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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Arviat)

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Amittuq)

Hon. Ed Picco
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(Tunnunuiq)

James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)

David Iqaqrialu
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday February 23, 2001**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Ms. Williams to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good morning, Mr. Premier, members. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 007 - 1(5): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, everybody. I am very pleased to provide members with an update on the establishment of the office of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation in Cape Dorset as part of our government's commitment to decentralization.

The NBCC is a crown corporation. It provides loans and loan guarantees up to one million dollars to Nunavut's small and medium size businesses.

Last year, our government announced the appointment of a 7-member board of directors who govern the activities of the credit corporation. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Robert Hanson and Ms. Monica Ell as the corporation's first chairperson and vice chair representative, respectively.

The NBCC currently has a loan portfolio totalling eight millions dollars, so the responsibility of this board is significant.

Staffing for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is well under way. The Chief Executive Officer has been on staff for 6 months and an experienced loans and investment manager has been hired. The Cape Dorset office is scheduled to be opened for business the week of March 19th.

Mr. Speaker, a lot has changed in the Nunavut business environment since the Northwest Territories first passed the legislation for the Business Credit Corporation. Thus, one of the first items of business that I have asked of the Board is to complete a strategic plan for the NBCC that will reflect the lending needs of Nunavummiut businesses today. I want the NBCC to complement the other lending programs available in Nunavut, not duplicate them.

I have also asked the Board to increase their attention to lending in non-decentralized communities as part of our Government's commitment to increase the availability of our programs in our smaller communities.

Finally, I have also asked the NBCC to begin discussions with the three regional lending operations known as "Community Futures." Effective April 01, there will be a much closer working relationship and accountability between the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the Community Futures offices.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation can play a significant role in financing opportunities that arise with the growth of our Territory's economy. In the days ahead, I will be tabling their Annual Report in this House so that members can review their activities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Moving on to Item 3. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 019 - 1(5): Capital Projects – Kitikmeot Regional Health Facility

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give you my overall view of Nunavut's three regions and the government's capital projects in the three regions.

Mr. Speaker, there's a regional health facility being planned for the Kitikmeot region and this is not new. It has been planned to be built for some time now, even when the Government of Northwest Territories was in place. Mr. Speaker, we expect and anticipate these kinds of projects in the future to move forward.

We have to encourage the Government of Nunavut to move forward with them. We believe this will be best for the Kitikmeot region. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services of the Nunavut Government has been planning to build the health facility for quite some time now and we appreciate them for moving forward on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 020 - 1(5): Polar Bear Plate Hockey Tournament

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we heard that there was a hockey tournament in Rankin Inlet and there were some participants from Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and other communities.

I'm very pleased Mr. Speaker, that the athletes of Iqaluit won the tournament, because, of course, they have a population of over 5000. We heard Rankin Inlet came in second with the total population of 2500 or approximately around that area.

Of course, these two communities have the largest population and they have a good pick of athletes and since today is Friday, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that with a total population of 740 in Coral Harbour, we came in third. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 021 - 1(5): Gasoline Subsidy

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I think when I am talking I tend to have a long face, so I will have a smile today while I am standing.

Mr. Speaker I understand there are many people in Nunavut communities that are unemployed and there are many elders who would like to go out camping during the spring, summer, and fall.

Mr. Speaker in my constituency in the communities of Repulse Bay and Pelly Bay I know that there are people who go out camping on the land. We were informed that the Nunavut Government and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated would be providing assistance in the form of a gasoline credit to hunters that fall within certain criteria.

Mr. Speaker I will be seeking more information on this matter during the question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 022 - 1(5): Speaking in English

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have four official languages in the Nunavut settlement area. We provide Inuktitut as a second language courses for people with English as a first language. For people who do not speak English we will have to try and speak English also.

So since today is Friday and it is a more informal day, I will give it a shot and I will try to speak in English, here goes... (interpretation ends)...Seven. Eight. Nine

(interpretation) I think everybody understood me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak . Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 023 - 1(5): Elders' Qammaq - Pangnirtung

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not expect you to call my name that early.

Mr. Speaker, on February 7, the Elders' Society of Pangnirtung opened a Qammaq, a traditional Inuit dwelling house. The elders will use this when they are giving workshops to the people of Pangnirtung and the youth. They will be teaching cultural programs like living on the land and so on.

During the opening of the Qammaq the mayor and also my colleague Mr. Kattuk were there. I would like to thank them for participating in the official opening of our Qammaq. Ms. Carmen Levi was also there.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Pangnirtung have been working really hard to promote our culture and traditions. We wish the Elders' Society the best in their endeavours and thank them for inviting us to the opening. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 024 - 1(5): Hockey Equipment Donation to Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to my colleague, Mr. Kilabuk's statement, it was a very enjoyable experience when we had the Qammaq opening.

This morning, I would like to make some comments about a hockey tournament that was held in my constituency of Sanikiluaq. We had a program where some hockey equipment was donated to the residents of Sanikiluaq.

The hockey equipment was donated by the NHLPA and the residents and teachers of Sanikiluaq worked very hard to obtain the equipment for the residents. I would like to thank the people who made those donations. We now can have 12 young people in hockey equipment, in full gear.

The youth, I think they're six and seven years of age, were dressed in full gear by the NHLPA, but Mr. Speaker, our arena will be closed at the end of March due to the

warming up of the weather. The children were very pleased when they got their hockey equipment, but of course, like I said Mr. Speaker, we will no longer be using the arena at the end of March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Member's Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 025 - 1(5): Baker Lake Basketball Team

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. First of all I would like to welcome my colleague Rebekah Williams to the House, it's been a few days. I would also like to recognize one of my heroes, a singer, Johnny Cash, I'm hoping to hear my favourite song before he leaves town. I still look up to him.

Baker Lake makes the basket, Mr. Speaker. The Baker Lake men's basketball team players are the hoopsters of the Kivalliq. They are Baker Lake's; Devon Killulark, Phillip Tagoona, Bill Olsen, Levi Tanungnak, Richard Niego, BA Hart, Kyle Feelie and Victor Killulark.

They defeated a stubborn, very well prepared Arviat team in the final of the five-team tourney to claim the regional Open Men's Basketball Championship in Coral Harbour this month.

The host squad claimed the bronze, while the Rankin Inlet and Chesterfield Inlet teams finished out the medal standings. The Baker Lake squad and the winning Arviat team each brought eight players to the court while Rankin Inlet and Coral each used six or seven and Chesterfield Inlet six.

Baker Lake dedicated their victory to the memory of Kemp Oguyuaq who died tragically on the basketball court just shortly before this past Christmas.

Coral's acting recreation coordinator Tommy Pauiaq says the teams were impressed by the large crowds that turned out for the action. I must add to the end of this, Bill Olsen took home a black eye as a souvenir of the tournament. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Mr. McLean, just for rubbing it into the Arviat team, there'll be no more questions for you for the next month.

>>*Laughter*

Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 026 - 1(5): Tribute to Jack Kabvitok

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are very proud of course when our fellow Inuit people are successful in their endeavours. Today I would like to congratulate an individual who was elected in December to the Rankin Inlet Hamlet council, Jack Kabvitok, named Tikiq in Inuktitut.

I have known him for quite some time and he has lived most of his life in Rankin Inlet and he has assisted in many areas. He has always made himself available for search and rescues. He's also served on various boards such as HTOs and municipal governments.

If you don't really know him, you may know his younger brother Charlie Panigoniak, the singer. They also have a younger brother George Aaluk, a well-known carver.

They have other siblings in Arviat. The family has done very important work. Mr. Kabvitok is now the mayor. He's an Inuk and we're very proud that he's serving as the mayor for the second largest community in Nunavut, although he's never attended a vocational school or academic school.

So I feel that we should not let the lack of education hold us back. He kept at it so therefore I would like to say how proud I am of Jack Kabvitok. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 027 - 1(5): Dog Team Race

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize an individual from Hall Beach. A major dog team race is going to happen in April. They will be travelling to Arctic Bay or Pond Inlet from Hall Beach.

Every year since April 1st, they started racing dog teams from Arctic Bay back in 1999, when the Government of Nunavut was established. This dog racing started at the same time. So this has become an annual dog team race.

I am very proud of the fact that they will start from Hall Beach and the area is very flat. We don't foresee any problems with running into rough ice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 028 – 1(5): Clyde River Hockey Team

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the first time, athletes from Clyde River came to Iqaluit for a hockey tournament.

They have been preparing themselves to come here for a couple of years now. Although I did not coach them, they participated at the tournament here in Iqaluit.

My son was the goalie during the tournament and they came in third place at the tournament although they have only practiced for a couple of years. I was very proud of them. I saw the athletes happy and dancing, that is how much excitement there was.

It first seemed like the other team was impossible to beat but it turned out well for them. I am sure there will be more exciting games in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 029 – 1(5): Elders' Assistance

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about the elders of Arctic Bay. The elders group started their society in Arctic Bay in the 1960's when the government started coming up to our community. These were the administrators, nurses and others.

The residents took on this responsibility as they felt they had to serve their community and not just be served. Therefore, they established the group called the Inumariit Elders' Society. The Inumariit Society has been working since the 1960's.

Since the 1980's when I moved to Arctic Bay, they helped the government, for example, with education, health and social services. Rather than just using the elders, we worked with them and they were involved with all the planning that we had to do. With their support the whole community had a better understanding of what was going on.

I would like to say that I am proud that a similar group has begun in Pangnirtung, as mentioned earlier.

Inumariit works with the courts. They work with the Department of Justice very well and they work with anybody who needs caregiving. They have given support to many people and when I was working for the government, we did not hear anything negative about the Elders' Society in Arctic Bay because they have worked so well.

Today, I would like to say again that the Elders' Society can be very beneficial to us if we can ask them the right questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 030 – 1(5): Appreciation to CLEY Minister

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth for his visit to Kugluktuk in January. The youth were having problems as they did not have a committee.

He went into the community and assisted them in a big way. Our youth in Kugluktuk will begin to make way towards their future and our elders are going to help them. Once things come into place then their lives will be better in the future, once they begin working with the elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 031 – 1(5): Iqaluit Traditional Games Association

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a group of dedicated Iqaluit residents who have, on their own initiative, formed an association, a non-profit group to bring awareness and to reinvigorate traditional Inuit games and oral history in Iqaluit specifically and Nunavut in general.

Mr. Speaker, the group has already run a very successful Inuit Games event in Iqaluit this past week. The group were also in the process of laying the groundwork for an exciting project to document and record the oral history of Inuit traditional games.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the association, I have contacted several businesses and organizations in Iqaluit to help with the logistic, the administrative as well as some financial assistance for the association.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate these Iqaluit residents, in particular, Gideonie and Sytokie Joamie and Pitseolak Alainga for their interest and dedication in supporting and bringing awareness of the cultural aspects of traditional games to Iqaluit and to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 032 – 1(5): Jump Rope For Heart Event

Mr. Tootoo: Ma'na Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, prior to beginning my statement I would like to comment on the fact that I think Arviat is a fine community having lived there myself and I hope you will give me lots of questions. Thank you.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the efforts of some enthusiastic young people who themselves will be rising a great deal this afternoon. The Jump Rope for Heart event is scheduled to take place this afternoon at Nakasuk School from 1:30-3:00 pm.

Students from grade 3-5 are participating in this fund raising effort for the Nunavut, Northwest Territories and Alberta Heart and Stroke Foundation. This is the 12th time that this event has been organized by Ron Kennedy of the physical education department at the school.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hopefully being able to join the students in this excellent fitness and team building exercise this afternoon. And, Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all members to come down and skip a little this afternoon if they get an opportunity to do so.

The students, Mr. Speaker, have been practicing for over three weeks now in preparation for this event, which will see Nakasuk school able to receive 10% of all the funds raised. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask all members to join me in praising the efforts of these students and encourage everyone to support this worthy cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Thank you for your kind comments about my home community of Arviat. Your comments are duly noted as they relate to extra questions.

Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Going on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure today to welcome to the gallery two very important, industrious people over the past several days here in Iqaluit.

One is Amy Coffee. Amy works with the Baffin Health Promotions unit of the Department of Health and Social Services and they have been working on the HIV/Aids here. Sitting next to Amy over here is a very special guest, Mr. Speaker, Cia McPherson. Cia is a youth worker, a youth outreach worker from Toronto. She is also here in Iqaluit to judge the HIV/Aids youth project, which is tentatively scheduled for tonight at 6:30 depending on the weather, at Inuksuk High School.

I would like all members if they are available tonight, to come by and see the projects set up by the youth, by the children of Inuksuk High School. I would like to welcome them to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I think we should put the item recognition of visitors in the gallery towards the beginning. I would like to recognize one of the interpreters. She is named after my mother, Jean Piuga Kusugak. She is from my constituency. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my colleague's daughters. When I am in Iqaluit they always make me feel comfortable. I often go over to their house and have a meal with them. I would also like to recognize my colleague Jobie who sits besides me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Speaker: Welcome to the chamber Mr. Nutarak.

>>*Laughter*

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two constituents who happen to be working in the interpreters' booth. Two of the better qualified Inuinnaqtun translators and constituents, James Panioyak and Joe Otokiak from Cambridge Bay, welcome. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on to Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 010 - 1(3): Fuel Subsidy Program

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I would like to express my appreciation to Minister of Sustainable Development and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated for the fuel subsidy program.

Can the minister explain the fuel subsidy program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the member for asking me this question. It's my first question as minister.

The government has worked together with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in providing the fuel subsidy to hunters.

Since the price increase of fuel, we have been working together on how to provide a subsidy to hunters and we continue to do this. We will be able to provide subsidies to hunters in March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. The hunters in the community often go out on the land for days on end and I'm wondering if the hunters will be provided the subsidy to make it last during the time they are out. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of hunters in Nunavut. There are about five thousand hunters that have been listed and we will be providing the subsidies to about 530 hunters.

We have asked the Hunter's and Trapper's Associations to work with the Wildlife Officers to provide us with a list of names to find out who is eligible for the subsidy and each eligible individual will be provided with a 300 dollar gas credit.

The hunters would be provided forms for them to fill out in order to get the 300 dollar gas credit subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 011 - 1(3): FAS/FAE Information

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

It's obvious now that we're affected by alcohol, especially with children that are affected by fetal alcohol syndrome, it's obvious that you can see it physically as well as mentally and emotionally. If the mother has been drinking heavily while they were pregnant, the children born usually have a different lifestyle and emotions.

Can you have more information available about those types of people who have been affected by alcohol, especially in schools when they are being taught. They usually have developmental and mental problems. Because of this we need information in the schools so that the teachers will know how to deal with them in their own special way. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, of course, these questions are ones that all of us, especially my department works on, with the Department of Health.

The children who have been affected by alcohol are usually developmentally slower and usually have to be looked after more often by health workers. They can only be diagnosed of such developmental problems by doctors or by nurses. So we're always aware of those people who have these types of problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The Minister of Education has just stated that this is also a responsibility of the Health Minister and that the two departments have to identify the individuals, that these are being recorded. The histories of children are being recorded. Is that all you are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we didn't understand each other properly. We try to find out exactly who the people are, especially children with special problems in their school years and try to get curriculum geared for students who have learning problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Education. I view these disabilities as two types, those that were born with disabilities not related to alcohol and those that have problems associated with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

When they're born, they have physical problems like they're not able to walk or talk or can't hear; those who have had alcohol influence them when they were in the womb. Are there special curricula or special teaching available for people with these types of problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just stated earlier there is a specialist that comes in from outside of Nunavut to assist people who have problems and require assistance, especially those with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome.

Not all of the communities have those types of services available to them. There are specialists that are available when needed. Of course children who have these problems when they were born are different from the people that are blind, deaf or cannot walk.

So there are different types of services available and the teachers and health officials have been trained as to how to identify those who have this type of problem. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister said there is some assistance available, is it in Iqaluit, in Yellowknife. Where are the specialists located that are able to help these types of children.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify, I'd like to say that there are counsellors available in most schools. In other cases we have to find out what kind of help is required before deciding which specialist needs to be brought in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 012 - 1(3): Support for Businesses

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have many questions that I would like to ask. But, first of all I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development in regards to the statement that he made.

It states here that with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation there will be one million dollars that will be geared towards the smaller communities that do not have decentralized departments and there is also eight million dollars mentioned here that is in the loan portfolio. For those of us that are long time residents of Nunavut, we have not learned much about operating a business.

We don't know exactly how we can keep our businesses up and running once we get started. Once you start a business there is no follow up with the private businesses that are just starting. They use a lot of money for operations and maintenance, for everything.

They have to pay insurance and pay other costs that are associated with a business. It becomes quite large and they end up having no profits or just basically operating and just paying for costs.

I think that we should identify the problem areas of operating a small business within the smaller communities. What are the types of problems that businesses run into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member very much for the question. In regards to the businesses that are being established in the smaller communities, we have start up programs that are available.

What I was talking about here was the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation for the start up of private businesses. In response to your question, since the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has just been established, they will be available to provide loans. We will also be putting together their mandate and bylaws and the terms of reference that they will be using to provide loans to small businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand your response but as the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is a crown corporation and since the government established it, it seems to me we should be involved in setting up the terms of reference.

We have one million dollars that will be for the small communities and there's eight million dollars total loan portfolio. So as a government, I feel that we should be involved in setting up this corporation and also establishing the terms of reference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It says in the document that there will be one million dollars that will be provided for loans and loan guarantees to Nunavut small and medium size businesses.

Also, eight million dollars in total will be set aside for the loan portfolio. It will be up to the NBCC, to see who they will be providing loans to. They will also be giving us a report on their activities and providing us with financial statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: We are going to break just for a minute, please remain seated we are having some technical difficulties.

Any further questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we are a little bit lost. Maybe I should rephrase my question. This question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

Where are we getting this eight million dollars that will be used for the loan portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. This money will be in a revolving fund. It will be loaned out and then the businesses that are taking advantage of this will be giving it back. It will be a revolving fund.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To where will they be returning this money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): The money will be returned to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 013 - 1(3): Iqaluit Water Treatment Plant & Road Issues

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister responsible for Community Government and Transportation.

Mr. Speaker all members have seen over the last two years here in Iqaluit the tremendous growth that has taken place. This growth has stretched the limits of municipality's ability to maintain its municipal services.

Recently there were a number of issues raised in the media, a number raised by the Water Board in regards to the solid waste and also more recently some issues around the capacity of the water treatment plant.

I would like to ask the minister if he has had an opportunity to meet with the officials from the municipality in regards to these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for Iqaluit Centre. I recently had an opportunity to meet with the newly elected mayor along with his senior administrative officer and the assistant and we discussed some general ideas of what we can do about the problems the member just raised.

They'll be drawing up plans to streamline the plans for Iqaluit so that we can do more for the roads in the spring, even now, but in the springtime. We can do more for the water treatment plant.

I am happy to say that I have known the mayor for some time and we have a very good relationship. We expect our bureaucrats to work out the details and I would like to tell the

member and the Members of the Legislative Assembly that we will be looking at Iqaluit again as the capital of Nunavut that is owned by the people of Nunavut. We will make sure that the work that is necessary is done in order to bring Iqaluit up to a decent level of operations in terms of the roads and the water treatment plant.

We will do all we can to ensure that either we enable Iqaluit to get more funding out of the federal government or privately or from the Government of Nunavut to ensure that Iqaluit can be brought to the level that the member is talking about.

I look forward to a very good working relationship with the Town and soon to be City Council. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Anawak. Supplementary question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the minister has already met with the officials from the Town and is aware of some of these regulatory issues and problems that the municipality faces.

The minister also indicated that they are taking a look at developing options with the departmental staff and the Town trying to develop various options to be able to help the municipality ensure they meet all the regulatory requirements and demands the community has for its services.

I would just like to ask, to confirm the minister's commitment to work with the Town to ensure that these regulatory concerns are addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While we are having discussions the people of Iqaluit will have to realize that this is the capital of Nunavut. This is where the government is established. The people of Nunavut will have to realize that this is the capital of Nunavut.

It seems like some people out there are not too comfortable about Iqaluit appearing to take more than its share of the monies. But we do have to meet the regulatory requirements. We know that all the communities are trying to catch up with their needs but we do have to take care of Iqaluit also. It is the capital.

I can use the example of the dumpsite as one where we are trying to bring it up to standard. We are working with the Town about the incineration issue and also meeting the regulatory requirements that have to be met by the Town of Iqaluit. We will be working very closely together with the local government to deal with these matters. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 014 - 1(3): Increasing Nunavut Minimum Wage

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti over the last year and a half I have pressed the former Minister of Justice about the minimum wage in Nunavut. To date we have four other jurisdictions in Canada that have higher minimum wages.

I know at the recent public meeting of the Nunavut Law Review Commission, the issue of increasing the minimum wage in Nunavut was raised. Can the minister now responsible tell Assembly if the government will be increasing or make a recommendation of increasing the minimum wage. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Ma'na Uqaqti. Yes, I am glad to see Maliganik Qimirujit was advised of the situation. I look forward to the recommendations on the issue. It is largely the private sector that will be affected by such an increase. So I am sure we would have to talk with them as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti there was a survey sent out to the municipalities and the private sector from the previous minister on their questions and comments regarding the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have to go into great length to explain the high cost of living in Nunavut for our residents. Most people out there that work in the private sector, in the minimum wage sector, sometimes are a lot of students. These students are going to school and are in grade ten and eleven and they're usually the ones out there that are pulling for minimum wage and also there are the entry-level positions too.

It's no secret or anything like that when we go into a store today those are the majority of the people that are paying the minimum wage. Can the minister be more direct on the timeline when we are going to have the results of maybe looking at increasing the minimum wage for the people that need it. Thank you.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Ma'na Uqaqti. Well, I can't commit to an exact timeline but I'm sure that I look forward to the MQ recommendations and their deadline is in December of this year. So once their recommendations come forth, I will review them along with my cabinet colleagues. Ma'na.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary question. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I got a date, December of this year, which is ten or eleven months away. The point that I'm trying to get to here is that by then we will be into our third year and I brought this issue up two years ago.

Is this government taking the minimum wage issue seriously or is it just something that is going to be ignored and thrown away. Thank you.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Ma'na Uqaqti. Well, I'm sure we can look at it, we've reviewed all the other areas where we've had to increase the amount of expenditures in our own government and boards.

So we can do that for the minimum wage as well. Hopefully by December we will have some recommendations from MQ and we can review it seriously. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I'm getting the answers I want. I may also reiterate and make a statement but I hope that I can ask a question too. On this minimum wage review, we all know the companies and the individuals that pay minimum wage in Nunavut, they also benefit from the lowest corporate income taxes in probably Canada.

So, I'm asking the minister, when he is reviewing the minimum wage can he make sure that the cost of living in Nunavut is taken into account, if they increase it or when they do increase it for us. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Ma'na Uqaqti. Absolutely, we've done that with our workers, we've increased the northern allowance, so we will review that as well. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Irgittuq.

Question 015 - 1(3): Commercial Fishery Marketing

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, during members' statements, I said that I was going to ask questions but due to the weather we were unable to continue the session so I will just continue on from that.

In my member's statement, I was talking about fish, Arctic Char that can be sold commercially in Hall Beach and Igloolik. It's about eight thousand pounds approximately. They can no longer market Arctic Char from the Amittuq region.

I would like to ask the Minister for Sustainable Development what the real reason is, why the marketing of this fish is so poor. Why haven't we been able to market fish for the past few years now. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the question. As I have stated before the communities, we will be helping out the communities that are not decentralized communities.

I will be sending a member from the Nunavut Development Corporation to Hall Beach to find out how we can help to market Arctic Char. An official from the Nunavut Development Corporation will be going to the community to find out how we can give more support as a government to these fishermen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about the Arctic Char that used to be sold, which they can no longer sell. I am not asking about what kind of subsidy or assistance they can have for the fishermen but my question is what is the reason why we can no longer sell Arctic Char. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will ask my officials to review this again, to get the background on this. I will get my officials to review this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is he saying that there will be another study or review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will have someone review it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 016 - 1(5): Liquor Act Review Consultations

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have many questions that I would like to ask.

First of all, I would like to ask the Minister for Finance a question. There are many communities in Nunavut that have problems with alcohol abuse and this has been acknowledged. We have heard from the alcohol and drug workers as to how they will be reviewing the liquor legislation.

I would like to ask the Minister for Finance when you start consulting with the communities, which communities will you be going to when you do your consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Liquor Board. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have asked the Nunavut Liquor Board to undertake some consultations throughout Nunavut to hear what the people have to say about problems in respect to the current legislation and in respect to access to alcohol products. They will then report back to myself in the form of recommendations, which I will bring forward to the cabinet to discuss various options depending on what the recommendations are.

I do not have the exact list of they communities with me right now. I believe that I can provide that information to the members, all members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary question to the same minister. Once you find out which communities you will be doing consultations with, could you let us know how many communities will be consulted. Especially my constituency, which has three communities and Nanisivik is the main community that has that kind of problem.

Can the communities say that we would like to invite the LLB to do the consultation in our community. Can I ask my community to invite the LLB to consult with us. I was wondering if that could be done because many people have serious problems in regards to alcohol abuse and also in regards to the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Liquor Board. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to clarify that the intent isn't trying to, as much as we would like to, get to every community because it is cost prohibitive. To allow access for input for all communities, what we've done is targeted 6-7 communities. Like I said, I'll bring the information for members of the House.

But they've also, at the same time, allowed for input from other communities to make sure that if they are not actually holding consultations in a specific community, there will be avenues for the other communities to provide input on what their feelings are.

Whether it is directly to the Liquor Board or to some of the support infrastructure around their consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf on my constituency, I'd like to thank him for his response. I'd like to ask a supplementary question.

What timeline do you see as to when this consultation tour will start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, member. Just for clarification, we are not speaking of Workers' Compensation Board but the Liquor Board. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. You are correct. From what I understand it may be the interpretation issue, but we are speaking of the Nunavut Liquor Board.

Mr. Speaker, we are hoping consultations take place almost immediately in fact. The schedule called for the first consultation to have taken place. I think they are behind schedule. We expect within a week or two they would start the process. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 017 - 1(3): Status of Police Dog

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Justice. Mr. Speaker, our territory is a vast, huge land and the population is increasing.

We have 26 communities within Nunavut and each community is increasing in population. We are starting to see things that we've never seen before. For that reason our constituencies have felt the impact of alcohol, drugs and marijuana. Mr. Speaker, we were informed about the sniffer dog called Jack. I was wondering where Jack the dog is right now. Where did the sniffer dog initially start. Did he travel around to the communities.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe Jack is in town and they said that they would visit the other communities. I know it is quite expensive to train the dogs so they are not always readily available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you Mr. Minister for your response. I'd like to ask the Premier this. He stated that it is in Nunavut and it has to be trained.

I don't think the dog is originally from Nunavut because Nunavut gets extremely cold at times. We'll have to teach the dog traditional or Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit values so that it can do his job properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

Speaker: Minister responsible for Jack. Mr. Premier.

>> *Laughter*

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very expensive to care for the dog, a sniffing dog and the dog is kept in the house and it's important that we take care of the dog. There are those that don't like these kinds of dogs so he has to be kept in a safe area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We heard about the sniffing dog at our last session. With the dog being in Nunavut, I'm hoping that it benefits the people of Nunavut. We often hear about many different incidents happening in Nunavut.

As this is the first sniffing dog in Nunavut, when does the minister think that they will be able to start using the dog to fight crime in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Is there a question there. Mr. Premier

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sniffing dog is in Iqaluit and I think they use the dog mainly in Iqaluit presently. The dog is taken to the airport every so often. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Final supplementary.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the Minister of Justice for his response. He stated that the dog has been used in Iqaluit. There are three regions in Nunavut, will the dog be taken to the other regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will start taking the dog to the other regions, I can't say when this would be done but when the time comes, the dog will be taken to other regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Yes Mr. Speaker. I'd like the members' indulgence in going back to Item 5 in the order paper. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Speaker: Proceed Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Revert to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, fellow members and Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a distinguished visitor to the gallery, Mr. John Ralston Saul.

>>Applause

If you recall, Mr. John Ralston Saul visited us last year and is the spouse of our Governor General. He is just returning from a very nice visit to Pond Inlet. The MLA from Pond Inlet was very helpful, so thank you and welcome to the gallery. Qujannamiik.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery Mr. Saul. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 018 - 1(3): Health Minister's Visit to Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other day I wasn't able to complete my questions about the health facility in the Kitikmeot. I want to direct this question to the Minister for Health & Social Services.

He mentioned he would be going to Kugluktuk to consult the community. So will people be informed about when he would be heading to Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the other day in questioning I committed to the member that I would go to Kugluktuk to speak to the hamlet and to the mayor about the building of a health facility in the Kitikmeot region and discussing the concerns or questions the mayor or the Hamlet may have.

I would say Mr. Speaker, that after this session, we are scheduled until some time at the end of March or first week in April, between then and the May session we should be able to go to Kugluktuk to meet with the Hamlet and discuss that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary question. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the response because they want to know today so that they can begin to prepare for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There was no question there. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 019 - 1(3): Sustainable Development Minister's Visit to Coral Harbour

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. I am aware that he has been invited by the community of Coral Harbour to look at the commercial caribou harvest, the work that is being done in Coral Harbour regarding caribou.

Has the Minister of Sustainable Development decided when he would be going to Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your question. I have received a letter from the mayor of Coral Harbour and I have replied to his letter, although we have not set a date, once we conclude the session I will be travelling to Coral Harbour some time in April or May. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 020 - 1(3): Implications of Fuel Price Increase

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. I know previously I'd asked the government about something that is a rising issue. It is on the fuel increase that was implemented earlier this year.

I'd like to ask the minister if he has the numbers of the cost implication on the government that was faced as a result of the fuel price increase that was last implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we did put together those numbers but I do not have them with me. I can find that out and provide it to the member at the earliest opportunity. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to hear that the minister and the department have that information available. I would like to ask the minister if he would

be willing to not only provide it to me, but to table it in this House so that all members and the public know what the cost to the government was as a result of the fuel price increase. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be willing to do that. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I know the minister indicated as soon as possible. I am just wondering if he can be more specific as to when, how soon, as soon as possible this week, too late this week but next week or when. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker when I first answered the question I was going to get the information right away and advise the member. But when he asked to have it tabled, because tabling requires a certain format and translation, I would say some time next week given that the budget address and the budget documents and preparation will take place and hopefully be finished by Tuesday. So some time next week, I will commit to being able to table that fuel price information. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 021 - 1(3): Support for FAS Victims

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I would like to address this question to the Minister of Education. I would like to add this question to a previous question asked by my colleague in regards to FAS children. It is about getting a specialist to come to the communities.

Would it be possible to have our teachers trained or a local person trained especially to deal with FAS children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The specialists who come to the communities provide valuable information to teachers. The criteria used for treatment is from the Department of Health & Social Services and specifies the degree of help required for each individual. We are committed to continuing this process and providing as much support and assistance as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. His answer is clear and I would like to thank him for it. But I would like to understand more as to the Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit applications relating to dealing with the problem. What are the plans on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today there are different types of government services available. Under the Department of Education there is different usage that we have for the elders. We utilize elders' knowledge as consultants.

Having said that I have no knowledge of what type of program is available in incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit with FAS at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my questioning on this subject. Can this program institute Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not going to be the end of the program that we have today. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is being instituted throughout our communities, throughout the government.

But today we don't know how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be incorporated to FAS. The use of alcohol is not a longstanding part of our culture. I am just using this as an example.

We will use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in every way that we can in all our programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 022 - 1(3): Status of Rent Scale Review

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct this question to the Minister of Housing on rental scale rates. We have had a problem with this for quite a while. We've asked questions about this many times now. Is the rent scale being reviewed. Are you working on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: You'll note that question period is up. But following our past practices we will allow the minister to answer and allow the member to use up his three supplementaries. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. We have been dealing with this subject for some time now. It

is a complex problem. There is some consultation happening and surveys have been sent to the communities through the Local Housing Organizations.

We also looked at the different types of programs that have been implemented throughout the world for social rental housing programs. I have instructed my officials to meet with the local housing chairs some time in March. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There are no further supplementaries. Question period is now over. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 001 – 1(5): Progress on Manitoba/Nunavut Road Link

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, my written question today is to the Honourable Jack Anawak, Minister of Community Government and Transportation.

A recent article in the Winnipeg Free Press indicated that the Manitoba Government intended to approach the new federal government for funding for a land link between Manitoba and Nunavut.

Can the minister tell the Assembly what progress has been made to date regarding this issue and also is the next step, the environmental studies going to take place and is there funding in place. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. McLean.

Written Question 002 – 1(5): Transfer of Nursing Residence in Baker Lake to Hamlet

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. My written question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services please give the Hamlet of Baker Lake an answer regarding the transfer of the old nurses' residence in Baker Lake over to the Hamlet of Baker Lake as this has been an ongoing concern for the last three years. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Order in the House. Mr. McLean.

Written Question 003 – 1(5): Status of Baker Lake Group Home

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I think I know what I am doing today. The next written question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services update the Hamlet of Baker Lake on the status of the now closed Baker Lake Group Home and when it will be reopened and when it reopens what the facility will be used for. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. McLean.

Written Question 004 – 1(5): Policy for Assistance to Elders

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. My written question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

There is a growing issue of the increasing numbers of elders in all Nunavut communities. Does the minister have a policy or plan to take care of the elders or give them assistance in communities across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Item 7. Mr. McLean.

Written Question 005 – 1(5): Status of Kivalliq Regional Health Centre

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Maybe I will get some answers finally from the minister. The next question is a written question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Will the minister inform the residents of the Kivalliq when construction of the new Kivalliq Regional Health Centre will start and could he please give us timelines on the construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Item 7. Mr. McLean.

Written Question 006 – 1(5): Status of Medivac Contract in the Kivalliq Region

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti, before I read this written question to the minister I am going to be spending the whole weekend here so I will be in my office writing up more written questions for the Honourable Minister, but my final written question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services is as follows.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services update the Assembly on the status of the awarding of the emergency medivac contract in the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Returns to Written Questions 1 – 1(4) to 20 – 1(4)

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following returns to 20 written questions numbering from Written Question 1–1 (4) to Written Question 20-1(4). Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Number 8. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 002 – 1(5): Taloyoak Residents on Time Zone

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the Taloyoak residents wishing to return to Mountain Time Zone.

Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 163 signatures from the residents of Taloyoak and Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Hamlet of Taloyoak and the residents of Taloyoak return to the Mountain Time Zone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Report 001 – 1(5): Review of the 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Information & Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to present the report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services on its review of the first annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the Standing Committee were pleased to meet in public with the Information and Privacy Commissioner in late fall to discuss her report. Mr. Speaker, I might add that the Commissioner was very pleased as she indicated that this was the first time that a Standing Committee had asked to meet with her in public and she really appreciated the opportunity to do so.

It was a valuable meeting in which Members and the Commissioner exchanged ideas and concerns on how best to ensure government accountability, while safeguarding the privacy of citizens' personal information held by the government.

Mr. Speaker, my committee colleague from Quttiktuq will share with me the duties of presenting this report to the House today. I would like to thank the hard work of Members on the committee, and for the contributions made by other MLAs during the Commissioner's appearance.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the fine work that our staff do with us during our committee work. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will begin with the Standing Committee's report.

Introduction

Nunavut's first Information and Privacy Commissioner, Elaine Keenan Bengts, was appointed by motion in the Legislative Assembly on November 2, 1999, to a five-year term of office. The Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly, but is required under section 68 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act to prepare and submit an Annual Report on her activities to the Legislative Assembly.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner's First Annual Report covers her Office's activities since November of 1999 to the end of the fiscal year. The Annual Report was tabled on October 27, 2000, and referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services on October 31, 2000, for review. The Information and Privacy Commissioner presented her Annual Report to the Standing Committee during a public meeting on November 21, 2000.

Background

The selection of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was undertaken by the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit as part of that Committee's mandate to recommend appointments to positions that are made, by statutory authority, by the Legislative Assembly. In keeping with the Government of Nunavut's commitment to accountability, the selection of the Information and Privacy Commissioner was a competitive and transparent process. The position was advertised and many exceptionally well-qualified and committed individuals were interviewed. A comprehensive report on the selection process was tabled by the Standing Committee in November of 1999.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories enacted its first Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act in 1996. As the Information and Privacy Commissioner notes in her report:

"The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act was created to promote, uphold and protect access to the information that government creates and receives and to protect the privacy rights of individuals."

Nunavut's Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act is essentially a duplicate of the NWT statute. Upon the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999, the majority of the NWT's statutes were duplicated for Nunavut. The Act has been amended twice since the creation of the new territory.

The Act provides for the Commissioner of Nunavut to appoint, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, the Information and Privacy Commissioner for a five-year term. As the Information and Privacy Commissioner notes, the position is mandated to:

"...conduct reviews of decisions of public bodies and to make recommendations to the Minister involved ... the Commissioner has the obligation to promote the principles of the Act through public education. She is also mandated to provide the government with comments and suggestions with respect to legislative and other government initiatives which affect access to information or the distribution of private personal information in the possession of a government agency."

Standing Committee review of such annual reports as those presented by the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Languages Commissioner provides an opportunity for the issues raised in each report to be discussed in a transparent manner. Government accountability is fostered through the requirement in the Rules of the Legislative Assembly that the government table a comprehensive response to the Standing Committee's report and recommendations within 120 days of its presentation to the House.

Mr. Speaker, some acknowledgements I would like to make.

Acknowledgements

Members of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services would like to thank Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts for appearing before us to present and discuss her first Annual Report. Members were pleased that the public and representatives of the media were able to join us to observe this meeting. The meeting was recorded and will be broadcast again on APTN.

Mr. Speaker, some of the comments on the first annual report.

Comments on the First Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut

Recognizing that the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Annual Report relates to only four months of activity, the Standing Committee was pleased with the contents of the report. A wide-ranging discussion took place with the Information and Privacy Commissioner during her public appearance before the Standing Committee.

Members were interested to learn that, prior to division, the Information and Privacy Commissioner had received only one request for review from Nunavut. However, the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicated that she had received three requests for review since assuming her position as Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner.

The Standing Committee was pleased to hear the Information and Privacy Commissioner indicate that she had received a significant number of calls from GN officials to consult on provisions of the Act. The Information and Privacy Commissioner interpreted this as a positive sign that the GN is taking its obligations under the Act seriously. The Standing Committee is hopeful that this attitude will continue on the part of the government.

An issue that stimulated significant dialogue with the Information and Privacy Commissioner was that of health and social services records. Both Members and the Information and Privacy Commissioner expressed concerns about the confidentiality of patients' personal health records, especially in smaller communities. As an example, one Member raised the issue of HIV tests. There are many residents of Nunavut who require interpretation services when visiting medical practitioners. What guarantees do such people have that information regarding their medical condition will remain confidential? This uncertainty may have the result of deterring people from seeking medical assistance. This is not only a privacy issue, but one of public health. The Standing Committee encourages the Information and Privacy Commissioner to work with the Department of Health and Social Services to seek ways of alleviating these concerns.

The issue of language was also discussed during the Information and Privacy Commissioner's appearance. Members encouraged the Information and Privacy Commissioner to use such means as community radio to provide information in Inuktitut to the public, in addition to her present initiatives to distribute written materials and maintain an Internet presence. This issue of awareness is linked to the issues raised earlier concerning the confidentiality of medical records. Given that the Act itself does not exist in a fully translated form, it is incumbent upon the Information and Privacy Commissioner to work with the government where possible to provide basic information to the public concerning their rights under the Act.

At this time Mr. Speaker, It is my pleasure to turn the report over to Ms. Williams, the Member for Quttiktuq, to continue on with the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you.

Committee's Response to Recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner:

Recommendation 1:

That the Government of Nunavut designate Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Co-ordinators for each department, and that the Government of Nunavut publish an Access to Information and Protection of Privacy directory.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation. The Standing Committee is pleased to note that the 2001-2002 business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs commits to "implementing access systems" and meeting obligations under the Act. It is also pleased to note that the department has staffed the position of Access to Information Manager, a position which the Standing Committee assumes will take the lead in government-wide initiatives in this area. The Standing Committee would encourage the Government to take full advantage of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's offer to assist in providing training to GN staff. The Standing Committee would like to see these initiatives completed within the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Recommendation 2:

That the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be amended to create a presumption that recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner be deemed to be accepted thirty days after the recommendation is made, unless, prior to that, the head of the public body issues a different decision.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, and would recommend that amendments to the Act to effect this change be introduced during the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Recommendation 3:

That the Act be amended to provide that all notices required under the Act be delivered personally to the recipient, or be "served" in some other fashion which allows verification of the date of delivery, and that the thirty-day reply period begin only after service has been so effected.

The Standing Committee notes that the Act was amended in the fall of 2000 to change the provisions related to the service of documents. The Standing Committee would welcome comments by the Information and Privacy Commissioner in her next annual report as to the efficacy of these amendments.

Recommendation 4:

That the Act be amended to provide clear statutory authority for the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review complaints related to violations of personal privacy, and to make recommendations.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, and would recommend that amendments to the Act to effect this change be introduced during the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

Recommendation 5:

That the Act be amended to:

- i) provide the Information and Privacy Commissioner with the power to subpoena documents and witnesses;
- ii) impose penalties for failure to comply with the time limits outlined in the Act; and
- iii) provide for the withholding of performance bonuses from heads and deputy heads of public bodies that consistently fail to meet deadlines

The Standing Committee agrees with the recommendation to provide the Information and Privacy Commissioner the power to subpoena documents and witnesses, and would recommend that amendments to the Act to effect this change be introduced during the 2001-2002 fiscal year.

With respect to the possible range of sanctions that could be applied to departments or senior officials who do not comply with deadlines, the Standing Committee agrees with the principle that for legislation to be effective, consequences for failure to adhere to its provisions must be clear. However, the Standing Committee would note that Ministers are already accountable to the Assembly as a whole, and would note that elected Members are not eligible for monetary bonuses.

The Standing Committee agrees with the recommendation to introduce such penalties suggested by the Information and Privacy Commissioner as allowing for the right to disallow fees otherwise payable by an applicant in the event of late responses.

Recommendation 6:

That municipalities in Nunavut be subject to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The Standing Committee took note of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's comments with respect to past abuses of personal information by municipal governments in the NWT. It is also supportive of the principle that government at any level -- federal, provincial, territorial or local -- must be open and accountable to its citizens.

However, the Standing Committee would be concerned about imposing precipitous change upon municipalities at a time when many of them are struggling with a wide range of serious capacity issues. The territorial government is itself only starting to establish adequate access to information and protection of privacy procedures and

training programs across its departments. The ability of municipalities to adapt overnight would appear limited.

The Standing Committee would recommend that the Government of Nunavut amend the Act to make municipalities subject to its provisions, but that this change should not immediately come into force. The Department of Community Government and Transportation will need to work with the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to provide adequate training and support to municipal officials. The Standing Committee would recommend that the Government aim to implement this change within a three-year period.

Recommendation 7:

That the Government of Nunavut review the current list of departments, boards, agencies and other bodies that fall under the jurisdiction of the Act with a view to ensuring that it reflects the organizational changes that have occurred since April 1, 1999.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation. It would note that further problems will arise in regard to this issue with respect to the establishment of the Nunavut Power Corporation on April 1, 2001. Although the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) is included as a public body in Schedule A of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Regulations, the new Nunavut Power Corporation is not. Ambiguity also exists with respect to such new bodies as Committees of Council. The Standing Committee would recommend that the regulations be revised within the first quarter of the 2001-2002 fiscal year to include bodies established by the Government of Nunavut since April 1, 1999.

The Standing Committee also agrees with the Information and Privacy Commissioner's view that the Public Utilities Board (or any successor body) should be included under the Act.

Recommendation 8:

That the Government of Nunavut consider introducing legislation to respond to the recent passage of Bill C-6 (Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act) by the Parliament of Canada.

The Standing Committee agrees with this recommendation, and would encourage the Government to work with the Information and Privacy Commissioner to develop legislation that will respond to this federal initiative during the life of the First Assembly.

Thank you. At this time I will pass the report back to Member Tootoo. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank my honourable colleague for Quttiktuq for helping with this report. It is quite long and I am glad that I didn't have to read it all by myself.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services Further Recommends:

- 1) That the Information and Privacy Commissioner conduct at least one public education session on the Act in each region of Nunavut in 2001-2002;
- 2) That the Information and Privacy Commissioner work with the Department of Health and Social Services to identify appropriate mechanisms to provide public education to the general public concerning their privacy rights with respect to the issue of health records and medical testing;
- 3) That the Information and Privacy Commissioner work with the Department of Justice to identify appropriate mechanisms to provide training to Community Justice Committees in the area of CJs' management of confidential personal information concerning offenders;
- 4) That the Government of Nunavut publish annual statistics on the number of requests made to public bodies under the Act, including the languages in which information is requested;
- 5) That the Government of Nunavut ensures that the Information and Privacy Commissioner is formally consulted during the course of developing or amending legislation that impacts access or privacy issues, including legislative change resulting from reviews performed by such bodies as the Nunavut Law Review Commission; and
- 6) That the Government of Nunavut periodically update the Legislative Assembly on progress made in reviewing the statutes of Nunavut prior to the coming into force of subsection 4(2) of the Act.

Conclusion

The Standing Committee was pleased to have the opportunity to meet with the Information and Privacy Commissioner to discuss her first annual report. The Standing Committee took careful note of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's view that privacy issues will increasingly grow in prominence over the coming years. For its part, the Standing Committee is hopeful that the Information and Privacy Commissioner will be able to help raise the public's awareness of their rights under the Act, and to do so in a manner that takes into account the linguistic and cultural uniqueness of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee looks forward to the Government of Nunavut's response to the concerns and recommendations raised during the course of this review, and looks forward

to an ongoing and productive relationship with the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee but I will finish by saying that the members look forward again to the government's response to the report in the coming months as requested by the Standing Committee pursuant to Rule 91(5) and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report be received by the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo and Ms. Williams. Do the members agree that the review of the 1999/2000 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut be received by this House.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Agreed. The report has been received by the Assembly. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. 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. McLean.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 001 – 1(5): Provincial & Territorial Minimum Wage Rates Across Canada

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I would like to table this document, "Provincial and Territorial Minimum Wage Rates Across Canada". Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 002 - 1(5): Responses to Petitions 1-1 (4) to 4-1 (4)

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following responses for petitions 1-1 (4) to petition 4-1 (4). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 1 – Appropriation Act 2001/2002 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on February 27, 2001, I shall move that Bill 1, Appropriation Act 2001/2002 be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 12. 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. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. 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 full caucus at 2:00 p.m. this afternoon in the boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Monday February 26, 2001:

1. Opening 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
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. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12.13 p.m.*

