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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Iqaluit East)

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(Iqaluit West)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday April 29, 2002**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ullukkut. Good afternoon Premier, members. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 011 – 1(6): Notification of 2002/03 Budget and Minister Thompson's Absence

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly that I'll table the Government of Nunavut's Budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal year tomorrow, and further I wish to advise members that the Honourable Manitok Thompson will be absent from the House April 29th to May 3rd, 2002. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 012 – 1(6): Nunavut-Manitoba Memorandum of Intent on Northern Energy Strategy

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker on Friday April 26th, 2002 this government signed a Memorandum of Intent on a Northern Energy Strategy with the Government of Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, the Honourable Jack Anawak and the Honourable Jean Friesen of Manitoba signed the MOI during the annual Rural Forum held in Brandon Manitoba. I would like to thank Minister Anawak for attending the ceremony and signing on my behalf.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has enjoyed a close and collaborative relationship with Manitoba for many years. In the areas of energy and provision of electricity, Manitoba Hydro and

our own Nunavut Power Corporation already have a mutually beneficial working relationship at an operational and indeed Mr. Speaker, a strategic level.

As you know Mr. Speaker, the establishment of our own Power Corporation was the first step in our efforts to make our own decisions about energy management here in Nunavut. I believe that we have to go much further in seeking more viable or self-sustaining energy supply systems. I also believe that good options exist for Nunavut. In fact, one option that has been brought to the members of this Assembly is the potential for an electrical transmission line from Manitoba into the Kivalliq region. Through this Memorandum of Intent our two governments will work together to examine this initiative as well as the broader hydro potential of the area.

Mr. Speaker, the decisions we make today about energy management will have a lasting impact on future generations. It is a serious responsibility and I believe that this agreement with Manitoba is an important step towards a Northern Energy Strategy for Nunavut. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 013 – 1(6): A New Wildlife Act for Nunavut

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Good afternoon colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the members that a most important phase in the development of a new made-in-Nunavut Wildlife Act has now commenced. I am very pleased to announce the start of the community consultations for the new Act.

(interpretation ends) The community consultations are a very important part of developing the new act because they will allow the residents of Nunavut to have their input on what it will include.

(interpretation) My department in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, has established a consultation schedule that ensures a team of officials will visit every community in Nunavut so all Nunavummiut have the opportunity to provide their input. This will give Nunavummiut an opportunity to discuss what they would like to see in their Act.

In addition a 20 page discussion paper has been prepared and very shortly will appear in the mail box of every resident in the Territory. This paper will outline some of the most important issues that need to be discussed and decided upon for the new Act.

Mr. Speaker, we have also put in place a toll free phone line, an e-mail address and a website where Nunavummiut can get additional information and make their views and opinions heard if they missed their opportunity to participate during the community

visits. All of this contact information is in the discussion paper and the inserts that went out in northern papers.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, these consultations will provide a meaningful contribution towards the development of the act. From this process we will be preparing a comprehensive report as well a shorter summary of findings that will be made available to the public. The comprehensive report will be used to draft the act that I plan to present to the Legislative Assembly in the fall.

(interpretation) In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts my officials, NWMB and NTI have made in developing and implementing this process. They have all worked very hard preparing for this most important time in the history of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 014 – 1(6): Transfer of St. Theresa Residential Care Facility

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few moments today to praise the efforts of those involved in the transfer and the continued operation of the St. Theresa's residential care facility in Chesterfield Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to publicly thank the Roman Catholic Diocese of Churchill-Hudson's Bay, and in particular Bishop Reynauld Rouleau, for the smooth hand off of operations to the community organization in Chesterfield Inlet on March 31st.

I would also like to thank the members of the organization, the community based corporation that are now operating the home in Chesterfield Inlet. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to my colleague the MLA for Nanulik, Mr. James Arvaluk, for his tireless support of this project on behalf of his constituents.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the Grey Nuns, who have provided almost 68 years of wonderful care to the patients and residents of St. Theresa's. The Grey Nuns have set the standard for the high level of dedication and caring that the patients of St. Theresa's have come to expect.

Mr. Speaker, through the co-operation of all the parties involved, we have been able to achieve our goal of uninterrupted service for the current residents of St. Theresa's and carry on the valuable work started so long ago by the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson's Bay. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 049 – 1(6): Gratitude to Catholic Church and Residents of Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In representing the people of Chesterfield Inlet, I would like to thank the Government of Nunavut, especially the Honourable Mr. Picco, as well as Mr. Ng, the Minister of Finance, for helping with St. Theresa's hospital in Chesterfield Inlet.

I would like to acknowledge my appreciation for the people, the Chesterfield Development Corporation and Bishop Rouleau. When we spoke to them they were very helpful. On behalf of the people of Chesterfield Inlet I would like to thank the Hamlet Council for being involved while the transfer was being done. We all know that the community will have to train some workers, and hopefully in the future, the hospital will be employed entirely by the people of Chesterfield Inlet.

They have a little over twenty employees at this time and I would like to thank the Government of Nunavut, especially the Department of Health and Social Services, because they have helped us greatly, so the people of Chesterfield Inlet could have a better future and so the people in that hospital can have a better care facility.

On behalf of Chesterfield Inlet, again I thank the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 050 – 1(6): Impact of Bad Gasoline on People's Health

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This spring is starting to be a good season for fishing and for hunting.

Mr. Speaker, hunting and fishing is a main occupation of many Nunavummiut in Nunavut. Elders encourage everyone to eat country food. The professional medical practitioners and nutritionists know the importance of a country food diet for Nunavummiut.

Living off the land is a healthy and an environmentally friendly endeavour. Mr. Speaker, despite the wonders of all the good things that hunting brings to Nunavut; it is threatened by the unfortunate arrays of bad gasoline effects.

I am doubtful that the manufacturers of snow machines, all terrain vehicles, and outboard motors, will likely be covering warranties over machines that are damaged due to this unfortunate bad gasoline in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, many hard working people of Nunavut will now be burdened with less country food and be more dependent upon store bought food because of this unfortunate dilemma. Mr. Speaker, who will now provide the balance for families that depend mainly on a diet of country food in Nunavut?

The income support dependents will suffer the consequences. The part time wage earners will suffer the drawbacks. And some elders will be eating less country food.

Will there be some form of assistance to help those who are affected by the bad gasoline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 051 – 1(6): Clyde River to Pond Inlet Dog Mushing Race

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues in the House a very inspiring sight that I witnessed this past week.

I was very happy to have the opportunity to travel to Pond Inlet to observe the final run of the Nunavut Quest dog team race from Clyde River to Pond Inlet. I congratulate the participants on their accomplishments and look forward to seeing more of these types of events in the future. They have plans to have a dog team race from Igloolik to Pond Inlet next year.

What struck me as special in this race, Mr. Speaker, was that I observed for every dog team and its driver, there was also an accompanying snowmobile driver. While the dog team driver focussed on the traditional activity of handling and driving his dogs, the snowmobile driver insured safety and was a source of support in case of life threatening emergencies.

This race was completed safely and successfully without a single mishap. Mr. Speaker, I find this to be a wonderful example of the accommodation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and modern knowledge and technology. Together they are very, very strong.

It is using the best of both worlds to achieve the best of all results. In this case, a safe and successful race across some of the most challenging land in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can take this as an example of how Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit together with modern technology can provide us with a very strong set of tools to face the future in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 052 – 1(6): Wildlife Processing and Employment Opportunities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about economic opportunity in Nunavut. I feel that this is very important.

Mr. Speaker, in September of 2000, we were very pleased to hear that the Keewatin Meat and Fish plant in Rankin Inlet had earned European Union certification. This would allow the plant to export meat from federally inspected hunts to Europe and would create jobs in the community as well as generate revenues from exports.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Kitikmeot were excited last year to hear that over 20 jobs were going to be created to help with the commercial muskox hunt. Several of my constituents in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven were eager to get work in this area.

Mr. Speaker, I was disappointed to hear that the field processing facility that was going to process the muskox carcasses did not pass federal inspection. This meat was supposed to go to Kitikmeot Foods, which is owned by Nunavut Development Corporation. I understand that Kitikmeot Foods has also been trying to earn European Union certification. Because the processing facility did not pass inspection, the hunt was cancelled and jobs were lost.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we do everything in our power to help build opportunities in Nunavut. We have an abundance of natural resources including wildlife and many export opportunities that would help to generate income for our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I'm almost finished my statement so I would like to request consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I also thank my colleagues.

As I was saying, we have an abundance of natural resources including wildlife and many export opportunities that would help to generate income for our communities and create much needed jobs.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Sustainable Development whether his department is making any efforts to ensure that the Kitikmeot commercial muskox hunt can go forward next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 053 – 1(6): Construction of Dams and Impact on Environment

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of my constituency. Since it is spring time the families will be going out camping and to harvest migratory birds and sea mammals.

Traditionally we survived without having to worry about the environment and the wildlife species. But in the Hudson Bay area there are quite a few industries such as the building of dams and forestry. Many of the provinces in Canada do work on dam construction and we have heard that the Quebec government and Nunavik beneficiaries will be signing an agreement on the construction of a dam. This is a great concern of the Sanikiluaq residents as it has an impact to our environment.

Traditionally we lived out on the land without having to worry about our environment. Today we have to start worrying about the environment. We talk about how we can enhance our Inuit culture and traditions and there are now environmental issues that are coming up and it will have a negative impact on our future.

The Hamlet Council has stated that they are quite concerned about the environment and I will be discussing this and bringing this issue up in upcoming meetings and I know for quite some time that I have been bringing this issue up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 054 – 1(6): Reverend Looee Mike's Contribution and Counsellors

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I thought you saw me raise my hand. First of all thank you. Whenever we talk with our neighbours from Manitoba, especially the mayor of Brandon, discussions always end up around Jordan Tootoo. He is somebody that we are all very proud of.

We all know that there are a lot of leaders at the community level. There are the counsellors who take care of the people. Today I want to recognize an individual that has made an important contribution to our communities.

This particular individual was born in a qamaq in the Pangnirtung area. Looee Mike is an Anglican Minister. She is very young, about 40 years old and her parents are Petaloosie and Leah Qappik.

Her husband's name is Johnny Mike and they have five children. There are people out there who need counselling and would also like to be counselled by an individual that speaks their mother tongue and who knows about the social issues, she provides all of that.

I do know that she counsels a lot of people out there. She is a leader and a minister and she is now recognized by people in many places. I would like to recognize this individual and acknowledge that I'm very proud of her. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairperson: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 055 – 1(6): Manitoba and Kivalliq Power Grid and Hydro Power

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and it's nice that the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation was on the radio this morning and he found his barbecue on the weekend and enjoyed the food from it. But I'd like to say a few words about the Power Corporation and Nunavut briefly.

The first anniversary of the Nunavut Power Corporation was celebrated April 1st under no fanfare whatsoever. There are a lot of naysayers that said that they couldn't put the Power Corporation administration offices in Baker Lake because it wouldn't work. But, as we know, it happened and I'd like to thank the minister responsible and the Premier for doing that.

Ninety percent of the staff are Inuit staff and they are moving forward and sending out the bills. They're a bit late but everybody is getting them now and hopefully they'll be paying them or they're going to be in the dark.

But on that issue, I heard the minister on the radio this morning and Minister Anawak signing an MOU with the Manitoba Government on a power grid or where we are going and the minister making some bold statements this morning about power in Nunavut and hopefully that power grid can be built from Manitoba.

But on that issue of a power grid being built from Nunavut into the Kivalliq. There's also the fact, and we hear things about vision for Nunavut and where we're going and things we're doing and you know, we're being criticized on a daily basis about a lack of vision and initiative in Nunavut.

But one of the initiatives that the minister was talking about this morning was hydro-electric power. Our dependency on fossil fuels is never going to go away and it's a pollutant of the environment and I know the minister wouldn't say it on the radio but

somebody some day is going to have to make a tough decision and politicians are elected to make the hard and tough decisions about building a dam in Nunavut.

I know it's a scary word, dam, in Nunavut but for self-sufficiency and if we are building a power grid from Manitoba why can't we export power to the United States.

So, I'd like to congratulate the ministers responsible for their initiatives on the Power Corporation in Baker Lake, the MOU signing and the minister responsible at this time of even thinking about hydro-electric power and dams in Nunavut as we all know, we're concerned and we all think about the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 056 – 1(6): Lack of Opportunities in Smaller Non-Decentralized Communities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues, Inuit of Nunavut. As a representative of the smaller communities and especially the non-decentralized communities I would like to make a few comments regarding the operations of the Nunavut Government.

Since the Nunavut Government was created in 1999 there have been a lot of things that have started rolling and especially affecting these smaller communities. There are very few economic opportunities in the non-decentralized communities because of the many challenges that they have to face.

There have been numerous occasions where people in my communities have made comments to me and I will be very frank and open in making my statements this week. It will probably have an affect on the government and staff. I don't want to be hurting any individual but when we created the Government of Nunavut we specifically stated that there would be a close working relationship among all parties. But it is not the case today and that is why I am disappointed. I will be making statements regarding these issues this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Are there any further Members' Statements? If not we will move on to Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a couple of constituents of mine for a change. First I would like to recognize a famous editor for Nunavut, Mr. Jim Bell, who's famous for all his wonderful writing. Every Friday I look

forward to his editorial. And the next one is a dedicated community member who been a very active constituent of mine, Marge Lalonde who is always doing something for the community. So, thank you for your assistance for the past three years, your motherly advice and your love. Qujannamiik, thank you.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize Ms. Patricia Bell from CBC for winning the CBC North award for the outstanding personal endeavours and achievements which contribute to the competence of CBC North here and its mission statement in Nunavut. I would like to thank Patricia and welcome her to the gallery; she is in the media box right now.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to welcome to the gallery the Chairperson of the Apex Education Council, Ms. Eva Michael, a resident of Apex and constituent of mine. Welcome Eva to the gallery.

I think I would be remiss unless I joined with the Premier to welcome Marge Lalonde. For the members of the public and the members of this House, Marge Lalonde is one of the few surviving Second World War veterans in Canada. This lady has been recognized by the Canadian Legion and as Paul has pointed out Mr. Speaker, is a community activist still going strong and there every year on November 11th with the Remembrance Day ceremonies that are held in Iqaluit. So I would like to take this opportunity to also welcome Marge to the Assembly and also the award-winning editor of Nunatsiaq News, Mr. Jim Bell. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 040 – 1(6): Update on the St. Theresa Care Facility

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Finance. It is in regards to the St. Theresa care facility that will be built in Chesterfield Inlet. I would like to ask the minister for an update on this facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to be back. I guess Mr. Speaker first of all it is my understanding that the functional program for the facility has been signed

off now by the Department of Health and in respect of the size of the facility. So that was one factor that was resolved last week.

Right now there are some discussions about the possibility of entering into a service contract with the Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation to proceed in working on the final design drawings for the facility while we undertake the issue of resolving a lease versus cost analysis prior to funding the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary question. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask another supplementary to the minister. He is considering whether they are going to be either leasing or buying the facility. When are you going to conclude the negotiations for this facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That will happen after we have the working drawings and scope of the whole project. Now that it's been confirmed on the size of the facility, obviously a lot of that costing will be contingent upon finalizing the design work.

That's why we're trying to enter into a services contract right now to allow that to happen. And while that's happening it gives us the opportunity to do a more detailed analysis and to analyse what options are there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me if there is intent to have the facility shipped and built this summer? Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker yes, the intent of the government is to have that facility and the materials for that facility meet the sealift deadlines. That's why we're going forward, so as not to jeopardize that as we resolve whether or not we're going to outright own the facility at the end of construction or enter into a lease to purchase arrangement for that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 041 – 1(6): Salary and Benefits for Senior Government of Nunavut Officials

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for the Senior Personnel Secretariat. I think that's the Premier.

Will the minister table in this House, information concerning the salary ranges and benefits that are provided to deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers for this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be quite open to tabling ranges, salary ranges, within the legislature. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In that I asked the question of benefits, can the minister also table if deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers are receiving a supplementary pension and how much is this costing the government.

Also their bonuses and how much this is costing the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. There are two questions there, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some discussions happening about those benefits right now. We're renegotiating some of the benefits and trying to reduce costs for our government.

Once those discussions are finalized, I'd be quite open to tabling any documents that may be produced out of those discussions. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

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

Question 042 – 1(6): How Many Community Justice Specialists in Nunavut

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. My question is about probation officers. How many probation officers are there in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister responsible for Justice. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different positions working in this field. Could she clarify which she is talking about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that there are different positions in the communities but I don't see any in my constituency. I am

talking about the Community Justice Specialists in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was not sure exactly how many there are. I don't have that information with me. I will get that information to the member as soon as I have it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there are five or less Justice Specialists in the Nunavut area. I think there is one position in Pond Inlet and they deal with the High Arctic area. That staff member would be travelling to the communities that I represent.

Since the flights are not travelling from Pond Inlet to the High Arctic, how often do they travel to these communities now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is something that I would like to review to see how often they get to travel to the communities. I will look into this further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary Questions. Final supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This position is very important because they are involved in the court circuit. They have to deal with individuals in the communities who are going to court.

When he is doing a review on these positions, would he be able to see how often they get to these communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 043 – 1(6): Update on Federal, Provincial, Territorial Ministers' Meeting

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the minister was from here, one rock, he was

down visiting another rock, at the federal, provincial and territorial finance ministers' meetings in Cornerbrook, Newfoundland.

I was wondering if he can update this House as to how his meeting went with his counterparts and if any progress was made there for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be glad to. Mr. Speaker, there were a lot of discussions, obviously on the pressures that all governments have had across the country, at provincial and territorial levels, in respect to the pressures that they have relative to health care costs.

Quite frankly, that was the issue that concerned all provincial and territorial jurisdictions. The fact that there are escalating costs in the health care sector and the provincial and territorial budgets were having a hard time in dealing those issues.

That was an ongoing yearly, or monthly in some cases, adjustments that are required by health ministers to deal with their budgets.

So that was generally the focus in respect to pressures on provincial and territorial budgets. There was some discussion on the new federal air security tax and quite a lot of concern around the table about whether or not there might be exceptions based on preliminary indications and preliminary services being provided. We had a commitment from Minister Martin, the Federal Minister that in respect to the air security tax that he would take a look at that one, once some more information came forward. Obviously, it's fairly early in that regime, of that taxation right now. He was willing to take a look at what those, the analysis of some of the numbers once there was some more concrete information.

In respect to the health care financing difficulties for provinces and the territories, he did recognize that there was a problem there. Of course he was sympathetic, but at the same time, there wasn't any concrete dollars put on the table. He did indicate that from the Federal Government perspective, they were waiting for the Report of the Romanow Commission which was reviewing health care systems across the country right now, to see what kind of recommendations might come forward from that commission, before the Federal Government would take up a position on what they would do in respect to the health care funding issue.

Basically, Mr. Speaker, those are the two larger issues that were discussed besides the usual state of the nation and the economic conditions in different provinces and territories and nationally as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister could update us or give us the status of the joint Nunavut-Canada fiscal review that he announced in last year's budget. I believe it's last year that this was going to be undertaken.

I'm wondering if he can give us the status of that and if it was discussed at all in his meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a different question maybe. But I will say that it wasn't discussed specifically at that table. It wasn't the appropriate forum because we were dealing with national provincial/territorial issues.

I did have an opportunity to speak privately with the minister and he is aware, as members know that we are coming to a final report on that matter and it will be pursued at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since this is not my final supplementary I'm going to save one. Based on the minister's responses when can we expect, he talked about a final report on that, I'm just wondering when we can expect to hear that and see that here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng, it is probably up to you if you want to answer the question. I believe the member has the same topics, but if you wish to answer, go ahead.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a collaborative effort with federal finance officials, so there is an issue about working over the draft document with them before it's in a presentable form for both ministers. I believe my officials have been in ongoing discussions with the appropriate Finance Canada officials on that and I would be reluctant right now to give a definitive date until I have a chance to ask my officials on the status of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I apologize I was asking about discussions he had at his meetings and that was informally something that he talked about so that's why I was asking about it.

I'd like to ask him if he also discussed at his meetings with his counterparts especially the federal ministers about concerns over the way smaller jurisdictions like us get their financing by per capita. It seems to be very unfair to us for per capita funding formula. If he had any discussions on that and any progress I guess to maybe see some changes to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of the per capita allocations that all or a large majority of federal government departments and programs use to fund programs and services to provinces and territories, is always an issue that comes up. Not just from myself in respect of the finance ministers' table but I know a lot of my colleagues and also the Premier at Premiers' conferences. So it is an issue of more and more awareness of that fact with the federal ministers certainly that it doesn't necessarily work for smaller jurisdictions and as you know there are a lot of smaller provinces as well that articulate that same issue.

So I think that I would say that there is progress being made on that recognition, and dealing with smaller jurisdictions outside of direct per capita funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 044 – 1(6): Compensation for Hunters Due to Bad Gasoline

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question regarding snowmobiles. That are a lot of people in the communities that have damaged snowmobiles due to bad gas and I would like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development if they can get compensated for their losses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark could you identify the minister to whom you are directing your question.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development as to whether the harvesters could be compensated when their snowmobiles have broken down due to bad gasoline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I would like to thank the member for his question. There are funds available for hunting purposes in the communities and the community wildlife officers are available to assist members in the community to hunt wildlife due to bad gasoline. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate his response. In the communities the harvesters aren't aware of the different programs that are available

to assist them especially if they are going through hard times. Are these funds available for harvesters for these situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is some funding available and the wildlife officers can work with the HTOs in the communities and then the wildlife officers in turn can work with my department. The wildlife officers in the communities know that this funding is available for hunters that want to obtain country food because of breakage in their machinery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 045 – 1(6): Who is Allowed to Receive Bilingual Bonus

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome back the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. The employees in the Government of Nunavut that have a bilingual bonus, the people that speak Inuktitut have a certain amount of money that they receive as a bilingual bonus. For example, if the individual is the principal at the school, to which employees is this bonus directed.

My reason for asking this question is there are people that are bilingual that are becoming principals or principal's assistants. I wanted to find out who the bilingual bonus is directed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Government of Nunavut if an individual speaks two languages they receive bilingual bonuses. In the Government of Nunavut what we have done is, there used to be eight different languages during the GNWT years, but now with the Government of Nunavut we have two languages that are spoken here in Nunavut, English and Inuktitut. So what we do is we provide a bilingual bonus to those people that speak both languages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think they have a policy or some guidelines as to who gets the bilingual bonus. There are some people that speak two languages and do not receive this bonus. Are you using the old GNWT policy for paying out bilingual bonuses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I didn't quite understand him at the beginning. At this time we are looking into the bilingual bonus that we give to our employees. We are reviewing it and there are various departments that have given out various bonuses. If they use it in their workplace what they do is they determine the bilingual bonus in each department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the minister didn't understand my first question. Perhaps I could clarify it for the minister.

What is happening today is there are deputy ministers that are bilingual and they also have assistant deputy ministers that are bilingual. Do they receive a bilingual bonus? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if I could clarify to the member that deputy ministers and the assistant deputy ministers go through the Premier's office and if they're identified as having to receive bilingual bonuses then the Premier's office is responsible for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I directed this question to the Minister of Finance at the beginning was because I wasn't really sure whether to direct it to the Minister of Finance or Human Resources. So, I will direct the same question to the Minister responsible for Human Resources.

I wonder if the Minister of Human Resources could provide me with a list of people that are eligible for a bilingual bonus starting with the deputy ministers, assistant deputy ministers and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I could ask my colleagues at the Cabinet level to provide me with a list of various departments' policies or a guidelines or a list of people who receive the bilingual bonus and which do not. Because various departments have various needs and they give out bilingual bonuses based on whether they use the Inuktitut language in their workplace.

After consulting with my colleagues I will provide the member with a list as soon as I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Before we continue I'd like to acknowledge and recognize the large delegation from the Ottawa and Quebec region with the Career Assignment Program. Welcome to the gallery.

>> *Applause*

Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 046 – 1(6): Status of Decentralization in the Communities

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to talk about the decentralization in the communities. I would like to get an update on the progress of decentralization and the staff housing issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are in the process right now of a Request for Proposals for an additional five condominium-type project for Kugluktuk and at the same time we're assessing the lease component of leased staff housing across Nunavut right now to formulate a plan of where we want to go in respect to additional potential needs as far as staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for your response. I wanted to find out what the status was on what he mentioned. In the community of Kugluktuk when will you find out that these will be built when will you know for Kugluktuk and the other communities. I would like to know about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, the request for proposals for the second set of decentralized community staff housing requirements is currently just in the process of having been advertised. We're expecting to turn that around obviously as soon as possible. I would say realistically, in a four to six weeks time period so that we can try to make the sealift deadline for all the communities that may be impacted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 047 – 1(6): Change of Staffing Policies to Fill Inuit Social Workers

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

This was a question posed by the Amittuq member about social workers. Because some social workers don't know Inuktitut they have a difficult time counselling them. I'd like to ask the minister, because we now have the Nunavut Government, is there any policy changes that are going to occur so that they can hire more Inuktitut counsellors in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, we've done several things over the past year including the last staff retreat with the Department of Health and Social Services in Pangnirtung, which focussed solely on Social Services.

Three major issues were brought forward under policies and procedures. One Mr. Speaker, is to reintroduce the social work program and have it delivered in different locations in Nunavut. That is in co-operation Mr. Speaker, with Nunavut Arctic College.

Second, we've created positions within the Department of Health and Social Services which are entry level positions to allow people who have not maybe the academic standard at the present time as CSW3 to be able to enter the field.

And third Mr. Speaker, and most importantly, ongoing training with other people at the community level. So although there may not be a social worker who can speak in Inuktitut Mr. Speaker, we do have community wellness counsellors for example at the community level, 95 percent Mr. Speaker, are Inuit. We also have community workers Mr. Speaker, at the community levels that are able to do counselling.

Mr. Speaker, specifically, those issues have been put into place. At the same time, as I said in the House last week, Mr. Speaker, with the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit sessions that we have now in the Department of Health and Social Services, we need to be able to look at the systemic barriers that are in place that may be preventing unilingual people from getting employment.

Not only within the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Speaker, but also with other departments within our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response and, just to state that we have not seen the progress that the minister is talking about yet.

Whenever the minister answers a question about social workers it is all talk and no action.

We have asked him numerous times, for three years, whether there have been any changes to the policy in his department in respect to social workers. When we try to work

with the social workers that have been hired in the communities by the Department of Health and Social Services we have a difficult time because we do not speak English.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly in smaller communities there should be more Inuit people hired to work as social workers. Why aren't these people being utilized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, indeed the member is probably correct. What the department has done in March as an example, the advisory committee of the social work program including ten of the students involved in the program as well as the Campus Director Mr. Speaker, for the Kitikmeot Mr. Isnor, held a meeting where we have an advisory council for social workers to look at some of the barriers with getting more Inuit involved in the field of social work.

The actual Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, the hiring of social workers is done through the Department of Human Resources. We follow the same policies, guidelines and procedures as every other department in government as it comes to hiring of staff. As an extra incentive Mr. Speaker as I said, we have created positions within the department that will be able to facilitate with hires. At the same time there are statutory obligations under legislation. Child custody matters and so on where there is a need to have fluency in English because the courts have been acting in, as you know, in English.

So there are certain professional and academic standards and qualifications that need to be in place for the position. At the same time on the counselling side of things, like I said before Mr. Speaker, we do have other counsellors available at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his response he is already putting down Nunavut residents. We as Nunavummiut are requesting this and in his response he said that there are some professionals who have to speak English to go through the court system.

As Nunavummiut we need Inuktitut speaking people in the court system because that is where you are very wrong. Why do you see Nunavut residents as a smaller people even though you are a Nunavut MLA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. Mr. Speaker for the record let's clarify what the translation was probably and what I said. What I said was there are statutory regulations in place Mr. Speaker. So for example from the court services. A social worker has to follow legislation, policy, child protection.

In cases Mr. Speaker, where that is in English you need a fluency in English. That is what I said. I also said for the record Mr. Speaker, that we have been trying to get more Inuit into social work. That is why what we have done the different things that I've already outlined. I am not going to repeat those. At the same time for counselling services, 95% of the community wellness counsellors at the community level who provide counselling Mr. Speaker, are Inuit and are able to converse in Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker let us be clear on that point. I didn't try to put people down. I wouldn't be in this position to do that. I want to make sure that is on the record.

Mr. Speaker in answer to the member's questions, we have moved forward Mr. Speaker in the past year and a half. The retreat in Pang was an indication of that. And I am the first person to admit Mr. Speaker, we haven't been as successful to get more Inuit in the position of social worker. That is one of the major tasks that the Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit Specialist that we hired, to look at and see if there is a systemic barrier. Is there a barrier for hiring of Inuit? Where are the academic qualifications? Can we go back to CSW I, II which we used to have in the past.

Mr. Speaker, so we are endeavouring to do that. We've had some success Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, in hiring in the last few months. Several communities now have had a social worker for the first time.

However Mr. Speaker, we weren't able to hire all Inuit and that's something that we're trying to do, in co-operation with Human Resources and in co-operation with the Inuit Employment Plan, the IEP which is government-wide. So I hope that helps clarify and answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes his second response was much better than the first one. But the first question that I had asked he did not respond to and he has not responded to my first question and this is my final question.

So my question is again, I was wondering if you can renew the policy and have the Act amended so that it could be more Nunavut friendly. I was wondering if your department can change your policy so that it will be friendlier to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just for clarification I thought I had answered his original question. As I said earlier Mr. Speaker, the government has a priority hiring policy which is Inuit first. As well Mr. Speaker, we have the Inuit Employment Plan.

So there is a policy already in place on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, government-wide, not just the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker as I said before, I believe as a government we need to be able to redouble our efforts to make sure that every advantage is being put forward to make sure that we have more Inuit hired in the Government of Nunavut.

As a department that's what we've done with some of the plans that I've already outlined in my previous answer. So the member is correct, there is a priority hiring policy in place which is government-wide and we also have the Inuit Employment Plan as the member is quite aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 048 – 1(6): Muskox Harvest Denied After Inspection

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask another question but a few days ago I ran out of time and I did not have the opportunity to ask it. Mr. Speaker, in regards to my member's statement about the Kivalliq meat and fish plant, they've earned the European Union Certification and they were very excited but their inspection was denied so my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development.

I think it was last month that we read in the newspaper that there are 26 Inuit who were going to harvest muskox but the federal government denied the inspection. So therefore I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Sustainable Development, I know that they have Federal inspections statutes that we have to follow.

But I was wondering if the Department of Sustainable Development can tell me if we were not eligible or did we not pass the inspection or did we break some rules or regulations. Is that why we were denied? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand his question and yes, this was a concern that was raised by people over there.

Yes, annually the Ikaluktutiak HTO works on the muskox hunt and for commercial hunting the community Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations are the people that must ensure they are abiding by the commercial hunting statutes or if they are following or abiding by the rules that are given to them.

The HTOs at the community level are responsible for dealing with the muskox hunt and they have to know the by-laws or statutes to make sure that they are abiding by them. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response, because they were checking to make sure that they were abiding by their criteria. The closing or opening hunting seasons, whether it is commercial or not, I am getting tired of it.

In the Kitikmeot, there were twenty-six individuals that were going to go muskox harvesting and the government stopped them. Even though they were disappointed, they did not show their disappointment. Is the government going to keep stopping us from hunting and harvesting? I don't agree with that. We have to work together, so we can encourage people to work together in Nunavut.

The only reason we don't go ahead with such things is when we are not prepared for it. I would like to ask the Department of Sustainable Development when they can re-open the commercial hunt for muskox harvesting. I would like to ask the minister here, when are you going to re-open the harvest? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak, for that lengthy preamble. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, his question is good. As a government we will work closely with the HTOs on the harvesting of muskox to make sure that we are abiding by the federal statutes so that this project can go ahead and so that next year's muskox hunting season will not be stopped again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he would like to work closely with the HTO so that we can do things properly, but when can we re-open the meat plant facility in the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Next year prior to the harvesting season we will deal with that, because this year's harvesting season is almost over. We will work closely with them next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 049 – 1(6): Update on the Analysis of Leases

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. I am quite happy that he is back in the House, so I can ask him some questions. I missed his answers.

The minister indicated earlier that his department is doing an analysis of the lease or purchase or build options of one particular lease that they're looking at here.

I know it was also a commitment made by the minister and the department to the Auditor General to evaluate these leasing options more carefully. I'd like to ask the minister what process he's using, or his department's using in the analysis of such leases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well Mr. Speaker, as it stands now, first of all I should for the record state that we're in the process of finalizing a leasing policy that can be brought forward for the cabinet to consider, to put in place so we have guidelines around our leasing of our planned leases that we might introduce. Included in that obviously, would be what would be acceptable from the perspective of a reasonable return or premium I guess on having a facility provided outside of direct government contributions.

So, that's obviously a factor, how much of a premium is it to have it done by the private sector versus having it done internally by a government, fully by government resources. So that's one of the important factors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it probably wouldn't be too hard to figure out what the premium is. You just take the lease cost over whatever the term of the lease is and figure out what your construction costs are. But what other criteria and what is the process that the department is using in evaluating those leases.

I know you said there is a developing policy but I know that the leases that they're looking at right now and he had indicated this one here is looking at being on the go for this summer. If the policy hasn't even been made yet, how are they going to evaluate those leases with a non-existent policy?

So, I'd just like to ask the process and exactly what the department is exactly using to evaluate those leases other than the premium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the main factor right now in the evaluation is quite frankly the cost and how expensive is it going to be to enter into a lease arrangement, a lease to purchase arrangement, versus the cost of expending current capital dollars from the government and the cost of having that money out of use. So, those are the factors that are being used.

Having said that, let's not forget that we have entered into lease agreements since this government came into office, we inherited as members know, a lot of lease agreements that have come over. So, the main factor obviously is the cost. We're hoping to firm up some of the other factors around the assessment of leasing with the policy, but as it stands now, the main factor or criteria is costing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the minister indicate what range, I know in the Auditor General's report, she had indicated one, it was a fifty percent premium paid on a lease. If he could inform the House as what he considers to be an acceptable premium to pay, or that the government should have to pay for such an option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm reluctant right now to make any commitment or even to speak about that because quite frankly, it hasn't been resolved yet. In respect of my cabinet colleagues and what they would deem as an acceptable premium to be paid, a lot is going to depend on the factors of weighing the cost of that premium versus what economic developments might be stimulated and depending on the project and depending on the community of where that process is.

So those are the factors that a lease policy will develop. It will set criteria based on possibly economic conditions in a community, the level of activity, economic activity in that community. So there are different factors that have to be taken into consideration whether the business community itself is developed in that community or not and if we want to stimulate some additional support for a community because it may not be a decentralized community.

So there are various factors and it is not a simple matter of 5%, 10%, 20% for every community. So I guess those are the kinds of factors that have to be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker would the minister commit to providing this House once those analyses have been done, what the premium is and the terms of the lease whether it is going to be a 10 year lease, 20 year lease, 30 year lease.

And things like who is going to own the building, what happens at the end of the lease? Once these things or his department has finished analysing that, would he provide that information to the members of this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again right now I couldn't tell you quite frankly whether I could do that. In respect of what constraints there may be out there legally as far as privacy of information for developers or individuals. I can say and I know this question has been raised in Standing Committee reviews of some of the budgets of the department that we are in right now. We are getting a legal opinion on what is able to be given out and what isn't. But I can say that whatever is able to be provided publicly that we will do that. But if there are issues that are identified that may be more sensitive then we would have to take a look at how we would handle that situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 050 – 1(6): Minimum Wage for Nunavut

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question today is to the Minister of Justice. Back in this House in the early days I think it was three years ago, I asked a question in the House and I still haven't seen any perks to this question come forward to the people of Nunavut.

I asked a question, would the then Minister of Justice review the minimum wage for Nunavut, review it and increase it to reflect the true cost of living in Nunavut. Has the current minister looked at this yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have directed the department to review this seriously. It will take a bit of time. But we have been dealing with other legal matters in the last little while. So it is not for the lack of trying. But we are trying to look at it perhaps by the fall where we can introduce changes if there needs to be change. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Okalik. Oral Questions. If there are no further Oral Questions we will move on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. I believe Mr. Clerk has a document that he would like to table.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 05 – 1(6): Return to Petition 6 – 1(5), Baker Lake Elders' Facility

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a return to a petition made by the Honourable Ed Picco, Minister of Health and Social Services to a petition filed by Mr. McLean. Petition 6 - 1(5). Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 10 – An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Land Titles Act be read for the first time. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. The Bill has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 9 – An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Property Assessment and Taxation Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 9 has had first reading. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. If there are no items in the Committee of the Whole we will proceed to the next item on the order paper. Item 20. Report of 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 the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit at half past three at the Nanuq boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday April 30th, 2002.

1. Prayer
2. Budget Address

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

Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Just a notice to members that there is coffee and bannock in the Members' Lounge

This House stands adjourned until Tuesday April 30th at 1:30 p.m. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 3.08 p.m.*

