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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer	468
Ministers' Statements.....	468
Members' Statements.....	470
Oral Questions	474
Written Questions	492
Tabling of Documents.....	493
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	494
Report of Committee of the Whole.....	513
Orders of the Day	514

A.

Daily References

Tuesday May 7, 2002..... 468

B.

Ministers' Statements

026 – 1(6): Language Posters – Nunavut Youth Consulting (Anawak) 468
027 – 1(6): Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting
(Thompson)..... 469

C.

Members' Statements

098 – 1(6): High Turnover Rate in Nunavut (McLean)..... 470
099 – 1(6): Openness and Accountability – Bad Gasoline (Tootoo)..... 471
100 – 1(6): Social Worker and Counsellor Hiring Policies (Irqittuq) 471
101 – 1(6): Condolences to Arlooktoo Family (Kattuk)..... 473
102 – 1(6): Pangnirtung Session in the Fall (Kilabuk) 473
103 – 1(6): Hiring Policies to Reflect Inuit (Iqaqrialu) 474

D.

Oral Questions

110 – 1(6): Table the RFP for Bad Gasoline (McLean) 474
111 – 1(6): Increase of Budget in the Main Estimates (Tootoo) 475
112 – 1(6): Expansion of Qikiqtarjuaq School (Iqaqrialu) 477
113 – 1(6): Plans for a Fire Hall in Taloyoak and a Water Treatment Plant in Gjoa Haven
(Puqiqnak)..... 477
114 – 1(6): Job Guarantee for Counsellor Trainees in Clyde River (Nutarak)..... 478
115 – 1(6): Grise Fiord Co-op Building Proposal – Update (Williams)..... 480
116 – 1(6): Update on the Agreement for Counsellors' Funding (Irqittuq) 481
117 – 1(6): Elders as Counsellors (Alakannuark)..... 483
118 – 1(6): Qikiqtarjuaq Tank Farm Update (Iqaqrialu) 484
119 – 1(6): Operation of Correctional Centres (Nutarak)..... 485

120 – 1(6): Qikiqtarjuaq Beach (Iqaqrialu)	486
121 – 1(6): Update on Community Access Road Program (McLean).....	487
122 – 1(6): Status of the New Hospital for Iqaluit (Tootoo)	487
123 – 1(6): Rectifying the High GN Staff Turnover Rates (Tootoo)	490

E.

Written Questions

01 – 1(6): Iqaluit District Education Authority Budget Allocation (Tootoo).....	492
---	-----

F.

Tabled Documents

15 – 1(6): IDEA Letter to Parents on Proposed Education Act (Tootoo).....	493
---	-----

G.

Bills

Bill 6, Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002-2003 – Consideration in Committee.....	494
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday May 7, 2002**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: Ms. Williams could you say the prayer?

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ulluukkut. Good afternoon, Premier, members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 026 – 1(6): Language Posters – Nunavut Youth Consulting

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pride that I rise before this House today to talk about a very successful project that my department funded in Arctic Bay.

Nunavut Youth Consulting, a non-profit community based youth group from Arctic Bay, received project funding from CLEY under the Inuktitut Language Initiatives of the Official Languages Agreement to develop a set of three posters that promote and preserve our language.

I would like to share with you a story about how this project was initiated. At one of their meetings, serious concerns were raised about the Inuktitut language and its preservation. Many ideas were discussed as to what could be done to combat this. These youth wanted to do something positive and create something that would last. The idea of creating a series of three full posters to promote, preserve, and raise awareness of the Inuktitut language was discussed. Today their idea is a reality and even though these youth are not here in person, we can still share their profound message.

To ensure that their message reached Nunavut youth, copies of the three language posters were displayed during the Arctic Winter Games and also sent to all Nunavut Schools and municipal governments and agencies during the month of April 2002.

Mr. Speaker, a display of the posters can be seen in the antechamber of the House today.

In closing, I would like to extend my congratulations to the members of Nunavut Youth Consulting. Their project is an example of how Nunavut youth can contribute to the promotion and preservation of the Inuit language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister Thompson.

Minister's Statement 027 – 1(6): Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Mr. Speaker, I have recently returned from the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting, which was held last week in Ottawa.

Nunavut's communities were well represented and the week was very successful on many fronts, Mr. Speaker.

Firstly, Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on a well-organized and well run meeting. I know that a lot of work goes into the preparation of these meetings and it was evident that NAM rose to the occasion in Ottawa.

Several Members of Parliament took the opportunity to attend various sessions during the NAM AGM to meet with the delegates or to do presentation. They were:

- The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Honourable Robert Nault;
- Minister of Public Works & Government Services, the Honourable Don Boudria;
- The Minister of Labour, Multiculturalism and the Status of Women, Claudette Bradshaw;
- The Minister of National Revenue, the Honourable Elinor Caplan; and
- Our MP for Nunavut, Nancy Karetak-Lindell.

Their attendance and participation Mr. Speaker, did a lot to help raise the profile of Nunavut on the federal scene.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, but perhaps most importantly, was the renewed commitment to co-operation and partnership that was made last week between our communities and us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the newly elected executive of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities:

- President Keith Peterson of Cambridge Bay;
- Vice-President Joanasi Akumalik of Arctic Bay;
- Director for the Baffin Region, Lootie Toomasie of Qikiqtarjuaq;
- Director for the Kivalliq Region, David Alagalak of Arviat; and

- Director for the Kitikmeot Region, Stanley Anablak of Kugluktuk.

In closing Mr. Speaker, the Department of Community Government & Transportation is firmly committed to working in partnership with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and our communities for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Item 3: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 098 – 1(6): High Turnover Rate in Nunavut

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I speak on an issue that affects the entire government. That is the issue of the high turnover rate of Government of Nunavut employees.

Mr. Speaker, it's no secret that it takes a special kind of person to live and thrive in this unique environment that we call home. Aside from the weather, there are issues related to our isolation that make living here a struggle for some people.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is one of the reasons that the turnover rate is so high within the Government of Nunavut. When people are hired from the south to fill positions here, they often have no idea of the many challenges they must face.

Mr. Speaker, this is yet another reason that the government needs to focus on hiring northerners. Mr. Speaker, I'm talking about people who have decided to make a life in the north, not just a quick buck. These are people who can be depended on to remain in their jobs because they are going to remain in the North.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask myself why we aren't hiring more Northerners and the answer is simple: training. And we bring that up in every Assembly. My colleague from Kugluktuk talked about mining training, I talk about mining training. Mr. Speaker, I think it's time for this government to take training seriously and invest our money in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the government to focus on building a workforce from Nunavut that is dedicated to Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, on the end of that I would like to say that I picked up the Aboriginal Times, guaranteed employment, must bring home. I am not talking about the article in there; I am talking about guaranteed employment. I wish I could guarantee employment in my community for all the people that come in and ask me for a job every day.

The other thing Mr. Speaker, on the radio this morning, it cost us 50 thousand dollars to turn around an employee from the south that is not staying here, that does not stay in Nunavut all the time. I think that's a tragedy. If we took that turnaround dollars and invested in our people in our communities, we would be much better off in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 099 – 1(6): Openness and Accountability – Bad Gasoline

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue of openness and accountability. Over the past several days a tremendous amount of attention has been paid to the issue of bad gasoline supplies in Nunavut.

Indeed, the issue has attracted the attention of the national media. Mr. Speaker, last week's statement in this House was refreshingly forthright: a serious problem has been recognized by Nunavummiut, the government recognizes and acknowledges that the concerns are legitimate, steps are now being taken to fix the problem and work towards ensuing that it won't be repeated.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the Premier and the Minister of Public Works for their actions and words over the past week. Too often we see governments in this country existing in a state of perpetual spin control and denial regardless of the seriousness of the issue, or the potential risk to the general public.

Mr. Speaker, one of the potential strengths of our consensus style of government in Nunavut is that acknowledging that serious problems and challenges exist is a sign of strength not weakness.

Mr. Speaker, over the coming week or two, I anticipate that members of this House will be seeking answers to important questions surrounding the gasoline issue. I look forward to an exchange that is based on the principles of openness and accountability. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 100 – 1(6): Social Worker and Counsellor Hiring Policies

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about an item that I have been raising for a long time and I do not want to leave it hanging so I will try to clarify it. Our way of life as Inuit is different and people need to understand that.

Since we have achieved Nunavut now, we want the federal government to delegate more powers to this government; however it seems that these powers are withheld at the territorial level, although this power should be given to the communities to let them take control of decisions that affect their lives.

I want to say these things for the record, so that you can understand what we need and that we are on the same page. I may have to add further comments for clarification so that the government will understand the things that the communities want.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I said in the House that we had problems that we are facing regarding social workers; the least we can do is change the requirements under the Act for social programs that are geared more towards the Inuit culture. I am not saying that I am biased against the social workers coming from the south.

The elders know, as do other Inuit about experience teaching many truths and their primary concern, when they have led a hard life, is to state that for a good life we have to experience it ourselves, because with good and bad times come life's lessons.

It's good to have formally educated and trained counsellors but I want the counsellors to have lots of experience with life. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement please.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to complete his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I have said previously, if I were a real Inuk, I would know the cultural Inuit traditions and I can't speak the English language. There is no way I can get a job in the south due to my inability to speak English and for this reason, I am stating that our government has to start gearing up to have the Inuit language as the primary working language in the government.

The government is continually publicizing their position on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit issue and that they are using it in their policies and that they are going to promote education, health matters, justice and that the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit should be the number one issue. It should be used to show what Inuit can do. We have to stop using it as a fad word. Throw it off our tongues and start implementing it. There are a lot of things that Inuit are very skilled at and which can be utilized in the communities.

We know that in the north, in the Arctic, there are still a lot of Inuit people who can't speak English fluently and we have a problem communicating with the English speaking people as we have to go through interpreters and it's better to have a face to face single language conversation with other people. This has to be understood that it is extremely hard to deal with wellness counselling when you cannot express yourself properly.

Our lifestyle is different and people need to understand that there are areas where we are different. If you go to Hall Beach you don't have to knock on the door to go in. You just walk in. But if you go to a Qallunaaq house, then you have to knock when you go in because they'd be completely shocked if you just walked in the door without knocking.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'm urging the government to consider hiring counsellors who are unilingual in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 101 – 1(6): Condolences to Arlooktoo Family

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I feel compelled to make this statement at this time, otherwise I will regret passing it up. It is in regards to our dear friend who was buried today and who we had a funeral for. He was a Deputy Premier with the previous GNWT government and on behalf of the people of Sanikiluaq whom I represent I would like to thank Mr. Goo Arlooktoo who is no longer here with us.

But he has made a huge contribution to the Nunavut Territory, to the development of the communities including Sanikiluaq and to the residents of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. And on behalf of all the people of Nunavut, I would like to thank Mr. Goo Arlooktoo.

He's no longer here with us but we know that we will meet him some time in the future and although that may be the case, we send our condolences to his wife Dorothy and to their children, we have them in our thoughts, our prayers and in our hearts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 102 – 1(6): Pangnirtung Session in the Fall

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleagues for choosing Pangnirtung as the location of the next session in the fall. I have no doubts that the people of Pangnirtung will receive the Legislature with open arms, as Inuit do everywhere else in Nunavut when visitors are in their community. I am happy for the people of my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 103 – 1(6): Hiring Policies to Reflect Inuit

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you recognize me. I rise today to make a supplement to my colleague's comments from Amittuq in regards to the people in the communities who are trying to get employment in the communities and who are denied, and who are not considered by the people that form these selection committees and their tremendous skills and abilities are belittled. I think that this is going to be an ongoing issue with respect to Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and its relevance to the selection process of employees during the life of this session.

This does not change anything when there is a fixation on paper qualifications since there are hardly any economic development opportunities or employment in some of the Nunavut communities. We have to inform the House that there are a lot of able people out there who are waiting for employment.

I think the government has to be more empathetic to the regular members on this issue; it is as if they don't see the necessity of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. This is not conducive to establishing a working relationship. We have to work together and co-operate with one and all in order to make progress on this issue.

The different government departments have to work together. The ministers have to help one and other also, and to set things by example. They make a lot of nice Ministers' Statements, but when it comes to the staff implementing it, it tends to go the other way around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? If not we will move on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 110 – 1(6): Table the RFP for Bad Gasoline

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. I realize that the Minister's Statement from last Friday has been referred to the Committee of the Whole for consideration, but I would like to ask the minister if he would be willing to table in this House by Thursday, a copy of technical specifications in the tender or RFP that was originally issued that lead to the GN's purchase of the gasoline that has turned out to be defective. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 111 – 1(6): Increase of Budget in the Main Estimates

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Education. Everyone is quite aware that we finished debating and reviewing their Budget yesterday.

I'd like to ask the minister, after looking at the Main Estimates and the amounts that were in there for DEA contributions, as the Minister of Finance has indicated in his budget address that there was an additional amount of money, I think it was 800 thousand that he referred to as being put towards the DEAs.

When I took a look at the Main Estimates for last year, the approved amount at this time last year was 9.4 million dollars and this year the approved amount is 9.3 million dollars.

I'd like to ask the minister how he got an 800 thousand dollars increase from a lower amount that what was approved last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I explained to the House yesterday, there were figures not available at the time the books were being prepared for the Legislative Assembly which was due to the District Education Authorities having a different year end. I gave specific numbers to the House as per the correct numbers that were supposed to be included in that book but it was late, as the reports had been printed out already.

I gave that information yesterday but I'm more than willing to provide that same information I provided to the House yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the number that the minister's talking about is 8.9 million dollars. It was the revised Main Estimates for last year.

Mr. Speaker, but the initial amount that was approved by this Assembly when we did the budget last year, was 9.4 million dollars and this year it's only 9.3 million dollars.

I'd like to ask the minister how they got an increase of 800 thousand when it's actually a lesser amount than what was initially approved last year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information I provided to the House yesterday during Committee of the Whole was I gave the number which should have been included in the 2001 – 2002 revised estimates.

As it read in the book, 7 million 783 thousand dollars should have been 8 million 965 thousand. But the 2002 – 2003 Main Estimates were showing at 9.31 million. The increases were due to a reallocation of the budget for the new school year and a correction of reallocation for underestimation of DEA contributions as I explained to the House yesterday, and the forced growth for the funding formula which supports the DEAs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I'll ask the minister if we approved the correct according to the Main Estimates of last year in the budget session that we approved 9.4 million dollars for DEA contributions and not the 8.965 that was the revised amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The figures that we were working with yesterday for the DEA contributions were from 9-19 as the normal practice of the House is that we approved them page by page, line by line, so that was what we were basically working from yesterday and the figures I gave for the 2001 – 2002 revised estimates were of the changes that I just mentioned Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we initially approved 9.4 million dollars last year Mr. Speaker, for the DEAs. The revised estimates came in at that 8.965.

The District Education Authorities are all saying that we don't have enough money to operate and the department is telling us that we give them all that they have. How could there have been a lapse of funds in there if we approved 9.4 and they only spent 8.9?

I'd like to ask the minister if he could provide us with an explanation of how we seemed to have lapsed money if the District Education Authorities are all saying that they don't have enough money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the main estimates last year, and in the revised estimates which I will produce when available, it's gone up to 9.315 million for this year.

If you were looking at other figures other than what I have in front of me, I could talk to my colleague and find out what numbers he was using and I can task my staff to detail the changes because the numbers are pretty well even. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 112 – 1(6): Expansion of Qikiqtarjuaq School

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. My other constituent community of Qikiqtarjuaq has written letters to the Minister of Education in regards to making renovations or additions to the existing school.

I would like to ask the Minister of Education when our school in Qikiqtarjuaq is slotted for an expansion or what the plans are to date in respect to the school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could review this with my colleague and have a meeting with him in regards to the capital project schedules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 113 – 1(6): Plans for a Fire Hall in Taloyoak and a Water Treatment Plant in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Community Government & Transportation. Mr. Speaker, in the five year capital plan, there were projects assigned and to cite some examples, for a water treatment design project in Gjoa Haven and for the construction of a new fire hall in Taloyoak. These are some of the items in the plan.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister update me on the status of these projects, especially on these two projects that I outlined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Transportation. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the capital plan, these projects for water treatment design and a new fire hall in Taloyoak are true just like the member mentioned and I am sure that the member has already reviewed this.

The design for the water treatment plant in Gjoa Haven is just about complete. I'm not quite sure whether they're near completion or not. In 2002/2003, the design is slotted to

be completed and in 2003/2004, the building is to be erected. That is in regards to water treatment design.

I'm not sure what the member was referring to exactly but I just heard something about the water treatment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister responsible for Community Government and Transportation for responding to my former question. I don't know how old these plans are, but these projects now included in the Capital Plan have been agreed to already.

The other project that I mentioned was the new fire hall that is slated to be built in Taloyoak within the capital plan. My question to the minister is if this new fire hall, the equipment and construction schedule, is it all going according to plans? What is the status of that project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the member's question asking about the new fire hall in Taloyoak. I believe some of the projects in the Kitikmeot are a little behind schedule, and I will have to look into this further to find out what the status is. There is money set aside but I will have to look into it to properly update you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am not very sure if I can give a good answer for the fire hall. I believe that it is in the Capital Plans. There might be some information that I don't have in my briefing notes right now so I will just have to take that as notice, and the same with the other Capital Projects that the member is asking for. I will give them in detail this week. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. The question is taken as notice. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 114 – 1(6): Job Guarantee for Counsellor Trainees in Clyde River

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. In Clyde River, you stated that there was a Counsellors' Workshop. Do they have positions that are guaranteed that they could fill after their training period? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the training program that is going on in Clyde River Mr. Speaker, in conjunction with the Department of Health, as well as

some of the core funding that we give to the family grouping centre in Clyde River, Mr. Speaker helps with operating of about fifty thousand dollars.

Mr. Speaker, the member is correct. When the people who are receiving the training, in most cases they are already being sponsored by their Hamlets, and in actuality they are receiving training so that when they go back to their home communities, in their positions, they have more experience and are able to be able to provide better counselling services to their clientele. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My question, Mr. Speaker, was in regards to the guarantee of filling a position once they finish their training. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, in this case with the training program that is going on, they are already employed. They are receiving more training so they can do their job better. So they actually have jobs in place.

So Mr. Speaker, if they had a job when they went to Clyde for training, now Mr. Speaker, when they return to their communities, they would have that same job in terms of receiving more on the job training through the good program that is being run through Clyde River, because they are more experienced in their counselling work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Do you know when they will be completing their training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No Mr. Speaker, I don't know when they will be finished the training that they're involved in right now in Clyde River.

I do know that I heard Davidee Idlout earlier this week on the radio talking about the program and some of the participants. But Mr. Speaker, I can get that information and provide that to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 115 – 1(6): Grise Fiord Co-op Building Proposal - Update

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. (interpretation ends) On February 20, 2002, I made a member's statement urging the minister to carefully consider the proposal made by the Grise Fiord Inuit Coop to build a commercial building that combined office space and apartments.

Following the statement, I wrote a letter to the minister including a copy of the Co-op proposal. Mr. Speaker, I would like the minister to tell me what action the department has taken to date with respect to the Grise Fiord proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon my fellow members. The letter that I received from the member, I am responding to the people who made the proposal and I sent a copy to the member. Perhaps it has not made it from the second floor to the first floor yet.

What we have done was to try to help the Grise Fiord Co-op according to their proposal and they wrote a letter stating what they would like to have us do to assist them. So what we are doing is we are dealing with their request from the Business Development Fund.

We're in the process of trying to assist them with their request so the Grise Fiord Co-op can get some assistance from our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to further ask the minister about what his department is doing to encourage economic growth in that community.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we do to try bring about economic self sufficiency in the community, is we try to help them out and the Premier said to me that being the Minister of Sustainable Development, that I have to look after the people to help them become more self-reliant economically in their communities and to provide some help for economies in the smaller communities.

I would like to say to the member that I will try our very best to try to help their Co-op in Grise Fiord so there would be jobs within the community, as much as possible. We will be available for assistance to the Grise Fiord Co-op. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've been talking about this for a very long time about economic development in the smaller communities. When will the minister be able to provide us with their plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing is working with the community of Grise Fiord at this time with their Co-op. My staff are working along with the Grise Fiord Co-op personnel and I will let the member know as soon as things are done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will he be able to provide us with the plans? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we can do is to work with the community to bring this economic development plan up in November, and we are looking at more ways to assist the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 116 – 1(6): Update on the Agreement for Counsellors' Funding

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I heard from the residents of Igloolik that there's an agreement for funding the wellness counsellors. I think it's through the Department of Health and Social Services.

This agreement, although it's in place, the Hamlet of Igloolik has not received any funding through the agreement for upwards of a year. I just want to know what the status of this agreement is. This question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Igloolik, there has been a community transfer in place before division where social services are delivered by the Hamlet of Igloolik.

Mr. Speaker, that is the same case with Cape Dorset. Mr. Speaker, the budget, we haven't passed the budget yet in here in the House for the Department of Health and Social Services. I believe when I met with the mayor from Igloolik last week here in Iqaluit, one of the concerns he had mentioned was the community wellness and brighter future funding that the community had applied for.

Mr. Speaker, we're hoping to be able to raise some of those monies in the coming days. So, again Mr. Speaker, some of those budgeted monies are within the budget of the department which will be approved in this House hopefully in the coming days. At the same time Mr. Speaker, the issue around the brighter futures and community wellness monies which every community in Nunavut receives which also applies for their wellness counsellors, that money should be issued in the next 3-5 days if that's specifically what the member is asking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they told us that they have not had any funding for a year now and they have had to pay for this position out of their own budget. The funding that was supposed to be given to the hamlet, will that funding be given to the hamlet this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated there, there are two pots of money. One is the community wellness and brighter futures money that each hamlet receives after they submit a report on how the money was spent and so on. The second pot of money where Igloolik is a bit different than the communities, other than Cape Dorset, they receive funding to run social services programs under a block transfer.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the community wellness money is a bit late coming out and they will be receiving that, like I said, most communities over the next three to five working days. At the same time Mr. Speaker, I am not aware from the community or the mayor and council of Igloolik that they have not received money for over a year.

I have not received any correspondence or any communication from the mayor and council, so if the member has copies of those letters that have been sent to him from the community, or information Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to receive that and look into why there hasn't been money sent to the hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the agreement that is in place, they were supposed to be given funding every year.

Apparently they have the understanding that they don't have to apply for that funding as they automatically get it every year. But, the Igloolik Hamlet does not really know why they haven't received that funding yet. He replied to this part of the question.

They are paying more than one staff member and I just wondered whether there is a plan in place or something in place for them for the government to give them funding or a reimbursement of their costs of funding this position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to appreciate the member making that a bit clearer. Now we've narrowed it down to the social services transfer I believe he's asking about.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know why Igloolik has not received it, if that is the case that they have not received that money. Like I said, this is the first time I've heard this Mr. Speaker, so we'll have to look into this and get back to the member and to the committee to find out what the hold-up is.

It would cause a severe strain on the hamlet if they're paying several employees and don't have the money coming in because in Igloolik for example, they have several people working in their social services unit.

So Mr. Speaker, that's something we'll have to follow up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 117 – 1(6): Elders as Counsellors

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services in regards to counsellors.

The counsellors that have taken training, it's good to see that they're taking ongoing training in the communities, but there are also some middle aged people that could provide counselling to the people in the communities even though they have no formal education, they're older and middle aged people who have a lot of life experiences.

Would that be done by the department to utilize those people that are elders to do counselling? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the successes I think we've had in the past year and it's been through the leadership of the family resource centre in Clyde River, where we've actually been training people who may be unilingual and older to be counsellors, and Mr. Speaker, using reality therapy based training and certifying those counsellors, it has worked out very well.

Mr. Speaker, so for the member's question, I say yes. Even though a person may be older or maybe unilingual there is the opportunity Mr. Speaker, to be able to deliver a program

to provide counselling services as well as deliver the training for counsellors solely in Inuktitut. And we're quite pleased to be able to do that in co-operation with the program in Clyde River.

Right now for example, Mr. Speaker, there are people from across Nunavut taking that program. So the member's answer is yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the response but when I talk about elders that can counsel in the communities, these elders would be able to help couples that are having problems in their marriage. These elders haven't gone to school or received a certificate or a degree, but will they be recognizing the elders' life experiences in communities to allow them to counsel couples? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the Community Wellness Program, the hamlet, each individual hamlet receives that funding and they recommend or put forward people to be trained, in this case, in reality therapy, for their hamlet.

So Mr. Speaker, if the community that the member's talking about would like to put a name forward who would want to receive this training, they recommend them as a wellness counsellor, then Mr. Speaker, we can deliver the program and help them with that training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 118 – 1(6): Qikiqtarjuaq Tank Farm Update

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'd like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services.

In Qikiqtarjuaq they were going to put more tanks in the tank farm, but they did not complete it last summer. I'm wondering if this is going to proceed this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The tank farm project that was going to be done in Qikiqtarjuaq was deferred to this year. It will be done within this coming year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they're going to proceed this year because it was deferred, will I be notified? I was not happy with it being deferred but will the minister keep me informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will keep the member updated on the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 119 – 1(6): Operation of Correctional Centres

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Justice. I raised a question to the minister regarding correctional centres and he said he was looking into this in regards to the operations of the correctional centres. He was going to review it, has he just about completed his review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister for Justice. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is something we're planning this year and there are meetings happening in regards to the correctional centres. I can't really give an update on what's been happening as it is still ongoing but we will give a report on the review once it's completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): How long does the minister think this review will take? Will it take another year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like it to be completed this year before we start dealing with the capital budget. I'm expecting that it should be done within this year and I'd like to work with the members during the planning stages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are they planning for a Nunavut Correctional Centre or just the operations of correctional centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The planning is not just for a correctional centre, it includes operational planning and it is a facility which will include healing resources so that individuals that are incarcerated can get mental and emotional support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 120 – 1(6): Qikiqtarjuaq Beach

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question, which is similar to a previous question posed to the Minister responsible for Community Government and Transportation. My question is, has there been some work on the beach, both in terms of design and planning in Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it was first raised to me by Mr. Iqaqrialu, I instructed my officials to deal with this matter. They are going to have to look at it and review it first, but they are in the initial stages of planning for that beach area.

This is something that is being planned and my officials will probably be in the community this summer to look at the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are often not kept up to date with what is happening with projects in our communities. Will I be informed or kept up to date on what is happening with this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq is working with us and we will keep them informed as to our activities. If our officials are travelling to that community we will keep the member informed of any travel plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Are there any Oral Questions? Mr. McLean.

Question 121 – 1(6): Update on Community Access Road Program

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. In the previous GNWT there was a very successful program that was implemented in various communities around what is now Nunavut.

It was called the Community Access Road Program. I know in the last budget there was some money supposed to be coming from the federal government to re-implement this program. Could the minister update me or the House as to whether this program is going to be reinstated, for community access roads in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The finding of the actual money has not happened yet, but there is a commitment made already that there will be some money coming forward for that. So we are committed as the Nunavut Government, as a department, to come up with an Access Roads Program and we also have quite a few proposals already from communities across Nunavut who are interested in accessing this program.

So we will certainly move on it and see what we can do this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 122 – 1(6): Status of the New Hospital for Iqaluit

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. I figure I had better ask him a question so he doesn't feel left out.

Mr. Speaker, it is an issue that I know that I have raised in this House a number of times over the years and I am still waiting to see something happen with it as far as some work being done. I would like to ask the minister if he could update the House as to the status of the new hospital that was slated for here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, very quickly to the member's question, we are continuing the work on the new facility for the Baffin region here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and ourselves had several different meetings. Mr. Speaker, we expect to see construction begin this fall. I am pleased to say that as many members know, we have already begun construction in Rankin. The piles are going

in as we speak. We would hope to see construction begin in earnest on the lot here in Iqaluit this fall.

One of the concerns was the transference of the ownership of land from the Municipality as well as from the Federal Government. Part of the location where the new hospital would be built is on federal owned land. That needs to be transferred, and so on.

We also had to finish a hydrological study, and that study had to prove that if the dam broke above the proposed site for the new hospital facility, that it would not interfere or impede in the facility.

Mr. Speaker, all that work had been done and we are now progressing with the early construction. We should begin this year 2002 with lot development work, with construction in 2003 and have the facility open on time, on schedule, late 2004, early 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am delighted to finally hear the news from the Minister of Health and Social Services instead of we are waiting for this study or that study or everything else.

One of the other things that I know has been a factor in these projects is the Department of Finance having to review them. I would like to ask the Minister of Health if as he has indicated where the construction is going to go ahead this fall that they have gotten basically a clean bill of health from the Department of Finance to move forward with the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been two phases to these three facilities.

One phase, Mr. Speaker, is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services. That is to bring the three facilities forward to the point where we could begin construction. The second part of the program is the Department of Finance's responsibility. That is the negotiation of the service contracts as well as the negotiations of the leases.

Mr. Speaker, in this House, the Premier has said on several occasions that at the end of the day, the Government of Nunavut wants to own these facilities and that we would have a lease to buy program in place with the three development corporations. Mr. Speaker, those negotiations are in place with the development corporations.

The next step particularly on the Qikiqtani facility, Mr. Speaker, would be to have a service contract in place allowing for the developmental work on the lot as well as the next step which is the actual construction.

Mr. Speaker that is the work that is being done right now in co-operation with, and in conjunction with, the Department of Health and Social Services as well as the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given as the minister had indicated that the work is going to start this fall and that negotiations are underway, I guess they are ironing out a service contract.

Does he have any more specific idea as to when this agreement will be in place so that we can for sure know that site work will go ahead and start as soon as possible? I am just wondering if he could give us a more accurate idea as to when that will happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as an example, on the Kivalliq facility for the Keewatin Region, being built right now in Rankin Inlet, Mr. Speaker, we went into eleventh hour meetings where we sent a team to Rankin Inlet as well as to Ottawa and met with the officials of Sakku, and Mr. Speaker, we had the contract in place, the service agreement contract.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope that in this case, we have learned from our experience in the Kivalliq, use that type of service contract as a template to be able to do the Qikiqtani one as well as the Kitikmeot one and that should expedite or speed up the contracting matters.

So we would hope, Mr. Speaker, that in the next couple of weeks that that new extended service contract would be in place which will facilitate and allow for the lot and the site development work to begin on the Qikiqtani facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is more of an aesthetic question. I don't know if the member knew, last year I believe when I talked about a sign that was put up there a number of years back, and I'm surprised it hasn't blown away already, it's all faded.

But does the Minister of Health and Social Services plan on putting up some new signage saying this is going to be the site of a new project similar to the ground breaking

ceremony and things that were held in Rankin Inlet for that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today was a very sad day for many of us with the passing of Mr. Goo Arlooktoo. Mr. Speaker, Goo Arlooktoo along with myself, are the only members in this House today that were there when that sign was put up in 1996 and the leadership at the Baffin Regional leadership meetings at that time have changed considerably as well as NTI, QIA and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that that new sign that will be put in place hopefully this fall, will be a permanent sign and will indicate for all to see that the facility will be going forward.

Mr. Speaker, this facility has been planned here in this region since 1988 and Mr. Speaker, because of a huge range of logistic, administrative, financial reasons, it hasn't come forward. It is not for a lack of trying of many people including Denis Patterson, Mr. Goo Arlooktoo, Mr. Ng, Mr. Okalik, myself, I can name off different people Mr. Speaker.

I would suggest to you Mr. Speaker, that we are very close right now to seeing the actual construction. We will have lot development this week and I would say to you, see what happened in Rankin Inlet, where actually the piles are going into the ground; people couldn't believe that we would probably do it.

Well it's being done. And Minister Ng said in his budget address Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Nunavut would build these facilities. He said that in his budget address. I believe what Mr. Ng said in the budget address. And Mr. Tootoo can be on site with the rest of the members to see another sign going up confirming this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Are there any further oral questions? Mr. Tootoo.

Question 123 – 1(6): Rectifying the High GN Staff Turnover Rates

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for Human Resources. It ties into the member's statement that my colleague from Baker Lake made today to deal with the staff turnover rates.

It was reported in the media today, I think the numbers were anywhere from 29 percent down from 31 percent. This is still Mr. Speaker, extremely high. I understand looking to the past that even in the years leading up to division and the cuts that were made in the

collective agreement from 1996 on, that the numbers, I think the highest number was around 21 percent and ranged anywhere from 17-21 percent for a turnover rate for the government.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Human Resources, given they have this information, what steps are they doing to try and rectify that problem of a very high turnover rate in the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the initiatives that our Department of Human Resources in the coming year will be doing is to undertake a more in-depth analysis of recruitment and retention and work towards developing the recruitment and retention strategies.

As has been mentioned in the House a couple of times to date, the levels of retention are high in Nunavut or rather turn-over rates are high in Nunavut and we are working towards developing retention strategies which will hopefully see less numbers of our turnover for several departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing what those strategies are but I'd like to ask the minister, in the development of these strategies if the department would commit to consulting with the employees, the people that are leaving.

Maybe ask them what kinds of things we can do, as a government, as an employer, to keep you working with the Government of Nunavut. As a part of developing the strategies and finding out why, it could be a great opportunity to ask the people out there that are leaving; the people that we have right now, 30 percent of them are going to be leaving by next year, if the numbers stay the same.

So ask them what kinds of things we can do to make this a workplace in which you want to stay for an extended period of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, through the workplace wellness programs that the department is offering, available to all GN employees, we are in discussion through these programs.

We're discussing with the staff, what areas of the employment workplace or stressful situations they are encountering and we're working in a group setting to try and deal with these but we will definitely commit to talking to more employees out there to try and identify the reasons which may cause employees to think of finding employment with

other groups or organizations. To hopefully try and keep our employees within the GN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe just another question I'd like to ask the minister, he talked through the workplace wellness program of trying to identify from employees things that have to do with wellness like stress and things like that.

Mr. Speaker, to coin a phrase my colleague Baker Lake always uses, it ain't no secret that one of the main reasons people are leaving the Government of Nunavut is because of the pay and benefits offered by the Government of Nunavut are much lower than some of the other organizations and groups and levels of government can offer.

Would the minister commit to also consulting with the employees and asking how can we improve the, what ideas do you have that we could improve our pay and benefit package given the limited resources that we have. I think all employees understand that we have very limited resources. There could be an innovative way to try and find ways in which we can do things to enhance the pay and benefits package of our employees.

I'd like to ask the minister if he could commit to that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I will commit to definitely holding more discussions with my colleagues at the cabinet level heading the different departments. I want to provide this opportunity so that we can put in the initiative of putting out a government wide effort of all our employees.

I will commit to providing at the earliest time possible, what the recruitment and retention strategies will consist of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 01 – 1(6): Iqaluit District Education Authority Budget Allocation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have ten written questions for the Minister of Education. I will read them off.

1. Did the Department of Education seek input from the Iqaluit District Education Authority for the development of their annual total school and District Education Authority budget for the upcoming 2002-2003 school year?
2. If the department did seek such input, when did it do so?

3. What form of consultation did the department use to seek input from the Iqaluit District Education Authority?
4. Did the department request a written response from the Iqaluit District Education Authority on its budget submission?
5. What input did the Iqaluit District Education Authority provide to the department regarding the development of its budget?
6. What method is being used to allocate funds to the Iqaluit District Education Authority for staffing and operations of the Iqaluit Schools for the 2002-2003 school year?
7. Is the method being used to allocate funds for the Iqaluit District Education Authority for staffing and operations of the Iqaluit schools for the upcoming school year based on a per student basis or on a program basis?
8. How will the amount of funding that will be available to the Iqaluit District Education Authority for staffing and operations of the Iqaluit schools for the 2002-2003 school year differ from the amount that the Iqaluit District Education Authority would have received by applying the previously used GNWT formula?
9. When does the department anticipate providing final 2002-2003 budget information to the Iqaluit District Education Authority?
10. Is the department's formula funding review being undertaken independently of the GN wide program review?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 15 – 1(6): IDEA Letter to Parents on Proposed Education Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to table a signed copy of a letter that was sent home from the Iqaluit District Education Authority with all the students informing them of some of the significant changes in the proposed Education Act that would have a direct impact on the students and the parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters; Bills 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Minister's Statement 20 - 1(6).

According to the authority vested in me by motion 02 - 1(6) the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out with Mr. Puqignak in the chair.

Before we proceed with Committee of the Whole, I'd ask the members to join me in the lounge for a break. Five minute break members. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 4.56 p.m. and resumed at 5.11 p.m.*

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

Chairman (interpretation): We will resume the meeting. I would like to call the Committee meeting to order. We are now in the Committee of the Whole.

In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with; Bills 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Minister's Statement, 20 - 1 (6). What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start with Bill 6, Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 6, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth? I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to make his opening remarks. Minister.

Bill 6, Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002-2003 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee of the Whole. I would first of all like to thank my colleagues and also the Department of Health and Social Services Minister for giving me this opportunity.

The Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduates are going to be graduating in Ottawa and of course I will be making my presentation. If you have anything or any comments to make to the Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduates, please hand me your statements before Tuesday. Thank you very much. I would like you to make your submissions prior to Tuesday as that is the date that I am leaving.

Last month I had the pleasure of making my first appearance before the Standing Committee as Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I am equally pleased to be making my first appearance before the Committee of the Whole. As most of you know, Inuit culture and language are a passion of mine and something that I have worked to protect and promote in most of my life, and in various capacities.

As I noted in my appearance before the Standing Committee, protecting and promoting one's culture and language help instil pride and hope in people. My job, with your help, is to ensure that Nunavummiut benefit from a government that reflects their culture, their language, and their values. As some of my Legislative Assembly colleagues have pointed out to me, this department is the very reason Nunavut was created.

The task before us is large. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is vital to the people of Nunavut. It has been charged with leading the Government of Nunavut in its attempts to protect and promote Inuit culture and language. This is not an easy task especially in an era when most of our youth are distracted by mass culture which is made easily accessible by today's technology. For example, the television, the internet, and satellite television make it necessary for us to expose Nunavummiut to our culture and language as much and as often we can.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the department's 2002-2003 budget which you have before you is a start. The additional 1.9 million dollars allocated to Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will help us begin to address some of the most important issues without raiding the department's other programs, or repeatedly making Financial Management Board submissions for ongoing unfunded activities. We will also be able to fulfill our obligations under legislation, such as providing stable funding in the amount of 100 thousand dollars for the Nunavut Historical Advisory Board.

As a result of the budget increase, the elder's and youth program, will receive 125 thousand dollars each to help communities promote the well being of Nunavut elders and youth. This will be accomplished through the development of programs that promote traditional lifestyles and enhance traditional knowledge amongst Nunavut youth. Our goal is to give elders the opportunity to pass on their knowledge of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to our youth and to help keep Inuit customs and traditions alive.

This was also the case with the Archaeology Program, the Archives Program, and the Toponymy Program. This new funding will give the Archaeology Program 100 thousand dollars this year to examine archaeological sites that may contain important cultural artefacts. In addition, the new funding for the Archaeology Program puts into practice the Bathurst Mandate requirement that every element of the government budget be viewed as a potential training budget. These funds will allow Nunavut youth to work on archaeological digs, providing them with valuable training and work experience, while at the same time instilling them with a sense of pride in their own heritage.

The Archive Program will be receiving 100 thousand dollars this year. This will allow us to work to preserve rare historical documents that record important events of our history for future generations. This is particularly important with the recent creation of our Territory. It will allow us to record and preserve this important time in our history for those who follow us.

The Toponymy Program, which deals with geographical names, will receive 320 thousand dollars this year. This program will help Nunavut regain its Inuit identity by

providing Nunavummiut with a mechanism to change community and geographic names to their traditional Inuit names. It will also give us the opportunity to interview elders and record their knowledge about traditional place names.

Work in all three areas is time sensitive. The longer artefacts and historical documents go without protection, the more damage they suffer. And the longer we wait to talk with our elders about traditional place names, the fewer elders with knowledge there will be to interview.

(interpretation) As we all know, elders are a very important resource in our efforts to preserve Inuit culture and language. They provide a vital link to the past and are the keepers of Inuit traditions. Therefore, in order to give elders a way and means to provide input in the government initiatives, we will be establishing an Elders' Council. Three hundred thousand dollars has been allocated to this important initiative.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is one of the Government of Nunavut's most important initiatives. However it is also one of the most difficult to define. The Elders' Councils, once they are established, will play a role in their attempt to determine how the government should implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and it will also review government programs and services for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit content.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will co-ordinate the relationship between the government and the Elders' Council and will provide the council with the support it needs.

The projects I have spoken about have all been allocated new funding. However, I would like to add a note of caution. Money alone will not guarantee that these initiatives are delivered successfully. The success of my department depends upon the dedicated work of its staff. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is desperately understaffed. Without a concerted effort to staff more of its positions, the department will continue to lack the human resources necessary to meet its mandate. The department has embarked on an ambitious attempt to ensure that adequate staffing levels within the bounds of our budget are met. As I recently pointed out to the Standing Committee, it is remarkable that the few people currently working at the department have been able to maintain the level of service they have. The recent addition of 405 thousand dollars to departmental staffing will add 4.9 PYs. This is a start.

In addition, we must, and will, define precisely what the department's new programs and policies will entail.

Mr. Chairman, the strength of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is essential to the health of Nunavut's future. A strong department will contribute to the growth of Inuit culture, traditions and language and will promote the wellbeing of Nunavummiut.

We are committed to strengthening the department's programs and in doing so hope to foster pride in all Nunavummiut. The new funding we have received is a move in the right direction.

You can rest assured that these new funds, as well as the rest of the department's budget, will be used for the benefit of all Nunavummiut. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. You can now proceed to the Witness Table. Sergeant-At-Arms would you bring in the witnesses please? Mr. Minister please introduce your witnesses, we are all aware of who is up there but Mr. Minister if you would introduce your staff please.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right, David Kolot is the Director of Policy and Planning, and we also have on my left, Leona Aglukkaq, who is now the Deputy Minister of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome all. I would also like to especially welcome Leona Aglukkaq who is now the Deputy Minister of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. We haven't seen her for a long time since she left us. Welcome back and we're very proud of you.

I would like to ask Mr. Iqaqrialu if he has any opening remarks for the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to give the committee's opening remarks as we begin debate on the 2002/2003 Main Estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Later on, members of the committee will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding these estimates.

The Standing Committee Ajauqtiit has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his staff. The minister was able to give an update on his department's proposed expenditures. Mr. Chairman, members feel this department to be a critical one as it deals with exactly those things that we value highly as Inuit, our culture, our language, our elders and our youth.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that the department has had a difficult time in filling all of its positions due to the lack of staff housing. Because of this some PYs have been frozen.

Members were pleased to see new funding for elder's programs as this has been an area of concern for members in the past.

Members were pleased to hear of the department's plan to establish a council of elders. This council will provide elders with an opportunity to be more involved in the

government's decision making processes and to ensure that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is considered in the development of the Government of Nunavut programs and policies.

Members look forward to hearing more substantive details about how this council will function in practice and how elders will be selected to be on the council. Members also hope that this council will also work closely with the youth.

Members were pleased to see additional funding for youth programs. However, members note the potential for confusion given that some of the department's funding programs are classified as grants and some of them are classified as contributions.

Members would like to see more funds slated towards the preservation and promotion of the Inuktitut language. Members were also concerned that a substantial amount of the funds received from the Federal Government for the French language are often returned because they're not being fully utilized.

Members look forward to seeing the annual report of the Status of Women's Council being tabled in this House, so that all members can be more aware of their activities and initiatives. We also look forward to the minister tabling an update on the work accomplished to date by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit task force.

Members were pleased to see new funds for the Toponymy program. Some members suggested that the Council of Elders would be very helpful with this program.

Members would like to see a list of all grants and contributions made in the 2001-2002 fiscal year to be tabled in this House. Members would like to see the department ensure that groups and individuals in all communities and regions have a fair chance of applying for funds from the department.

Mr. Chairman, members note that although the department has received a large overall budget increase this year, the total amount of funding for grants and contributions has not increased from the amount in the 2001-2002 Main Estimates. In the event that lapses in the department's operations and maintenance funding occur during the course of this year, members would wish to see funds re-profiled to grants and contributions programs.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. Members were generally satisfied overall with the department's progress and I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2002-2003 Main Estimates.

I would like to close by reinforcing the comments made by members over the past several years regarding the importance of ensuring that this department has the resources and tools necessary to fulfilling its important mandate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are my opening remarks.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Those were very interesting opening comments. We will be dealing with bill 6.

We will now open the floor for general comments and of course we'll be giving you ten minutes per member to make your general comments in accordance with Rule 77 (1), which gives you an opportunity to have ten minutes to speak.

According to rule 77 (2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a member may speak more than once on a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Please recognise the chair during the proceedings. I will now open the floor for general comments. Are there any general comments? Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank Minister Anawak and his officials. Thank you very much for making an appearance in the Committee of the Whole.

I'm very pleased to be talking about the Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the implementation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the government. We are pleased to see that the budget has been increased, not very significantly government-wise, perhaps it is rather large to the average Inuk, but there was approximately 2 million dollars added to the department.

These monies are slated for the youth and for Inuit activities and programs. For those of us who are over 40, I don't think that we're included in any of these programs because we're concentrating mostly on the elders and the youth and the middle aged people are left out.

Nonetheless, it is a very important department, and I think that we have to promote this department as it has already helped a large number of people out there. There are also Grants and Contributions that are accessed by the people of Nunavut, especially by the communities who use these monies for training and also for promoting the Inuit language, culture, and everything else.

Especially this past winter, there was a program in Hall Beach as well as in some other communities where they taught the youth how to make traditional outdoor clothing. They were taught to make clothing in the traditional fashion.

There was also money used from this department on the environment and survival out on the land. For example, they taught them how to build igloos, net making and other essential survival skills and techniques that have to be learned by the youth.

It is also a way of preserving and promoting our culture. I am sure that this department will become a very important element of the Government. It is sometimes very hard to do such promoting with all the rules and procedures that we have to follow.

With this department, I was wondering if we could get some instructors who could teach the skills and the traditions and culture of the Inuit. I would want to see an increase in the CLEY department's budget because of course there are twenty-six communities in Nunavut.

If there were Cultural Instructors it would be a good beginning for this department. Of course, we know that this is a new department and I am sure that it would be easier to make policies for a brand new department. For example, the Department of Education has had existing policies for a long time and they are quite hard to change, but I am sure that it can be done.

I think we also would have to recognize that since this department is going to become the foundation of this government, especially if we are using it to store Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit archival materials, so we will have to concentrate on it.

I could say a few more words, but I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. You did not finish up your ten minutes, but if that is all you want to say that is okay. The Speaker said that we would stay in the Committee of the Whole until we report ourselves out. I just want the members to realise that we have the opportunity. I have some names on the floor. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Speaking of languages, I am starting to lose my dialect as I am finding it easier to say Nakurmiik instead of Qujannamiik, which is in my dialect.

In regards to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, because this department is to be the foundation of the Nunavut Government, just as the minister so succinctly stated, because we had to ensure that our traditions would not be lost within Nunavut.

I just want to say that the NWT government did not really think seriously of the department at the time but our new government is starting to realize that it's very important for the protection of our Inuit traditions that this department have the resources to deal with the issues facing it.

There are a lot of things that are very difficult to do especially since funding is essential to all things, but there are supposed to be things like training and education and the promotion of traditional knowledge and its preservation. It is important that we look at ways of teaching traditional Inuit skills, secrets and other knowledge, all the while remembering that only with funding would they proceed.

It's very good to see that the department has some increased funding to do all those things and this is just the beginning. We would like to see enough money for it to provide

services, but we know that we don't have enough money in Nunavut's budget to meet all of the wishes of the people, so I would like to just tell the government, that this department should be provided with enough funding to promote Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, cultural pride and values.

The minister also said that there are some funds set aside to consult with the elders and this is a very good start for the department. For those of us that are not knowledgeable enough of Inuit traditions, this is very, very good that the information be gathered for our use and for the benefit of the youth.

There are also some things out there on the land that even my age group doesn't know about, such as the survival skills and the dangerous ice patterns and weather patterns that we have to learn to navigate in our environment, and the youth especially have to learn this knowledge.

Before our elders are gone, I was very pleased to hear that those kinds of things will be started because they don't usually provide these types of programs as training tools in the schools and it's good to hear that the elders will be consulted to train young people and the middle aged people how to survive on the land.

If it could be managed that more funding is slated for those programs, it would be very beneficial to our people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. I have Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not that I have a lot of comments to make but I just want to congratulate the department for initiating the things that the minister mentioned in his opening comments and hopefully the funding for all those activities and programs will continue from year to year.

I would also like to say that when we have a session at the Legislative Assembly, our language and our writing system is used along with the simultaneous interpreting, but when the translations are transcribed, it has been a problem that we have encountered as members even though we speak in our language here in this House.

When the interpreters translate our words into English, and then the transcribers turn it around and translate the English back into Inuktitut, this has been a problem we have encountered, because the actual words in Inuktitut should be written as we stated them.

As well, in regards to the main estimates of the department, I feel that there should be more funding to do those kinds of things that I talked about. There should be someone in Hansard that is writing down what is being said in the House as I speak in Inuktitut, to write it down in real Inuktitut literally so that the people of Nunavut out there can understand what we are discussing in the House.

And for those people that not have had any education, it would be a pleasure for them, both young and old, because the majority of our people have not had any formal education, because although they have learned how to speak English, they do not know enough to converse regarding complex issues in either language.

The people should be able to read what we debate in the House but it is very difficult when you don't know how to speak English, to relay the message that you want to and you have no choice but to say it in Inuktitut.

And it's very clear that we know what we are talking about. I think these kinds of programs could be started and considered by the department. We have done some training on some on a better way of life for Nunavummiut and it will be good now that this program has been ongoing in my community for quite some time by training the counselors and it should be done in all the Nunavut communities as well.

Although we are not talking about capital estimates I would like to say that the young people should be given access to better facilities in the communities and that should be considered a priority by the department. Those are the things that I wanted to say at this time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. I will give Ms. Williams the opportunity to talk for ten minutes.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment, I would also like to thank the minister in respect to his Minister's Statement on Arctic Bay where the youth were given some funding from his department, to implement the creation of the three posters from the department that has a long name and I would like to thank the minister first of all for that.

I would also like to say that the Nunavut Government is a government for all people and I think sometimes people misunderstand that this department is the only one that deals with the Inuit of Nunavut but as a government, we are a government for all people not just for Inuit in this department.

Because this department has a name that has culture, language, elders and youth and when we first got our Nunavut Government, this department came into being and some people misunderstood that this is the only department that deals with the Inuit out there but as the Nunavut Government we're a public government. This department deals with all culture within Nunavut, not just the Inuit.

I also expect and hope that this department should encourage all the government departments in Nunavut that if they will be consulting with the elders and the Inuit people out there, that there should be a process that the departments of this government should follow so that ideas of the people and especially people's knowledge should not be abused, and that the elders are not just questioned and left for pasture, but that they be included in policy and planning processes of the department.

Because they are the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, they should be working with all the departments of the government so that all the wishes of the Inuit using their culture is all dealt with in all the departments of the government.

I would like everybody to understand that I just want to find out whether this department is just for the Inuit people or is it for all the people of Nunavut. It doesn't necessarily have to be right now when we talk about the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I just wondered whether this department is just directed to the aboriginal people or the Inuit people or is it for non-Inuit people as well.

There are all kinds of new things such as hunting equipment that we use today. They're not all Inuit made because there are new hunting tools and there are also traditional tools so when they are put together then they're put to better use.

I can use an example. I have been a social worker and I have worked as a social worker for quite some time. If I work with an elder and a younger person and counselling an elder and I could use my modern teachings and my traditional teachings to do counselling.

Today is not the same, because now there's alcohol and drugs and other stuff out there that I have to counsel about today and years ago I didn't have to do that because these things were not available then.

That's the example that I have to find out, like this department is in the same kind of state that is to strengthen the Inuit way of doing things. Those are things that I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Alakannuark is the next speaker.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, also to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

I have something to say which is not long. According to the Inuit culture and traditions people need to learn the Inuit way of life because there are more and more terms being used that are no longer in use. There are lots of different terms in different regions, in Baffin Island, Kitikmeot, and Kivalliq. Wind direction names for example. The terms are different in different regions, although they are all in Inuktitut.

Those are the things that we need to clarify according to the Inuit culture to teach them right from the people and also the sea, the land skills, how to survive if you're drifting out on the ice while hunting. You have to be able to know those kinds of life skills in traditional ways.

Today even myself when I'm rushing too much, if I didn't stop to think I might run into danger. We need to learn how to take time and be patient. We should listen to the elders because they are the ones who know all about the Inuit way of life.

We need to be aware of the dangerous places out there in our environment. Also the snow conditions, there are different kinds of conditions and climatic effects. Snow conditions, some of the snow is good for igloos. We need to know how to tell the snow conditions as the right snow is easier to mould than that wrong type of snow which can lead to more problems.

Sometimes, even myself I don't know enough of the snow conditions and I've made mistakes in my younger days because I didn't know any better. It wouldn't take long to learn these things if you take time to learn them. For myself, it took me a long time to learn these things because I didn't take the time to listen. That is what I have experienced and can teach to younger Inuit.

Also, the women's issues, the women also have to learn their responsibilities in traditional ways. There are ways to teach young women how to have a good life. There are all kinds of things that young women can learn in the traditional ways.

Also, even the people who don't speak the English language enough, they have skills in traditional ways. As for myself, I don't know enough Inuit traditions but I can help to work with the elders and young people.

This is something that I wanted to say. I expect to work with you and we hope to work together with everybody here in relation to culture, language, elders and youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. The next one is Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make brief comment on this. I want to reiterate a comment that I seem to be making year after year. That is, taking a look through this budget, there's only I think 250 thousand dollars allocated towards youth in the whole department.

I could go on forever of all the different things I've said in the past and it appears that from in the past that that's where a lot of the demands for programs and services have been.

We have a department that has youth in its name and I'd like to see a little bit more of an effort made to recognise the needs of our youth throughout Nunavut. Not only in just the name but also with some more backup than just 250 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We have to eat. The interpreters and the Sergeant-At-Arms are invited to the Tuktu room for snacks and also the members and the clerk's table are invited. Thank you, we'll take a thirty minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 6 p.m. and resumed at 6.30 p.m.*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I don't have any more names for continuation. We are still waiting, however if you have any more concerns. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. I want to go to page 8-6. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going to page 8 – 6, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary – Directorate: Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 622 thousand dollars. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Grants and Contributions are the same as last year. Does that mean that this money has never really been used?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I forgot to mention that on that page please try to keep to the topic. As I said before I will give the members each a chance. Would the minister like to respond to Mr. Iqaqrialu's question?

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Grants and Contributions, under 8 - 7, the Grants and Contributions figures that we are going to be expending have not changed, but like I said in my opening comments, there is some other funding available for the youth, such as the 125 thousand Youth Initiatives Fund.

But even though there is no difference in the Grants and Contributions from last year, there were 108 people that applied for Grants and Contributions. We will be providing this further information shortly to the members, but even though the figures are the same in this part, under my opening comments there's going to be more funding for youth and elders under these new initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are there any more questions on page 8 - 6. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question about the Directorate where it has that Deputy Minister's office provides management and planning direction to the department. It also provides senior management advice to the Minister and Cabinet on matters that relate to culture, language, elders and youth.

I would like to ask a question in regards to culture. When will this happen, when will the policy be in place whereby the elders would be consulted about these issues? If you do not have the policy at this time when will the policy be put in effect? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we are doing is, we are writing a policy at this time and we hope that in the short-term, within a couple of weeks or in the near future, we will have them done.

But I just want to make the members aware that some of the regulations or by-laws that we will be dealing with will have to be redrafted. I'm sure, as soon as the Elder's Councils are established, perhaps in the fall, then we will have to consult them on the policies.

We hope that the policies will be amended or perhaps they will be established in the fall. As a department, we have a policy in place right now, but I have to say that in a few weeks or in a couple of months, that policies will be established. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Williams. Any more questions? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think 8-6 and 8-7 are together.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on 8-7 about Women's Initiative Fund in the amount of 50 thousand dollars. There have been some women's committees that would like to establish some initiatives for young people such as the boys and the girls groups and whether there's anything in place whereby the young people of both sexes could be given a grant for their own initiatives. Can the minister enlighten us in regards to the types of initiatives his department has in mind? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You should note that there's also some funding in place in the amount of 125 thousand dollars for the youth and another 125 thousand for the elders.

And those grants could be applied for by those various groups, there are no barriers stopping them from applying. That's why there's been an increase in that funding. It'll be available for those youth if they want to apply for that grant. If there have to be changes to the policies, then they'd have to put the changes in place within the next few years. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other question I have is at the bottom of the women's initiative grants, regarding status of women and family

violence, under contributions. Does that have anything to do with social work under this family violence?

Do they work with the Department of Social Services when it comes to family violence? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We give the Status of Women's Council contributions for their operations and what they do in turn is tell us what kinds of things they will be doing and perhaps inside of what they do, they can inform us if they have been working with the social workers.

It's not slated for programs but perhaps when they have a meeting with the departmental representatives, then they would talk with the Department of Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to get some clarification on the 50 thousand dollars and then 250 thousand, when you put them together there is 300 thousand dollars. So I guess that is the amount of money that they get for the women's initiatives fund in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That 250 thousand dollars is a contribution for the Status of Women and Family Violence and the 50 thousand dollars is for Women's Initiative Grants where they have a women's committee in communities. Those are the types of grants that we give to the committees within the communities. It's a community initiatives program. That is what they do under grants. The 50 thousand dollars is geared to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to add that there are also some statutory requirements and they have to be tabled in the House such as the Terms of Reference of the Status of Women's Council and an Annual Report which have to be tabled in the House, in the Legislative Assembly. When will that Status of Women Council Annual Report be provided to the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the statutory requirements, when it comes to the Status of Women, they have to submit an Annual Report but our fiscal year starts on April 1st and they have to give them about 90 days to

provide their Annual Report. So we expect that the Annual Report will be provided in the near future to our department and tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

Chairperson (interpretation): I don't have any more names on that page, 8-6. Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 622 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 8-8. Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Language and Communications Bureau. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 600 thousand dollars. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Under 8-8 and 8-9, on the total grants and contributions of 300 thousand dollars. There's been a decrease in the figures and if you turn the page to 8-9 there's an amount of 200 thousand dollars. What is that for, that figure of 200 thousand dollars, under the line item contributions? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason behind the decrease in that amount is that even though the budget of the Nunavut Government has a decrease, the reason for that is because the funding from the Federal Government was not provided at the time we drafted the Main Estimates.

It is not a decrease but it is just that we are expecting some funding from the Federal Government to offset this decrease.

It is under 8-14. You would find this decrease in 8-14 under the Official Languages Agreement. Last year it was 596 thousand dollars, it seems like there is a decrease in there but the Canada-Nunavut Co-operation Agreement amount has not been put in here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Perhaps if I could, we are under 8-9 on Traditional Language Promotion and Protection, under Contributions. What does it mean exactly?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): It means that contributions under 8-9 are given to individuals and community groups to protect, preserve and enhance Inuit languages in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else Mr. Nutarak? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): On the line above, there is a figure of 100 thousand but there is 300 hundred thousand dollars that is divided in two. One is for 100 thousand that was geared towards my question and it totals up to 200 thousand.

Under Grants again, we have 100 thousand dollars for the traditional language promotions and protection. What is the difference between the one with the 200 and the line item with the 100 is that for publishing costs, or going on the radio to promote the languages? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one above is a Grant. Which means that as a government, we can make grants available to our people for things we are promoting within our particular departments. For example, grants that are under 15 thousand dollars do not have reporting requirements. If we give 15 thousand dollars or less it will come from the grants.

Underneath it is a Contribution. For example, if an organization wanted over 15 thousand dollars, if it is over 15 thousand dollars, there would be a reporting requirement from our government and we would have to know from those committees what it was used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): My questions have all been brought up again. I have no further questions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): On page 8-8. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, as Ms. Williams was saying Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is a very long title. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million, 600 thousand. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 8-10. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Culture, Elders and Youth, the total is, I did not see your hand. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 8-10, we have Culture, Elders and Youth. And then on page 8-11, we have the breakdown of the grants and contributions. Then page 8-11, Elders initiative, 125 thousand dollars, and then there's the youth initiatives which again is for 125 thousand dollars. Exactly what are these monies going to be used for and here I am referring to the lower item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We haven't finalized how the 125 thousand dollars for the elders' initiatives and the youth initiatives will be used. But what we have in mind is that we would like to give equal grants to all the communities. But we haven't finalized the details yet but if we're going to be helping all Nunavummiut, we would look at equal shares among all communities.

For example, in the Department of Education, they give equal grants and contributions to the communities and we're looking at the same thing.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 8-10 to 8-13, all cover Culture, Elders and Youth. If you want to have any questions on those pages the floor is open. Any other questions? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): It seems like there's no policy in place for the Youth Initiatives and the Elders' Initiatives and he's also thinking about giving equal amounts of money to the communities. What basis is he going to use, as I'm sure there has to be a policy in place before any monies are given out? Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, the grants that we talked about earlier have policies and that is for all the proposals that are made. In regards to this 125 thousand dollars for Youth and Elders' initiatives, what we'd like to do is possibly combine some of these monies if it's a combined effort between the elders and the youth. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): On the next page, 100 thousand dollars, again we have youth initiatives, what's the difference between the initiatives on page 8- 11 and 12? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. The question that he is referring to is on page 8-12. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. These could be utilized by the youth and again there are the elders' initiatives for 100 thousand dollars. And like I said earlier, it's for the promotion of the Inuktitut languages and any proposal outlining promotion and protection will be considered.

It could also be used for other youth initiatives that they want to start. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): This 100 thousand dollars, for example, if I made a proposal to access the funding, is there a ceiling to the amount of money that I can access through this? Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): For example if you want to access over 15 thousand dollars it would go through this process and this fund. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. That's it? Thank you. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the first page of 8-10, the compensation and benefits, there has been a significant increase in the amount slotted for this item. Is it because there has been an increase in the number of employees or are you going to be filling all the positions that are currently vacant in your department? Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): We are looking at positions to assist the communities in areas such as toponomy, filling the positions in that area and an Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Co-ordinator and also if the youth or elders have a council or would like to have a meeting, they could apply for this money to pay for the compensation and benefits of these co-ordinators.

Or if they employed people to work on toponomy for example or gathering traditional names of the land from the communities they could use the monies for offsetting this compensation and benefits item and it would follow with the government salaries and benefits structure. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no other names on my list. Page 8-10. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth it's a very, very long title. Total operations and maintenance, 4 million 500 thousand. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 8-14 is an information item. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Under the Official Languages Agreement, it is the Canada-Nunavut Co-operation Agreement for French and Inuktitut languages in the territory.

How much money, how much of this amount is allotted for the provision of French language services and how much is allotted for the Inuit language services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): This money accessed through the Canada-Nunavut Co-operation Agreement. It's currently under re-negotiation. One million 450 thousand is for French and 1 million 100 thousand is for Inuit languages.

We are currently negotiating with the Minister Sheila Copps on increasing the amount that's allotted for the Inuit languages.

The agreement is still in place so we currently have 1.45 million dollars for French and 1.1 million dollars for Inuit Language Services as agreed to between the Federal and Nunavut Governments. There is 1 million 100 thousand dollars for Inuit languages and 1 million 450 thousand for French. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In Canada, we have two official languages which are French and English. And in Nunavut we also recognize the aboriginal languages. The Federal Government gives us 2 million 550 thousand dollars and there's currently an agreement in place that we have to follow.

Can we make changes to the numbers divided or the ratio between the two languages funded under the current agreement? Thank you.

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

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I met with Sheila Copps but according to this agreement we cannot increase the way that it's divided up for the Inuit or the French languages. This 1.1 million dollars is slated for the Inuit languages and it needs to be increased but we have to understand that since the creation of the Nunavut Government the monies that have been slated for the Inuktitut languages has been too small.

This division of this money was in place for the last two years, primarily because it was grandfathered in with the GNWT legislation. It lapsed last year but it has to be negotiated again if we're going to be changing the numbers that are slated for French and Inuktitut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no other names on my list. We will return to page 8-5. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Program summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total operations and maintenance, 8 million, 722 thousand dollars. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay. I would like to thank the minister and officials of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. As one of the members said, your department's title is extremely long but I would like to thank the minister and his officials.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Minister, do you have any closing remarks?

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I would like to say thank you and I would also like to inform the members that of course, as a government we're going to keep looking for external funds that could be used for the promotion and preservation of languages and culture within Nunavut.

We'll be trying to access additional funds from the Federal Government and other external sources. There are people out there who would like to do additional activities and as the Member for High Arctic mentioned, the government is using outside culture to function. This department is for all the people of Nunavut.

We know that especially for the youth, we have to promote and preserve and also produce Inuktitut materials for the benefit of our youth. This might be a little bit off track but this department is for all of Nunavut. The department's title, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is there but we also have the Women's Council and other things in there.

I would like to also thank every one. I know that there's support from the members. I would also like to thank Leona and David and yourself again for being able to conclude with this department and also to bring it forward and finish it early ahead of schedule.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, minister I hope you have a good time when you're attending the Nunavut Sivuniksavut graduation. I'm sure I would like to thank your officials for coming here.

What is the wish of the committee at this point? Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. It's not debatable. There's a motion to report progress. All those in favour? The motion is carried. Thank you.

Speaker: Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 21: Report of Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 6 and the Main Estimates and would like to report progress. And Mr. Speaker I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kattuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion

is carried. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow, Wednesday May 8th, meeting of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act at half past ten in the Nanuk Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday, May 8th, 2002.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
 - Bill 6
 - Minister's Statement 20 - 1(6)

21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills.
23. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until Wednesday, May 8 at 1.30.

Before we conclude we have an invitation for any members that wish to come to breakfast tomorrow morning at the Husky Lounge at the Frobisher Inn. Former Premier Don Morin will be there, Mr. Todd and the Speaker from the Northwest Territories Tony Whitford. The invitation is open to all members for 8.30 tomorrow morning at the Frobisher Inn, the Husky Lounge. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 7.13 p.m.*

