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**Tuesday, April 18, 2000**

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**Iqaluit**

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

# Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer .....	1624
Ministers' Statements.....	1624
Members' Statements.....	1625
Returns to Oral Questions.....	1632
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	1634
Oral Questions .....	1634
Written Questions .....	1646
Tabling of Documents.....	1647
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	1647
Report of the Committee of the Whole.....	1707
Orders of the Day.....	1707

**A.**

**Daily References**

Tuesday April 18, 2000..... 1624

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

117- 1(3): Arctic Traveller Vacation Planner (Kilabuk)..... 1624

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

330 - 1(3): Quluaq School Renovation (Iqaqrialu) ..... 1625

331 - 1(3): Airline Routes and High Costs (Irqittuq)..... 1626

332 - 1(3): Qaqqalik School Student Exchange (Akesuk)..... 1627

333 - 1(3): Condolences for Arviat, Good Wishes for Duffy's (Thompson) ..... 1627

334 - 1(3): Leadership in the House (Kattuk)..... 1627

335 - 1(3): Iqaluit Recreational Complex (Picco)..... 1628

336 - 1(3): Lack of Response from Airlines (McLean) ..... 1628

337 - 1(3): Cambridge Bay High School (Ng)..... 1629

338 - 1(3): Review of Chief Electoral Officers' Report (Tootoo)..... 1631

**D.**

**Returns to Oral Questions**

Return to OQ 434 - 1(3): Gjoa Haven Soapstone Quarry (Kilabuk) ..... 1632

Return to OQ 440 - 1(3): Polaris Mine Status (Kilabuk)..... 1633

**E.**

**Oral Questions**

479 - 1(3): Letter to Clyde River DEA (Iqaqrialu) ..... 1634

480 - 1(3): Review of Airline Schedules (Irqittuq)..... 1637

481 - 1(3): Depletion of Ozone Layer (Havioyak) ..... 1638

482 - 1(3): Timing and Secrecy of Budget Process (Tootoo)..... 1639

483 - 1(3): Condition of Baker Lake Airstrip (McLean) ..... 1640

484 - 1(3): Back Lake Lodge (Puqiqnak) ..... 1641

485 - 1(3): Hall Beach School Addition (Irqittuq)..... 1642

486 - 1(3): Proposed Power Grid to Kivalliq from Manitoba (McLean)..... 1644

487 - 1(3): Construction of Public Housing Units (Barnabas) ..... 1645

**F.**

**Tabled Documents**

86 - 1(3): The Arctic Traveller (Kilabuk)..... 1647

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday April 18, 2000**

**Members Present**

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Honourable James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Mr. Donald Haviyok, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki 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, Honourable Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

**Speaker** (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to have Mr. Puqiqnak say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good morning members. Orders of the day. Item 2. Minister's Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 117- 1(3): Arctic Traveller Vacation Planner**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to announce to the house that Nunavut Tourism Chairperson Bill Lyall has just launched "The Arctic Traveller", the first vacation planner for our new territory and the first of this millennium. Later I will be tabling the Arctic Traveller.

Mr. Speaker, The Arctic Traveller is designed to show to the people around the world what we in Nunavut already know, that Nunavut is a tremendous tourist destination. The Arctic Traveller will be sent out to thousands of people who write Nunavut Tourism inquiring about visiting Nunavut. The Arctic Traveller will serve to attract tourists to Nunavut because it profiles attractions and events and it will answer people's questions about tourist services in our communities.

Questions such as who are the licensed tourism outfitters and guides and what are the lodge and hotel facilities. Practical information such as maps, obtaining export permits and other available services. It contains valuable information available to tourists. A special section of the Arctic Traveller highlights our parks, which our research shows attracts twenty percent of all our visitors to Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, to put the tourism industry in some perspective, tourism was an estimated 55 Billion dollars U.S. industry in the world. Of this, approximately 10.4 Billion dollars U.S. was spent in Canada. In Nunavut tourism continues to be one of the most promising

economic sectors with receipts at approximately 40 million dollars and with additional spin off benefits of an additional 10 million dollars.

This book the Arctic Traveller is only one of a number of initiatives Nunavut Tourism will be undertaking this year to promote and encourage tourism development. This summer a Nunavut visitor survey will be conducted at our visitor centres and airports. This survey will provide us with information on who our visitors are, what their expectations are and what services and products they are buying here in Nunavut.

Later this year, Nunavut Tourism will be publishing for the first time a new combined sport hunting and fishing guide for Nunavut. This year we will also see the launch of a new marketing and advertising campaign to build on the tremendous interest we have seen from visitors around the world who watched the birth of Canada's newest territory last year.

Also Mr. Speaker, not 2 years ago I was an outfitter in my home community of Pangnirtung. I used to travel to trade shows in southern Canada and spent my summers introducing visitors to our wonderful land and its attractions. I know that there is a great deal to do to build our tourism industry. The initiatives that I have spoken about today are important pieces in the development of tourism in Nunavut. I look forward to working with my partners at Nunavut Tourism and putting in place the building blocks that will make tourism one of the most important sectors of our developing economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 330 - 1(3): Quluq School Renovation**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after meeting with the people from Quluq School, I had a meeting with some people in my community. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak about the letter that was given to me, coming from the education authority. I would like to say that there should be some form of agreement on the capital projects.

Also, there is a request for an extension and we have put this in writing since March 31, 2000. Our motion indicates the dates April 1, 2001 and August 1, 2003. This is in the plans whereby the building is to be demolished first. It is very important that this motion be recognized by way of the local education authority.

They have to find out just exactly when the dates are for building the school. Mr. Speaker, the names here indicate who has been working on the motion but I will not mention them at this time. I will not mention the names, but Mr. Speaker during question period I plan to ask about this motion further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' Statements. Mr. Irgittuq.

**Member's Statement 331 - 1(3): Airline Routes and High Costs**

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to represent the people the people of my constituency regarding the First Air schedules. First Air has a schedule where they stop over in Iqaluit and you have no other connection besides that. Presently, in the constituency that I represent, the airfares have increased dramatically and there is no other airline carrier for passengers. There are no other freight and cargo carriers and they only come and carry the freight 4 times a week. Ever since the aircraft started flying, we have had patients left behind because there is not enough space on the aircraft for the patient.

Also we have a concern with tickets that are not pre-arranged resulting in patients being on standby all the time. Also Mr. Speaker, in the community that I represent this happened. There was an infant that was being carried who had to be paid tickets for 1 thousand 258 dollars for a return ticket. Mr. Speaker, my constituents have relatives everywhere including Repulse Bay, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay. It is difficult for them to travel back and forth unless they go through Iqaluit.

So you can't go to those communities without stopping through Iqaluit first. So on behalf of my constituents, who wish to visit their relatives in other communities, it is becoming impossible because of the airfare costs. These airlines can only travel to communities even in the Baffin Region but first they have to go through Iqaluit all the time. Even if you want to go to the Keewatin Region, you can only go there through Iqaluit first.

Also, you can only go to the Kitikmeot region through Yellowknife and because of the schedules and when you travel these routes you have to overnight in the stopovers. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to finish his member's statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please continue Mr. Irgittuq.

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you fellow colleagues. I am seeking support from all my fellow colleagues in the House because to travel to Hall Beach and Igloolik we have spent a great deal of dollars as well as our government paying out huge amounts of money for patients to travel out to hospital facilities. We cannot make other arrangements.

Each time there is a patient travelling, sometimes you have not just one but more than one and we have to start looking at the costs Mr. Speaker. I am seeking support. For those that are listening, I ask that you lobby First Air because I am sure they are listening



and they have to seriously start considering our needs and see if they can help us. That was my member's statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Members' Statements. Mr. Akasuk.

### **Member's Statement 332 - 1(3): Qaqqalik School Student Exchange**

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the following people and I would like to congratulate those people. The Kimmirut Qaqqalik School students who welcomed students from Montreal's St. George private school. For over two years now they had been plan to do a student exchange to Montreal and they were supposed to do an exchange with Kimmirut and this year they were finally able to do it. There were twenty students and chaperones in Kimmirut and they had a good time there. They were made to feel welcome by the students, they were taught some specifics of Inuit cultural life, and we would like to welcome the students from Montreal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

### **Member's Statement 333 - 1(3): Condolences for Arviat, Good Wishes for Duffy's**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First maybe I should say to the people of Arviat, I feel for them. They lost their relative John Arnalukjuak who was a great man and a wise man. He was always very friendly to everyone that he met. Our prayers are with them and we hope that God will give them some peace. We will continue our faith in that.

Also, I just wanted to say that Ron Duffy had a heart operation and he is currently home now after this operation. He is the husband of Leonie Duffy and many people know him. These are two leaders of the church. So I wish to thank the nurses and the doctors and whoever had to take care of him. Presently he is at home right now and I wish him to rest now so he can get well after his operation. I would like to extend my gratitude to my fellow colleagues who were sympathetic.

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

### **Member's Statement 334 - 1(3): Leadership in the House**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I rise to speak about what is on my mind. As members of the legislature and representatives of the Nunavut people, we are given the responsibility to be good leaders and to be strong leaders on behalf of the people here in the House. We are given certain authorities as representatives of Nunavut.

So we have to do things justly using our abilities and our capabilities. We have used dog teams as an example. When you use a dog team you have to have a strong leader and so

it is in the House. Sometimes if we are going to start abusing our powers we are going to lose our own strength and I think we are going to have to work like a good dog team. Using our traditional dog teams as an example because we know how Inuit work and they have to be sensitive to the people they represent. You cannot just abuse or neglect your dog team because you will have a healthy pack if you have a healthy leader.

The same way with this House. You have to be sensitive to each other and try to remember your Inuit culture in the House. You have to work together and you have to talk with one another with good respect and that way we can be a proper team. We can pave the way for the future. That was my statement Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

### **Member's Statement 335 - 1(3): Iqaluit Recreational Complex**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier at this sitting I spoke to this House about my support for the Arctic Winter Games 2002. The host society plans to build a multifaceted recreational complex here in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, the proposed facility would include space that could be used and utilised as a permanent youth centre for Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, a steering committee has been formed that includes three representatives from the town, three volunteer representatives from the 2002 host society, and the host society representative Jerry Ell.

Faced with the goal of beginning construction in the spring of 2000 for completion in 2001, the steering committees mandate is to represent key stakeholders and act on their behalf from concept to completion. The steering committee will be the prime authority on the project and will oversee all aspects of the planning and the implementation. Mr. Speaker, last week the Iqaluit town council passed a motion to support the project in principle.

That motion helps move the multipurpose facility project forward. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Iqaluit Town Council for the motion of support. I look forward to working together with the town, the Arctic Winter Games 2002 host committee and my Iqaluit MLA colleagues to help support and move this much needed infrastructure forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

### **Member's Statement 336 - 1(3): Lack of Response from Airlines**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with my honourable colleague from Hall Beach about airlines and airline travel in Nunavut. I brought up that fact about regional traffic patterns almost a year ago. Still no airlines in Nunavut seemed to address this

problem of the travel corridors from the Kitikmeot to the Kivalliq to the Baffin without having to go through Yellowknife.

Speaker I don't have to mention again that a majority of the business for these airlines is from the Nunavut Government. It doesn't seem the airlines want to accept that. Travel patterns change and a perfect example of this is the jet service from Yellowknife to Rankin to Iqaluit. These airlines fly behind each other only hours apart on the same days. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is a reality and the airlines in Nunavut will have to start realising this and respond to all the people in Nunavut in the centres, whether they are regional centres or the small Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Mr. Ng.

### **Member's Statement 337 - 1(3): Cambridge Bay High School**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of the constituents I represent in Cambridge Bay, Bathurst Inlet and Umingmatok. Speaking on behalf of those who are not able to respond to statements made by members in this assembly. I am responding to statements made by members in this assembly. I am responding to a member's statement that was made yesterday. And I quote Mr. Speaker, "members are dismayed recent media coverage have been critical of members etc. etc. " unquote. Mr. Speaker, all of us enjoy positive media coverage. Nobody likes to be portrayed in a negative fashion.

I would say Mr. Speaker, welcome to politics. In another part of that statement Mr. Speaker quote, " members are particularly concerned about students and others in Cambridge Bay are being manipulated into thinking and making statements to the effect that members do not care about their needs. " Unquote. Mr. Speaker, these are serious allegations being made by the member. He is alleging that somebody is manipulating students and others Mr. Speaker.

I challenge the member to identify the individual responsible for this manipulation. The statement goes on about the costs and refers to the average cost of 28 hundred to 32 hundred dollars per square metre, and he uses the tender advertisement size and the member indicates the cost should be 10 to 11.5 million dollars. Yet the budget is 14.2 million dollars. The member uses these calculations to suggest the school is above average.

I quote again, " that extra 3 million dollars could have done a lot of work to meeting the needs of other students in other communities " unquote and it goes on Mr. Speaker. This is an erroneous perception and I refer to tabled document 60 - 1(3) the project budget report on the Kiilnik High School project Mr. Speaker.

I will give some liberty here. I use the figure that is higher than the 14.2 million dollars that is referred to in this budget projection, 14.9 million dollars Mr. Speaker. That includes in the 98/99 year 1 million 756 thousand dollars for temporary facilities, junior high school annex, high school annex, portable classroom, temporary mechanical buildings, and debris removal. In the 99/00 year it lists the library annex, temporary clean up, another 266 thousand dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

**Speaker:** The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his member's statement. Any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you colleagues. So, Mr. Speaker the total temporary facility construction costs of those 2 years, 2 million 22 thousand 766 dollars. You add in again another line in that budget. Contingency, Mr. Speaker 1 million 15 thousand dollars. Contingency for unexpected costs that may arise during construction. It is not spent yet. You have another 800 thousand dollars Mr. Speaker, for fire marshal's requirements, for additional requirements for safety reasons the fire marshal has ordered over and above what any other school would have right now.

Then Mr. Speaker, the large gym and cultural heritage centre is only another 920 thousand dollars. If you take out Mr. Speaker those items that I have listed they total 4 million 757 thousand 766 dollars. If you take that away from the 14.9 Mr. Speaker, you have 10 million 191 thousand 566 dollars which works out on approximately 3400 square metres to under 3 thousand dollars a square metre, the 28 and the 32 hundred the member refers to.

Mr. Speaker, the member then goes on the attack using language that I quote " blatantly unfair, shame on the government for continuing to blindly support all aspects of this school project with no questions asked, no limits, no consideration for the priority needs of the other communities needs and no consideration of the precedent" unquote and it goes on. Well Mr. Speaker I have to respond again.

Blindly support all aspects of this project without questions asked, no limits. Well let's clarify this again. The original requests from the community were for 293 square meters now they are only asking for 100 square metres. The community gave up the enhanced change rooms, the gym office, storage rooms, stage etc. All the support infrastructure that normally goes with a full sized gymnasium.

On the matter of no consideration of priority needs in other communities. There has been full consideration and considerable discussion with the Financial Management Board for additional school infrastructure needs. In fact, items were added to address these but once again though we have to recognize we can't deal with all the needs in one fiscal year.

That is why we are planning the 5 year capital plan and that is why the department of education is planning a twenty year capital plan. Mr. Speaker, no consideration of

precedents, again Mr. Speaker we did consider past precedents. We only have to look at Pangnirtung and Repulse Bay, which are communities which have had enhancements through community contributions. The Cambridge Bay situation is not unique here.

There is no special treatment Mr. Speaker. Again Mr. Speaker it goes on about delaying the budget quote "the minister and government should take a hard look at how their vague answers, delays and total lack of leadership on this issue have contributed to the crisis of confidence" unquote. Members state that the budget brought down March twenty-fourth gave only three weeks to discuss in the open the budget for the whole government for the next year. Unquote. I remind members that on January 13th, I met with them in Cambridge Bay and we agreed to the budget review development schedule.

All draft capital and departmental business plans were provided in full and reviewed both in camera by the Standing Committees and with ministerial appearances during the last week of January and the first week and a half of February.

There has been more than ample opportunity Mr. Speaker, to review and make recommendations and address issues. It's easy Mr. Speaker, to cast blame on others. Perhaps the government hasn't been as receptive in responding in a timely fashion to members' concerns. Certainly Mr. Speaker, we can't arbitrarily plunk items into different communities without some planning and consideration of overall government requirements and ongoing financial obligations.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think it is fair for the member to abdicate full responsibility for committee motions that specifically refer to the deferral of the Education Capital Plan. Finally, Mr. Speaker, on the matter of referencing the erroneous extra 3 million dollar allocation for the Killiniq School project, I am quite disappointed in the member for suggesting that this is the case when clearly a financial budget report tabled in this House shows otherwise.

Mr. Speaker, I say shame on the member for misrepresenting the cost of the Kiilnik High School project for his own political means. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Ng. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Member's Statement 338 - 1(3): Review of Chief Electoral Officers' Report**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report on the last meeting of the Standing Committee of Ajauqtiit regarding its review of the report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut entitled, "The Election of the First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, 1999 A New Beginning."

Mr. Speaker, our committee was privileged to have had Paul Quassa, President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and John Lamb, Director of Implementation for NTI,

appear before us last Thursday evening to discuss these important issues. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Quassa reminded us of the prominent role that elections and referenda have played in Nunavut's history citing the plebiscites on the division of the NWT, the new boundary between the two territories and the vote on the Nunavut final Land Claim Agreement. As well as NTI's own elections whose leadership helped to lay the groundwork for creating the Nunavut Territory and Nunavut Government.

I agree with Mr. Quassa when he said, "it is worth thinking about the history because it reminds us of the strength of our democratic process in Nunavut. It is something that we should all be proud of." Mr. Speaker, our standing committee is interested in developing a made in Nunavut elections office and we were extremely pleased to hear Mr. Quassa that, "NTI would be prepared to work with the Government of Nunavut and other parties to explore the question of such a central elections office."

Mr. Quassa noted that the potential cost savings as well as the opportunity to share and learn from one another's experience in conducting elections points to the value of examining the committee's suggestions closely. Potentially at least there could be a great deal to gain by the establishment of a central election office.

Mr. Speaker, there could be obstacles in creating a one-stop electoral office or common electoral list but the important thing is that a partnership with NTI in exploring these issues and seeing what we can accomplish working together. This is the spirit that will make Nunavut a uniquely successful territory. It is our understanding, sorry Mr. Speaker.

This is the spirit that will make Nunavut a uniquely successful territory and our standing committee is very pleased to play a role in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Item 3. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to OQ 434 - 1(3): Gjoa Haven Soapstone Quarry**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond to a question that was asked on April 12, 2000 by Mr. Puqiqnak in regards to the Gjoa Haven soapstone quarry.

I received a letter from Mr. Puqiqnak about the need to supply soapstone to the carvers of Gjoa Haven. The Regional Superintendent for the Kitikmeot met with a representative of the Carvers' Association to discuss a project that would result in retrieving a supply of soapstone for the carvers of Gjoa Haven. The result of that meeting was that the Netsilik Carvers' Association was encouraged to submit an application and a budget under my department's Community Initiative Program.

To date my department has not received an application for this project though it is our understanding that the association did apply to the Inuit Art Foundation for some funding for this project. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Sustainable Developments' Community Initiative Program has been used by a number of communities across Nunavut for soapstone mining projects. Each year we advise Hamlets of their annual allocation of funds under the Community Initiative Program.

The Hamlet Councils then determine where these funds should be spent in their communities for projects that support community economic development. Mr. Speaker, the Gjoa Haven soapstone project could begin as soon as the Gjoa Haven Hamlet Council approves the project under the Community Initiatives Program.

There is both a Community Economic Development Officer and a Community Economic Development Officer trainee in Gjoa Haven who could assist with developing a proposal for this project. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that the issue of access to soapstone supply is something that effects many communities in Nunavut. I have asked the department officials to prepare a briefing on the issues with the aim of developing a strategy for this important aspect of the arts and crafts economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### **Return to OQ 440 - 1(3): Polaris Mine Status**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure you recognize me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a return to an oral question that was asked on April 12, 2000 by Mr. Barnabas in regards to the status of Polaris Mine.

Mr. Speaker, I had taken this as notice and I have now found out that the Polaris Mine is scheduled for closure on October 31, 2001. Exploration within a kilometre of the mine may extend the mine life but indications at this time are that an extension is unlikely.

In 1996, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Federal Government, at the request of Heritage Canada, placed an exploration restriction on the north half of Bathurst Island pending the outcome of a study assessing that location for potential as a national park. The proposed park area is located fifty kilometres north-west of the Polaris Mine.

While the park study did remove an area of high mineral potential from exploration, Cominco explored other sites within the region with equally high potential and failed to discover another ore body. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Returns to Oral Questions. 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. Mr. Speaker, in the gallery I would like to welcome a young person who is the daughter of member Enoki Irqittuq, who is one of our pages. I didn't recognize her Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen her since 1992 and she has grown up a lot since that time. I don't see her right now either but I know she is here as a page.

Also Mr. Speaker, in the gallery today we have a member of the Arctic Winter Games 2002 committee that I spoke about earlier today in my member's statement, Mr. Jonah Kelly. Next to Mr. Kelly is that well-known, excellent interpreter, translator and all around good person, Ms. Mallie Curley. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to item 5, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** We haven't gone to number six yet so you can carry on.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Inuktitut translation I heard that we were on item six so I apologize. I would like to recognize, like I said yesterday, there were people here from Pond Inlet. We have Ivan, who is one of the cadet members. Joanisie Kowtangnirk, again from the cadet troupe. I am sure she will be wearing her uniform again tomorrow. She is from Pond Inlet.

I also have my daughter here somewhere, I think some of you know her, Melanie. She is living here in Iqaluit, but she is not here in the House at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 479 - 1(3): Letter to Clyde River DEA

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to have a good debate with the members in regards to the budget session and of course there are more questions coming up as we progress. We would like to get things going and we do want to see the budget approved.



Even though that's the case I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Education about the letter that I received a copy of and I wasn't informed of what was happening. I got a copy of this letter only from the Education Council. My question to the minister is, why is it that I was not informed when they were going to delete that school project in my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe I misunderstood. He mentioned something about a school being deleted. We did not do anything like that. Maybe what he is trying to say is that the money that was allocated for the building of the school, or the construction of the school in the beginning of the year, I think it was 1.5 million, is that what the member is talking about.

**Speaker:** I wonder if the member could further clarify his question, and furthermore if he is referring to a document that has not been tabled and is not before the House, it's very difficult and almost impossible for the minister to speak to it. Furthermore, it is not appropriate for members to speak of documents that have not been tabled and are not in the hands of all the members. So if you could further clarify your question, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The letter that I am referring to comes from the DEA in my community. I am sure you have a copy of that letter because the letter is coming from your office. This letter was written on April 12, and it states that there will be a deferral of the dollars that were allocated to Clyde River.

Why is it that you informed the local Education Council when I was not informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of the community elect the DEA. They were delegated the task to make the decisions on behalf of education matters and matters of the school. We had to inform them because they had to consider the issue. We have not deleted the item. The Baffin Divisional Board, if they wanted to send a copy to you during the deliberations it would be up to them. Again, they are an elected body by the community and they were given the task to come up with a decision on what would be best for their community and for the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This letter came from the Department of Education. I am representing that particular community and because of that everything has to go through me. We do the same thing but this was not the case. The

DEAs are elected by the community and I believe that as an elected member myself, I have to work with them.

I was not informed in this case and it effected me. I want you to know that. Maybe I could mention that 1 million 547 thousand dollars is deferred, or are you going to keep it in the budget so that we can get the architectural drawings and preliminaries done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Baffin Divisional Board of Education, I will talk to them and recommend that if they are going to be writing a letter to any one of the particular communities to CC a copy to the elected member. When I write a letter I CC copies to members. It seemed like he asked two questions.

When we were drafting up the budget for 1999/2000, we approved 400 thousand dollars to do the architectural drawings for the Clyde River School. The reasons were a certain part of the school would be demolished and we would make a new addition to the part of the school that is falling, to do some improvements and now that we have new policies we have quotes upgrade that are newly implemented. Since we did that review and looked for architects, that was close to February 2000, of course the Nunavut Government looks for the best price and the cheapest was 500 thousand dollars.

We had only set aside 400 thousand dollars for the preliminary works. Because it was 150 thousand dollars over our budget we were told that it would take 16 to 24 weeks to do the preliminary work. As a result, we would not have had the opportunity to finish the preliminary work and the architectural drawings before sealift. If this is approved, the school would be built in the year 2001.

Mr. Speaker, if I had full capacity in my department in November, February and December, yes we wanted to do everything so that things would come in the summer. We kept the elected member informed of the process and kept him up to date. We have approximately half of our capacity and just three weeks ago we finally got a capital analyst. We are now up to 65% capacity. We do want to work 100% but because of our lack of capacity we cannot keep up with things that we want to do.

The elected member knows that this is not intentional. It is just that we did not have the time and we did not want to rush through the architectural drawings, which take a long time, and we were under budget when we approved the numbers that were slotted for this project. It has not been deleted, we still have it slotted for next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was an excellent response and I appreciate that. However, I want to supplement my question. If we agree to the funding, will the drawings also be included in the approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was a pre-authorized amount that we have not spent yet except that we have a shortage of 150 thousand dollars and we will be putting that forth under an appropriation request because of the contract changes. Also, I understand that there has been some discussion by the Broughton Island Education Board in support of their requests. I have that correspondence too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Final supplementary, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we are on the main estimates. As you can see from this book for the year 2000, for Baffin, Kulluaq School, 1 million 547 thousand dollars. Is that going to go ahead for the preliminary studies. If that is the case I will help to support the other main estimates and in conjunction with the Education Authority in my community, who has indicated that as long as the drawings are approved for the current fiscal year then I would agree. So, thank you for detailing my question and that the drawings would be included for the current year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Just a reminder that the capital budget for Education has been deferred until such time we should wait until it resurfaces. If the minister cares to answer the question or comment, or not that is fine. Oral Questions. Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

#### **Question 480 - 1(3): Review of Airline Schedules**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be to the Minister of Transportation who indicated he would do a review of the aircraft schedules. I am wondering what sort of review he had undertaken whether it would be about airfares or air routes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That review was done for all of Nunavut and it was begun in October. However, according to the member's statement and the member from Baker Lake's statement, we are aware of your concerns as to how we can work more closely with the airlines. The member said that the government is paying huge amounts of dollars for patient and medical travel and at the same time he explained the costs involved for communities for community residents wishing to travel to other places to visit relatives. Another issue that was raised was having patients travelling without escorts to cut costs. Further to his comments I am

sensitive to those issues but at this time I can not really tell him how well the study or the review is going because it is currently being undertaken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

**Question 481 - 1(3): Depletion of Ozone Layer**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to raise my questions regarding the ozone layer because as we know it is getting smaller each time and we heard this over the radio and through the newspapers that I read. We are very concerned over this in regards our lifestyle and the ozone layer because we live outdoors this time of the year. Can the minister indicate to me information as to how the ozone layer is affecting our people over the short course of the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the member's question, the ozone layer which is our protection from ultraviolet rays remains much the same. Concerning the pollutants that come from the south to the high arctic areas affecting our atmosphere and our waters, these are continuing to be a concern. As for the future and how they affect us, before we distribute any information we have researchers that will be coming up to our communities along with meeting with the members and give an explanation as to what kind of effects we can expect. However, before we do that we want to give out factual information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response but I also want to say it is almost summer time and because this is our where we spend most of our time, I want to know exactly how much development has been in place. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had a meeting with my staff concerning the timing of the researchers that will be coming up to do a briefing for the members. As far as we could schedule, we are looking at early May during the time all members are in Iqaluit. We are going to time it in conjunction with the session so they can receive a briefing. Then we can distribute the information directly after the briefing just in time for the spring and summer session. We can work with them towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you minister. During the summer we will be working towards this. I want to thank you for your response. We want

to work towards this because we as Inuit are very concerned about the weather changes. This worries our people who go out on the land and if we do a review on this before the summer I would much appreciate it very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we want to do is time it so that all the members and the cabinet ministers will be available because this ozone layer depletion is a concern to everyone and for everyone's future. For the first time under the Department of Sustainable Development we plan to do a briefing and we want to give every opportunity to each of the members to be given information. It is obvious that if we try and do this on an Ad Hoc basis, people will be asking further questions and we might possibly cause confusion, if we try to do this in an ad hoc manner. I want to be well prepared when we deal with that Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 482 - 1(3): Timing and Secrecy of Budget Process**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. The minister has been recently attacking members on this side of the House for not raising concerns regarding budget matters during the Rankin Inlet session. My question is, given that the budget had not yet been introduced at that time and given the number of times that ministers have refused to answer questions on the budget items until it came up during committee of the whole review of the estimates, does the minister now believe that members should have violated budget secrecy and raised specific concerns on specific budget items in advance of the introduction of the main estimates into the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the members know that they have ample opportunity outside of the House to raise issues. Whether it is in the Standing Committee review or a direct correspondence or if it is a verbal meeting with different ministers or the Premier or the Finance Minister. So those are the avenues to address those issues if they feel they were not discussed. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then is the Minister of Finance saying that there were no concerns or he is not aware of concerns that were raised in regards to that project that seems to be a hot debate going on in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for Finance.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know there were concerns raised. There was a request for additional information and that is why the Minister of Education provided in great detail the costing for the project and the tabled document that I referred to earlier in my statement. So that all members will have the opportunity to see exactly what that project entails. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just maybe on process. Mr. Speaker, I know the role the standing committees play and the regular members play that the departments bring forward their budgets and their business plans to these standing committees. Concerns are raised at that time and then it goes back and those concerns are taken by whatever department it is. One would hope that in this type of a consensus government that we have that these concerns are taken into consideration. Mr. Speaker, so is the minister saying that they did take into consideration some of the concerns that were raised by the standing committee and regular members during that process that did happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes it is the responsibility of the sponsoring minister if there were specific concerns to address those issues. Whether or not every issue that is raised is addressed is another matter. Certainly you have to take it into consideration and then ultimately have to make a decision on going forward. What the recommendations are for amendments as originally put forth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Supplementary. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

### **Question 483 - 1(3): Condition of Baker Lake Airstrip**

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, today my question is directed to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation who at this time I would thank for his speedy response on the conditions of all airstrips in Nunavut. Reviewing it, I was a little disturbed to see the condition of the airstrip of my home community of Baker Lake that I use as frequently as anybody. One of the items in there is the condition of the gravel of the strip in Qamanittuaq, that it is loose and that could create problems. Does the minister have any plans for the immediate future to rectify this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak:** Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat lost but I will take the question as notice and also I will assure him that whatever problems there are in terms of the gravel we will do what we can to rectify the situation. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Question 484 - 1(3): Back Lake Lodge**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I have is to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Mr. Speaker, in the minister's statement it was very good to hear about tourism. I really appreciate his statement this morning. I am sure the people in my community appreciate his statements as well. Mr. Speaker, my question is, when the Americans started coming to the Nunavut region and the American outfitters to Back River, they had a place in the north of the Nunavut area. But after they closed down their lodge one of my constituents was unable to acquire that lodge because they do not have enough money to start. Representing my people that deal with tourism, I feel that lodge is very nice and I wonder how we as Kitikmeot people can acquire funding to start up that lodge. I am asking the Minister of Sustainable Development. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to his question, you will have to try to get some funding perhaps to start the business. You can get request funding from the department. Perhaps go to that tourism organization and they could deal with the request from the Kitikmeot. It could be either from my department or tourism outfits that could help with the funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes thanks very much to the minister for that response. Nunavut is very different and each region is very different I know the requests for funding are usually very different. We have to make Nunavut very attractive for the tourist. Funding for the organizations he is talking about, if I remember correctly last year the minister spoke about that organization in the Rankin Inlet session and I received a letter written by the minister's department. It was very good to be expecting something to happen in tourism. There is already some equipment in that area that I am talking about. However, the only thing that we have a problem with is we have to get some funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding that they will be requesting would be directed to my department and we will find out what the requests are, whether they want start up funds or whether they want operations & maintenance. There are also some people that deal with this in the Kitikmeot region. They have economic development officers in the Kitikmeot region and they can ask economic development officers and I will notify my staff in the Kitikmeot region as to the request of the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you minister. Just before we proceed, I would like to welcome to the gallery the Reverend Daniel Aupaluk and his wife from the Anglican Church in Iqaluit.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Question 485 - 1(3): Hall Beach School Addition**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that we are going to be dealing with the Department of Education in a little bit today in the committee of the whole. However, the questions that I have asked previously I would like to ask again in regards to the Hall Beach school addition.

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, there was some money allotted for the Hall Beach School in 1998-1999. There was 175 thousand spent in the designing of that school, 2 million 132 thousand were spent for the design and the addition of that school. We have not heard up to today whether there is any funding in the capital budget of the department. Mr. Speaker, my question is what happened to the money that was going to be used in 1998-1999 for the addition of our school. Is there still going to be a building addition for that school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year the government and the Office of the Interim Commissioner had some discussions in regards to the capital projects. They said the projects would keep going if the contracts were awarded. They went ahead also if there was a safety issue involved and it would be inspected by the Health Inspector or Safety Officer.

We followed three criteria when we were going ahead with projects. The Members of the Legislative Assembly know very well that even though it is in the five year capital plans if there is no agreement to go ahead with the project there has to be another review done by the Nunavut Government to see if they fit in any one of those three criteria. We did make some mistakes. For example in Pond Inlet because there was no contract awarded for that project by the Government of the Northwest Territories, there was a review and an inspection of the school and it was closed. The school in Baker Lake was not closed but it is a health and safety issue. The member knows that even if they are in the five-year plans they do not necessarily go ahead. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister again because we have actually spent 175 thousand dollars on the architectural drawings. One of the reasons why they did not go ahead with this project is because they said that they had to consult with the people of Hall Beach in regards to the design of the project. The people of Hall Beach have been consulted already that is why the architectural drawings are 75 percent complete. My question to the minister is, in the



year 2000-2001 plan are you going to be able to find some funding so that we can complete the drawings 100 percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague has mentioned this issue quite a number of times. I was concerned and I told my staff if we are going to but a 20-year plan, I told my staff to look at the Hall Beach School right away. We heard last week that the government will be putting together a 5-year plan and that we would be able to include the 5-year plan to the 20-year long term plan. While we are making those plans we will include the Hall Beach project and we will decide whether it would be placed as a priority issue. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On April 12, Jobie Nutarak asked a question regarding the Pond Inlet gym extension. In your response Mr. Minister, you stated that there is 1.5 million dollars available. This 1.5 million dollars is in the contingency funds. I understand your answer in regards to include the Hall Beach project into the 20-year plan. Which year would you put the Hall Beach project in the first year, second year, or third year. Because I never get an adequate response and I keep bringing up this question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I wanted to respond so much to the question Mr. Speaker. We have 41 schools in Nunavut. We have a good idea which ones should be placed as a priority, for example Hall Beach, which is overcrowded, and there are other schools that are placed as a priority because they are getting very old. We will want to look at all the schools maybe we will look at the overall figure we will look at 10 that are too old, 10 that are overcrowded and so on. We will put them in categories and then decide over this process which will be placed as a priority. I would like to tell the member that we will start the capital planning as soon as possible and we will take into consideration the issues that were brought up in the House.

Since there are quite a number of schools, I can not say at this time whether we are going to be setting aside money for the Hall Beach project this year or next year or any other projects in any other community. We have to look at all the schools on an equal basis and it will be factored in the 20-year plans so that even if we are not members anymore they will be considered at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been asking the same question from day 1 or day 2. I forget which day I started asking about this particular subject. The Minister of Education started out answering my questions but he has kept

saying that we will review it or take it as notice. That is the only response that I get. I asked him that same question and asked him whether he is going to put it in one or two.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague and hunters know very well that when I am preparing to go on a caribou hunt I can not say I will catch one right away. But I will try. I can use that as an example of where we are. I understand exactly where he is coming from and yes we will review it closely. I cannot respond at this time because we haven't made any preliminary budgets for next year, so I can't tell him whether it is going to be number one or number two. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

**Question 486 - 1(3): Proposed Power Grid to Kivalliq from Manitoba**

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, my question today is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation. I wonder if the minister responsible could update me on his talks with the Manitoba Power Corporation on the power grid going into the Kivalliq Region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would thank the member for his question. As the member knows, there is no power grid going into the Keewatin region. There was a pre-feasibility study Mr. Speaker, which was brought forward by Manitoba Hydro in conjunction with the NWT Power Corporation and partly funded through the Federal Government.

As I committed to in Rankin Inlet Mr. Speaker, we have tasked the Ikuma Working Group with doing a comprehensive review of the Manitoba pre-feasibility study. Once that review is complete, I committed in Rankin Inlet to bring that forward to the members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, could the minister be a little bit more concise in when he expects to have that report. Because as of this date WMC Corporation, the mining interest in Rankin Inlet and Powell Arctic are about to sign an agreement to provide power to the mine site out there. This would probably be a good opportunity to get involved and look at maybe providing line power to that mine. Could the minister be more concise on when he is going to have that report and bring it forward.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't comment on the agreement or proposed agreements, or if there is an agreement between WCM and Powell Arctic. What I can say, Mr. Speaker, is that when that report is complete, which is a comprehensive review by the Nunavut Government on another government's proposal, which was the Manitoba Government proposal through Manitoba Hydro. As the member knows I met with the Minister of Finance, also the member who is responsible for Manitoba Hydro in Rankin, and we had some good discussions surrounding the pre-feasibility study.

As we said there several times in Rankin during the meeting, the pre-feasibility study is broad in its implications, there are major dollars attached, and I would hope, Mr. Speaker, to be able to bring forward to this House in the coming weeks. I don't have a deadline or date, hopefully over the next four to six weeks, that comprehensive report or review should be ready and then that would bring us up into the middle of May. I don't believe that we will be sitting then. I would have to send copies out to the members and then have a review of it probably some time in the fall.

Again, we have to review the comprehensive pre-feasibility study done by Manitoba Hydro and take it from the Nunavut perspective. The next step after that, if there was funding available and so on, would be a feasibility study of the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Uqaqti. I would like to thank the honourable minister for his lengthy answer, which I think I understood. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister, seeing now that he took great strides and vision and leadership in establishing a Nunavut Power Corporation, and I have to commend the honourable minister for that, can the honourable minister commit to me that he will take up discussions with WMC about maybe providing power for that mine site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry Mr. Speaker, I have to apologize to the House, I did say to the members that I would try to keep my answers short. The answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

**Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Question 487 - 1(3): Construction of Public Housing Units**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Speaker, we

have seen requests for proposals for the construction of a number of units in Nunavut. I appreciate that these units are to be built and they have been decentralized properly throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, has the minister met with here federal counterparts with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation about the units up here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning the units, I appreciate that we only had the 100 units and I realize that there is a much higher demand and I wish that we could have all the funding provided for that purpose. Being that as it is, Mr. Speaker, I went to meet with my federal counterparts along with Mr. Picco and you came along to Ottawa at the time. We went over to lobby the federal members especially regarding homelessness in Nunavut and the urgency of our need for houses up here.

We met with Nunavut Tunngavik and Pauktuutit and we thought that if we could make up our minds together and put our lobbying together, we thought we would have a greater effect. I still have to do that in the future. I have been down to Ottawa to lobby on behalf of Nunavut in regards to the homelessness issue here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 15 - 1(3): Income Support and P-3 Projects**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question to the Government Leader. There are six itemised questions. I will speak in English. (interpretation ends).

1. Who has lead responsibility for income support issues.
2. Which other ministers have any other responsibility pertaining to income support issues.
3. Is there one minister who should answer all the questions pertaining to income support issues.
4. Which minister has the lead responsibility for P-3 projects.
5. Which other ministers have any responsibility pertaining to P-3 projects.
6. Is there one minister who should answer all the questions pertaining to P-3 projects.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. 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. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kilabuk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 86 - 1(3): The Arctic Traveller**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to table documents, "The Arctic Traveller", which is a promotional guide to Nunavut Tourism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. 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 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), Tabled Documents 84 - 1(3), Tabled Documents 85 - 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. Irgittuq as the Chairperson. Prior to the commencement of the committee of the whole we will break for 45 minutes. I ask that members remain to witness the swearing in of the new member of the executive council by the Commissioner of Nunavut. Then members can proceed to lunch, which is being served in the Tuktu room. Staff and guests are also welcome to attend.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 12.12 and resumed at 1.08 p.m.*

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

**Chairperson** (Mr. Irgittuq) (interpretation): Welcome back to the Committee of the Whole. We are on Bill 13 and tabled documents 41 - 1(3), 51 - 1(3), 60 - 1(3), 61 - 1(3), 71 - 1(3), 84 - 1(3) and 85 - 1(3). Yesterday we were on Bill 13 and tabled document 71 - 1(3). Public Works Main Estimates. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I would like to return the Department of Education's budget, capital estimates at this time.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I am sorry can you repeat your wish please. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I would like to return to the Department of Education Capital Estimates. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. The member would like to return to the capital estimates of the Department of Education. All those in favour. The minister can go back to the witness table with your officials. Not too many officials please, Mr. Minister. Welcome Mr. Minister and your officials. Can you please, I think we know your staff, but for the record introduce them again.

**Hon. James Arvaluk**: Thank you Mr. Chairman to my right is Robert Moody, Deputy Minister and to my left is Murray Horn Director of Corporate Services, Department of Education.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister do you have any opening comments.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not presently have any opening comments and we can begin. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): General comments from the floor. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman under the Department of Education's Capital Estimates I would like to return to page 9 - 6. Page 9 - 6, I am sorry Corporate Services.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The member wishes to go to 9 – 6. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): This was the last item that we deferred at this time so I would like to talk about this section of the Capital Estimates. I would like to ask a question. This morning the Minister of Finance stated that 920 thousand was allocated for a program. I would like to talk about the 920 thousand that the minister mentioned. I just wondered whether it is in this Corporate Services section of page 9 – 6.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I was trying to ask the Minister of Finance. He mentioned to us that he would be able to answer some questions we have. I just wanted to find out from the Minister of Finance whether that 920 thousand is in this page 9 – 6.

**Chairperson**: Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng**: The detail is with the Department of Education. I can tell you based on the discussions that have taken place, as the minister has outlined in the past, there's 395

thousand dollars for an enlarged gym expansion as part of the Education Department's budget that we're reviewing right now.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the Minister of Education. This morning the Finance Minister mentioned that 920 thousand dollars is allocated for the heritage centre. Perhaps I misunderstood, there was a different answer I was thinking that 920 thousand dollars, in regards to the 920 thousand dollars I would like to ask the minister under page 9 – 6 if that budget is in there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. That 920 thousand dollars is...but the MLA from Cambridge Bay member made a member's statement this morning. Perhaps the Finance Minister was responding to the member Hunter Tootoo and that is why he mentioned the 920 thousand dollars.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): The High School in Cambridge Bay and the member for Cambridge Bay mentioned this morning under a member's statement that 920 thousand dollars will be directed to the Heritage Centre. I am just trying to ask a question whether it is in the Capital Budget under 9 – 6. Is it included in this section. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As the member for Cambridge Bay, the member responded to the statement made by Mr. Tootoo. Perhaps if that Honourable Member Mr. Ng can clarify what his member's statement was about. We are dealing with the Capital estimates of Department of Education and maybe Mr. Ng can answer the question for Mr. Nutarak. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak are you going to ask another question. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to help the minister I believe the 920 thousand dollars that the honourable member from Cambridge Bay mentioned this morning related to the 395 thousand dollars for the larger gym and the 525 thousand dollars for the Heritage Centre in that project. I think that the member from Pond Inlet was asking if any of those dollars are included in the project costs. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** I think Mr. Tootoo is correct and just to further clarify in the Department of Education Budget there is 395 thousand dollars only for the gym which is what we are reviewing right now. There is the issue of 500 thousand dollars in CLEY's budget for the heritage and cultural centre, which isn't before us right now. But when I spoke about that earlier this morning as a member Mr Chairman, I referred to the project budget report because it included all costs for that project within that summary. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Is it clear now Mr. Nutarak. We are under Department of Education branch summary. Under Kitikmeot Region, detail of capital. There's no total Kitikmeot Region, 10 million 803 thousand. I'm sorry, under page 9 – 6 Capital Estimates, Department of Education we are under Capital Estimates, Department of Education 9 – 6. Is everybody on that page.

I am sorry I was just reading under Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region, 10 million 803 thousand. Agreed

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Against. Abstentions. Total buildings and works, 15 million 325 thousand. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Are we under, I cannot find where we are at, Peter and I cannot find 2000 – 2001 Capital Estimates.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): It is under 2000 – 2001 Capital Estimates. Did you get it. I am sorry but we are slowing down. Under total building and works, 15 million 325 thousand. Total Capital Expenditures, 15 million 325 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister if he has at all any response to the recommendations that were made by the Standing Committee or by the regular members during the committee of the whole on this matter. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. My responses are already in the Hansard for all these recommendations. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): If we're going to be voting on these figures we have to record our votes I think that would be better if you don't respond right away. Capital Estimates. Total Capital Expenditures, 15million 325 thousand. Opposed. Abstentions. Two abstentions. The motion is carried.



Going back to the capital. Going to the other estimates, Main Estimates, 2000 – 2001 Estimates 9 – 7. Page number 9 – 7 under the Main Estimates. Corporate Services, branch summary. Total Capital, 15 million 325 thousand. For. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

Total Expenditures, 16 million 674 thousand. For. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

We will then go back to 9.9 – 3 in the Main Estimates. Total Capital, 15 million 325 thousand. Agreed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the Capital does that mean that we agree to everything if we agree to 15 million 325 thousand.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): In the Capital Estimates we agreed to 15 million 325 thousand. Anything else. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): I believe that was a yes. If we agree to that figure then that means everything is agreed to. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Page 9 – 3. Total Capital, 15 million 325 thousand. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

Total Expenditures, 150 million 474 thousand. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

Agreed as a whole. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

I do not want to say thank you but I have to say thank you to the minister and his officials for being at the witness table. I am sure we will see you again next year. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Hon. James Arvaluk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman I would like to thank you very much because you are not only a member but you are an excellent chairperson. We also have Lorne Levy who is sitting in the gallery. He will be our capital projects person, he use to work for the Divisional Board and he will be here to help you. We also have Connie Brown who just came in to town not too long ago but was able to produce all this material because of the urgency of the issue.

Also Murray Horn who is in capital projects and he was overloaded for a while because of lack of staff and Robert Moody who helped him out at times. He is also the Deputy Minister. I would like to thank my staff who are very able and also the other members who are in Arviat. We thank them all very much also the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We'll then go back to Government Services. Ms. Thompson would you like to go to the witness table and also your officials.

Welcome Ms. Thompson and if you would introduce your officials. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On my right is Ross Mrazek and on my left is the Director of Finance.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Yesterday we started this department with the 2000/2001 capital estimates and we were on page 6-6. Page 6-5 should be 6-6 in the capital estimates. We will go back to the capital estimates where we stopped. Do you agree with the figures. Agreed. Abstentions. Opposed. Carried.

We will then move on to the estimates for 200/2001. Page 6-3 or 6-4, Department of Public Works. Directorate. Branch summary. Directorate, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 4 million 317 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I am told to use this format for voting and if you have to do so put up your hand. Operations and maintenance. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. Mr. Picco and Premier abstain because they are not listening. Carried.

Total expenditures, 4 million 317 thousand. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

Public works 6-5, branch summary for technical services. Operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, 5 million 449 thousand. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): I'm sorry I came in late, which department are we dealing with. Mr. Chairman, while we are dealing with this department she gave us a sheet on what would be going into the communities, maybe my question should be that we agreed with the department of education's figure and we also agreed to the architectural drawings. My question, is that part of your responsibility to deal with the architectural designs of the schools. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Are you referring to the school in Clyde River. Which architectural drawings are you referring to. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): It is reference to the school addition drawings. Is that in your department's duties. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Yes, we are responsible for taking care of that matter. We get the requests from the different departments and we do provide the services. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I apologise 6-5 total expenditures for technical services, 5 million dollars 449 thousand dollars. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. One abstention. Carried.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

Branch summary of operations and maintenance total expenditures, 57 million 732 thousand. Agreed. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

Total expenditures 57 million 732 thousand. Agreed. Those opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

Total expenditures 57 million 732 thousand dollars. Those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

Page 6-7 Public Works. Branch summary, Informatics. Total operations and maintenance 10 million 89 thousand. Those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. Carried.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

Total expenditures 10 million 89 thousand. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just have a question for you Mr. Chairman. During this committee of the whole can we be counted only while we sit at our seats during our vote or question.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Yes, that is the procedure. You have to be at your seat so you can be counted as your vote. You cannot be counted if you are not at your seat.

Total operations and maintenance 10 million 89 thousand. Those in favour. Those against. Abstentions. Carried.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

Total expenditures 10 million 89 thousand. All in favour. All against. Abstentions. Carried.

Continuing with item 6-8. Public works, branch summary, decentralization. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 200 thousand. All in favour. Those against. Abstentions. Carried.

Total expenditures, 2 million 200 thousand. Agreed. Those against. Abstentions. Carried.

Moving on, Public Works, branch summary. Petroleum Products Division, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance 7 million 700 thousand. I am sorry zero. Total capital, 7 million 700 thousand dollars. All in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under petroleum products division before we agree I have a question. I assume you have an analyst concerning the bad gas that needs to be removed from the gas tanks in our riding. Should there be an emergency and there has to be a cleanup I assume it would be very expensive to do so because you can't just dump the oil you have to package the bad gas first properly and have it shipped out professionally and carefully.

I am just wondering, I do not see any numbers for shipping or removing parcels of bad gas. What kind of contingency plans do you have in that case. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If that should happen and we need to do that I just want to remind you the 800 thousand litres is no longer that same amount. It is 675 thousand litres as it is slowly evaporating and dissipating, or being used by four wheelers because it works fine for them but for the skidoo's gasoline there is a problem with that.

Therefore, we have made some different gas available from a different tank where they can get re-supplied. If we have to empty that gas tank, I do not know because we are still using it for vehicles and four wheelers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): But I thought I was told that they emptied that tank already. I am talking about that new one. Apparently there was 100 thousand litres and it was emptied, and once it was emptied out they stopped using the particular gas tank for skidoos and four wheelers because they don't like that gasoline being used for that tank.

Currently it is not in use and they are using another oil supply. If I misunderstood that it had been emptied, perhaps Mr. Mrazek could reiterate because he answered yesterday that according to his knowledge in the Kitikmeot this is what was happening. I am sure that they are using that gasoline, in fact they are using it for long distance. I am just

wondering what the situation is. I would like to see some emergency plans before we totally run out of that supply. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): I can tell the member of the legislature later when we get the expertise we could quickly meet with the member and give him a briefing and make available that information. Gasoline that is being used for skidoo's has run out as far as I understand it, and if they are going to use it for long distance then they are going to need some re-supply and we are going to have to talk about it. We can decide what to do and then I can let the member of the legislature know what the plan is. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My fellow MLA was asking about the money in the main estimates. Are you going to provide some funding for the re-supplying of gasoline tanks, and what he was trying to say is that if we approve as is, will this delete that option. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The gas tanks that I am talking about need to be worked on. This particular item deals only with expansion. They already have the big gas tanks in Uqsuqtuq, which were already cleaned out and they are already over there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you minister. Back to total expenditures, 7 million 700 thousand. Those in favour. Those against. Abstentions. Carried.

Moving on, page 6-10, Public Works. Information item. Petroleum Products revolving fund. I am having trouble reading. This is just an information item. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under this item, there is a difference between 6044 and 46 and looking at these figures and at the bottom there is a deficit. Can we have some explanation as to why there is a deficit under that item. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Which of you is to respond. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, as you know the person from petroleum products is seated over here. His name is Roy Green and he is seated over here. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are we agreed that the witness comes to the table. Can you exchange seats. Did you hear the question and if you did, please respond Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Okay the 1.7 million dollars deficit in the revolving fund that means with the existing cost components and with the current retail price, the sales are not high enough to cover the operating costs. So this 1.7 million dollars would be part of the stabilisation which is part of the funding limit that we operate in. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If that is the situation then does that mean we are going to have a deficit of that amount. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Basically those figures are based on the last years re-supply costs. So the bottom line in this is subject to the re-supply which commences in July 2000. So if the price of crude continues to drop then our operating costs would go down accordingly. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Last year in the fiscal year 99/00 it was 39 million dollars now it is 44 million dollars. Is that because the cost of gasoline has gone up quite a bit. I just wanted clarification on that Mr. Chairman. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** It is correct. The cost of fuel products went up on the average of 8 cents per litre. So that is why you are seeing an increase of about 5 million dollars over last year. But when you look at the 44 million dollars most of that is the bulk sales that we sell into Iqaluit. What happens is that we buy the product for Iqaluit and then we sell it for the cost that we pay for it.

Sales have increased dramatically in Iqaluit and this is where the total sales have increased significantly from last year. The retail price increased by 5 cents and that would increase your total sales. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under this item I would like to get some more information. Under 2000. This summer in July there might be another increase as you stated, I was just wondering how much does the petroleum products increase yearly. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The petroleum products cost depends on what we can buy it for on the world market. All I can tell you is that when we did an evaluation two weeks ago the price of fuel was up around 6 cents a litre higher than what we paid for it last year. Having said that the price of crude has dropped about 6 cents since the prices in January and February because the price of crude has been gradually dropping.

So to be quite honest with you I have no idea what the price of crude will be when we do buy it in June of this year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green mentioned that it would be decreasing in price a little bit so for that reason will the petroleum products be cheaper in the communities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. If the price of crude and our operating cost drops to the extent that we could forecast a profit, indeed we would be looking at a decrease for fuel in the retail prices. The retail prices would depend on what we buy it for in the world markets. So if we are looking at substantial savings by this summer then we could see a reduction in the price passed along but at this time there are no guarantees. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If that is the way it is going to be, if petroleum products will be decreasing the communities cost should decrease as well. I wonder why they predict that there is going to be a reduction in price. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairperson. At this point in time the reason why we are looking at a decrease so far is because some of the OPEC countries are going to be increasing the amount of their production. When petroleum products buys it there is no lag time by the time the prices come down.

So as soon as the petroleum products prices start to go down in price then we benefit immediately. So right now there has been some increased production, which would force down the price of crude. At this point of time we are dealing with a lot of uncertainty and a lot of speculation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Perhaps I would like to get some more clarification. Say in which part of the country do you buy the petroleum products from. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Green.

**Mr Green:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. We buy it from oil refineries in Texas. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. You mentioned early that you buy from various places. Is Texas the only place they buy it from so far. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Green.

**Mr. Green:** For the most part we buy the majority of the re-supply from overseas markets and Texas. We buy some fuel from Shell Canada in Alberta but only a limited amount. The majority we buy from the oil refineries in the U.S. market. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Is that it. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to get some clarification on the revolving fund. Right across Nunavut there is going to be a few projects on the capacity of each settlement. Something in this area, let say for example there are so many projects done before the end of the year is it in here too.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Thompson or Mr. Green.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson:** Yes, Itsivauta.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, I recall a few years back in Kugluktuk they didn't have a space for storing additional petroleum and they had to barge it in the mouth of the river. Is that how it is going to be done again during this fiscal year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr Green.

**Mr. Green:** Mr. Chairman at this time I do not have the information and I will get it to the MLA as soon as we get a hold of it. If that is okay Mr. Chairman. Thank you.



**Chairperson** (interpretation): We are under 6-10. Petroleum product fund. Information Item. Agreed. Under the same item Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not have a quorum. For that reason I feel if we are going to be agreeing or disagreeing on this item I think we have to have a quorum. Regular members should be here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Anawak.

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are Members of the Legislative Assembly as long as we have a quorum we could continue.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The member is right. We do not have a quorum. We will ring the bell and we will wait for a quorum. Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu for informing us about a lack of quorum. Page 6-10 is just an information item. Agreed. 6-11. Public Works information item. Public stores revolving fund. Information item. All in favour. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get some clarification under public stores revolving fund. I think they are talking about storage areas. What is warehousing.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manito Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The government has assets or papers that we have to store such as computers have to be put in warehouses, such as government forms that belong to the departments and information items and pamphlets. The things that are put in warehouses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): 6-11. Agreed. All in favour. 6-12 Granular and program revolving fund. Public Works information item. Granular and program revolving fund. Authorized limit Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 1999-2000 there was 11 million 700 thousand. Right now under the main estimates is only 3 million 704 thousand. Exactly what do those figures mean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manito Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to exchange our seating. The 11 million 700 thousand is for the GNWT but with the Nunavut Government it is now 3 million 704 thousand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wondered, that amount of over 3 million dollars, do you have any information as to how much we spent so far from 1999-2000.

**Chairperson**: Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These figures are the government's revolving fund. Granular material. They are just talking about the granular materials in the government. These are just for contractors' use. Private contractors stockpiling granular material. It is just for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): 9-12 information. Page 6-13, Public Works. Information item. Detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Information item. Agreed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 900 thousand and the 600 thousand dollars under the 2000-2001 mains include the divisional health board for the Baffin area. There is no funding allocated for the 2000-2001 main when there is money set aside for the Nunavut Arctic College and the divisional education boards for the Keewatin and Kitikmeot. Are they under the Department of Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Public Works is now maintaining the divisional boards' and the health boards' assets and property. We will have our finance person explain the response.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Mr. Galbraith.

**Mr. Galbraith**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is what we call an outside arrangement with an agency that we would be doing work on behalf of for that particular agency and or board. Then we would charge them back through an invoicing situation. So this year the boards of health are no longer in existence. Therefore all the maintenance will be done by Public Works and there will be no charge back situation to the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the divisional education boards they are going to be dissolved but you have set aside 600 thousand dollars for the 2000-2001 estimates. What is that for.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It became quite clear the health boards were going to be dissolved and because of that the government now owns the assets and maintains their buildings and facilities. So that is why we have nothing slotted down for the divisional health boards but we are still providing services for the divisional education boards. These are estimates of what might still be owing by our department. I hope I am clear. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is clear. What is that 600 thousand going to be used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Arctic College, the Adult Education centres have pipelines, toilets, lighting, and other stuff that needs maintenance. We are a service provider and we provide maintenance services to their facilities. That is what it is used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They do not do their own maintenance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Public Works provide services and maintenance for government facilities. We are there to provide services and maintenance. For example the Hamlets do the same thing. They provide services for their own facilities and if there has to be work done on the Arctic College buildings we maintain them and we set aside money for their maintenance. They are part of the government assets and facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Page 6-13 information item. Agreed. Public Works. Distribution of Budget. Distribution of budget. Information item. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the different pages. You have set them aside in regions. Baffin, Kitikmeot and the Keewatin. Is that how you came up with the figures.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This 7 million in the top there is 3 million, 2 million, 2 million. They are distributed according to the number of staff in the regions. That is including their salaries and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else. The Minister of Health will have to take part because I have a very bad cold. 6-14 information item. Agreed. Agreed. We will then go back to 6-3. Department of Public Works. Program summary. Detail of expenditures. Operations & maintenance. Total operations & maintenance 79 million 787 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total capital 7 million 700 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total expenditures 87 million 487 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Department of Public Works as a whole.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson for being at the witness table and Mr. Mrazek and Gilbert. Closing comments.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am astounded that we have completed my department. Thank you for being the Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Akesuk.

**Mr. Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I apologise I just had my name up and I did not hear you call out my name. I would like to move on to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Chairman and I would like for the department to say their opening remarks and then we will take a brief break afterwards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akesuk would like to start with the Housing Corporation. Agreed. While they are getting prepared. Ok then are you ready. Thank you for going to the witness table again Ms. Thompson and if you would introduce your official.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is our President for the Housing Corporation. I have my opening comments here. If I could read those either at the witness table or on my desk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Well just stay at the witness table for your opening remarks.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First I would like to ask the interpreters if they have the same copy of my opening remarks. Okay we will give a copy to the interpreters. If you would bear with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The interpreters have a copy. Go ahead Ms. Thompson.

### **Nunavut Housing Corporation: Minister's Opening Remarks**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for allowing me to do my opening comments for the Nunavut Housing Corporation budget.

This covers the period of 2000 and 2001. The Main Estimates for the Corporation are divided as follows:

\$ 35.1 Million for O & M  
\$ 19.0 Million for Capital

Mr. Chairman, the responsibility for housing has now come together under the Nunavut Housing Corporation. With the hiring of the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and approval to separate the Housing Corporation from Public Works, staff will be able to focus on the housing problem.

Mr. Chairman, the housing problem in Nunavut is well known, it can be said that housing is the heart of the social envelope. Shortage of housing has created overcrowding, which in turn leads to serious social and health problems for Nunavummiut.

During the Pre-Budget consultations, housing concerns were mentioned in 24 of the 25 communities visited. These concerns echo the priority given to housing in "The Bathurst Mandate".

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Housing Corporation has listened to the concern of Nunavummiut. The business plan clearly identifies the short term and longer term goals that will address the housing problems within Nunavut.

The Task Force on Housing's recommendation to construct 100 housing units within Nunavut is the first step towards increasing the social housing stock. The construction of these units will ensure every incorporated community within Nunavut will be allocated a unit. Construction of these units will also provide employment opportunities at the community level.

Nunavut Housing Corporation realizes that these units alone will not solve the housing problem. We will have to work in partnership with community organizations and the private sector. Nunavut Housing Corporation will issue Request for Proposals for leasing social housing units at the community level. By leasing existing units, Nunavummiut will have immediate access to units. This will at least help in the short term.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut Housing Corporation also recognizes the important work performed by the Local Housing Organizations at the community level. The Corporation will focus on providing the support required to empower the Local Housing Organizations to administer the construction projects and deliver the housing programs at the community level.

I am committed to addressing our housing shortage in a meaningful and efficient manner. I want to be clear that this is only a starting point. Much more will need to be done.

Mr. Chairman Nunavut Housing Corporation will focus their efforts towards creating a five-year strategy to meet our housing needs. It is my intention to table this five-year strategy during the fall session of the Legislative Assembly. I hope these comments have been informative. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman next to me sits the President Pat Hine of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. They will be just us two of us as witnesses before you during our Nunavut Housing budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. It is good to see women present in the House amongst all the men. At this time. Now that we have finished the opening remarks. What is the wish of the committee. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): At this time let us take a fifteen minute break.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): The member wishes to take a break. What is the wish of the committee. We will break for fifteen minutes.

*>>Committee recessed for fifteen minutes*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We are ready to resume. Before we begin I wanted to inform the House that we will give an opportunity for presentation for each person for 10 minutes. You can use up to 10 minutes of your speaking time. Once you have received a response, after that you can not ask any further questions unless someone has spoken after you. I think we are going to use that procedure. Maybe we will have a better progression that way this afternoon. I wonder if the Standing Committee Chairman has opening remarks.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you. Just when we concluded with Public Works and I collected my statements to the Housing Corporation so I will not need to continue for the Housing Corporation opening remarks coming from the Chair.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. General comments and questions to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. To the Housing Corporation of Nunavut. Do we have questions or comments. Questions or comments. We are open to the floor. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just further to touch on my opening statements. I will be less than 10 minutes. We have been working on this, we have been organising the community concerns, and I look forward to seeing some better arrangements. I think we are operating on an emergency basis concerning housing problems because there are so many people in our regions that have housing shortages. We have many people waiting on the waiting list even with the 100 units that are going to be built especially for the younger people.

The other thing we should look at is the short term strategy and how we can better put it in affect because the major concerns when we consulted the communities was the cost and rental charges for employed persons and people under social programs. The high rent charges were one of the major concerns that we came across during our consultation visits. Many people would not be paying, or not keeping their jobs. I have noticed this a number of times whereby the cause is connected to their employment. They choose not to work and that is resulting in cheaper housing. We received that response many times.

This is another problem and I am hoping we can see this issue as well. The construction of the houses during our consultation visits was another concern. Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit should be more used in the construction of the houses. Those were my two main concerns that I wanted to point out during general comments that deal with housing shortages as well as the housing rental scale needing to be adjusted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. I think you reiterated very clearly the concerns we have heard from our communities. Mr. Akasuk.

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too just have general comments because when I was running for MLA housing was a big issue that I ran on. The 100 units that are being proposed I am very happy to see something is being created for Nunavut especially something that is very useful once we approve the main estimates.

There are still a lot of people that require housing. I am not sure what we are going to do in the future to accommodate those people. At least this is a starter. But I know there are a lot of people out there even with the 100 units we are still going to have many homeless people not exactly homeless in the communities but we should try and provide homeless shelters in the communities in the interim. I think we should entertain that idea in the communities.

Here in Nunavut because you have no shelter for the homeless I think there should be some kind of accommodations. It would be very helpful also in the communities. The other thing was concerning housing rents and further to what Enoki spoke to. Back some years ago when I was a teenager we use have different housing rentals scales depending on the year the house was actually built. For example the older ones would cost less and the other ones would cost more. They use to be rent scaled according to the make of the house and that used to be the system that we used. Some of the old houses that are ready to be demolished as soon as you are working are automatically scaled to your

employment. In addition, some of the older houses actually cost more to the person using them.

I think we should provide some sort of subsidisation for the future to even it out. I would also want to see a program toward those people, because as soon as you get a job you get housing and they adjust to your income. I would really like to see some kind of new system and so these are some of the concerns that have to be considered by the Housing Corporation. Also the local Housing Associations maybe even some of the Hamlets should come up with some kind of subsidising for their employees. I am just wondering if we are not providing enough housing subsidisation for the employees including the civil servants and employees of the Housing Associations. Those were my concerns and I wanted to voice them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. I did not quite hear a question but if the minister wishes to respond that is her prerogative. Do you wish to respond Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you. I find this a very interesting topic. Of course they come from the communities and they are voicing the concerns of the residents especially for the motions. I believe there were 15 of them that were produced that are being effected. We will try to be sensitive to the issues and how to address them through the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I just find it very interesting. I prefer to listen to the general comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just like to talk about the housing situation in Nunavut. I would like to say there should be a long term plan for the people that have housing shortages in communities. The other thing that we would like done by the department is the elder's homes and the department should also look at homes for the disabled because they have to be in the communities in Nunavut.

They all should be considered especially the elders' homes should be built. The department should consider all these things. Yes it is very important the rent that is paid by the public housing tenants is getting very expensive and they need other things such as skidoos and other items. However, when they have to pay the high cost of rent then it gets very difficult for them. I think we have to deal with the rental scales. This should be dealt with by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

As well, the communities have Local Housing Associations and they all have their own Associations in their own community. We have to be sensitive to them as well they know the ins and outs of the communities and they know that they're tenants and we should be able to give more power to run their community especially if they are not being run under the Hamlet Councils. There will also be contracts coming to communities to construct housing and they should be given to local businesses to construct as long as there are for



people able to do the contract to build houses in the communities. This way the community can gain experience and training and to be able to run their own affairs.

We have to give wage employment for people in the communities rather than them relying on social assistance. They have to try and start having their own affairs being dealt with in the communities and if there is a business in the community then if that person has a contract to build houses they can hire people in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. We are under general comments. General comments and questions from the members regarding Nunavut Housing Corporation. I do not have any names at this time. Would you like to go through the main estimates. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before we go page by page of the main estimates, I would like to ask questions in regards to the main estimates. Just before we go page by page of the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

They have to have renovations to houses every year. There was money last year to do renovations and for improvement of houses. I think the budget has decreased this year. That was one of the concerns from the people of Nunavut. I had some documents that I brought here with me. Perhaps I could say for instance if an older house, if I want to renovate an older house. If I were to put a bathtub into a house and if it is an old house and according to the bathtubs presently being used, it would be too small to put in because the measurement would be off 6 inches.

I am just trying to say if I want to put in a bathtub and the bathtub has to be replaced and put in a newer one in and other items in the house, washroom facilities have to be replaced. I think this budget is decreasing this year for improvements to houses and renovations to older houses. There has to be funding allotted for those renovations and improvements. That is what I am talking about. If the minister understands me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): If I can understand you Mr. Nutarak, everybody understands what you are talking about. Which one of you could answer the question. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to the member. When I was over at his office he showed me the pictures. I am not sure exactly what happened to them. The pictures that were taken about what he was talking about. I have seen the pictures. We have 2000-2001, 1 million dollars allotted for improvements and renovations to older houses. We already know that there was a lot more money in previous years for improvement and renovation of older houses but we had to decrease the allotted amount because of having to construct new houses. We have to be able to make more houses and then take a little less for improvements and renovations. There is also under Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation 1 million dollars to put in to the

Nunavut Housing Corporation for improvements and renovations for older houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madam Minister. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well actually the program that we are talking about is a Public Works housing program which is for modernisation and improvements. There is 1 million dollars under the Government of Nunavut capital budget to do improvements for the public housing. In addition CMHC provided capital funding as well and it is used to cost share additional modernisation and improvement to the public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 1 million that you have mentioned that is for improvements and renovation to older houses. There was 4 million that was allotted last year for 27 communities. The pictures that I took like when Madam Minister was in my office that had been renovated. Looking at the 1 million for all of Nunavut is small. Especially every year the Housing Corporation does not do any improvements and renovations to the older houses. I think it was in January or February that is how much and they have to order parts, wood, and whatever else they need to improve the houses.

I feel that 1 million amount is very small for 27 communities. Because there are always improvements and renovations required in each community. I wonder if the minister is in the planning stages to increase that amount this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

**Hon. Manito Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand that it is too small. There are the 100 houses that we are going to have to build. We had to move around some figures in order to accommodate to building those houses. CMHC does contribute to us. In addition, we are looking at an additional 4 million dollars from CMHC. Mr. Chairman it is not in the Government of Nunavut budget because it is coming from outside because these 4 million dollars are coming from CMHC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madam Minister. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you. I do know that it is going to be too small and if we do not get that 4 million from CMHC there is not much what we could do. But if we could get that 4 million contribution it will help out and then again I would like to move on to the elders' subsidy program. We had money last year and there is zero in the budget. Does that mean we are not going to be providing subsidies for programs for the elders this year. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital budget had to reallocate dollars in order to facilitate this construction of the 100 housing units. Although there is no money showing under the senior repair program at this time, we are currently negotiating with CMHC to receive some Federal dollars that will be used for renovations of homes. These are homes that are not under public housing and included would be elders or senior repair. The emergency repair program, we are looking at getting an additional 300 thousand from the Federal Government through CMHC. This would be cost shared by our department to bring the total amount of dollars available up to 500 thousand this current year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for your response. The Task Force recommended that we build 100 houses, which we thought is a priority. We recommend that we build 100 houses and your department took the initiative and made a decision to build those houses. Have you looked for additional dollars from the Federal Government to pay for the 100 houses or is that possible. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister, Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I was asked that question today about when Ed Picco and I went down to Ottawa to talk about the homeless situation here we submitted a letter and I had met with the minister twice. I also had a meeting with our MP Nancy Lindell to talk about the number of homeless people we have up here in Nunavut. They are aware of the situation. We also looked at CMHC, we keep looking for money from CMHC, and we are going to be getting some funds, which again are not in the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Supplementary question before we get into the main estimates. The Nunavut Government now, are they going to have their own stand alone Housing Corporation now. I would like clarification on that point Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Madam Minister.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We already have a stand alone Corporation called the Nunavut Housing Corporation. This department was with the Community Government and Transportation and was moved on to the Department of Public Works. It is now the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It is a stand alone Housing Corporation. But we are not at full capacity yet. We have seconded a couple of positions from the Yellowknife Housing Corporation so that we will have

technical services and we will contract out the housing portion. We are a stand alone Corporation and we have seconded several positions. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just made my own comments and it is a very good response from the Minister. There is one issue that I missed. In our community we are concerned about the units or the row housing that is built. I am not sure, I am just guessing that the houses that are going to be built are going to be multiplex units.

I think that would create a problem if they are going to be inhabited by young people and it is going to create a social problem. But I was told later, I think we should think about the housing about the social situation and how the multiplex units might create problems socially in the future. When there is a high density in the area if there should be a fire in one of the units then that whole multiplex would go down. Then we would see a dramatic increase in the number of people who are homeless. I think we should consider those things. We are in a housing crisis in Nunavut. We have to do the best we can so we can preserve the numbers that we do have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that. I have heard the same comments made before. Again we have a dollar shortage and we have to look at the most economic way of constructing housing with the heating and the water tanks. It is always cheaper to build units where they share the heating units and the water tanks. If we built them sharing these things, it will have a lower price tag. There was a motion for us to build houses using the most economical means. I know exactly where the member is coming from. I don't think we have too many options with the amount of money that we have. There seems to be no alternative except to build multiplex units if we have enough money and factoring in all the social costs. But I am very glad to hear those comments. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman but I forgot what I was going to say. In regards to what we are doing with housing. Probably some people want to own their own homes privately without the assistance of the Housing Corporation. What kind of plans do you have to assist potential homeowners. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): For those who want to build their own houses we have set aside 1 million dollars. If we divide them it means that 500 thousand was set aside for the Baffin area, the Keewatin 250 thousand and the Kitikmeot 250 thousand. These monies would be to give assistance for homeowners to purchase a building. But

that was the only money we could set aside because of those 100 units that we are going to be building. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to loans, it used to be very problematic to the clients, for example if he took a mortgage from a bank and built their own house they were not eligible to rent a public house. Or if they had arrears with the Housing Corporation. That was the situation in earlier years. Is that going to be the case Chairperson.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. That used to be the case in the earlier years. Those people that bought their own housing were not eligible to rent public housing. Under certain circumstances we were able to review the situation and assist them however we could. We are trying to make it a little bit easier on those types of clients. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is very good to hear. In the past tenants were evicted because they owed arrears to the housing authority. What is this present Housing Corporation going to do. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Madame minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Like I said earlier in my opening comments we are setting up a 5-year plan. There are evictions for tenants who do not pay their monthly Bills. There are many people who are just sitting there not paying their rent. They are not even concerned about paying their arrears. Somebody has to pay for the unit. You just cannot live in a unit without paying rent today. It does not seem right to live in a house and not pay for it.

It seems clear enough already but there are clients who are on social assistance and rents are being paid by social services and I believe that is ninety-three percent of the population, and they pay thirty-two dollars. If you cannot pay for your unit social services pays for it.

Utility Bills and everything else is paid by social services. There is not much of an option, they either pay rent or the tenants in arrears make monthly instalments on their arrears in order to avoid eviction. There are some people who just want to stay in those units without paying their monthly rents and their arrears grow and grow. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I understand the response very well. But still when you have people living in one unit, take myself for an example, I'm employed and my 2 children also work and they have to pay for their own portion of rent for their rooms. It seems you triple the amount of rent is being paid out for the unit. I am just wondering because it seems you triple the amount of rent for the unit. Will it continue to stay the same. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Madame minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The task force gave me recommendations numbering fifteen items. So that document there contains the recommendations in regards to renting and we are going to look at that. If we change the rules at the Housing Corporation they have to be approved by the Canada Mortgage and Housing programs. We do appreciate those concerns. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes you definitely are going to have to look into the that. If you hold a person responsible who lives in a unit and the unit is under his name and the other people start working, then the older person is being charged rent. They seems to be forced to live by two different rules. Arrears just get created through that situation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Yes I understand the situation he is referring to. Say a person is sixty or over he should not have to pay any more rent. Housing is paid for on his behalf. Whether he lives with younger people in his unit, what you have to understand is what I said earlier in Inuktitut. It would mean if there were a hundred people ninety-three of these people would be having their rents subsidised by the government.

Say if there is a population ninety-three percent do not actually pay the rent out of their own pockets. They are being subsidised by the government. We can understand that but sometimes people do not want to work anymore because their rent automatically goes up.

However, in a situation where no one pays any rent at all in the whole unit it would not promote any form of independence. We would have to look at it further should we encourage that kind of living whereby we provide for everything and all the utilities and gas consumption. Shouldn't we be paying and providing for our people. Huge amounts of people pay thirty-two dollars a month. We have huge numbers and we are going to continue to look at that and see what kind of rent scales we can come up with.

Even though people are interested in obtaining employment most of them don't because it automatically raises there level and this has been an ongoing pattern. Someone still has

to pay for the shelter. Ninety - three percent of the units are actually being paid by income support. I can understand what the member is referring to because I have seen that used as examples in other places. But the monies that you use to pay towards your rent we are going to find out because this was in one of the recommendations of the task force. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Her response is very clear and I am very happy with that, but it is not been our tradition to pay for our shelters. It is not part of our culture. Back in the old days we never had to pay rent. We never had to pay for our kamiks. When we consider that I think it really bothers the older people because it has not been the tradition where they have to pay for their shelter. I suppose today through education people have to get used to having to pay for accommodations because we need all the operation and maintenance for the units. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Do you have any comments or responses. I do not have any more names on the list. Do you want to go clause by clause or page by page. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a number of just general comments. In the minister's opening remarks about the corporation providing the support in order to empower local housing associations and the delivery of housing programs at the community level. I would like to look at the organizational chart , as it doesn't reflect that happening. Before division the positions weren't just technical officers. All the functions that were related to the people and the corporation at the district level were community development officers. I don't see that, I see it in the vision and the mandate but I don't see it in the org. chart. I'm just wondering if I could get some clarification on that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If we wanted to give authorisation for the local housing associations, we would no longer require regional offices we would decentralise those positions to the local housing authority. Thus empowering it is something for consideration for the future. The question that he is asking I am very happy to hear. I think I will get Pam Hine to respond if you do not mind Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Hine**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Tootoo explained that it is in our business plan to empower the local housing organizations. Not one employee in the Nunavut Housing Corporation does not recognize the expertise at the community level. Our commitment is to continue to empower them and like Minister Thompson has said maybe one day we will actually devolve everything to the community level and no longer have anything at the regional level.

But I don't see that happening in the near future. The organizational chart, the names on the organisational chart may not have community empowerment written on them. I think the reason was that we wanted to make this a Nunavut Housing Corporation and we had the feeling if we continued with the same positions and titles as the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation people might not be expecting any type of change but the status quo. That is not what we are trying to achieve and although the organizations on the organizational chart do not have community empowerment in the actual name that is definitely part of the job descriptions of those employees. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman in light of the minister and the President being aware of my experience with the corporation and the previous years the capital tenders and stuff were administered through the local housing associations. Now I see this year that it is done through the Nunavut Housing Corporation itself.

So when one sees that happening it is a function that was devolved down to the LHOs but is now pulled back and I'm wondering why that has happened. Are they looking for doing it in the future and I'm wondering why it has been pulled back. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manik Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think that question was asked previously during the meeting. I responded by saying we are building 100 houses for the first time. Yes I understand the LHOs used to deal with contracts. I understand that. However, because the houses have to be built in an emergency basis and we could not turn back so the local housing associations we would like them to have some authority doing contracts.

Nevertheless, with the 100 houses for the first time since we got the Nunavut Government that is why we are dealing with them right now. We are not trying to take any power away from the local housing associations. We were thinking along the lines of having more community residents gaining employment in the communities. We would like to do that. We are not trying to take any power away from them. Perhaps Ms. Hine can elaborate on that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to elaborate a little on that. The 100 housing units is a very big project where they are going to be built in all communities. It is the biggest project that has been taken on since post 1993. We are also, as you are aware, we are still waiting for approval of our budget. So we are also aware that we want the construction of these units to go through properly, that is why we brought it down to the actual district offices for the actual tender for this specific project. Also the tenders are issued under the new NNI policy. We thought it was unfair to the local housing authorities to provide them now with a tender under a policy that we haven't had yet or had the opportunity to train them on.



So as we do this opening we are bringing our local technical people together for a workshop to do the actual tender award. To train them on the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy so they will be well versed and educated and work with the LHOs and bring them up to standard on the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Community empowerment is as close to me as anyone because I was involved in a great number of local housing associations. I fully believe that if you don't empower people they don't learn the skills at the local level to do things. This year, you are saying the local housing corp. is delivering the program and probably because of the time lines it is probably a good idea. In the region I come from the ship, supply and erect is going forward probably because of the time lines. Is this program going to happen next year. The hundred units again next year.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Madame minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The standing committee on housing, I will have to get the recommendations of the standing committee on housing if they want to go ahead with it next year. Or, we could listen to what they have to say and then do what they want us to do. But for this year there are a hundred houses being built. I'm just going to be waiting for the members of the legislative assembly to give me direction. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madame minister. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. That basically answers the question. So your department is seriously considering if we do this that the municipalities out there or the LHOs out there who want to do these projects themselves or download them to the municipalities you would seriously consider it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** I was the last minister on community empowerment and that is really dear to my heart that we should empower the hamlets and also the local people. I think that is the way to go in our society, and I would be seriously consider that at this time. We couldn't do it because there was the new Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy and we had to train the local housing associations. Plus the magnitude of the project.

But I will also consider that. I am already developing a 5-year plan for housing and the MLAs will be involved in that. So I would be looking forward to the recommendations on any changes that they will like to make. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** On that Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy and we were all included in it with quite a bit of debate. Housing in our communities is probably one of the biggest employers for labour, and a lot of people, contractors, part-time and seasonal workers depend on this type of seasonal work to pay for their life styles. Snowmobiles, boat motors and they really heavily rely on this type of construction. Me, I am a private sector individual and our economy relies on the construction industry. How much local labour, because I haven't seen these contracts yet, what is the minimum local labour that will be established in these contracts that are tendered out now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I do not have the detail with me at this time. Perhaps Ms. Hine has the detail for that. As long as the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy was being followed then the contractor in the community would hire a lot of local people. I would like to see it that way as well. I am not really sure exactly because I do not have the percentage with me or the detail with me. I could get the information, but I know that the people in the communities and local contractors have to be hired to do that construction. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Well I will be heading home this weekend and I can probably pick up the contract documents and find out in Rankin. They will have in them what the minimum amount of labour should be. What I am getting to here, is historically it used to be forty-five to fifty percent. Public housing units and Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti, but I haven't seen the documents but I hope to see them and I hope that local labour component is set at a level that reflects the skills in each community. Thank you that is all the questions I have right now.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Well before you go home this weekend we will get you a copy. Then we will see what the percentage is in the contracts. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify a point. The minister and her staff said the reason for the corporation administering the capital this year was basically because of the new Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy coming into place. Did the Housing Corporation or the minister check with any LHOs to see whether they would want to or not, or just assume that it would be too difficult for them and they just automatically decided to do it by themselves. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As a government we have to make decisions on behalf of the people and we understood from the communities that they wanted additional housing in their communities. If anything is going to be determined by training people about the NNI policy then we wouldn't have been able to go ahead with the building of these houses. We cannot turn back the clock or do you think it would have been better if we had not built the houses at all.

What is more important, whether we should inform the communities or not. It is over and done with we just started going ahead using whatever we thought was the best. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will take that as a no that they didn't consult with anyone in the communities to see if they wanted to take on these projects, they just decided themselves that they would do it. Mr. Chairman, I know, the other reason they use is the magnitude of this project. We are talking about I believe 15 million dollars worth of capital.

Mr. Chairman, in my experience I know a few years ago just in the Baffin region alone there was 25 million dollars worth of housing capital that was done in one season. That was, except for one project I believe, done through the LHOs. I know for example in Clyde River in one year they did over 2 million dollars worth of capital just in Clyde River through the LHO there. It's a very small community.

I know that if you lump it all together and say 100 units this is very large. Per community and using the standard design that is there, the design is nothing magical about the design of these facilities. I don't know if I swallow that but I can understand if they are saying because of the NNI policy. I don't buy the fact that the magnitude of the project is a deterrent because I know for a fact that communities handled much more than that in the past.

So going on to something else Mr. Chairman, in the past under the NWT Housing Corporation taking a look at the organizational charts and that. The Baffin Region was roughly 23 PY's or staff for the District Office for 13 communities. In the Nunavut Housing Corporation I believe that there are 14. In the Kivalliq I believe that there was about 11 or 12 PY's for seven communities and they still have 11 PY's under the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The same with the Kitikmeot I believe, had 10 or 11 staff for six communities and they have 11 now under the org chart in there.

I am just wondering how or where they determined those numbers and where all those staff went. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Pam Hine has the numbers. I will give her the mike.

**Chairperson**: Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The organizational chart is the organizational chart that we come under it is still under a draft because we have just become a stand-alone corporation. We have a number of vacant positions that we are going to try to staff up. We realize that there is probably going to be some room to re-organize it again. All the regional offices have been consulted with the proposed organizational charts. We do have their agreement with the charts that are showing here, at least on an interim basis until such time as we can get staffed up and operate as a stand-alone corporation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. We do not have a quorum. We will take a ten minute break.

*>>Committee recessed for ten minutes*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I have a name on my list. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I sort of lost my train of thought there but I guess in a sense I was talking about the PY's in the District Offices. You indicated the two smaller regions, the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot, basically their numbers hardly dropped at all. The Baffin Region, which is almost double the size of the other two regions, basically cut in half as far as staff to run the programs and services to the region.

I just wondered if other than the fact that I am sure that the staff there have been shown this and I don't know how comfortable they may be in saying that we think there should be more or not. But I am sure that there are people out there in the LHOs and in the communities that are taking a look at the numbers and scratching their heads themselves wondering why or how that happened.

I don't know if I can get a little more clarification on that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Again as I have mentioned previously, we are trying to change the structure of the organization. As it is now the Nunavut Housing Corporation and we are currently trying to work with the resources that we do have and to see how we can best serve our Local Housing Organizations.

Again, we are trying to fulfil our commitment to empower the local communities, LHOs at the community level and have them take on more responsibilities as well. We are looking internally at some pilot projects as to how maybe we can better have the communities equal in the different regions by maybe having some of the communities being serviced by another region. Again, we are just in the early planning stages to see if this is even feasible. We are taking internal actions to see how we can better suit the organizational chart to the needs. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to make it clear that I am not trying to be critical. I am very pleased with the fact that we have finally a stand alone Nunavut Housing Corporation. I think like I had said earlier this session, that's something that I have thought about a long time ago and I am glad to see that it has finally come around to that.

It is too bad, and it is not fault of the minister and the staff, that it has taken that long to do that. But I am glad to see that it has come back to that type of a structure.

I guess with the structure then, what we are looking at as far as the structure goes and what we were presented with isn't really the structure that is going to be. I am just wondering when we will see a final structure for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and what it will actually look like. I remember the other day I was asking about those additional technical positions that were supposed to be coming over from Public Works. Now are those going to be on top of the ones that are listed in the organizational chart. I believe that it was about 11 or 12 positions. Are those going to be on top of these ones, because it was stated earlier that those positions were still in the Department of Public Works and not moved over to the Housing Corporation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The numbers on the organizational chart actually do include the technical positions that will be coming over from Public Works; they are the technical people that you see in the regional offices. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Then I am just wondering how, I don't know if I totally misunderstood, but I thought that we were told the other day that those positions were still in Public Works and how it could show up in two different plans. I am just confused, are the budget numbers for Public Works out for that and not here. It seems that we have counted those people twice, from my understanding of what we have heard over the last couple of days. I would just like to get some clarification there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. The member is asking for clarification. We are under the Nunavut Housing Corporation and we have already agreed to the Department of Public Works. The Nunavut Housing Corporation is a stand-alone department. The member is asking for clarification. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Although the bodies are shown in the organizational chart the budget is remaining at Public Works. The approval from Cabinet and the Financial Management Board when we set up the corporation was that the bodies could come over but we could not yet transfer the dollars because the budget has not yet been approved. We would have to wait until the committee of the whole has completed and the budget is approved.

Then we could actually physically remove the dollars from Public Works over to Housing Corp. So at this point the positions are under Housing Corp the dollars for those positions are at Public Works until such time as the budget has been approved and a proper transfer of the dollars can be moved over. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, is one to assume that in the Main Estimates when we talk about the total budget for compensation, 3 million 85 thousand 208 dollars, will increase as a result of the transfer of those positions. If that were the case then we would be seeing a supp in order to do that. Because it was my understanding of the process that once we approve the budget that any changes to that have to come here in the form of a supplementary appropriation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Yes. That is correct Mr. Tootoo. Basically what happened is our Main Estimates were completed prior to our approval as a separate corporation. So the compensation, our compensation that you are shown there is basically for 38 employees. That is one of the reasons why we cannot, although we have the approval as a stand alone corporation, we have the approval for the 11 technical positions, that is why we cannot get the actual dollars at this specific time because the Main Estimates have not been approved. Although they were tabled and presented they have not been approved. We have to wait until that is done.

Then there will be the proper form that has to be done and again approved to physically transfer the dollars from Public Works to Housing Corporation. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, also in the minister's opening comments she talked about doing an RFP to lease a number of units. I believe that in the budget there is 1 million dollars set aside for that purpose. Just wondering if, I know that

we are in the department, and the Housing Corporation is building 100 units at roughly a cost of 15 million dollars.

Was there any thought or analysis done as to whether this was the best use of the dollars. Like for another 1 million dollars we probably could have built a few more units. I am just wondering, I know we wouldn't be able to build 40, but maybe I will just leave it at that before I go on. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The member has stated that 1 million dollars cannot possibly build 40 units but there are 40 units available if that 1 million dollars is approved. We could use units but it is not enough to build 40 houses. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Again, I was asking if there was an analysis done to determine if that was the best use of the resources. I don't know what the term of the leases are on these but it is just 1 million dollars this year. Are they, depending on the length of the lease, if they are 15 year leases then you are looking at 15 million dollars for 40 units. We are building 100 units for 15 million dollars. So I guess in that type of way was it looked at, at all in determining which way to go on that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitoq Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We had been told repeatedly that there were some houses vacant and getting broken windows and everything. There were some perfectly good houses that are boarded up and vacant and there is a long list of people on the waiting list. We had approved to rent units. We are not talking about a 15-year lease agreement. We are looking at a 5-year lease agreement.

We were first told to build 75 houses, when we became a Legislative Assembly but later in the day we were told to build 100 units. I am glad now that we will make available 140 units. It is quite clear now that we are going to be using our 1 million dollars in the best possible way. It is going to, we have been getting a lot of phone calls from the communities and they were saying that there were a lot of vacant houses which were boarded up and could be put to good use.

I do know where the member is coming from when he is asking if we could have used this money more effectively. Even though there is operation and maintenance of these houses, we would love to build more houses, it is not possible and I do believe that we are putting that one million dollars to good use, because we are going to be leasing empty houses.

We are not looking at a long term plan. It is a short term lease agreement. The President of the Housing Corporation will give us more details if you don't mind Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): It's okay. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Again, just to elaborate just a little bit on what the minister has talked about. We are looking at a short term response to the need for units within Nunavut. At this point we are just looking at five-year leases, to see and to establish benchmarks that we can take into consideration when we develop our five-year strategy. So that we can make sure what is the most cost efficient manner for us to put more units to be used by the residents of Nunavut.

Again in the opening comments, and I think that everybody can agree to, as the government we have to realize that we are not going to be able to meet the demand that is currently facing us on our own. We will have to be able to look at other organizations and the private sector to assist us in meeting the needs of housing in Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Perhaps if you wish to finish your comments Mr. Tootoo. We were given a ten minute time frame to have questions and general comments. Keep in mind that there are other members who wish to make general comments. Would you like to conclude or would you like to await your next turn. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Mr. Chairman, one more question on this and then I will gladly let other members go ahead. I do have some other questions but just on that. The plan then after five years is to have alternative plans for the people that are going to be in these units. I guess by then they want to have been able to have built up more public housing stock to be able to move those people into. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On the five-year plan, this will be part of our strategy as to what we will do with our rental units. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. At this time I am going to move on to another name on my list. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My question will be brief and to the point. Since the Nunavut Housing Corporation is a brand new entity, I wonder if the communities who might have concerns or problems or issues, are you going to be seeking information as to what problems are of concern to the communities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.



**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you. Here in the Baffin region a few months ago we had the general conference for Housing Associations and we spoke to them about our plans and our strategies so that the communities could be informed through the local housing organizations. We want to keep the public informed about everything that is going on in our department. A newsletter is published which we promised to distribute to each one of them as it comes out.

In addition to that, we encourage them to forward their concerns to the regional offices, because these are always sent over to us and when we have the opportunity, we try to deal with those issues. So we had those arrangements in place. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you for your immediate response. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The only other question I had in regard to the opening comments were actually made by the minister in her Public Works statement that related to Housing and I decided to wait until Housing to ask. It was her comments regarding the staff housing policy. In there she had indicated that she plans to table it sometime during the next year. I am just wondering if I could get a little tighter deadline other than the next year.

Because as I know members are all aware this is something that I have been asking about specifically for the last year and I am just wondering, I would like to find out when the minister plans on tabling it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson**: Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you. This has been an ongoing question and it is a complex piece of legislation. I am sorry, I said that I would table it in the House and that I would present it as the minister, but when we were doing the Main Estimates under Public Works, I don't quite recall what I said. I apologize Mr. Chairman. But according to the policy that we have in effect I can table it because although the cabinet has not approved it I can still produce it in the House in the very near future. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just ask, I would rather see a final policy approved, I wouldn't want the minister to table something that wouldn't be a final product. When does the minister plan, if it is all done, when does the minister plan on bringing it forward to cabinet for approval. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is what I just said. I can produce a policy that I gave to the cabinet already, this is a temporary interim

policy in effect. When the cabinet has a retreat or a get together in Pond Inlet we are going to discuss that issue further. In the interim we have a temporary policy that still needs adjusting.

The cabinet still has to look at it in May, so I cannot produce that one yet. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I could not see the faces behind. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Itsivauta. I am trying to hide this. I do not know if this is a fair question to the minister. But I have to get it out. Is or are we looking at someone in the Housing Corporation or someone from Public Works to be sort of a Rental Officer in this Territory.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson:** Thank you. I will just pass the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that the Rental Officer is actually under the Department of Justice and is not under the Department of Public Works or Nunavut Housing Corporation. Because a Rental Officer will actually deal with rental issues not only with public housing but also with the private sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Itsivauta. The reason why I bring this up is we know there is tremendous growth at this point and with my conversations in the last week with different landlords in this community, it is a renters market. Maybe I will have to ask the Department of Justice. I think the housing people have to realise that not everything is going to be guaranteed in the private sector. I was talking to a landlord today and there are zero vacancies. I enquired to rent a house in this community and it is anywhere between 2 thousand 600 to 3 thousand a month for a three bedroom house.

Frankly how can people afford that because I know anybody on this side of the room it's a month's salary net. And there would not be anything for anything else. Probably on the other side of the House too. Is there any mechanism that is going to encourage the private sector in this community to build some units at a cost effective manner to rent out to people. At this point I know for a fact that the government units that we subsidise are all taken up and you have to be a Government of Nunavut employee to get into them. If you are not a Government of Nunavut employee you do not get that subsidy which is over 40 or 50 percent.

You could add anywhere between 12 and 18 thousand dollars a year as hidden income. Unfortunately we have the working poor out there I do not know how they survive in this community if they have an entry level position and try to rent a place to live in. We all know this community is going to grow. The private sector I think will look at us with them as leases for government employees at a subsidized rate. I am not aware of it. I think there is a housing crisis in Nunavut for low-income families. Is the Nunavut Housing Corporation looking at any ways to alleviate the housing crisis in this community for middle to modest income wage earners.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are well aware of the situation in Iqaluit and other communities within Nunavut regarding the rental market. Or the lack of rental market or an affordable market although the majority of the mandate of the Nunavut Housing Corporation is under the social programs and not necessarily the private market. That is something that we can take into consideration when we are looking at our 5-year strategy and it is also something that we could talk to other departments to try and find a collective means of addressing this issue.

Because when you look at developers costs to build private rental housing we have to look at the cost of leasehold land, which can be very expensive in communities. The cost of obviously the construction and they have to look at financing and recouping them over a period of time. There are a lot of circumstances that must be taken into consideration and I guess the only thing we can do for the member is to let him know that we will take it into consideration while we are developing the 5-year plan. Also to work with other departments to look at ways to lower the cost of construction and to encourage the private sector would also help us in the construction of social housing units as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Itsivauta. Myself I did a few inquiries around town again and houses that were built 7 years ago with a selling price of 97 thousand dollars are on the market today for 200 thousand dollars. To me I know the developers or the bank and interest rates have not gone up that much. What I am getting to here in this town not all of them have government leases. Which is nice. I would like to have that arrangement in a booming town. But what it does is it does not create any rental opportunity for lower and middle class wage earners, entry level people. To me we are creating a problem, a serious problem for a town like this. I do not know what the building costs are now compared to 7-8 years ago. I am sure they have not jumped 100 percent.

Like I say I do not know if you're the right organization to pick on. But to me what we are creating here is two groups of renters. The haves and have nots. In order for you to fill positions in the government, we say we are not up to capacity. We have to attract a certain element that can afford to pay rent and pay houses in a town like this and it is usually the double income earners. If we are going to bring people from outside of Iqaluit

from other communities that are into entry level positions how on gods earth are they going to survive in this community.

It is Nunavut and the dream of Nunavut was to create opportunity for jobs for people in Nunavut. One of the biggest problems outside this centre is looking for affordable housing. Like I said earlier it is a renters market. But are the renters being fair and equitable to people out there that are not government employees that we as a government are probably paying for a lot of these buildings through nice government 20-year leases. I emphasise that and I get a little testy seeing that. When I talk to the landlords in this town, I have talked with them and I do not want to say much here in an open forum, but if it is me talking to them how are they talking to the ordinary Joe out on the street about finding a place to rent. And the cost of finding a place.

That has to be addressed here. I know we all have housing problems in other communities. Serious housing problems. This is a drawing card. This community is a magnet. There are lots of jobs. They are high paying but once you get here the high salary and the opportunity surely fades pretty quick and a lot of dreams are fading for people that want to have something to do with this Nunavut Government. I am not lecturing you or anything like that. It might sound that way but I am not.

It is just that I see a problem developing in this community. I think the Housing Corporation has to look at something at doing something for it. I hope you have it in that strategy. For people to come here and fulfil their dreams and aspirations and starting out in a entry level position and maybe making it to Deputy Minister someday. We are not really at this point making it very acceptable to them. Like I said if you have an answer for that I would be thoroughly pleased it would really make my day. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The individual private companies that provide housing must be listening to the debate. I hope they are listening because I have heard it myself in Iqaluit and I have friends in Iqaluit I speak to as well. I have heard someone say there are many houses being built in the capital. But there is still a shortage of housing, maybe because they are too pricey to rent. I hope those private companies provide accommodations to individuals that are listening to our debates today. Perhaps the Member for Baker Lake should have been a Member for Iqaluit and the Iqaluit people would listen and private developers would listen to what he has to say. We can also put this in our strategy in a 5-year strategy, the concern of the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Along the line of the concerns of the other member that was a very good comment. And it is true. I would like to ask another question on the same line. I just wondered whether the people that get their own

homes go through the Housing Corporation. I am just wondering if they pay their mortgages through the Housing Corporation or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we got Nunavut all the houses that belonged to the Nunavut Government and everything has been given to us from the GNWT Government. So the people who get their own homes pay their mortgage either to us or to the banks. But if they encounter any problems they usually come to the Housing Corporation to get some kind of assistance from us because now we deal with the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For those people that want to get their own houses but do not make enough money would this program continue. Say for instance if they are in a wage bracket to get their own home. I just wondered whether those people would get access to housing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure what he is talking about. Whether he is talking about the people that are not making enough money. I am not sure what the member is talking about. The person that owns a home will have to provide payment for their own homes. We have to look at the applicants and make sure they are able to pay for their mortgage. If the individual is not going to keep up with the mortgage payments, the individual will have to get their housing taken away. We have to do a careful assessment of each individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is the case sometimes the individual has a good job and sometimes they use their job. I am just wondering if that has been considered for an applicant to get their people to get their own home. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For those people that own their own home or for people that are applying to get their own home we do an assessment for each and every one of them. The individual makes up his or her own mind to get their own homes only on the basis that they can pay for their mortgage. But if there happens to be someone that no longer has the same wage, they sometimes come to our department to see whether they can lower their mortgage or whether they can get some assistance through us. But all the people that want to get their own home decide for

themselves based on their wage bracket to try to apply for their own home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Madam minister. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess some rates, mortgage rates, earlier I might have missed it but I just want to know, my constituents are wondering about the rate that they are paying today. What they are saying to me is it is a little bit too high on the mortgage rate because when you are paying that much you can not buy any other day to day items. Let us say for example skidoos or other things. What they are saying to me is they see the rate as too high. Is there something you will put out sometime in the future so we can try to address this problem in the future. Koana Itsivauta.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitek Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When mortgage holders can not keep up with their payments they usually approach our department and see whether we can assist them. If their mortgage payment is a little too high and they can not make their monthly payment because of a change of their salary especially if they do not have enough to pay for their groceries after the mortgage payment, we have been dealing with this and we have been assisting them. We can look at all the mortgage payments for the whole of Nunavut to see how we can solve the problem they are having right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak**: Over the past year on the rate that we are talking about was there any increase for last year or a couple of years. Just curious if there is an increase between last year and now. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitek Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Hine has the information for that question. So I will pass it to her.

**Chairperson**: Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It basically depends under which program the homeowner is. If they are under a program that is financed by the bank, the changes to their mortgage may have been the fact that their term is up and their interest rate might have gone up. But that would have to be specially answered by the bank. If the individual had a house and the mortgage is held under Nunavut Housing Corporation then what happens is on an annual basis if their income goes up they are looked at on an annual basis.

So this may have caused their rent to go up. It would be, I would have to look at a specific example to tell you what the change would have been. We are aware there are many concerns from the communities that the costs of living have gone up and it is making it very strenuous on the homeowners. It is something that we will look at on a Nunavut wide level based on our own mortgage houses. Again, we have very little flexibility if the client is financed through a financial institute other than the Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. And Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman another thing that the minister mentioned in her opening comment for Public Works was the development of the buy back policy. I am just wondering if that could be mentioned in here. I am just wondering if we can get a little bit more explanation on it and some detail how that is going to work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The buy back policy, staff housing policy, it is in the staff housing policy which states that staff who are living out of the region and who own their own housing if they want to sell their house and if it is bought by anybody or the public and if they do not get the asking price for that house the remainder would be paid by the Government.

We are reviewing that. We have not said that we will buy private housing from our employees. For example there is a department going up to Pond Inlet. Once decentralization starts happening we have a department going to Pond Inlet. If one of the employees had a private house and he put it up for sale and if it was bought below the asking price, the government would pay the remainder of the asking price. It is under review and we are just considering it. It is not just for the regions. What we are trying to do at this point we are setting it up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madam minister. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If what the minister is saying is it is only going to kick in if the person moving for a job has to sell it for less than what they want, what if they are not able to sell the house. You know you have someone who may be looking at high rent or the purchase of a new home into the community they are going in to. Plus having to maintain the mortgage in the event they are unable to pay for the house in the community they move from. So I just wondered if you could answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said it is only under draft. The ministers are going to have a retreat in May. We are just thinking about it. We want to set up that policy because there are going to be some people moving around into the communities. We are just trying to put together the staff housing policy at this point. I do know the Standing Committee on Housing will have to review that housing policy. We can not finish it right away. We do not have the answers to those questions. Now it is not finished. It is only in its initial draft and now this member wants to see it. The ministers will deliberate the staff housing policy in their retreat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I get more frustrated with this staff housing policy as time goes on. If it's taken over a year, about a year to develop a draft, something as basic as this has not even been addressed in that. How long is it going to take before we have a final draft to look at. I think you know these types of programs and policies need to be in place today because right now in the next little while when we are looking at trying to hire people into jobs people are going to be afraid to move for those reasons. I think this is something that is very urgent. That needs to be done. I am just astounded at the fact that it has taken over a year and they still do not have a policy on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I do know that he want things done right away right at this very instant about everything this particular member. I believe all members are like that too. There are many things that are of concern to us. We have to do them properly and put proper policies together. And because of that we have to take time and it does take time. If we bring up a policy and if nobody likes it that is part up of rushing it. So in order to do things properly to have proper policies maybe it is very easy to do maybe from the outside. But we have to treat everybody equally in the communities and we have to have the best policies set for employees. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe we just set a record for setting up a policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One other question that I have, and the minister can take her time in answering it. These are concerns that are not things we want done immediately. These are policies and things that were in place. There were policies there. Poof they disappeared and everyone is in limbo waiting for something to happen.

You know it's not only frustration on my part but a lot of other people out there in Nunavut as well. It is not just this particular member the minister seems to be referring to. I am sure other members here are just as frustrated at the pace of things as well as the people of Nunavut. You know the capacity problem we are hearing about I can not wait



until everyone is up to full capacity as we are getting tired of hearing the same excuse all the time.

In her opening statement she talked about working to empower and help develop the local housing organizations. Are there any plans to provide training dollars to assist LHOs in developing their staff to be able to take on these additional responsibilities and train people that they have above and beyond the money that they already get for the grants and contributions to the LHOs.

The reason for saying this is I know for a fact the Housing Authority has tried on numerous occasions to train and to provide training to their foreman to increase his capacity and to other members of their staff. Even just to provide basic receptionist office type course to them and they are not able to obtain that training here in Iqaluit. They have applied for courses at Arctic College that always seem to be cancelled due to the lack of participation or the lack of enrolment in them.

So I am just wondering if this is happening here I am sure that it is something that is deterring the training in other communities and LHOs as well. I am just wondering if there are plans to work something like that into the five-year plan, or the mandate that the minister was talking about. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Sometimes we hear about employees, we are dealing with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, let's stick to the subject this afternoon during the committee of the whole. If you would like to respond, Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just recently the Baffin Housing Managers had a meeting with our department on March 21 and 22 I believe it was and the same question was brought up during the managers' meeting. At that time I told the managers that I have always worked hard in training and education fields as a teacher. I have always put a priority on training and education and we are going to be setting aside some funding for training housing association employees.

That will be through workshops and there is 109 thousand that will be used for training. It will be in the plans on an ongoing basis. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. At this time I have Mr. McLean on my list. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean**: Ma'na Itsivauta. My question is just brief and hopefully one sentence. When you have your staff housing developed would you bring it forward as soon as it's done to the regular members and the standing committee to review before you pass it. Thank you.

**Chairperson**: Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes. Like I said, I had already stated that I would make it available because we need the participation of the regular members. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. I have no more names on my list. We will then go into the detail. Is that the committees' wish. These are the 2000/2001 Main Estimates, 12 - 5. We will move onto 12 - 5. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, are we going to review the capital first and then go through the O&M like we did with the other departments. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Yes. We will. We will do the capital estimates and then move on to the Main Estimates. 12 - 5. Nunavut Housing Corporation, detail of capital. Contributions. Various headquarters region, total headquarters region, 620 thousand. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean**: Ma'na Itsivauta. Could I have a brief description of what the fire damage replacement is. Is that just a contingency fund. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's exactly what it is. The Housing Corporation is self insured for all their single detached houses and we are required to repair and replace those houses or else we lose the CMHC funding. So we have to allocate a certain amount in a contingency fund to offset any fire damage that may occur in the new fiscal year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just as a supplementary to that question. Is there fire insurance on the units. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson**: Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine**: There is no fire insurance on the single-family housing. That's why we are self-insured. We must replace and repair at our own expense. We have insurance on our multi-plex units, which were through the NWT Housing Corporation, and we are currently negotiating with the insurance companies to renew that insurance. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. 12 - 5. Total headquarters region, 620 thousand. Baffin region, total 620 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe just before we go out of the headquarters region it was indicated that CMHC provides another amount, I believe

that it was 4 million dollars that was mentioned. I stand to be corrected but would those figures be on top of what we receive here in the capital and where and how would those be recorded. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes they are on top of the information that you see in the capital estimates because the capital estimates are the estimates for the Nunavut Government budget. The money that is provided from CMHC is provided to the Nunavut Housing Corporation decentralized or given out to the actual regional offices and used to cost share the modernisation and improvement units within the public housing program. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Total headquarters region, 620 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Total Baffin Region, 9 million 500 thousand. Agreed. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just looking at the total numbers for the capital. Like I said before in this House there is a decrease in there and there is a...if you look at the programs that are there, the homeownership programs, there is a substantial decrease in that. There is also a decrease in M&I dollars that are there and there is an elimination of the retrofit program. Also there is no funding for senior independent living program this year.

I am just wondering about an explanation as to, I know that a lot of the existing capital went to the construction of these 100 units, but there are other units that are out there. I am sure that during the community consultations and I know that I have heard the concerns that are raised are that not only the lack of social housing but in a lot of cases, the condition of social housing. So I am just wondering why if there wasn't any extra money found towards maintaining the stock that we have as I believe that's what the funding that we get from CMHC for the housing is to operate and maintain the public housing stock that we have. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Basically our capital budget is what we have to work with. The recommendation from the Task Force is that we were to construct 100 housing units and we were to take the costs of constructing the 100 housing units out of our capital budget. That is why the decrease is basically the reallocation of the majority of the capital budget to the construction of the new public housing units. The other capital projects do have a smaller amount of money this year, it gives us an opportunity again, to review the current conditions of these units, get a better feel for what is needed in the

future. We would like to come to the table with our five year strategy that we are currently outlining as to how we plan on dealing with this in the future and for this year take the opportunity to build the 100 housing units. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there was as you know and as other members know and the minister knows, I was a member of the Task Force. I was under the impression that the Task Force was given an amount of 15 million dollars and asked to use this accordingly. I don't believe it was a task for us that said to take it out of the existing capital. It was my understanding that we were given a mandate that here is the dollars that you have, and our interim report was that we were asked to, given that limited resource to determine what and where to build, not to take the money out of the existing capital. It was just a chunk of money that the Task Force was given.

That was my understanding and I don't know if other members can correct me but that was my understanding of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Task Force interim recommendations said on page 7, it says here that the construction of these units should be funded through the Nunavut Housing Corporation current capital budget. That is right from the Task Force report. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that the minister knows and the other members know that I was out of town when that first meeting happened. But was there at any time where the task force was told that this is what you have to work with or did the task force have the flexibility to say go and get this funding for these houses from surplus dollars or some other source. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. When they became a Housing Task Force, they made up their own terms of reference and they could structure themselves however they wished. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Itsivauta. I am getting a little off the capital here, but something just came up. Is it still the policy of the Housing Corporation in Nunavut that if a local association, a local housing association in a community has a surplus that 50% of that surplus goes back to the Housing Corporation. Is that still in effect. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): I will have to find out about the Baffin capital regional estimates. We are number the number with 500 thousand. Once we are finished with this item then we can open with the Keewatin Region.

We are under the Baffin region. Total Baffin Region 9 million, 500 thousand. This is the item that we are covering. Do you have questions about this. Mr. McLean has a different question, but if you wish to respond I will allow that. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. We did adopt the policies from the NWT Housing Corporation as to how the local housing organizations were funded and how the surpluses were handled. Again this will vary as some of the actual local housing organizations have gone into community empowerment with the Hamlets and they may have a different way of retaining a percentage of their salary but again that is on an individual basis.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is going to be looking at the funding to the local housing associations this year. Again, our goal is to make sure they are empowered and have the resources to be empowered, we will do a review of the funding formula. Thank you Mr. McLean.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Itsivauta. I am getting really confused here. In the other government 50% of the surplus of local housing associations used to go back to the Housing Corporation. Is that still in effect today. Yes. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes that is the policy at this point. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** I am not sure if you can answer this question. Do you have any kind of a projected revenue or deficit from the local housing associations this year, a surplus or a deficit overall. Any kind of figure this year at all. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Ms. Hine.

**Ms. Hine:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't have the actual figure with me. At this point we are waiting for the actual approval of the budget so that we can run the funding formula to find out what the deficits are. We also have to wait for their fiscal year end and their audits to be completed which again we will not have the completed audits until June. So I don't have an actual figure at this time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Hine. Any more. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Ma'na Itsivauta. The reason that I am asking is that if there is a surplus in LHOs and it does come back from the LHOs would the minister consider next year putting that surplus into minor capital projects, like M&I's and retrofits and things like that. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes we would consider that request. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. When the Housing Task Force was mandated, I understood that they were given some funding, about 19 million dollars for housing purposes. But now I am mixed up because I thought that the funding was immediately available. Now that I look at the details, under housing and this amount of 19 million, I know we haven't got there yet in the details, but at the time of the Task Force when it just started, there was no money at all to begin with, except for the estimates.

Was there a surplus of 19 million at the end of that time, just when the Task Force was heading out.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. These budgets are approved on an annual basis. It could be that we were just elected when the Housing Corporation was in conjunction with the Department of Community Government and this was probably approved. But this time around it is a different one. That amount, that figure of 19 million that is aimed at building houses, it was only aimed toward capital projects, due to various projects.

For all the housing or for renovations or for other capital projects. But the Task Force had prepared the use for the fiscal year of 2000/2001 to decide what they should be doing with the money and the recommendation was that we build 100 units. The funding that was allocated for capital projects within the 19 million dollar amount is then being used strictly for building those 100 units, because these budgets are approved only once a year.

I think it is obvious, because twice now we have been the government and twice now we have gone through these estimates and the budget exercise. Because it is already in use because we can't reallocate those funding because it was already pre-approved and it was only through here that the money can be tabled during this budgeting exercise. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I had a misunderstanding then. I thought that there was money readily available that had not been approved and that was allocated to the Housing Corporation. I thought Housing Corporation had 19 million dollars that was set aside but it turned out that was not the case. So what we were was just dreaming I suppose.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. When we prepared for the budget we need to have it approved and those items for capital projects have to be detailed. When we first became a government we agreed to the budget and the purposes. We cannot go back when that budget has already been expended we cannot go back in the middle of the programs and re-allocated the funds for which we had already approved.

That is the money that is allocated for certain purposes at the beginning of the budgeting exercise and it has to be carried out. If you look at the Nunavut Housing Corporation details this is your opportunity now whether you want us to allocate the funding for private sector, this is the mandate that we are given. First, we were recommended to build 75 units. But if we were to build 100 units we would have to prepare some of the budget taking it from the capital project estimates and that's what we are doing in the middle of the term, because we can't go back on a pre-approved budget items and reallocate them elsewhere.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Anything further. I have no more names on the list. We are on total Baffin Region. Total Baffin Region, 9 million 500 thousand. Are we agreed. I am sorry I reduced the numbers. Total Baffin Region 5 million 900 thousand dollars. Sorry 9 million 500 thousand.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Did you just about disagree. Kivalliq Region. Total Kivalliq Region, 5 million 100 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Those against. Carried. Kitikmeot. Total Kitikmeot, 3 million, 780 thousand.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total capital expenditures, 19 million. I am sorry I should have said total contributions. Total contributions, 19 million. Total capital expenditures, 19 million.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Page 12 - 6. Nunavut Housing Corporation, Distribution of Budget. Distribution of budget. Information item. Do we have any comments. Those in favour.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We are finished with the capital for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Are we agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Moving on to the next page. Main estimates, Nunavut Housing Corporation, program summary. Page 12-4, Nunavut Housing Corporation branch summary. Operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 35 million 178 thousand. Mr. Akasuk did you have you hand raised. Mr. Akasuk.

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): I apologise, I did not realize we were in main estimates. I had some questions under capital estimates. Concerning one of my constituencies. The needs of Nunavummiut who own their own housing. We continue to have a severe housing shortage even after we have private housing. Does the housing corporation plan to subsidise people who are on limited income including relatives who have to stay with other relatives and elders. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think we already responded to that because we talked at length about subsidies. But for those in the community who have concerns about their own private accommodations or housing or concerns about their mortgage arrangements they should contact our regional office for assistance. Or provide correspondence letting us know of their concerns. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Yes Mr. Akasuk.

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): I see, so this is available for employees. You know if you could at least inform us because you have staff available to help people and to encourage people to write down their concerns. It would be encouraging for our people to contact your offices. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. You indicated it was just a general comment. Do you want to respond or do you want to leave it. Thank you. Back to branch summary. Total operations and maintenance, 35 million 178 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.



**Chairperson** (interpretation): Those against, carried. Total expenditures, 54 million 178 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Against. Carried. On to page 12-5. Nunavut Housing Corporation, corporate summary. Information item, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance 35 million 178 thousand dollars. Are we agreed

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total expenditures, 54 million 178 thousand dollars. Information item, headquarters. Information item operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance. Information item, 2 million 122 thousand. Total expenditures 2 million 742 thousand. Is there anyone disagreeing.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Carried. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Regional office information item, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, 3 million 305 thousand. Is there any one against.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total expenditures 21 million 685 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Page 12-8. Local Housing Organizations, information items, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance 29 million 751 thousand. Total expenditures 29 million 751 thousand dollars. Those agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Information item on the next page 12-9. Nunavut Housing Corporation, Local Housing Organizations. Do we have any comments on this item. Those agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Those against. Carried. Nunavut Housing Corporation, distribution of Budget page 12-10. Those agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Those against. Carried. Going back to 12-3. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Program summary details of expenditures. Operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 35 million 178 thousand. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Those disagreed. Carried. Total Capital, 19 million dollars.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Those against. Carried. Total expenditures 54 million 178 thousand dollars. Agreed.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are we agreed that we are concluded with the main estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): At this time I would like to thank the minister and her witness, the President for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. This has been an interesting debate and we look forward to our future and hopefully have an easier time with our housing issues. I expect that we will have a better future so I thank you very much President and Madame Minister for your fine work, and you can have closing remarks if you wish.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. On behalf of my staff and the new president for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, this was a good introduction to Pam Hine and I am glad that she was here for you questions and your comments. I apologise that my Public Works staff were not here as we had completed our main estimates. I would like to appreciate the ministers who have been sitting throughout these main estimates and for concluding my department. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Madame Minister. Before we conclude with item thirteen we will see you again. What is the wish of the committee. Mr. Akasuk.

**Mr. Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First, the minister for Community Government and Transportation can do his opening remarks and maybe tomorrow we could hear the opening remarks from the Chairperson of the standing committee, before reporting we can have the minister read his opening remarks.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you prepared Mr. Minister. If that is possible you may proceed. Mr. Anawak.

## **Department of Community Government & Transportation: Minister's Opening Remarks**

**Hon. Jack Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you. Just so you will understand what I am talking about please bear with me. Once we get into detail of the main estimates I will be with my officials including Mike Ferris my DM and my administrator Mike Rafter, and members of the community initiatives Rosemary Keenainak. Once we conclude with those we will be open to questions.

I know there are only four of us that will be present at the witness table. We want the main estimates in the first year we worked hard. Community Government and Transportation we worked hard in the new department. I would really like to thank those people who worked hard on our behalf. The main estimates for the 200/2001 fiscal year.

Last year when we appeared before you we were still the department of Community Government, Housing and Transportation. As you are no doubt aware, the new department no longer has the housing portfolio, which was moved to the department of public works in the last fiscal year.

As the Minister of Finance pointed out in his budget speech, housing is now a standing department of its own. As with the rest of the government of Nunavut it is working hard to create greater efficiencies and more effective governance for Nunavummiut. In an effort to achieve these goals, we have set our sights on achieving a greater level of integration and managerial responsibility. We took advantage of the departmental restructuring that was required to move the housing portfolio to establish a single assistant Deputy Minister for the department.

This move will contribute to the integration of the department's divisions and programs. We are also working toward placing increased responsibilities in the hands of our managers and directors in the communities. This will allow them to manage their programs and make decisions locally. These initiatives are intended to ensure that the decentralized headquarters, managers and directors have the independence they need to work directly with the communities at the community level.

Also in the same vein, the department is moving toward a single focal point on capital planning in the community development division. This will allow us to co-ordinate similar projects and enhance our economies of scale. These two initiatives will move us further down the road to greater departmental integration.

They will help us avoid isolation of the Community Government and Transportation divisions from each other by integrating the department's two major functions. One is making greater co-operation possible. Furthermore, we will continue with a single focal point for all policy initiatives within the department. This will ensure that ideas and concerns from staff across Nunavut are co-ordinated in a manner that contributes to the department's overall mission.

Although departmental staff in the communities will have some financial responsibilities the department will also have a single focal point for co-ordinating its financial obligations. (interpretation ends)

Co-operation is not only a concept that we are pursuing internally. Indeed one of the more important elements in the department's mission statement is by working in partnership with communities and other stakeholders our vision is to ensure and enhance community capacity and local ownership in the delivery of services that promote quality of life.

In other words Mr. Chairman, we would like the communities to help themselves.

But working in partnership with others is not confined to working with communities alone. The department of Community Government and Transportation recognizes the importance of the Bathurst Mandate and accepts its principles as direction. In the pursuit of its goals this department has placed the concept of partnership at the front of its work, as the Bathurst mandates directs simplicity and unity are essential.

The principle of consultation with the Members of the Legislative Assembly must be taken seriously. Mr. Chairman I would like to assure the members of this legislature, that Members of the Legislative Assembly will be respected as important sources of community opinion and co-operation will be the operating standard at every level. Our programs and the way they are managed will flow from the Bathurst Mandate and as a result we are committed to governing Nunavummiut with Nunavummiut.

By the same token the Bathurst Mandate indicates that in order to achieve healthy communities people must be responsible and accountable for their own well being. One way to achieve this is by helping the communities make the delivery of their services more responsive to community needs. As I mentioned earlier this can be achieved by helping the communities to deliver their services in an efficient and effective manner.

This is the principle behind my departmental decision to implement quarterly funding to the communities. This initiative will give communities more control over their resources and it will provide for more direct control where it counts most, at the community level. Just as important is the Bathurst Mandate's commitment to work within their means. As we all know only so many dollars can go around, and priorities must be met.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman I would also like to reassure the member that one of the priorities of the department is to support the communities and make sure they are channelled to do the most good to the communities themselves. It is for this reason that seventy percent of this department's operations and maintenance dollars actually flow down directly to the communities in the form of grants and contributions.

Furthermore, for this new fiscal year we were able to meet our department's budgetary targets without affecting the level of operations and maintenance funds allocated to the communities. Our financial goals were met by our staff who were able to improve the

departments internal efficiencies. As a result I am pleased to underline that this fiscal year's grants and contributions program will provide 31 million dollars.

Of this 31 million dollars 19 million will be dedicated to the municipal operating assistance program. This assists communities with their operational costs and 4.8 million dollars will go to the water and sewage subsidy service program to help community governments offset the high cost of water and sewage services.

Mr Chairman, I would like to point out to the members that the department's ongoing base in operations and maintenance funds have almost 62.3 million dollars and it is slightly higher this year. At just over 63 million dollars this reflects the following four one-time funding projects.

First, I will be seeking your support for 100 thousand dollars in one time funding for a review of how we can best restructure the funding formulas to municipalities. My department uses these formulas for determining funding levels for municipal and other agencies. In addition, during the pre budget consultation last winter the communities expressed their concern over these formulas. A concern that I too share. The funding formulas that we use today were devised under the old government for a political reality that no longer exists. We must review them in order to make them more responsive to the reality of Nunavut today. The most effective way to develop these formulas is to consider funding provided to municipalities by all government departments.

My department will be taking the lead on this initiative and I will be seeking input from my cabinet colleagues, MLAs, municipalities and others. By working together, it is my hope that we will benefit from an examination of the entire funding procedures.

Secondly, I will be seeking your support for 150 thousand dollars for a municipal legislation review that will be undertaken in partnership with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. This review will examine all legislation to determine what parts of it require re-drafting to conform to Nunavut's particular needs and circumstances.

In accomplishing this initiative I have asked senior staff at the department of justice which as you know is co-ordinating the government wide review of legislation, to work with Community Government and Transportation officials in their review. (interpretation ends)

Mr. Chairman, in completing the funding formula and the municipal legislation review, we will take advantage of the studies already undertaken by the Government of the Northwest Territories such as the municipal financial review and the municipal legislation review. We will also be guided by the Bathurst Mandate principal of ensuring all levels of government work together and in partnership with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, to ensure the concerns of the communities are addressed.

The third one-time funding initiative comes from the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement provision that requires the territorial government to transfer all municipal lands within

municipal boundaries to the municipalities between 1996 and 1999. In order to meet this requirement I am seeking a one-time allocation of 300 thousand dollars to complete land surveying tasks.

Finally, it has become very obvious that the current funding formula that helps cover municipalities fuel costs is not responding adequately to the current rise in fuel prices. According to the formula, the level of today's transfer is determined by conditions that existed three years ago. Therefore, the price of fuel today will not be fully reflected in the funds transferred to cover those costs three years from now.

This makes it impossible for the government and communities to adequately budget for unpredictable fuel costs. In recognition of this increase in fuel costs and given that the Community Government and Transportation offers contributions to offset additional costs I am seeking 1 time funding in the amount of 200 thousand dollars as a contingency reserve. These funds will assist municipalities in offsetting their increased costs because of higher fuel prices.

As I mentioned earlier, we are in the process of improving the timing of this formula under the municipal funding finance review. It is my expectation the revised formula will allow for a more timely disbursement of funds. Mr. Chairman in addition to this one time initiative the department of Community Government and Transportation is also enhancing a number of its current programs.

For example, in keeping with the Bathurst Mandate's priorities of self-reliance and continuing learning, fire-fighting and search and rescue in Nunavut will be improved through specialized training. The Department's emergency services will be hiring a fire training specialist who will be dedicated entirely to special fire fighting training in Nunavut. With the help of the Territories Assistant Fire Marshals the new training specialist will offer ongoing training in and for each community.

In addition, Nunavut emergency services will also be hiring a search and rescue training officer. This training officer will put together training packages for each community and will work in partnership with other Federal agencies to provide specialized training.

I would like to underline that both the specialized fire fighting and search and rescue training programs will be developed according to the needs of each individual community. Local conditions and circumstances will guide the specific training programs.

I am also pleased to note that the Department's "learn not to burn" educational campaign in schools will be improved with the assistance of my colleague the Honourable Minister of Education.

Another educational initiative that will be of benefit to the community is the enhancement of the community leadership program. This training will ensure that our municipal partners continue to benefit from the quality skills of senior administrative

officers and housing managers. Who are taking on more responsibilities in the delivery of programs and services.

This certification program will offer basic and advanced levels. The basic program will provide aspiring and practicing SAOs and housing managers with knowledge and skills that will allow them to competently perform statutory responsibilities, understand their job responsibilities and represent themselves and their communities in a professional manner.

The advanced program will build on competencies developed in the basic program and provide the SAOs and housing managers with knowledge that enables them to manage human and physical resources and relate effectively with external publics.

Both of these programs which are being developed to suit Nunavut's specific requirements will contribute significantly to the development of local civic public service with a common level of knowledge and skills.

In addition the Department will be continuing and enhancing a program that will focus on and contribute to the training of elected officials at the Municipal level. To meet this objective my department has become more involved in the delivery of a specific community based training program.

This program offers professional training in four important public areas: 1. The major responsibility of the Councillor. 2. The structure and workings of Community Government. 3. Conflict of interest, by-laws, and communication and 4. Municipal financial management.

We will ensure that each community benefits from improved access to this enhanced professional training by taking the training program directly to the communities.

Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) at this point I would like to highlight two of the programs within my department that are working toward the Bathurst Mandate principles and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. In recognition of the importance of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the department has established a working committee to ensure that this principle is considered and represented in all aspects of our work. This committee will liaise with the Government wide committee and will be a position to review new developments in policy and Governance that affect the implementation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

On the employment front, my department is working to address Inuit employment with the communities. Mr. Doug Crossley the Department's senior advisor is working very closely with the decentralization secretariat to ensure our department's plan is completed successfully. Mr. Crossley is working with our staff and communities to develop the necessary programs to build capacity and ensure local employment opportunities. This initiative will contribute to the success of our Inuit employment plan. I am confident that our good progress to date will escalate as we head into the new fiscal year.

In further recognition of the fact that much of Nunavut's leadership comes from its communities, the department is pleased to continue its support for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. NAM offers an important forum for community leaders to deal with issues of Municipal concern. Together with NAM my department will work toward enhancing leadership meetings in Nunavut by taking advantages of economies of scale and cost-sharing. As Minister I will be seeking the advice of our community leaders on how we can improve the way we consult.

I am confident that by working together on a community level, inter-departmentally and with the assistance of colleagues in this Legislature we can resolve the issues that confront us.

Capital funding. Mr. Chairman I would now like to turn to the issue of capital funding. The Department has established its capital spending budget of 15.5 million dollars for this fiscal year. As the Department's mission indicates, these funds are aimed at enhancing the capacity of communities to promote and improve their quality of life. To achieve this goal the Department supports community investment in capital projects as diverse as water reservoirs, sanitation sites, fire fighting, fire halls, heavy equipment, airport terminals, airfield lighting, and maintenance garages, just to name a few.

As is the case with other Nunavut Departments the Department allocates funds to projects based on specific community needs and in compliance with the criteria set out by Government for the distribution of capital funds.

The Departments capital budget represents 24% of the Government of Nunavut's entire capital funding. Looked at in its entirety the Government of Nunavut's total capital expenditures are allocated as follows. The 14 communities of Baffin received an average of 2.4 million dollars per community. The seven communities of the Kivalliq received an average of 2.2 million dollars per community. As you heard during his presentation on the Government budget on April 23, Finance Minister Ng has committed to developing a new capital planning process this year. The Department of Community Development and Transportation plans to be an active partner in this initiative.

In Conclusion. Mr. Chairman and Members of the Legislative Assembly what I have presented to you today is the Department of Community Government and Transportation's direction for the next fiscal year. Its aim is to achieve a better tomorrow by working with the communities, cabinet colleagues and MLAs, the Inuit Organizations and indeed with anyone who has the best interest of Nunavut and Nunavummiut at heart.

The Department of Community Government & Transportation is committed to the values and principles set out in the Bathurst Mandate. My officials and I have made a conscious effort to weigh each of our initiatives against the mandate's priorities to ensure that the Department's direction is one that supports and enhances healthy communities, simplicity and unity, self-reliance and continuing learning. These are the principles by which we are guided.



I thank you for your attention this afternoon. I look forward to consulting with you in the near future as we strive to achieve a second year of community-responsive and fiscally responsible governance for Nunavut and all Nunavummiut.

We are now available for questions.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. We have completed 51-1(3), 61-1(3), 77-1(3). We had already considered this. Do you agree. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): I would like to report progress.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. He would like to report progress. All in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. The Speaker can now return.

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

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker your Committee has been considering Bill 13 and Tabled Documents 41-1(3), 51-1(3), 60-1(3), 61-1(3), 77-1(3), 84-1(3), and 85-1(3). And would like to report Tabled Document 51-1(3) 60-1(3), and 77-1(3) are concluded. 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. Premier. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of Standing Committee on Government Operations tonight at 6:30. A regular caucus tomorrow at 9 o'clock.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday, April 19.

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
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 61 - 1(3)
  - Tabled Document 84 - 1(3)
  - Tabled Document 85 - 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. According to the authority vested in me by motion 3 - 1(3) this House stands adjourned until Wednesday April 19, at 10.00 a.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 6.21 p.m.*

