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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday April 14, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Before we proceed today, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the pages that have been assisting us in the House this week. The pages from Kugluktuk, and forgive me if I don't get the pronunciation of your name correct, but I will do my best, Leslie Atatahak, Chris Ikpakohak and from Coral Harbour Dominic Pootoolik, Madeline Shimout, Shelly Eetuk and Jenny Kolit. Thank you for your help this week.

Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 113 - 1(3): Hockey North Team Wins at Western Shield Female Championship

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the achievement of a number of young Nunavut athletes in the Nunavut area in the past week. On April 9 the Hockey North women's team, which is made up of members from Nunavut and the NWT won the bronze medal in the Western Shield Female Hockey championship in Winnipeg.

Nunavut was represented by Kim Ivanko and Marykulu Macmunn from Cape Dorset. Anik Landry and Susanne Alookie from Iqaluit. Rachel Siusangark from Repulse Bay. Audry Pameok and Jennelle Pameok from Arviat, and Cheryl Puqiqnak from Gjoa Haven. The team's coach was Jill Susanne Parks from Pelly Bay.

The Hockey North Team beat team Saskatchewan 3 to 2 in the bronze medal game.

Congratulations are also in order for Dustin MacDonald of Rankin Inlet who was named to the western bantam championship all-star team last week. Justin was selected last

week as the best goalie of the entire tournament. Mr. Speaker these achievements show that our young athletes can compete with the best athletes that Canada has to offer.

I encourage Nunavummiut to keep competing in regional and national competitions as a way to further develop their skills. Our athletes need to take advantage of such opportunities as the way to develop their skills. The more they participate in such events the better the results will be. Mr. Speaker once again congratulations to these athletes in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause.

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 314 - 1(3): Congratulations to Pond Inlet Students

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the students of Pond Inlet for their hard work in helping out the education council in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 315 - 1(3): Costs due to Cigarette Smoking

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to discuss the issue of smoking. This is an issue of great concern to me personally. There are enormous costs associated with smoking both in terms of dollars and health risks. Mr. Speaker people find themselves in the situation of being unable to pay for the normal everyday family needs due to increasing costs.

I would like to point out a couple of facts for public consumption. For example, a family of two adults that smoke a package of cigarettes each a day. The cost is approximately 108 dollars per week. For a total of 5 thousand 600 hundred dollars per year. This is very expensive and this means that if there are 4 people in the family that are smokers then it would cost over 10 thousand dollars over a year that they are throwing toward tobacco.

This is money that could be used to improve the quality of a family's life, and to help pay the Bills and other things that are necessary for their children. This does not include the cost of alcohol consumption or illegal drugs. Approximately 250 thousand youth began to smoke in 1998, the last year for which accurate figures are available.

Mr. Speaker, approximately as I estimated, 250 thousand youth began smoking in 1998, which is the last year the figures were made available. This would mean children between the ages of 10 and 19 would start smoking in 1998. Here in Canada there are

approximately 45 thousand deaths attributed to smoking in 1996, the last year of statistics.

Mr. Speaker, it seems that on average if an individual smokes he loses 15 years of his life expectancy. Also Mr. Speaker the health care system, the direct costs is approximately 2 Billion dollars per year connected to disease treatment and others. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

Speaker: The minister is seeking unanimous consent to complete her statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Proceed Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Mr. Speaker not all news is bad. If an individual quits smoking, not only will they have more disposable income, but within 8 hours carbon monoxide levels in the blood drop and oxygen levels increase. Within twenty-four hours the chance of heart attack decreases. Within one year the chance of heart disease is that of a non-smoker.

Mr. Speaker within five years the risk of dying may be similar to someone that never smoked. So in conclusion Mr. Speaker I ask people consider the fact that smoking can result in the increase in the amount for the necessary necessities of life, improved health and a much better example for young people. I offer my support and congratulations to our Health Minister and Social Services, Mr. Picco on his personal battle with smoking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Just a reminder to the members to watch their times. I don't want to embarrass members by cutting them off. So keep your eye on the clock and when your two and a half minutes is up you can request additional time. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 316 - 1(3): Working Together Effectively

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here in Nunavut working together will be effective if our constituents can tell us what their needs and expectations are from time to time. This way we can all work together for the people of Nunavut. We as MLAs should ask the people what their needs and expectations are so we can be better prepared in the future.

This will be difficult but at the same time we can not forget the work that we do today is not the same as the work we did years ago. We can find strength together collectively by working with the people of Nunavut and by being recognized by them. At the same time we have to have many laws to guide ourselves and our children and grandchildren. In this day and age the population of our young people is increasing and we want to lay out a good foundation for them and provide them with employment for them.

There must be a way to address the needs of our elders and our young people today. The Nunavut population is growing in the regional centres of the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Baffin. We have to treat all people of Nunavut equally and build a good foundation for them. As I said we have to be able to treat the people of Nunavut equally and be unified. We have to look at the whole territory and in doing so it can help the young people. To pave the way for them, and get them working together for all people. Mr. Speaker I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to seek conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays you may proceed Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. However, we can only work together and do positive things for our people, which is the traditional way that Inuit work together. Whereby families would co-operate and this would result in very positive things. This is just an example on how we can run the Nunavut Government and understand each other's needs. At times we will encounter problems but if we really try we will much happier and have less disagreements.

Also sometimes we will have debates but that is the way we can come to terms to resolve problems and we can understand each other. At times we will be happy, other times we might not, but that is life, and it will continue to be so. Our ancestors worked hard to survive and we have to work just as hard for the betterment of our young people.

In the communities there are young people that are worried. They have no employment and when they are thinking that nobody cares many commit suicide. I think we have to get the elders and the young people to work together to work towards something positive for them. Because their lives are very important for the future.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Member's Statement 317 - 1(3): Bravery Award to Meeka Mike

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognise and I congratulate the individual received an award from the town council for bravery.

Ms. Meeka Mike, who operates Qimuk Adventure Tours was taking clients out for a dogsled ride here in town and was out about 5 miles when she realised her dogs were getting a bit excited. It was minus thirty with a wind chill of minus thirty. They soon realised there was a person by the name of Allen Bywaters, who had been preparing for a trek to the North Pole and had broken his thigh bone.

This was an unusual area of terrain near the sea ice where it is really rough and it is a rough route for any snowmobile ride. She placed Allen in the kamotik and made her way back to town in the dog sled. It was estimated that he probably had another hour left of

live in those temperatures. She managed to get Mr. Bywater to the hospital and he recovered thereafter. So, I would like to commend Meeka Mike for the rescue and congratulate her and keep up the good work. Thank you.

Speaker: Members' Statements, Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 318 - 1(3): Congratulations to Women's Hockey Team

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the people that went to a hockey tournament in Winnipeg. Those individual are the women's hockey players from my constituency and I would also like to say perhaps that communities that do not have arenas have a lot of people who can achieve things such as what the women's team recently achieved. I feel the communities should have arenas such as these for the individuals to practice in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 319 - 1(3): Girl Guides of Canada

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as members of this assembly know well, I take great interest in the options, opportunities and support programs available for the youth of Nunavut. I firmly believe that opportunities offered to the youth of Nunavut through pre-school, elementary and the secondary programs and through extra curricular activities can help them to develop the skills, values and abilities that help them become healthy, self-reliant individuals who contribute positively to their communities and Nunavut as a whole.

Mr. Speaker I wish today to voice my support for one such particular program. The Girl Guides of Canada is a movement that challenges girls to reach their potential and empowers them to give leadership and service as responsible citizens. This year Mr. Speaker, five communities offer Girl Guide programs for 300 hundred girls between the ages of 5 and 17.

We are fortunate that there are dedicated women leaders who have supported these programs for several years in the communities. Linda Huisman, Laura Lee Shupe, and Carla Kosher have run the program in Rankin Inlet. Nichole Arnatsiak has received a lot of support from the hamlet of Igloodik, and here in Iqaluit, Kerry Ferris, Darlene Nuvingmuk and her youth leaders, Jana Rose and Crista Mckinder have organized and run the program over the years.

Mr Speaker, Elaine Patterson, the Chief Commissioner of Girl Guides of Canada, in Toronto is currently visiting these Nunavut communities with active programs. I know she can be proud of the efforts of these volunteers. Mr. Speaker, Sparks, Brownies and Girl Guides learn many practical skills during their activities. They learn decision-

making skills, teamwork, leadership and appreciation for the environment and diversity in people.

These are skills that will be carried with them throughout their lives. Through school, through work, through being responsible community members, movements such as these provide fun, adventure and challenging alternatives for youth. As the member from Quttiktuq noted the other day, our youth need alternatives to lead them away from boredom, frustration and social unrest and towards positive roles in their communities.

The Girl Guide Movement is one such movement that I give my full support to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 320 - 1(3): MLAs Hair Situation

Mr. McLean: Thank you. I've got my bright blue shirt on today and I'm glad you finally recognized me. But Speaker I have to challenge the honourable minister of Public Works and her statement on March 21 about salt and pepper hair and working hard and James Arvaluk working hard and having less hair and my colleague Ovide Alakannuark about having grey hair and losing his.

I am offended that she forgot to mention one of the hardest working members of this legislature, as I have less hair than anybody here and I have more white hair than anybody here. When I was the honourable Ed Picco's age I had more hair than him and I know that he is one of the hardest working cabinet ministers in this House. When he gets to be my age he'll probably look like me.

But Mr. Speaker I have to look at my other colleague David Iqaqrialu and he has more hair on his face than I have on my head so does that mean Mr. Iqaqrialu sleeps all day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause, Laughter

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean for that Friday morning statement. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean it was not that I was ignoring you I was saving the best to the last. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 321 - 1(3): Support from Families

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I don't have a bright blue shirt on and indeed I probably had more hair than Mr. McLean has at the present time and I would suggest Mr. Speaker I will probably have more hair when I am his age thirty-five

years from now. Mr. Speaker, Friday is usually a time for a light debate but I would like to make a serious statement today concerning families and support.

Mr. Speaker the job of an MLA means a lot of time spent away from home. Family support is essential. This morning our youngest son Paka was all dressed and prepared for his day. He ran into our bedroom and said dad I need a new pair of pants because the toilet made me pee on myself. Mr. Speaker Paka is named after his grandmother from Clyde River, his late grandmother and was born during the 1995 election campaign.

During that time, like yourself, Mr. Barnabas, Ms. Thompson and Mr. Ng were away from home a lot of the time so during that 4 year period Mr. Speaker my wife had to raise the kids much of the time on her own. I would like to thank my wife Oopa and our many relatives and friends who have supported Oopa and our family Mr. Speaker, during the last 4 years and indeed over the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, next weekend is a long weekend and I sincerely would like to take this opportunity to wish the members a good long weekend with your families. The job of an MLA can be very stressful and only with support in and out of the house can an MLA be successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Ms. Thompson.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to OQ 427- 1(3): Task Force on Housing Consultation Process

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies to Mr. McLean the most hard working MLA from the Keewatin Region. We all know that.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Manitok Thompson: I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. McLean on April 11, 2000. I rise today to provide a response. The member asked how many communities were visited and were there any public consultations done. Mr. Speaker the task force on housing was comprised of members that represented each region within Nunavut.

Mr. Iqittuq, Mr. Tootoo and Mr. Iqaqrialu represented the Baffin Region. Mr. Puqiqnak represented the Kitikmeot Regions and Mr. Nicholls represented the Kivalliq region. Meetings were held in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Arviat and one meeting was held in Yellowknife to enable the task force members access to the GNWT's housing corporation building plans and designs.

Mr. Speaker given the short time period and the magnitude of the task force mandate it was not realistic to incorporate additional community consultation visits. However it is important to mention that the task force relied on local housing organizations to provide the community specific information such as waiting lists and cost of public housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome a woman in the gallery. An academic from the University of Sussex in Brighton from the great country of England and Great Britain. The person that has been doing several pieces and I think she just finished a book, and she is now writing a book on the consensus government system in Nunavut, Ms. Anna May Timpson. Over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to the assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 457 - 1(3): July 9 Holiday

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday the premier spoke eloquently on the issue of making July 9 a holiday. Mr. Speaker the people of my community have been telling me that while they like the holiday, they do not want to give up the present civic holiday in August.

Mr. Speaker, our standing committee will be meeting with the minister on Monday to review this Bill. My question is, would the minister support the commitment of the Bill that would have to the effect making July 9 a holiday, while keeping the present civic holiday in August. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I can not commit at this time. Obviously we have to see what kind of feed back we get from the public at large. From the recommendation of the standing committee might have and then subsequent to that obviously what the cabinet position would be in respect to any amendments that might be proposed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. McLean:

Question 458 - 1(3): Delay of Holiday Bill Enactment

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. My question is to the Minister of Human Resources regarding the July 9 holiday. Would the Minister consider delaying the holiday for another year and let the standing committee go on the road to get public input and feedback. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker again I could not commit to that at this point. It is obvious as I indicated in my earlier response a lot would depend on what kind of feedback the standing committee currently is receiving from the public at large. Then cabinet would have to consider those comments. What those views are what recommendations will be coming forward to the standing committee, members of the public and then decide on a course of action after receiving that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Would the minister consider delaying the Bill this year so we can get the feedback that is necessary from the public consultations to see this indeed will happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker obviously the different options would be looked at and considered. It is just a matter I can not commit in finalising or committing right here, right this minute on whether or not we would delay the implementation of July 9th holiday for this year. How would we pursue that specific issue until we have some substantive feedback from the standing committee and from the public. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I have to beleaguer this question. But what the minister is saying is that the standing committee does take some additional time to get feedback. Get to cabinet would he consider in delaying this Bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Well I guess the short answer would be yes. It would depend on exactly what the feedback was and there are different options we could place if it were decided to postpone the implementation of a July 9 day. Specifically in respect to this Bill as respect to alternating to the August Civic holiday. I mean there are other options we could look at for the current fiscal year. Given that we are two months away from July 9. Thank you.

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

Question 459 - 1(3): Greenland/Canada Hunting Jurisdiction

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want clarification on what I heard through a national news report. They indicated that with Operation ULU in progress, the armed forces, rangers and RCMP are in Grise Fiord area taking survival training in the Arctic. Through the news they indicated they would be trying to stop polar bear hunting for people from Greenland. I am asking the Minister of Sustainable Development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes we have heard that also. I do not have information on the issue of stopping the hunters or polar bear hunters. We have no further information on that issue. However, the Department of Sustainable Development would be involved in taking enforcement action. To date I have not received any further information on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have not heard any this else about this. Greenland has a separate government and we have our own government in Nunavut. Do we have the right as Nunavut resident through Inuit traditions for instance if we were to go to Greenland, do we have that right to hunt in Greenland or vice versa. Does Greenland have the right to hunt in Canadian waters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The quota that we have stated has been dealt with in Greenland and in Canada and we also want the policy to adhere to them. For instance, if outsiders from Greenland were to hunt in Canadian waters we have not given that approval within our Department. But we will deal with this issue working with the Government of Greenland. But I can indicate that as a Nunavut Government we have not had any approvals for Greenland hunters to hunt in our Territory. And they must respect our laws within Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the High Arctic, there is a lack of employment and we have been supporting the people to make their own living. We approve sports hunters' requests to go hunting that come from all over the world to do big game hunting. They also do some hunting in my area and this can help many local hunters in our communities economic wise. Will this kind of situations stop anybody like

from Russia or American hunters to come into Canada for sport hunting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member indicated that sport hunters come to the Arctic and they help many local people economically. The Americans do come into Canada for big game hunting and they passed a law in the States for Americans to allow game hunting. There is no such law to deter anybody to come into Canada to hunt from the States. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary. I do not know what kind of response the Minister will make. However, Mr. Speaker we as Inuit have always had the right to hunt anywhere we wanted.

Some Canadians moved to Greenland. The Inuit in Greenland and Canada have always exchanged their hunting rights and what not. So I am asking the minister if Greenland people will be banned from hunting in Canadian waters.

They also fish in our areas and the Canadian people also go to Greenland to do some fishing and hunting as well. Greenlanders are very good neighbours of ours; they should also have their hunting rights. Will this kind of thing deter any Canadians and Greenlanders to hunt in our area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I can respond to the Members question, outsiders from Nunavut do come into Nunavut to hunt particularly in the High Arctic. They have gone out for polar bear hunting and people of Nunavut have had a concern about this in the past.

So we will have to consider in the future to see if this kind of hunting would deter Nunavut hunters and I know that Greenland and Canada have had agreements to hunt in their own areas and I am sure they have been adhering to our policies. However, we have to consider if there would be a problem in the future for both Greenlanders and Canadian hunters. But I am hoping that we would have an agreement put together to co-operate with each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 460 - 1(3): Determination of Subsidies

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister of Public Works, Telecommunication and Technical Services. Last Thursday on the sixth

the Minister provided a reply to oral question 157-1(3), the question that I asked in Rankin Inlet on February 17.

I wanted to know how the different subsidise were determined for the different fuel products. Mr. Speaker the reply that I received, I would like to ask the Minister, I have read it repeatedly and to me it does not answer the question that I asked. So I would like to ask the minister if she could explain how the answer that was provided answers the question that I had. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to the written response it clearly the answer in the document. I do not have the document currently in from of me. But I can recall my written response. I have individually responded to each of the questions and my response is the same now as it is in the paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker if you just bear with me I will read the response that the Minister gave. Again maybe ask her how that answers the question on how the different subsidises are determined for the different fuel products.

Mr. Speaker the subsidies for different products are determined as follows: the PPDs mandate to recover all operating expenses from retail sales such as actual product cost, actual transportation cost, commissions for local fuel sales, dispensing and delivery services, operations & maintenance expenses, product evaporation and shrinkage, and taxes where applicable. Mr. Speaker I still can not figure how that answers my question on how different subsidies are determined from different fuel products. So I would to ask the minister how that answers that. I just can not see that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member can not understand the document although it is clear... I could not hear the interpreting.

The written document is in response to the question and it indicates the many factors to consider on how we determine this subsidy. It clearly is indicated what factors are used. Maybe when we get to the Department of Public Works main estimates for capital and operations & maintenance. It would be better for him to pose that question because we have responded to his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I believe I understand what I am saying and I still fail to realise and see how this answers the question to how subsidies are

determined for different fuel products. These are some factors. If it is the mandate for PPD to recover all operating expenses. If I read that why is there subsidies. If the mandate of the Department to recover all its costs and there would be no subsidies. Mr. Speaker I do not believe it answers to the question that I asked. I look forward to if I have to the Committee of the Whole maybe with her staff there I will be able to get an answer and I look forward to it at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Move on to Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 461 - 1(3): Hunters' Compensation

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Last year when we first were elected I asked the Minister concerning polar bears.

If there should be a person that is injured or mauled by a polar bear what form of compensation would there be or would there be any kind of assistance provided. Because as of this day I have never received a proper response as to what form of response there would be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me respond first by saying I do not recall committing to providing more information on this. But I remember when he asked this question there was a response provided. The hunters within Nunavut area who have hunting as the main employment are considered as employed and if they are injured on the job and are unable to make an income from hunting activities. Then there is hunter compensation provided for hunters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are you saying they can be compensated if there is an injury. Is that what you are saying Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker yes that is what I am telling him and to today if a person is unable to provide for his family any longer from hunting than there are compensation provisions for him. That is my response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How can they access the hunter support compensation programs. What is the necessary application that is required. Where can we find the forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If a hunter is injured during hunting activity and he is unable to hunt anymore. He would have to get a doctor's certificate indicating that he had been injured. If the report is forwarded to the Workers' Compensation Board than if it fills the necessary criteria that application for compensation would be reviewed and than a decision would be made from there and than that is the process that we have today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister Kilabuk. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 462 - 1(3): Endangered Species Policies

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. My question today is for the Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker earlier this week there was a report talking about and I could stand corrected on the numbers. But there are eight endangered species in Nunavut. Does this government have a policy regarding endangered species. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. Let me first explain the law. That is enforced by the Federal Government under the Endangered Species Act. We have been working toward the drafting of the contents of the law and the Department of Sustainable Development has been able to identify certain species that are considered in critical status. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I will try to make it short. Uqaqti that is nice to hear that the minister is responding to my question. Are we going to see some plan in the future regarding the endangered species in Nunavut. And what steps are being taken to make sure that these species do not totally disappear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can provide him with the details and to the rest of the Members of the Legislative Assembly concerning our work that we are pursuing with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the law that have been enacted by the Federal Government concerning animals on the endangered species list. I will make that information available to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. McLean I am sorry to cut you short. I guess it is Friday. Supplementary.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I feel like I am that show “who want’s to be a millionaire”. Is that my final answer. But we do not get as much money here. Ma'na Mr. Speaker can the Minister assure me and the Members of this House that precautionary measures are going to be taken to make sure that these species will be protected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We still have to do some more work. Once that law was legislated as far as the endangered species go. We are given an opportunity to review in conjunction with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Whereby we have to enforce the knowledge to the Federal Government levels in cases where species get extinct or endangered. I am very happy to inform everyone that we have that opportunity given to us that is deemed necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just before we proceed, I would like to acknowledge and welcome somebody to the Assembly. Roman Catholic Bishop, Bishop Beaulieu. Welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 463 - 1(3): Approval for Requests for Proposals

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I will direct my question to the Minister Thompson. She is dealing with contracts in Nunavut. My question is Mr. Speaker after we agreed or approved the Interim Appropriation Act, my understanding is we are using the interim appropriations right now before we approve the budget.

Mr. Speaker my question is to the Minister of Public Works, Telecommunication and Technical Services dealing with the contracts. Have there been any requests for proposals approved after we approved the interim appropriations. I will ask another question after she answers that question that I have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for Public Works, Telecommunication and Technical Services. etc. etc.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not approved any requests for proposal at this time. If we do then I can inform the member. Because we have not approved the main estimates or the capital estimates yet. I understand his question Mr. Speaker but I am not aware of requests for proposals being tendered. I will be able to give the information after we start the department’s main estimate. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we ask questions to the Minister of Finance he keeps saying that if we don't approve the main estimates they will not approve the interim appropriations. Mr. Speaker, I have seen in the newspapers requests for proposals.

So after we approved the Interim Appropriations Act, because we have approved the interim appropriations some items that have to be shipped in Nunavut communities, I have been seeing requests for proposals. I just want to find out when we will be able to find out about approvals for the request for proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The requests for proposals are just requesting from the public what we want to contract out. There is no money for that at the present time. It is just a request for proposals and there is no money for that at this time. I will not be giving the money out until the main estimates are approved. We will be dealing with the main estimates of the department of public works. At this time the only request for capital items is petroleum products tanks.

Under the Housing Corporation's capital budget we have the funding for the 100 houses. If the member would like to ask questions after we appear as a department in a few days then he can.

Speaker: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question Mr. Speaker, is that I have not seen any funding from the interim appropriations or the main estimates or the capital estimates for that purpose. There have been some plans that were allotted by the GNWT and like my colleague from Cape Dorset said there are some materials in the main estimates provided under capital items. I wondered whether the people who had the contract, what is happening at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we do as the Department of Public Works, we do contract services for the departments such as the Department of Education, we do some work for them. They request certain things done. Then we deal with the item and the contracts.

If it is going to be a school project or for instance Community Government which is Jack Anawak's department, if they ask us to do something then that is the time that we bring out requests for proposals. For Public Works what we do is capital spending for tanks in the communities. What we do is work for the departments for contractors. Each department has its projects that they would like to contract out. A few days ago I was

asked a question by the Minister of Finance and the question was whether there were any problems with contract services. So we will be getting that information. But the question the member is asking is, perhaps he can ask those questions when we appear as witnesses and he can ask my Deputy Minister and he could give the correct information.

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 464 – 1(3): Public Housing Tenders

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Public works and Housing. Mr. Speaker, I don't have to wait for the committee of the whole to get an answer. Mr. Speaker, I asked the question about a couple of weeks ago, where we had the GNWT acting as an agent for the Nunavut Housing Corporation for the supply of material for the public housing units in the Kitikmeot Region.

Mr. Speaker, as the minister indicated, the money for the 100 units is for all three regions, and I would like to ask the minister if and when the tenders will be going out for the units in the other two regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to know all the answers but sometimes we do not. We are not technocrats or bureaucrats and I am sorry we cannot answer all those questions. The question from the member is under the 2000/2001 construction year for the Kivalliq and Baffin region the requests will be produced in Nunatsiaq News on April 14, 2000.

They will appear in the paper on the twenty-first of this month and they will appear in other newspapers on the 21st and in News North as well in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun and in the Kivalliq newspaper they will appear on April 19, 2000, until April 26. They will have a closing date of the first week of May. Then the RFP would have to be provided in the first week of May.

Speaker: Supplementary Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the answer from the minister. Mr. Speaker I would like to ask the minister, are these tenders also going to be through the GNWT's Housing Corporation acting as agents for the Nunavut Housing Corporation or will they be directly with the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we do not have adequate staff to deal with Housing Corporation contracts and we are taking on GNWT's policies at this time. However, the Housing Corporation will be reviewing their policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll take that as a yes that we will be going through the GNWT's Housing Corporation to administer contracts for us. I would like to ask the minister what it is costing us to have the GNWT Housing Corporation to put a tender in the newspaper and review the bids. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not have accurate information in front of me but when we are dealing with our budget I will speak further on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I thought I was done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe just another question to get away from the costs. Is there a reason why the tender for the Kitikmeot Region was put out over a couple of weeks ago and the ones for the other two regions are just going out today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kitikmeot region is serviced by Hay River and NTCL. Hay River's river is open all year around. They are always open in the spring and summer. This is the understanding that I have but I'm sure that is the reason the Kitikmeot was serviced first. In the Baffin region we have to rely on the barge in the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Barnabas.

Question 465 – 1(3): Eroding House Lot

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community Government Mr. Jack Anawak. Mr. Speaker, I have been making statements and the Hamlets have been writing letters in support of my statements regarding capital projects that were cancelled last year.

There is nothing going to my constituency of Arctic Bay. Looking at the main estimates, capital estimates, they have requested a sewage lagoon in Arctic Bay. However, Mr. Speaker, I raised this as an urgent matter last year and there is no money allotted for this year. Using my statement last year there is erosion occurring in Arctic Bay and I have not seen any money set side to improve the land around Arctic Bay, and it is eroding quite rapidly. What are they doing about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know the status of this at this time however, the house that he is referring to, the lot has apparently been eroding. I think we can deal with this as an emergency situation. If we have to look into it right away then I will, as soon as I can, see if we can improve the land surrounding this certain house that the member is referring to. Perhaps the member himself can talk to me about it outside the house. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: In our community consultations last fall a member of his department was also in Arctic Bay filming the erosion of the house lot. I asked this person the situation, and I am asking the minister if there is any money to help this resident out. He would be dealing with it in an emergency or urgent way. As yet I have not seen any money provided and I also asked the minister if he would be willing to provide some money and consider this an emergency matter.

I did not see any money in the interim appropriations either. So, Mr. Speaker I ask again what the minister and his department want to do about this concern and what will he do about this land surrounding the house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated to the member that if we have to work on it right away and if it is a safety hazard for the people then we will look into it and we would be dealing with it as an urgent matter. However, without the departmental budget being approved there is nothing much we can do at this point in time. The member is saying there is no money allotted to the community of Arctic Bay, and this work will probably be done if we know it is an emergency situation and we will look into this further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 466 – 1(3): Compensation for Hunting Accident

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. I know that I asked the same question last year regarding Bowhead whales. The Bowhead whales in my region are increasing, the numbers are increasing and it has become a problem for the canoes. An accident happened a couple of years ago when one boater hit a Bowhead whale. This has been a concern raised by the people of my constituency. I am just wondering if the minister could see if there was any type of compensation coverage for this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes the minister of Sustainable Development indicated that any hunters that have an accident are covered by insurance. If there were such an accident that did happen then the hunter would be compensated through the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker I would like to ask another question. Like I indicated, the Bowhead whales are increasing within our region. I know that the World Wildlife Federation said the whales are almost extinct, however I see this as a different situation. I know that if there is such an accident with a Bowhead whale what type of compensation will a hunter get. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding big game such as killer whales and Bowhead whales. This is the jurisdiction of the federal government. Fisheries and Oceans deal with that sort of thing. So at this point in time I cannot answer the member's question regarding Bowhead whales. I know that we will be involved in reviewing our laws, but at this point I cannot state whether we will be doing something at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pertaining to my question earlier. Someone also indicated they would be reviewing the endangered species list. It seems like the Inuit people have been blamed for endangered or extinct species in the arctic. Will the Inuit be blamed for the extinction of the whales in our region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the endangered species list and we touched upon this issue and nobody is blaming any Inuit for the extinction of such species or any other kind of species. We were just saying the Federal Government wanted to see what kind of species are endangered in the arctic. That is all I said. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 467 – 1(3): Nunavut Housing Corporation Capacity

Mr. Tootoo: My question again is for the Minister of Public Works. Mr. Speaker, in the minister's earlier responses regarding the tenders and proposals that are going out for the new housing units she noted the fact that the Nunavut Housing Corporation doesn't have the capacity to administer and run these projects. I would like to ask the minister, is it a

headquarters deficiency because headquarters isn't staffed up yet. Are there vacancies at the regional level that are having this effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Housing Corporation was under the department of Public Works but now they are a stand-alone corporation. Regarding their details, we are just using some of the GNWT's policies to award some contracts here in headquarters. We do have project staff in our department however there are some vacancies in the technical services division. That is what I was saying. We are just utilising some experts from the GNWT Housing Corporation to do some work for us at this point in time.

The regional offices in Nunavut are fully staffed, but our expertise in headquarters has vacancies still. For this reason requests for proposals in my department have been dealt with from the Yellowknife office.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the regional offices are fully staffed. Mr. Speaker, as the minister is quite well aware before being elected I worked for the district office here in the Baffin. My experience is that the district offices are the ones that administered, ran, and put out those tenders and proposals.

I'm just wondering here Mr. Speaker, why they were further devolved down to each community and all the contracts were run through all the LHOs in the community. I'm just wondering why if they are fully staffed at the community level and they are used to running and administering those projects why is it being pulled back into headquarters and then contracted back to Yellowknife, when it could be done locally as it always has been done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Mr. Tootoo was involved in the Housing Association and I know he knows all the details about the Housing Corporation situation. I would like to thank him for understanding. Yes, I do know that our staff have been consulting with Yellowknife's technical experts. We have to get a lot of help from others like the GNWT.

It has been a few years since we have erected so many housing units in Nunavut. This is not an easy thing to deal with, but here in Iqaluit our technical staff have been working hard to try and provide housing in Nunavut, because it has been a few years since public housing units have been erected in Nunavut. So we have had to work with our Yellowknife office regarding this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if that answers my question but I would like to rephrase it. Is the role of the departments whether they be Public Works or the Nunavut Housing Corporation, have moved towards more of a centralized function in the way that it operates. Or are they going to continue the way they did in pre-division where things devolved to the communities and were administered at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was talking in regards to the 11 technical staff that will be decentralized. They will not be in the headquarters region, as I understand it. They were all in one area under Housing and Public Works. But we are going to see positions decentralized and we are trying to revert to the ways things were before. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the minister's information I wasn't referring to the decentralization of positions. I'm talking more on the devolution of responsibilities and authority to the community level. In the past the LHOs in the Baffin communities were the ones who tendered, awarded and administered all the contracts through the Housing Corporation. Now it seems that function has been pulled back from the communities and administered through a central organization.

That is what I was asking if that was going to be the continued plan to do that. As the minister indicated capacity is a problem and she also indicated there is no capacity at the regional level and there is no capacity at the headquarters level. Those are organizations that have carried themselves through the transition and that is where their strength lies. I was wondering is the plan to take back those responsibilities at the headquarters level.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was trying to say is the headquarters were not fully staffed. In the meantime the regions took care of their responsibility. For instance the workers in Arviat would be there representing their region. In the Baffin it was in Iqaluit. In Kitikmeot it was in Cambridge Bay. I did not say there was a shortage of staff. But we had positions that required people to take those positions at headquarters. We have never seen an increase in housing to be built since 1993.

We are trying to build all of a sudden a huge number of houses. Even though we will not be able to complete the number of houses immediately. There is a requirement for 100 new houses and this is quite a big responsibility. I think the member understands that already. I think it is quite clear already that we want to give the communities more empowerment and more responsibilities because they have to increase their own

capacities. We have to go according to the capabilities of the communities. I think that is obvious already. We have a huge number of houses to be built after a long time of this being non-existent. I think we already understand that part. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Question period is up. Returning to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. McLean.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Motion 21 - 1(3): Bill 16 to Committee of the Whole

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I wish to report Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development and that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Uqaqti, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(5) and have Bill 16 moved in to the Committee of the Whole for today. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(5) and have Bill 16 moved to Committee of the Whole for today. Are there any nays. Bill 16 has accordingly been moved to Committee of the Whole. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 77 – 1(3): Technical Report on Baker Lake Adult Education Building

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti I would like to table a preliminary technical building report on the Adult Education building in Baker Lake that was done on February 3 on the condition of the building and the status of it. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I need to get a longer arm to or John needs to get a shorter chair Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter

Tabled Document 78 – 1(3): Iqaluit Housing Authority Concerns

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker I would like to table a letter I received. It was carbon copied to me and directed to the President of the Housing Corporation Ms. Pamela Hines. It is from the Iqaluit Housing Authority citing some concerns that they have including leadership with the district office, training, new houses versus modernisation and improvement and tenant issues Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When you table documents Mr. Speaker from wherever that tabled documents is acquired. Are they to be provided both in English and Inuktitut. Is there a requirement that everything tabled be both in English and Inuktitut.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak there is no firm rule for documents to be put forward and translated in both languages. That is not to say we can not review this. There are documents that come from outside this House that would not normally be translated. It is something that we can review.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Motions. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 16, Bill 13, Tabled Documents 41-1(3), Tabled Documents 51-1(3), Tabled Documents 60-1(3), Tabled Documents 61-1(3), Tabled Documents 77-1(3). According to the authority vested in me by Motion 3-1(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out with Mr. Iqaqrialu as the Chairperson.

I would ask that the committee commence its deliberations immediately and not break until 12:15 at the earliest. Sergeant-At-Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you. We will continue from yesterday's discussions. Bill 13, Bill 16, 41-1(3), 51-1(3), 60-1(3), 61-1(3) Tabled Documents, and Tabled Documents 77-1(3).

Bill 16 and Tabled Document 77-1(3) are under discussion in the Committee of the Whole and Public Works did their opening comments. Public Works already did their opening comments for their Department. I think the Committee has opening remarks. Mr. Akesuk. Mr. McLean.

Committee Report: Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivauta. Mr. Chairman the Standing Committee reviewed Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act with Minister Anawak and with his officials on April 12th 2000. Itsivauta this Bill is quite straightforward. The Standing Committee recognises that it is intent is to permit the government to collect property taxes for the year 2000. The Standing Committee is aware that the Department of Community Government and Transportation plans to undertake a comprehensive review of Municipal Legislation in the coming year in consultation with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Can you hold on a second Mr. McLean. First I was supposed to ask the Committee whether you want to deal with the Bill. Thank you. Minister comments in regards to Bill 16. In regards to An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. The Minister yesterday already did his opening remarks. Do you have opening comments to the Bill. I am sorry. We were dealing with Public Works yesterday. We will have to deal with Public Works. Does Mr. Anawak have other remarks.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): The Committee already dealt with the Bill and I think it is my understanding that the Chairperson of the Committee could just do his opening remarks. I do not have any opening remarks. Maybe the Committee can do their opening remarks at this time.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. McLean you can continue with your report.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivauta. The Standing Committee is aware earlier in 1998 a review committee made recommendations for amendment to the property assessment and taxation act. The Standing Committee looks forward to making input during the coming year as the Department undertakes its review. Mr. Chairman the Standing Committee supported the Bill at the clause by clause stage of the Standing Committee Review. Ma'na Itsivauta.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. General comments. Perhaps the minister can take the seat at the witness table with his staff. Mr. Anawak. The minister is now at the witness table. Perhaps Mr. Minister you can introduce your staff. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I am the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. Mike Ferris to my left is my Deputy Minister and to my right is Mark Spakowski our Legislation Director from the Department of Justice. I would like to thank the Standing Committee for dealing with this Bill yesterday and if there are any questions from the floor, we will be able to assist you. Thank you.

**Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act –
Consideration in Committee**

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Community Government & Transportation. I am sorry I was reading the wrong paper. General comments from the floor. General comments. If there are no general comments then the Bill An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. I will go clause by clause. Clause 1.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Number 2.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Number 3.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is it agreed that Bill 16 is ready to be read for the third time. It is now ready for third reading. That Bill 16 is ready for third reading.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): What is the wish of the committee. Bill 16 is completed. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Thank you Jack and his staff. Perhaps we can get back to Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak and his staff. That was short. Thank you very much. The Committee will now discuss Public Works. Perhaps the minister and her staff can go to the witness table. Thank you minister and staff. You already made your opening comments yesterday. Are there opening remarks from the Chairperson Mr. Irqittuq.

Committee Report 15 – 1(3): Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I have a cold today but I will try reading. Mr. Chairperson I am pleased to be able to make some opening remarks as

we begin the debate of 2000-2001 main estimates for the Department of Public Works, Telecommunication and Technical Services.

Over the past year the standing committee has had an opportunity to meet with the minister on a number of occasions. Some members of the standing committee have also served on the Minister's Task Force on Housing. Mr. Chairperson two areas in particular have captured the attention of the standing committee over the past year. The first of these is housing. When we reviewed the 1999-2000 main estimates Housing was part of the Department of Community Government & Transportation. Since then it has undergone significant changes where it ended up where it is today as a stand alone Corporation with the Minister of Public Works, Telecommunication and Technical Services responsible.

I am sure that the members will have more to say on the issue of housing when we review the estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Another issue that has seized our attention is that of the reform to the Government of Nunavut contracting policies and how best the government can live up to the provisions of article 24 in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Mr. Chairperson the past year has seen progress made in this area as a made in Nunavut and NNI policy has now come into affect. The Department of Public Works, Telecommunication and Technical Services will be responsible for the successful implementation of the NNI policy. This standing committee will take a strong interest in the success of implementation over the coming year.

Mr. Chairperson another area of concern is that of the fuel prices and their impact on smaller communities and such vulnerable groups as hunters. Significant attention was paid to this area during the Rankin Inlet sitting. The standing committee is also aware that the recommendations contained in Ikuma report relate in part to the long-term future of the PPD.

The Department of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services had serious responsibilities related to the successful implementation of the Government's Decentralization plan. Co-ordination between this Department and others will be essential to ensuring that Decentralization is a success.

Mr. Chairperson the standing committee also noted that while the IT budget for the Department of Finance has increased significantly this year the Informatics budget for the Department of Public Works, Telecommunication and Technical Services has remained exactly the same as it was last year. This strikes us as strange.

Mr. Chairperson as with all Departments we want to see a long-term capital plan brought forward for the Department. Mr. Chairperson these are some of the general areas of concern that we have had as a standing committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. This is part of 77-1(3). The one we are dealing with right now. If there are any general comments or questions feel free to do so. Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services welcome to

you and your officials. If you would like to make your introductions at this time before we get into questioning. Minister of Public Works, Telecommunication and Technical Services. Manitok.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. People sitting with me are Ross Mrazek, Deputy Minister of Public Works and Patrick Galbraith. He was in attendance when we first dealt with our departmental budget. He is the Director of Finance. I am sure you recognize him. Yesterday I was going to make my opening remarks however I could not attend. I wish to thank Mr. Kelvin Ng very much for doing my opening remarks. Thank you. I know he expects me to thank him for it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. I am sorry I did not state your name properly. At this point in time the floor is open for questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask a question during question period but your department, or the Minister of Public Works indicated that the Task Force on Housing had a meeting and the members were Mr. Iqaqrialu, Mr. Puqiqnak and Mr. Iqittuq. These were the members of the task force. After they had their review did they produce a report on that review. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. If you could thank the chairperson. We are not really dealing with housing at this point we are dealing with the Department of Public Works, the Petroleum Products division. We are under program review. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): It is almost lunch time and I just wanted to indicate that I just wanted to ask questions regarding the Task Force on Housing. That was just my first question and that will be my question again. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Madame Minister if you want to respond to his comment dealing with the Task Force on Housing.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not mind you calling me Manitok, I do not mind. I know we are not dealing with the Housing Corporation but I will try to reply to his question. I am still waiting for the actual report from the Task Force on Housing. At this point I do not have the report in hand. I am still expecting a report though. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Yes, I will be calling you Manitok from now on. Any further comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I can't remember who it was that asked a question earlier this week or last week. I think it was the exact same question and the minister had indicated that although she hadn't received a hard copy of the report that she did have a copy of it via email. I just wanted to clarify that as something that she had said last week. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Any further questions or would you like to respond Manitok.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We are not dealing with Housing at this point in time. When that report is ready I will be tabling it in the House. I know that I have it through email but we are not dealing with that report at this time. We are dealing with the Department of Public Works. That's all I wanted to say. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Manitok. If you do not have any comments pertaining to the Department of Public Works, Main Estimates. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to take a break for lunch now. I am quite hungry now and I do not have any questions at this time. Maybe after lunch I will be raising some questions, but I need to eat first. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Yes, at this time we will break for lunch. We will be back at 1.15.

>>Committee recessed at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 1:15

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay I think the mikes are fixed. Any general comments. Questions. If there are no more questions or general comments. Capital Estimates. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to Housing, there was a question, there were some questions to the minister. I just wondered if that still has to be done by you or your staff or by the Cabinet about the Housing policy. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister for Public Works or your staff.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Housing guideline that was done was done by the departments. Departments were asked by questionnaire and data collected. I have to give it to Cabinet so it is still with Cabinet at this time because they have to have a guideline. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister of Public Works. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The guidelines or the policy that was done for housing. It is not the same as the ones that the communities are using. I just wanted to know whether the communities would have the chance to review those. For instance, if there is damage in housing I just wondered if the communities would have the same thing.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister of Public Works.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Yes, that information will be given out. We are just talking about staff housing and the departments and the Cabinet were given the information and as soon as we have the guidelines and the policy in we will notify the members. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Minister. Any comments or questions from the floor. If there are no more questions or comments from the floor. The Main Estimates, everyone has the book in front of them. Page 6 – 5, 2000/2001 Capital Estimates. Public Works, branch summary, Petroleum Products Division. Detail of Capital. Buildings and Works, Baffin Region. Total Baffin Region, 3 million...they are under the bottom page number 6 – 5.

We are on page 6 – 5. Petroleum Products Division. Detail of Capital, buildings and works, Baffin region. Total Baffin region, 3 million 211 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Are we still on the Petroleum Products division, Public Works. Is that correct. At this time maybe I could ask the minister's staff to provide me with an answer to the question that I asked earlier this morning in regards to how the different subsidies are arrived at for different fuel products. I wasn't able to get an answer this morning and the minister had asked that I ask again in committee of the whole so I would like to do that at this time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister or your staff.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising that same question from this morning. We have the person that deals with finances and I will get him to answer the question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister but I forgot your staff member's name. Could you introduce him again please. Thank you.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Galbraith and the first name is Patrick. You can call him Patrick if you want.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Mr. Galbraith.

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Indeed, I was hoping that Mr. Green for Petroleum Products would be in town for this however, I will try to answer the questions as best as possible. The subsidy so to speak, they are not different subsidies, it's a general what it costs us to produce the product to the communities and that was the answer to Mr. Tootoo's original question, one of the factors involved in that, so one of the factors is the general costs.

The subsidy basically is that we have to sell it at a specific amount of money until such time as we get approval to raise the costs, usually in October. Then we would perform an analysis to identify the actual costs of the product so that we could actually increase the price to meet the actual costs that it is costing us to purchase. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I realize that response kind of outlines the mandate of Petroleum Products. But looking at subsidy by territory, customer and class document that the minister tabled in Rankin Inlet, it has a definite subsidy for the different types of heating, motor, aviation, non-motor, gasoline, naptha, Jet A-1 and AV-Gas. The amounts that are, I would guess that these are subsidies because that's what the name of this document is called, subsidies.

Does that mean that amount that is there is the amount that we are losing by selling the product at that price that we are selling it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. If one of you would care to respond further. Go ahead.

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes that's correct. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in light of that then I am just wondering if a clearer definition of what these numbers are, they are not an actual subsidy then but an operating loss from the Petroleum Products based on its operations, it's not a subsidy it's a loss. I am just wondering if in light of the definition or the answer that was given that I would look at it as a loss, not a subsidy. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. If one of the minister's witnesses could respond.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think he is making a comment. According to the Financial Administration Act I think he is just trying to make it clearer. I think it is just a comment.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Not just a comment but just to confirm that is what it is. Is it an operating loss and not an actual subsidy. I would think that with my limited knowledge of accounting, a subsidy or something is revenue or something that is provided to offset a cost and I don't see that in the explanation. It's just a loss and I would just like to confirm that it is actually a loss and not a subsidy. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister if you wish to respond or any of your staff members.

Mr. Galbraith: As you know the price of fuel and petroleum products are set prior to initiating a cost throughout the course of the year.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Can you make sure, we are not hearing you, could you repeat your response please.

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The petroleum products, fuel and all the product lines that they deliver, the price is set prior to actually incurring the costs. Therefore the price is set before we purchase the fuel. Before we purchase the naphtha and so on and so forth. During the course of the year there could be price increases that we, that Petroleum Products did not identify. Therefore they have to sell at that specific price as set or legislated by Cabinet. Therefore there is losses and the way that Petroleum Products identifies these in our accounting procedures they classify it as a subsidy.

If they were able to raise the price in accordance to their costs, which varies throughout the course of a year, I could understand the word loss being used. But in this case, subsidy identifies it more clearly in accounting terms. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand what Mr. Galbraith is explaining and that was made very clear in Rankin Inlet. Maybe just at this point in time, I would like to thank him for that, but I would like to ask the minister as was noted in Rankin Inlet that we're losing money on the sale of fuel products to the Federal Government.

I don't know, to me I can't see why we are doing that and the minister at that time I believe indicated that we would be reviewing it. I was just wondering if they have had a chance, or if there are any plans in the works for reviewing the subsidies. I believe the minister and her staff said in Rankin that there had to be a change in their mandate and the way that the Petroleum Products division operated in order to have the flexibility to be able to recoup its' total costs to those outside government agencies. I am just wondering if any steps have been taken to try to achieve that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister would you like to respond.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This was an agreement pertaining to our petroleum products, by bulk that we would do a review. This is just part of that and it became evident, and I understand what Mr. Tootoo is saying concerning the word itself, subsidy. It also means, ikajutiit in Inuktitut also means a form of assistance. So using the money to cover the losses that Mr. Tootoo is referring to, in

his mind he sees this as a loss but in accounting it's just a little bit more difficult not to use the word subsidy. It's easier to use the word subsidy if you are not an accountant.

I understand the question, to date has this or is this going to be looked at including the subsidies to the Federal Government. This money was supposed to be reviewed that deals with petroleum products and this is ongoing. I think the review is going to take a while to be completed. Thank you Mr. Chairman. I hope he can understand me because sometimes even to explain it in Inuktitut it is very difficult. We have a limited vocabulary to describe many different things with the same words. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything further. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In Hall Beach back in the 1960's, the people of Pelly Bay used to get their petroleum products from us by aircraft. The army used to have oil supplies and oil containers over there but nowadays they are going to make a newer spot to keep the petroleum products in, it is in the plans.

It has been a long time since the aircraft received petroleum products; they used to have a DEW line site around the Pelly Bay area. They used to deliver the petroleum products back and forth. I am just wondering if this is going to continue or if there should be a plane crash or an oil spill or if there was a disaster, what contingency plans do you have as far as delivering petroleum products. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Madame Minister. If you wish to respond.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If there should be a disaster occurring he understands what we have to do. Mr. Mrazek is the person that I will ask to respond to that question. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: I would like to assure the member that any potential disaster, environmental situation regarding the fuelling, refuelling regarding any type of fuel are covered by very strict rules and procedures which are in place. They are mainly administered by Canadian Coast Guard. In addition, the PPD operations and the PPD contractors in communities, the rules, first emergency kits and all the procedures are community based and they are in place. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My question is mainly that in the spring we expect that they are going to bring some fuel over from Kugaaruk to our area by aircraft. Do you have a contingency or emergency plans in case a disaster strikes. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. If you can understand the question, he is asking about the aircraft carrier that has to have fuel supplies. If you wish to respond please.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. These little lights are really in control of us so when this light is on I think it would be better if it lights over here instead. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Manitok. These are controlled by outside technicians. Go ahead with your response please at any rate.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the case of the earliest resupply of the fuel which is used by the aircraft and the specific rubberised fuel tanks that sit in the fuselage. The same procedures are in place with the airline carrier, which is responsible for the delivery of the fuel. So to answer that question yes, the procedures are in place.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think I am being confusing. If a plane crashes, if an accident happens there would have to be a clean up. What plans do you have for a clean up of an accident. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In case of an environmental spill in different communities, the government mandated the staff from the Sustainable Development Department, which is Wildlife Officers in every community, who carry the responsibility for the first action in that type of operations. So I am hoping that answers your questions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mrazek, very good answer, and very clear answer. Do we have any more questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the minister's opening remarks she communicated that the department has a total of 212 funded positions and she had indicated also that the regional offices were virtually fully staffed and they are focusing on hiring at the headquarters level. Could the minister provide us with a number of, or an update of where they are at with the staffing, I mean how many out of the 212, how many are vacant, how many at the regional level and how many are at headquarters. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. If you look at the Main Estimates, we are currently under Baffin region. Please keep that in mind. Minister for Public Works if you wish to respond. Do you plan to respond.

Hon. Manikot Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We are just looking at the numbers. I apologize. At this time at the headquarters level we have 28 filled positions, we still have 38 to fill. Is that his question or in the Baffin region, or is he asking for all three regions.

Baffin we have to have 38 and right now we are still looking for seven more employees. Keewatin should be 39 right now they need 6 more staff members, what we call 6 vacancies. Kitikmeot there should be 28 but there are still 6 vacancies. Under Petroleum Products there are supposed to be 15 employees but we are still looking for two more people. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I beg the indulgence of the members and yourself Mr. Chairman, as I was out on some urgent business for the minister that had to be done, I wasn't able to be here to ask general comments, and I am doing that now. Mr. Chairman, the minister indicated the three regions, is that the numbers, 7 in the Baffin, 6 in the Keewatin, 6 in the Kitikmeot and 2 I would assume in Petroleum Products would be in Rankin. Are they the regional office vacancies only I am also just wondering about vacancies at headquarters. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. If you wish to respond we will leave that to your discretion. Minister of Public Works.

Hon. Manikot Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Seven vacancies Baffin, 6 vacancies Keewatin, 6 vacancies Kitikmeot, 2 more for Petroleum Products. For headquarters I shall have Mr. Mrazek respond with the figures and I pass it on to him right now Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. If this thing will help Mr. Hunter I will basically say that the headquarters right now, which is located here in Iqaluit, is staffed at 50%. With 52 vacancies. Baffin region, which is the regional office, is staffed, total staff 38, minus 7 vacancies which is 82%. Kivalliq region, 39 total positions, minus 6 vacancies, 85%. Kitikmeot region, 28 minus 6, 79%...

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the percentage breakdown. I was just looking for numbers as the minister indicated earlier that they are very short staffed in the headquarters function and I can see that only being staffed at 50% that she is not kidding.

What are the plans, I guess throughout this year, how soon is the projected plan to be fully staffed up. I know only being staffed at 50% creates problems for yourselves and

also for the staff as well, as staff are being asked or having to do much more, almost everyone is having to do two jobs and it is very hard on staff. I am just wondering what the plans are or the projections for filling or becoming fully staffed. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am extremely happy to hear from Mr. Hunter that he recognizes that the department is not fully staffed and I am really glad to hear that from that point. The plan is to have 80% staffed by November of this year. I am hoping this is realistic. Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Hunter Tootoo will recognize that one of the major problems which we are facing is to attract technical staff into the department. That seems to be one of the major problems these days, even the hiring from the south which we try to avoid as much as we can, is not working properly and we are trying to explore some other options how to deliver the work. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess I asked and I realize that Mr. Mrazek just indicated that they are having a very difficult time attracting the technical people and we all know that these people are hard to find and not easy to attract.

The number of 212, I believe it was, funded positions is that different than the total number of positions that were within the department last year. Is there an increase or a decrease in what those numbers are for the department. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Either one of you. Madame Minister or the staff can respond to his comment or question.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. When I became a minister I asked how many staff members I had within the department. There were only three positions filled at the time and since then we have filled many vacancies within our department. I just wanted to state that but if Mr. Mrazek wants to add to that he can do so. But I do remember that when I became a minister for the department there were only three staff members there. I think we have made progress in that area and I expect to have all the positions filled in the near future. Mr. Mrazek will elaborate a little bit more on that. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. If you possibly look at the organizational chart of the department you will find that our priority right now is to staff the technical division which is headed by Jamie Flaherty. That's where the most vacant positions are now. We are advertising, we are soliciting, and we are trying to find the people for the very near decentralization.

So we are making some progress and as I said before we are looking realistically that by November of this year we should have 80% of the staff. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe I can narrow it down a bit. In the area that Mr. Mrazek indicated, the technical services areas I believe that he talked about that they want to concentrate on. Is that area, that total number of funded positions whether they are vacant or not, has that changed from last year to this year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The number of the positions remains in the technical group very much the same as before. You may know that the organization charts and the set up of the department has been done by OIC, Office of the Interim Commissioner, with the Footprints II and it hasn't changed. Some of the positions may have changed but the basic principle is the same and so are the numbers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering, I guess, I know in the initial, last year the way the department was set up and that, included in the technical services division for public works was the technical function for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

I understand now that the minister had indicated that there is a stand alone Housing Corporation and Ms. Hines is the President of that Corporation. The minister also indicated that technical services functions for Housing are going to be going back into that stand-alone corporation. So I guess I am just wondering if there is one function that has been removed out of that technical services function of Public Works and then moved over to another area, why the numbers are the same.

One would have thought that there would be a number of technical positions that would go along with that function to the Housing Corporation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. We are under page 6 – 5. If Mr. Mrazek would like to respond to his question.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. To answer Mr. Hunter's question, yes, eleven technical positions were originally transferred from Community Government & Transportation to Public Works and they will be in the process of being transferred to the Housing Corporation back. I can confirm that those positions are in the budget. They are not reflected on the chart and the budget transfer will happen within the next few months. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, so I just want to make sure that I understand what Mr. Mrazek was saying that the number, that 212 number is a decrease in positions that will be transferred over, technical positions that will be transferred over to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I just wanted to make sure that I had a good understanding of what he was saying there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Any one of you can respond. Go ahead.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. There are 11 positions that will be transferred to Housing. They are not under Public Works. The technical staff. These numbers here on this page relate only to Public Works, it has nothing to do with the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess I am a little confused now, Mr. Mrazek had indicated that the function to provide those technical services for Housing were last year or prior to the formation of the Corporation, of a stand along Corporation, included in the technical services division of Public Works. So is then the minister stating that although that big chunk of work that goes along with providing those technical services, the number of staff that she has in her technical division is going to remain the same. Even though those responsibilities are going to be transferred over to a different area. I fail to see the transfer, it reminds me of the old Community Empowerment days. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Deputy Minister, Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief with that. Basically the 11 positions are budgeted within the Public Works, within project management and those positions will be transferred after the capital is approved, after the Main Estimates are approved back into the Housing Corporation. That has been agreed and it is in the plan. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thought I understood but then I asked if those numbers then in Public Works, total numbers of funded positions would, should I would think if they are going to transfer those positions it would effect that number and the minister indicated that it wouldn't. That's why I was a little confused and I am glad to hear then that they are going to be transferred over.

I am sorry for the confusion, I just got confused there I guess. Mr. Chairman, maybe in light of the time, I don't know if anyone wants to ask more questions, but if you want to ask more questions now or I know that some members have to leave. I was just wondering if it would be best to report progress now. I know Mr. Alakannuark had his hand up before so I would like to check with him to see if he would like to report progress or go ahead and ask a question. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo, I will ask if you are making a motion to report. Mr. Tootoo has a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now stand and report progress. Thank you Madame Minister and your officials for being at the witness stand. We will see you again next week, perhaps on Monday.

Thank you, have a good Friday, have a good weekend. I think the Speaker can come back to the House.

Speaker: Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and Bill 16 and Tabled Document 41 – 1(3), 51 – 1(3), 60 – 1(3), 61 – 1(3) and 77 – 1(3) and would like to report progress that Bill 16 is ready for third reading and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder. Mr. Irqittuq is the seconder today. All those in favour. Contrary. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Anawak.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 16 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act – Third Reading

Hon. Jack Anawak: Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Motion is in order. All those in favour. Contrary. Motion is carried. Bill 16 has had third reading. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day, Monday April 17.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 20 – 1(3)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13
 - Tabled Document 41 - 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 51 - 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 60 – 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 61 – 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 77 – 1(3)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Well members it's Friday and I think we had a very productive week. I understand that some of the members are travelling to Cambridge Bay tonight and some to Pang on Sunday. Have an enjoyable and safe trip. This House stands adjourned until Monday April 17, at 1.30.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 2:12 p.m.*

