprints that she was talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if the new government was dealing with day care centre. I will want to get a clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous government had worked on the blueprints and the design of the day care centre in Gjoa Haven. I am just trying to get some more information from her department to see if she can arrange for producing a blueprint and make some copies, so I can have a copy of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the work of the day care providers because they are doing a very good job taking care of these young people. So, I will look in to find out if I can produce a blue print for the member and give him a copy of it if I can find one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions Mr. Tootoo.

Question 353 - 1(3): Day-care Funding

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker my question is to the Minister Responsible for Education. I could not help but notice through the departmental budget presented to the members along with the main estimates, under the section of early childhood education and school services, Mr. Speaker, there is a section for early childhood programs and this section provides both financial and development support to day care centres and day homes.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask that I note the funding levels have decreased, granted it is not a huge decrease but I would like to ask the minister since this amount has gone down has the demand or the need decreased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would have loved to give more for day care programs, but this reduction is approximately 30 thousand dollars which is fairly insignificant in consideration that the member is talking about 1 million 335 thousand dollars for early child education and 1 million 540 thousand dollars for the early intervention programs.

I think the member will appreciate that during the committee of the whole. There is only so much that can go around from the government budget. However, this is a budget program proposal it is not final and this is our proposal to date. Yes, I agree that there is a very slight drop but I'm fairly happy that it is closer to last year considering that there are a lot of capital dollars needed for building new schools.

For example, the member will appreciate that the capital expenditure estimates for the schools have more than doubled. So, it is not that the day care is not important, it is very important, but there is only so much money going around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a reminder that the budget is in the committee of the whole and you should try to keep your questions for that period. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that and I probably will be raising the same questions in the committee of the whole. Mr. Speaker, the minister said that the difference is 31 thousand dollars. Mr. Speaker, I would imagine that is a significant amount of money for a day-care. That could mean a day care remaining open or closing. So, I would beg to differ that it is insignificant. That is a significant amount, any dollar a day-care loses, because many of them are struggling to keep their doors open. Some of them have to send kids home because they do not have the staff or the space.

So I would beg to differ from the minister because 30 thousand dollars is a significant amount and that could mean the difference between a day care staying open or closing. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister why the demand and the funding for it, granted they do their own fund raising, why the minister put forward, that is just a draft right now, a reduction in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker: I think this I an unfair question because the why part is going to be very long. When we allocate funding for different divisions and programs in the department of education, we have only so much and we try to juggle all we can. There are some reductions in some programs in other areas in education. Yes the day care program is a 30 thousand dollar victim. Other programs are close to half a million dollars so that other programs that are important to the Nunavummiut, for example the pupil teacher ratio, forced growth and other forced expenditures that have to be allocated in this.

But, I already told the member that I am having this reviewed by the staff and I will be coming back by April 30 with a report and at that time I would like to recommend to the government what would be the best course of action respecting day-care. I will have this report made available to the member and after that we can start discussing as to what we can do for the day-care. I am completely open for suggestions for day-care, but there is only so much money that can go around at this time until that report recommends otherwise. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the report the minister is talking about, I would like to ask if there will be information on how the funds that his department does allocate to day-care are allocated.

Speaker: Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Amongst other things, yes, other things we are also looking at for day-care programs. Are they being run effectively. Are the buildings sufficient. Can we look at other ways of running the day-cares. How much responsibility does the Department of Education have. Should there be a drive from the department looking at other organizations and institutions to participate in the day-care program, perhaps more than they have been to date. These are the things that we want to find out so we can eliminate problems that we have been facing with day-care.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that report and seeing it. I would like to let the minister know if there is anything that I can do to help him out with lobbying the government, or if there are any recommendations then I could do my best to do that. Mr. Speaker, also in the report I know that he indicated on how they were funded, but will it also take a look at, for example, how they are funded and the detail of how they are funded. So they get so much per child, or younger children, or infants, or a pre-school child in that funding formula I believe. The minister can correct me if I'm wrong, that has been inherited from the GNWT's Department of Education. Will the department be looking at that formula and seeing the higher costs of living, goods and services in Nunavut are taken into account. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Yes Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions, Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 354 – 1(3): Igloolik Decentralization Funding

Mr. Irqittuq: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker perhaps this question is to the Minister of Finance. During our oral question period, I think it was yesterday and a year ago about the decentralization of jobs to Igloolik. I just wanted to find out how much of that money that was allocated for decentralization to Igloolik has decreased.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Finance and Administration.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: None of the money has been decreased, to answer the member's question.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think there was going to be seventy-two and one half positions, but I think there has only been seventeen positions looked at. So how many more positions have been eliminated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister for Finance.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, overall the shift of positions and re-allocation is to balance out the needs the Nunavut Government is committed to. Mr. Okalik has written to all the members and municipalities that were impacted by decentralization to give them an update and I believe all that information went out just a few weeks ago, while we were sitting in Rankin Inlet if the members may recall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, The letter that he is talking about I received yesterday. The question that I asked him was how many more positions have been eliminated. I think there are only sixty-eight positions. I think there were two more that have been eliminated from the seventeen positions. The four positions that were eliminated, where are they going to be allocated to.

Speaker: Minister responsible for human resources, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again in reference to the update that the Premier provided, there have been no positions changed since that up-date. As you know, the Premier has taken responsibility for co-ordination of decentralization on behalf of all government. He recognizes the importance of it to all members and government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am grateful for the decentralisation of positions to the communities. There were seventy-two and one half originally, now there are only seventy left for decentralization. When I looked at the letter there are only sixty-eight positions to be decentralized. Perhaps, it is not very good for Igloolik to hear that the positions are being cut. Perhaps can I just get a letter assuring me that there will be no more reductions in positions decentralized to Igloolik.

Speaker: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think that the Premier will in writing continue to update the members on the status of decentralisation in this house as we move forward in staffing up the positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Question 355 - 1(3): Review of Time Change

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker first I would like to welcome my family. My question is directed to the government leader. Last fall there was a Bill introduced that members did not like very much and it has to do with the time change. During that time the Premier stated they would look into the time change just to see whether the government would have it changed again. The question I have is whether that has been looked at or not.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Justice has that under review at this time. What you have to realize is we have one time zone in Nunavut region and there were many people that find it is better to have one time zone for the area.

We appreciate the Baffin region experienced a two hour change but it was because the change to Nunavut time and the daylight savings time change happened at the same time.

In the spring it falls back and another time change is going to be happening soon again. We can look at that but the actual change is only one hour. We see people are quite happy with the time change and that it was made for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question, I believe was not answered. Are they doing a review in regards to the time change because they told us before they would consult with the people to see if they were going to do another change to that and have they decided to do that Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes I just indicated that we will be moving our clocks tomorrow. As to how we can look at this again, when we changed the time zone in the Baffin region the whole Nunavut area fell back an hour. Therefore, we adjusted that by an hour so that everybody could have the same time zone. We decided that we would be in the same time zone as the Central Time zone. We are happy with that, but what we are talking about is when we move our clocks forward tomorrow we have a due

date and we were wondering if it would still be the case that maybe for the Legislative Assembly members or the Premier and others who say they don't like the time zone.

For those of us in the department of Justice we did not get a feeling that this was not good for the people. Maybe once we move our clocks ahead another hour we should decide whether to change back to the original time zones since in Saskatchewan they do not change. They stay consistent. These are one of the things we can try to find out. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 356 – 1(3): Funding for Smaller Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Concerning decentralization, my question will be directed to the Premier and the Minister of Sustainable Development.

It very good that communities will be getting decentralized jobs. There have been a number of answers to these types of questions. My question in particular relates to this.

Many of the smaller communities are you going to give funding to those communities only if they put in proposals. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Peter Kilabuk. Minister of Sustainable Development.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In response to his question I can say that this was raised previously in the House in his question asking if we are going to be giving funding according to proposals that we receive.

First of all under my ministry I said that I would want to get information as to what the communities would like by way of initiatives and what they wanted done or see in their communities. A number of communities have prepared plans as to what economic endeavours they wish to pursue. This member is asking me if his community would have to propose a request for funding.

Yes, according to the wish of the community, we would set aside funding for community initiatives and we want to make these plans more concrete with the community members. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I very much like the response that the minister has provided me. But there are smaller communities that have not prepared proposals for funding.

For those communities that do not have proposals. Where can they go and get assistance in filling out proposals for funding. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The department of Sustainable Development should be understood to him that we will be always available to the smaller communities as well as bigger communities to help prepare proposals for funding requests. Our staff members at Sustainable Development will always help and aid filling out applications. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. When the smaller communities do not have any proposals for submissions does that mean they will not receive any type of funding. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Peter Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, just for an example say for instance if they had made a long term plan and they want to continue these initiatives then it would continue.

I know some of the communities do not have five year plans or long term plans. However, you have the business sector and if they are interested in seeking funding then as soon as we find that their requests are made according to the criteria set by the department then we would be available for funding requests. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 357 – 1(3): Unused Decentralization Buildings

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Okalik. Mr. Speaker. The NCC is planning to create offices and housing in communities but Mr. Speaker we found out when we asked question about these from the regular members, we were asking if the housing and office spaces in the communities be available for the local public.

My question Mr. Speaker, is concerning the decentralized communities. What will happen to those houses and offices that are not being used right now within those decentralized communities. Like for example in Igloolik they were going to put in 75 FTE so housing has to be there for those positions as well.

It has now been reduced to 68 full time positions. What will happen to remaining office spaces and the houses that were built in those communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can respond to that question. Some of the houses began to be used by employees and some of them are not quite done yet.

But for those that have been completed they are already being used by staff members for the Health Departments, for the Education Departments and once we indicate how many jobs will be in the communities we will provide offices and housing according to those numbers. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Barnabas. Supplementary.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The decentralised jobs have been relocated to different communities and I was talking about the office spaces and the housing in those communities.

For the communities that got more decentralized jobs do they plan on putting more housing and more office space in those communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I do not quite understand the question. If he could repeat his question. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Yes, Thank you Mr. Speaker. Some of these decentralized government positions were moved from one community to another community and from my understanding, NCC built these offices units so that decentralised positions can be matched.

I noticed that some of these positions have been moved to another decentralised community without office space and units. Are they going to build units for positions that are moved from one community to another. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plans put together by NCC did not totally reflect the number of jobs that had been planned for communities.

Some of the office spaces are ready, but the offices still do not have furniture in some cases and we will have to wait for sealift in some cases. So all the jobs there were identified for these communities the number of positions have largely been met through our decentralisation plans.

A few minor adjustments have been made for a number of jobs that were slated for each community. I believe we have done quite well in meeting the expectations of the communities and we will continue to implement the decentralisation plan.

I am sure all the members are aware of the number of positions that are going to the communities and what was originally slated and I gave all the members an opportunity to discuss it in detail when I issued the letters to each of the members and the communities in Rankin Inlet. I will be available for any questions on this matter. Qujannami.

Speaker: Thank you Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Now I understand his response for the minister of decentralisation. (interpretation ends) Yesterday we received a press release from NCC that Government of Nunavut offices in nine Nunavut communities will have opening ceremonies when this is not set up the way the minister is answering me. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the places are being opened. There is no furniture in these buildings. There are no telephone lines in those buildings. There are no computers for office workers to use once they are opened and turned over to our government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 358 – 1(3): Infrastructure for Decentralized Positions

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like more information to this question that was just posed. Also, to the Premier how many communities have been completely accommodated for decentralisation. How many communities have not been accommodated by way of housing and office spaces. Which jobs are ready to be filled. Which jobs are not ready to be filled. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. I believe there is more than one question there. If the Premier would answer whichever question he cares to.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Some of the jobs are being filled on a daily basis. Some of the communities are being filled. For example in Arviat, it was readily prepared and some of the communities have office spaces but they have no furniture or computers. Some of these jobs will be transferred to the communities from Iqaluit and some of the jobs still have to be advertised. So, I cannot say just when they will be filled. If you notice in the papers we are always seeking people to fill those positions in the communities.

This has always been our plan all along. We want to get this done in three years and this is one of our main goals. This will be our priority. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I believe the response you made and I appreciate it. I want to ask you one more thing. The houses that are made by NCC I know they are being used right now and they have to be paid monthly and they are very costly.

Now I am wondering do they have to pay for their rent out of their own pocket money or do they get subsidised housing allowances to offset their monthly rent charges. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The jobs that will be filled in the communities they will be getting a form of assistance for their housing but they will also be paying from their salaries as well. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Should mention that the sound system we have here will be removed and go back to the new system at the beginning of the week. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Supplementary to my question. I really envy employees working for the Government of Nunavut. They will be getting subsidised housing to offset their rent. I wondering how much housing allowance will be provided to the civil servants for their housing. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Is he asking how much housing allowance we are going to provide. They are the same as every other civil servant that we give assistance to where ever they may be in the communities.

So, we will just follow the standard allowance. Staff in Iqaluit receive allowances and we will be providing the same allowance for those in the community. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to be well informed about this. Maybe he can give me written information to that affect. Can he provide me written documentation about the housing allowances. That would make me very happy. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not sure exactly which ones he is referring to because we provide the same allowance to all the communities and they also receive a northern allowance. We help our employees with that and all our employees within Nunavut receive this which have a provision from the employer. I am not sure to which he is referring to. Maybe if he can indicate to me which one he is referring to Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I am not sure if that was the final supplementary but I will indulge the member to ask his final supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. That was supposed to be my final supplementary but I would like to receive some written documents so I can have accurate information. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We have a northern subsidy, we have a northern allowance. We can make these available to the public. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Barnabas.

Question 359 – 1(3): Status of Student Financial Assistance Program

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Finance. (interpretation ends) I would like the minister to state to the House the status of the student financial assistance program. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible of Education. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk Thank you Mr. Speaker. We have a two year contract with GNWT for the student financial assistance. This is going to be a part of the income support review that we hope to table a report on this fall. In the meantime we still have a contract to honour with the GNWT until the second year. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am aware there is a review underway but does he expect an increase with the student financial assistance. Mr. Speaker the reason being the student financial assistance student rates have been the same over the last four years. I recall asking questions on this issue. When you look at the number of students that require assistance, we find that they have to supplement their income from their parents or from their relatives and they have to have per diems for their expenses. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: You can see the time is up. I will allow the minister to respond to the question. If the member has any further supplementaries we will permit him to proceed.

Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said that there would be a review underway and we will do the review regardless of the government influence and to do an independent review and so I am going to wait for that review to be completed. Why would I want to carry out a review and be not regard the results of that review. That is why I want to do a proper review done independently so that we can decide on the recommendations as to whether there will be an increase or a decrease.

I do not want to respond to that before I see the results of the review and once I see the recommendations I will see if I can follow them through. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Time is up. We did have three other members on the list. We will have to pick them up on Monday. I am getting a signal from the members that they would like to take a short health break. So we will break for twenty minutes and return to the Chamber. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed for twenty minutes*

Speaker: The House will come back to order. Orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 10-1 (3): Sustainable Development Funding Programs

Return to WQ 11-1(3): Education Funding Programs

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to inform Members that the following returns to written questions have been filed: written question 10-1 (3) by the Minister of Sustainable Development, written question 11-1(3) by the Minister of Education. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10 Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12 Reports on Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13 Reports of Committees of the Reviews of Bills. Item 14 Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16 Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17 Motions. Item 18 First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19 Second Reading of Bills Item 20 Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Bill 13-Table Documents 41-1(3), Table Documents 51-1(3). Now to Committee of the Whole with Mr. Puqiqnak in the Chair. Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqignak) (interpretation): Good morning. Midway during lunch hour, we had a short snack there but before we get into Committee of the Whole, we will have a 5 minute break and come back to the House. Thank you.

>>*Committee recessed for 5 minutes*

Chairperson (interpretation): I think we can get back to our meeting of the Whole. We have the Minister of Education with his opening remarks, Minister Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairperson, in the fall of 1999 the Government of Nunavut spent considerable time travelling across Nunavut speaking with residents and programs and services that were of importance to them.

During those consultations, education issues were raised in 24 of the 25 communities visited.

Some of the concerns that were heard focussed on more new schools, reducing overcrowding in the classrooms and more Inuktitut in the schools and cultural and traditional programs in the schools. I believe that we have addressed these concerns in our departmental planning for the coming year. I will give examples later in my comments.

(interpretation ends) The plan speaks to the four building blocks that will help us to frame those activities that we will be undertaking; Healthy Communities, Self-reliance, Simplicity, Unity and Learning. Departments were asked to frame their future activities along these lines. My department has done this and our activities are consistent with the Bathurst Mandate.

The Minister of Finance mentioned several new initiatives that my department will be undertaking this year. I would like to provide more detail to the Members on those activities. We will be investing \$400,000.00 dollars in the development of Inuktitut curriculum instructional support and approved development curriculum for Inuit 1st and 2nd languages needed to be developed. The development implementation of these curricula will be a first priority. In addition, appropriate student and teacher resource material will be developed to support the new curricula. Curriculum and material development and production is critical to the department's commitment to deliver quality education to meet the needs of Nunavut students.

Focussing on this activity will meet two objectives; 1-it will provide needed Inuktitut/Innuinaqtun curriculum and the resource material, 2-bring into our schools the needed traditional and cultural elements that we heard requested during the pre-budget consultations.

We will also be investing an additional 1.2 million dollars and new teaching positions and resources to schools to address increasing enrolments. This will help address the growing number of students in our schools and provide some relief to our school system by maintaining the pupil/teacher ratio. Again, this is a direct reference to what we heard in the communities.

During the next fiscal year, the Department of Education will be taking active steps to reduce dependency on income support. Using existing program resources, we will be instituting a case management system to oversee the delivery of this program. The initial step will be additional training for income support workers building greater community capacity through community management and ensuring program compliance. These initial steps will strengthen the department's ability to build self-sufficiency, strength in our communities while reducing our expenditure within the program. Mr. Chairman we have had some successes in the area in Iqaluit. The department assumes responsibility for the delivery of income support in October 1999 we have seen a drop in our caseload and expenditure each month. This is a result of better compliance measures and individuals finding success through productive choices and better linkage to adult learning and training.

Building healthy communities and ensuring self-reliance of Nunavummiut is a priority and we are building upon the budget consultation process. We have initiated the income support policy review consultation process to ensure we built on the ideas and aspirations of Nunavummiut.

Throughout the pre-budget consultation sessions, communities told us our schools needed work. In the coming year we will be overseeing 15 new and on-going capital projects. The total capital dollars for the Department of Education for 2000-2001 is 15.3 million dollars. More than double our regional capital plans for 1999-2000.

The construction of the Cambridge Bay High School will start this summer. The cost of this project will substantially be covered by insurance payments, also, the elementary school addition to be completed. We will begin the planning process for the new schools in Baker Lake as well as planning and designing for library re-location. Pond Inlet will see the initiation of project to renovate the elementary school and examine the high school gym options. Clyde River will see the start of the planning process to address the difficulties for the existing school.

We will in partnership with the Federal Government begin construction of new French first language school in Iqaluit. We will also provide library funding for Iqaluit Aqsarniit School. Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay and Whale Cove will receive funds to initiate a planning and design phase for the addition of classroom space to the community school. Igloolik will see a completion of this school addition project, funds have been allocated for the final warranty phase of the school addition in Repulse Bay. Kugluktuk school interior renovations are now complete and exterior upgrade is planned to insure longevity. Pelly Bay school addition and construction will begin following the summer arrival of the building's supplies.

Mr. Chairperson, the Department of Education will also start a series of minor capital projects in many of our schools. We will finance these minor capital projects through the anticipated surplus following the dissolution of three education councils. The exact amount available to the department is not yet known. As we must wait for the final audit of the councils and we expect this process to be completed by early fall of 2000.

Mr. Chairman, the total Department of Education budget for 2000-2001 will be 150.5 million dollars. 83% of that amount will be in the key areas of school at approximately 74 million dollars, 49%, income support payment will be approximately 21.8 million dollars, 15%, 15.3 million dollars will spent on capital projects, 10%, and the College receives 13.3 million dollars which is 9%.

In closing the resources that the department will have at this disposal will be for the benefit of Nunavummiut providing options so that citizens benefit from their past and create their own future for personal fulfilment and a productive, prosperous society. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Arvaluk, the Minister of Education. The Minister has made his opening statements. General comments. Are there any general comments from the floor. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We do not have any general comments to the Minister's opening address and we would like to discuss that on Monday. I would like to report progress at this time.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. There is a motion to report progress. I know it is not debatable. All in favour. Opposed. Carried.

Speaker: Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Chairman Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the committee has been considering Bill 13 and Table Document 41-1(3) and Table Document 51-1(3) and would like to report progress and Mr. Speaker and with that, the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a second for the motion? Mr. Nutarak is the seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Contrary. Motion is carried. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to have unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is asking for unanimous consent to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays. No nays. Proceed.

Item 5: Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you my colleagues. I would like to recognize someone who is an American from the United States of America. She has an office in Quebec City and is here to take some training and see the people of Nunavut. Louis Orian. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to our Assembly. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Before we proceed with Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk, would you please ascertain that the Commissioner of Nunavut is ready to enter the Chamber to give assent to Bills.

>>*The Commissioner was escorted to the Chair*

Assent to Bills

Bill 7 – Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001 – Assent

Bill 8 – Supplementary Appropriations Act No. 2, 1999/2000 – Assent

Bill 9 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts Related to Judges – Assent

Bill 10 – An Act to Amend the Boards of Management Dissolution Act – Assent

Bill 14 – Interim Appropriations Act, April 1st – May 31st, 2000 – Assent

Bill 15 – Supplementary Appropriations Act No. 3, 1999/2000 - Assent

Commissioner Maksagak: Please be seated. Good afternoon Mr. Speaker, Premier Okalik and honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly. As Commissioner of Nunavut, I am pleased to give assent to the following Bills. Bill 7, Loan Authorization Act, 2000/2001. Bill 8, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 1999/2000. Bill 9, an Act to Amend the Judicature Act and Other Acts in Relation to Judges. Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Boards of Management Dissolution Act. Bill 14, Interim Appropriation Act, April 1-May 31, 2000. Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1999-2000.

Mr. Speaker, today is the last time that I will be in the chamber as Commissioner of Nunavut. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of this house for their support and kindness. I know that you will give my successor the same support in the years ahead. I wish you all the best as you continue deliberations on behalf of the people we all serve. The people of Nunavut.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 23, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, meeting of regular caucus on Monday April 3 at 9 o'clock in the morning.

Orders of the Day for April 3.

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
 - Bill 16
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13
 - Tabled document 41 - 1(3)
 - Tabled document 51 - 1(3)
21. Report of the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. After we adjourn for the day I would like to ask the members to remain in the chamber for special presentations by Colonel Peter Leblanc, Commander of the Canadian Forces in the Northern Area. Colonel Leblanc is travelling with the Governor General this week and he has brought a gift for the Legislative Assembly on behalf of the Canadian forces. The colonel will also be presenting special service medals to some of the members.

Sergeant At Arms, this House stands adjourned until Monday April 3, 2000 at 1.30 p.m.

>>*Applause*

>>*House adjourned at 1.40 p.m.*

