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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Arviat)

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

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Elders and Youth*

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(Amittuq)

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Whole*

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(Iqaluit East)

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(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)

*Minister of Community
Government and Transportation*

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)

Deputy Speaker

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(Iqaluit West)

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and Intergovernmental Affairs;
Minister of Justice*

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(South Baffin)

*Minister of Sustainable
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(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer	516
Point of Privilege	516
Ministers' Statements.....	518
Members' Statements.....	520
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	526
Oral Questions	529
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills	548
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	549
Report of Committee of the Whole.....	601
Orders of the Day	601

A.

Daily References

Wednesday May 8, 2002..... 516

B.

Ministers' Statements

028 – 1(6): Report of Independent Panel on Access Criteria (Akesuk) 518
029 – 1(6): Long Term Service Awards – Kivalliq (Kilabuk)..... 519
030 – 1(6): Nunavut Mission to Rural Forum 2002 (Anawak) 519

C.

Members' Statements

104 – 1(6): Regulations and Justice Systems to Reflect Culture and Traditions
(Iqaqrialu) 520
105 – 1(6): Anglican Diocese Meeting (Puqiqnak) 521
106 – 1(6): Meetings Held Throughout Quttiktuq (Williams)..... 522
107 – 1(6): Nunavut Mission in Brandon (Anawak) 523
108 – 1(6): Open to Communication from Constituency (Irqittuq) 523
109 – 1(6): Royal Bank Donation During AWG – Makkutuvik (Picco)..... 524
110 – 1(6): Public Service Alliance Meeting in Iqaluit (Tootoo)..... 525
111 – 1(6): Fishing Derby in Rankin Inlet (Thompson) 526

D.

Oral Questions

124 – 1(6): Difference Between Consolidated and Cash Flow Financial Statements
(Tootoo) 529
125 – 1(6): Update on Negotiations for Chesterfield Inlet Care Facility (Arvaluk)..... 531
126 – 1(6): Shipping of Liquor Through Canada Post (Williams) 533
127 – 1(6): Maintenance Procedures for Community Freezers (Nutarak) 534
128 – 1(6): Community Consultation on Proposed Education Act (Iqaqrialu) 536
129 – 1(6): Difficulties with Standby Tickets for Medical Travel (Irqittuq)..... 537
130 – 1(6): Short Term Insurance for Seasonal Marine Operators (Arvaluk)..... 540

131 – 1(6): Funding For Community Freezers (Nutarak).....	541
132 – 1(6): Policies for GN Staff on Medical Travel (Williams)	542
133 – 1(6): Response to Request for Information on Proposed Education Act (Tootoo)	545
134 – 1(6): Community Airstrips - Safety (Iqaqrialu).....	547

E.

Bills

Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving Fund Act – Notice (Kattuk)	548
Bill 7, Loan Authorization Act 2002-2003 – Notice (Ng).....	548
Bill 6, Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002-2003 – Consideration in Committee.....	549

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday May 8, 2002**

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Haviyok, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, 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 Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: Ms. Williams could you say the opening prayer please?

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Ulluukkut. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, members, people in the gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

Point of Privilege

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a point of privilege to deal with issues about Bill 1, the new Education Act, contained in a letter tabled by Mr. Tootoo yesterday. The letter was from the Iqaluit District Education Authority to parents. I believe it is important to clarify some misunderstandings on several sections of Bill 1.

The letter states that Individual Education Plans or IEPs will be a right only for struggling students and not for students insufficiently challenged. That is correct but the reason for the change is not stated. IEPs are now only prepared for students experiencing serious difficulties. Those are students who cannot meet the regular outcomes of the educational program. Advanced students can meet the outcomes and may be able to do additional work. They need enhancements to the existing program not an IEP. Section 10 of Bill 1 allows for program modifications and advanced programs for students that require them.

The letter raises concerns about children being required to be in school at age 5. Under the old act that is optional. The concern is that this eliminates the parent's option of keeping a child at home for an extra year if they believe their child is not ready for school. Further, it was stated that requiring attendance until the age of 18 places a heavy burden on parents.

Mr. Speaker, these were the recommendations of the Joint Working Group. We know the vital importance of early childhood education. The Joint Working Group felt it was important to ensure that every child receives an early start in school. Similarly, the Joint Working Group believed that all students should have the opportunity to graduate from high school. Allowing youth to drop out at age 16 undermines that goal. Setting the

mandatory age at 18 sends a strong message to parents and youth regarding the importance of school.

Safety concerns were raised in the letter related to suspension. Bill 1 requires consultation with the District Education Authority, school counsellor and the student's parent before most suspensions. However, Bill 1 directly addresses the safety issue. Section 36 allows the principal to suspend a student immediately and without consultation when the physical or mental well being of other students is threatened. The principal can also suspend immediately if a student creates a situation that is a serious harmful influence on other students or staff.

(interpretation ends) Concerns were raised regarding second language instruction and the status of French education. The letter rightly states that the second language to be taught is English, Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun, depending on the language of instruction of the school. I am pleased to state that we are working to support that through the development of more curricula to support second language teaching and through teacher training.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that Bill 1 will ensure that Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun is offered as either the first or second language in every school. That is essential if we are to achieve the Bathurst Mandate goal of a bilingual society in Inuktitut and English.

The Bathurst Mandate also states that students should have a growing ability to participate in French. Section 72 of Bill 1 allows for that by providing for it to be taught as a third language in schools. Section 71 of the act also provides for French language education consistent with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

(interpretation) Concerns were expressed about the use of the phrase "age group" in the section of Bill 1 on the type of access to education. It was suggested that students would move on to the next grade with their age group regardless of their skills and abilities.

Mr. Speaker, Section 9 of the Bill refers to the right of all children to access the education program in a regular instructional setting with his or her age group. This clarifies, for instance, that having a 16 year old student in an elementary school is not appropriate, regardless of the program the student is taking. This section is not intended to deal with the issue of passing or failing a particular grade. That is an educational policy issue not dealt with by Bill 1.

The letter states that the use of school facilities for communities will be at the discretion of the minister, taking away control from District Education Authorities. Bill 1 does not do that. It only provides authority for the minister to set overall policies regarding use of schools. That is appropriate as school buildings are the property of the government. District Education Authorities still determine community use. Section 83 of the new act provides the authority for District Education Authorities to enter into agreements that provide for the use of educational facilities by the community.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to clarify the intent of these sections of Bill 1 in response to the letter tabled yesterday.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk, your point of privilege is noted and it will be reviewed and if necessary, we will get back to the House on it. We also require a copy of your comments through the page, to the table.

Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 028 – 1(6): Report of Independent Panel on Access Criteria

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon and good afternoon to my colleagues and the people watching the proceedings in my riding in Cape Dorset and Kimmirut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in recent years my department has made significant strides in the development of Nunavut's offshore fishing industry. I rise today to announce the results of the recent report of the Independent Panel on Access Criteria.

The DFO-appointed panel was mandated to review the current decision making criteria for new or additional access in a commercial fishery that has undergone a substantial increase in resource abundance or landed value, or in a new or emerging fishery in the Atlantic fishing industry.

Late last year I had an opportunity to meet with the panel prior to making their recommendations. During our meetings I discussed the key issues facing the further development of Nunavut's fishing industry, particularly relating to the need for increased quotas and licenses.

Mr. Speaker, the panel reviewed Nunavut's situation as a special case in the Atlantic fishing industry, recognizing the fact that Nunavut does not enjoy the same level of access to its adjacent fisheries as do the Atlantic Provinces. The panel went on to recommend that no additional access should be granted to non-Nunavut interests in the waters adjacent to Nunavut until the territory has achieved access to a major share of its adjacent fishery resources.

Some Members: Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I view the recommendations made by IPAC as a major step forward in recognizing Nunavut's argument for increased quotas and licenses based on the principle of adjacency. Mr. Speaker, we will be discussing this issue in detail at the upcoming meeting of the Atlantic Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers and I look

forward to providing you with further updates based on the results of this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 029 – 1(6): Long Term Service Awards - Kivalliq

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad to announce this Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the continued efforts and contributions of the Nunavut Government's most valued asset, its employees.

The Government of Nunavut recognizes and values the contribution of employees who have served long periods of uninterrupted employment within the public service. Mr. Speaker, in the latter part of 2001 in the spring, a total of 165 employees in the Kivalliq Region received awards for their commitment and dedication to the Government of Nunavut.

Long term service award ceremonies were held in every community in the Kivalliq. Employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 years on continuous service were presented with awards. Ceremonies included speeches, traditional entertainment, and refreshments.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of Mr. Jim Fennell of the Nunavut Housing Corporation in Arviat and Miss Angeline Simik of the Department of Education in Chesterfield Inlet, who have served 30 and 25 years of service respectively.

Mr. Speaker, long term service awards will be presented throughout Nunavut again this year and the Department of Human Resources is looking at new ways to recognize the contributions of our employees. It is very important Mr. Speaker, to acknowledge the dedication of our employees who have strived to make the Government of Nunavut an effective and efficient public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister Anawak.

Minister's Statement 030 – 1(6): Nunavut Mission to Rural Forum 2002

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the week of April 22, 2002, I had the opportunity to lead the Nunavut Mission to Rural Forum 2002 held in Brandon, Manitoba.

The Nunavut delegation consisted of approximately 80 people with representatives from all seven Kivalliq communities representing a mix of elected officials, hamlet administrators, business representatives, and 15 youth and government officials.

The highlight of the opening ceremonies was the singing of our National Anthem in English, French, and Inuktitut. Youth from Nunavut participated in this event with the Brandon University Choir.

(interpretation ends) Our Youth delegation participated in Junior Achievement Games, Fair Play Games, as well as the other Round Table discussions with youth from around Rural Manitoba. Nunavut youth also performed twice at the main stage in front of crowds over 300. Another highlight was our youth promotion of Nunavut traditional and contemporary clothing in the fashion show.

I also had the pleasure of signing a Memorandum of Intent on behalf of Minister Picco with Minister Friesen from Manitoba on Northern Energy Initiatives.

(interpretation) At the closing banquet, Nunavut offered samples of char, caribou, and muskox against the backdrop of our youth drum dancing and throat singing. Rural Forum 2002 was a resounding success and I'm pleased to have led the Nunavut mission. Our thanks are extended to the City of Brandon for their hospitality and for the opportunity they gave us to promote Nunavut's culture, language, food, and fashion.

On an ending note, some of the Nunavut delegation got to watch Jordan Tootoo playing and does he ever rock the house. Every time he touched the puck, the crowd roared and when he got the winning goal it sounded like the roof would fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements?
Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 104 – 1(6): Regulations and Justice Systems to Reflect Culture and Traditions

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as an Inuk, I will follow my oral traditions and culture by not reading a prepared statement as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, but will make an oral statement.

Mr. Speaker, every year without fail, we have regulations set by the Department of Justice through the court systems and they're renewed annually. While they put in new processes into the justice system, they still use traditions that are foreign to us. Today as the Nunavut Government, we have the opportunity and the right to voice our concerns.

As Nunavut residents of Canada, are they going to keep disrespecting the needs and requests we make as Inuit people? Are they going to continue to belittle the aspirations of Nunavummiut? This lowering of the Canadian standards for Nunavut is not acceptable; it is painful and sad to see when other jurisdictions put us down even though they're Canadian. We should pay attention to this second class treatment we receive at the hands of our own country.

Our culture and tradition has never been globally visible, nor have they been respected. We're now trying to make it more visible and we would like it very visible and there are barriers we keep running across when we try to make our culture and traditions more visible to highlight the skills and traditions that are beneficial to the Inuit. We have to be cognizant of all of these factors, especially when dealing with these things.

We should be very careful and deal with this and we all know ourselves what kind of lives we lead. Also, we know what other people have done to us; we all know what outsiders have done to us, especially by the people who have come in and are coming in from external communities and foreign countries, even to this day.

As is written in the Land Claims Agreement, the government was established as part of a land claim and there have been some changes made to the structures even before an agreement was signed. This is in relation to the proposed bills, existing legislation and various statutes of the Nunavut Government.

The Nunavut Government's Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth initiatives should not be lessened or decreased in any way and it's going to be a major part in our future. If we don't deal with it respectfully, it's going to put down our culture and traditions and we will start using other traditions.

We have to use our culture and traditions at all times and show the world so they can understand what our lives are about. We established our government peacefully because Inuit never went to war as a people and did not want later generations to be war-like. We do not kill wantonly, nor were we brought up in that manner.

Since we are a peaceful people and have not had wars in this territory, the Government of Nunavut should be allowed to conduct the things that they consider important, to deal with issues that are a priority by supporting each other. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 105 – 1(6): Anglican Diocese Meeting

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll look back a bit to my childhood. Through the past years and listening to modern issues, I remember the

priests and Anglican missions and Catholic missionaries usually came from European countries across the great sea.

Our parents, when they were first introduced to religion and the story of Jesus Christ the Lord and Saviour, many people converted to the two main religions that were competing for the Inuit. My mother converted to Catholicism and her children followed along with the religion that was introduced and to which she had converted.

Starting from the 50s, when the priests were responsible for residential schools, I know that there were allegations of wrongdoing, but we have to remember as well that they worked hard and tried to help Inuit. Of course Inuit have benefited from them. Even though there were some problems arising from the residential school days, they helped with medical issues for example, like inoculating us and also they travelled only by dog team to spread the gospel to the communities.

For that reason, today the Christians are still spreading the gospel. I rise today in regards to a meeting last month. A few weeks ago in one of my constituent communities of Taloyoak, the Anglican diocese of the Arctic met. The diocese brought in people from northern Quebec, Qamanittuaq, Repulse Bay, Kugaaruk, Arctic Bay and Gjoa Haven.

This Anglican diocese meeting was very important to my constituents and the people who attended that diocese meeting got new information and I know that my wife traveled by skidoo for six hours to attend that meeting and I'm very glad that my wife took part and travelled six hours to attend the service.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the people from Taloyoak for taking part in this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 106 – 1(6): Meetings Held Throughout Quttiktuq

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank my colleagues. I had a suggestion that we hold our fall session in Resolute Bay and I would like to thank my colleagues for their due consideration of the community. We have selected a community but I would like to thank my colleagues for considering Resolute Bay.

I also would like to welcome everyone to the NTI meeting in Resolute Bay and I hope you will receive a good welcome and I know that the scenery is beautiful this time of year, especially in the month of May. The Qikiqtani Inuit Association will also be going up to Grise Fjord and I know that the scenery is going to be very beautiful and I'm sure they'll be hunting baby seals at that time. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 107 – 1(6): Nunavut Mission in Brandon

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke earlier about the Nunavut Mission in Brandon but I would like to thank my community for participating and they participated fully during the Forum in Brandon. As well, the partnership was well organized with Kivalliq Partners hosting the events.

There was a feast organized and our community culinary experts were able to host it. Premier Dewar was in attendance and the members of the Legislature in Manitoba, along with the private sector were very impressed with the food and clothing from the Nunavut area, and as a matter of fact, the Premier recalled our Premier, Mr. Okalik.

They were quite impressed with our organization of the event, and the products on display, along with culinary treats and traditional clothing products that were brought down were well received and some were purchased, or an order was made for their products. The products weren't just from Rankin Inlet and an example is Jack Kikkiq with the clothing that she makes, she has developed a clientele base, just from her creations and they were able to benefit.

I'd just like to express how proud I am of the people of Kivalliq and Rankin Inlet who participated in this event. As well, I'm also very proud of Jordan Tootoo who impresses a lot of people and because I have known him since he was just knee-high and growing up. Every time there are positive comments about Jordan from outside of our community and territory, I get very proud of him. Thank you for this opportunity to speak, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 108 – 1(6): Open to Communication from Constituency

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about something that I enjoy talking about, without getting into heavy issues. I don't want to make the members cringe as to whether I am going to raise hard questions, so they can relax for the time being. But as members of this House, we represent our communities and we work hard to bring out their concerns.

I would like to acknowledge my constituents who may be watching and I would just like to remember Linda and my children who are at home and in Igloolik, Maurice and his family. They all want acknowledgement when we are sitting as they are watching on TV. We are often told that on television we never seem to smile. Those are the types of comments we get. So as we are meeting today, tomorrow, and next week, if there are any

concerns held by my constituents that they'd like me to raise, I'm open to any correspondence.

I am sure that this will be on air in the communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik so I would like to reiterate that I'm open to their comments, concerns or criticisms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 109 – 1(6): Royal Bank Donation During AWG - Makkutuvik

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you and this House about a new youth program that is being run here in Iqaluit.

During the Arctic Winter Games, Mr. Speaker, the Royal Bank of Canada donated 40 thousand dollars over two years to the youth of Iqaluit. This money will be used to support a literacy and technology resource centre as well as a cooking and nutrition program in our community.

Mr. Speaker, the Makkutuvik is now offering nutrition and cooking classes to youth ages 13 to 18. The cooking club is made up of six youth, one youth leader as well as a volunteer to lead the class. Mr. Speaker, the classes are offered to six youth over five weeks. The classes are offered on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, during the first week, the youth created a simple, healthy meal for themselves and were introduced to the four food groups with the help of the new Nunavut food guide which was introduced by, as you know Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, during the next four weeks, youth will develop skills including safe food preparation, following a recipe, measuring ingredients, incorporating all the food groups in meals, reading food labels and cleaning up.

After class, the youth all sit down together and enjoy the nutritional food they have prepared together. The food is also saved for the following day to give to the participants in the homework club which is also held at the youth centre. This is much appreciated by their peers.

Mr. Speaker, the menu the youth have designed for this session include items like pizza, granola bars, yoghurt, popsicles, Chinese style caribou and rice, maple marinated char, fruit salad and chocolate zucchini cake.

Mr. Speaker, this program is in its third week and is proving to be very successful. The youth are enthusiastic about the classes and enjoy sharing their newfound skills with the other youth at the centre. This program is building confidence in the young people and Mr. Speaker, teaching them important life skills. Mr. Speaker, also the youth group are creating a resource centre where youth will be able to learn computer skills.

I would like to take this opportunity Mr. Speaker, again to thank the Royal Bank and congratulate our youth on this initiative and the town of Iqaluit, the City of Iqaluit for making this worthwhile program possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 110 – 1(6): Public Service Alliance Meeting in Iqaluit

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform members of a very successful meeting that took place here in Iqaluit this past weekend.

The Public Service Alliance of Canada represents tens of thousands of public servants across Canada. These are the men and women who deliver vital programs and services to constituents in every province and territory. In the north, the Nunavut Employees' Union is a valued component of the Public Service Alliance of Canada. Over 2700 Nunavummiut belong to the Nunavut Employees' Union. They are our relatives, our friends and our neighbours.

They are the people whom we depend on to make the plans we develop in this legislature a reality in our communities. Mr. Speaker, one of the resolutions passed in this week's northern PSAC convention here in Iqaluit was a motion to establish a full fledged PSAC regional office in Nunavut.

This is an excellent initiative and it will strengthen Nunavut's voice and help strengthen the union on the ground. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to have had the opportunity to attend the weekend convention and see the strength of the membership.

They are determined to continue their work to stand up for their rights as our employees and to help build a long term, stable work force in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 111 – 1(6): Fishing Derby in Rankin Inlet

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was a fishing derby held in Rankin Inlet last weekend. I was quite envious of the people who participated. I wish I were in their place. The people of Rankin Inlet were able to go out on the land and I'd like to thank the committee that organised the fishing derby, although there were a lot of regulations to follow.

It helps the community members physically and mentally. They are able to go out on the land and spend time with their children so I'd like to thank the committee. I'd also especially like to thank the mothers with mother's day coming this weekend. They were able to dress their children warmly during the fishing derby and to feed their children and jig and am I ever envious.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke to my paternal aunt yesterday, who also happens to be my best friend Panikak's wife. There was a fish caught that was 3 feet eleven inches long, this trout was quite big, just about four feet long. I can't imagine how some of the individuals pull some of these larger fish out, they get so big. I am happy for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to introduce in the Gallery, a friend of Nunavut. One of the most recognizable faces in politics in the north for the last twenty years, Mr. Tony Whitford, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I might add that when I was serving in Yellowknife, Mr. Whitford and myself, usually around seven-thirty, almost every morning, we would meet at Tim Horton's and have coffee. Mr. Whitford has held several portfolios.

And Mr. Whitford one time gave me some advice. He said, "When you get into politics, everyone in your constituency thinks that they can do a better job than you when you are an MLA. When you become a Minister, the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister can do a better job than the Minister."

I took that to heart and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Mr. Whitford for his wise advice on many occasions and welcome him and thank you for attending Mr. Arlooktoo's funeral yesterday and coming back to Nunavut and coming for the first time I believe to our new Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. I thought that you would have allowed me that opportunity. Welcome to the Gallery, Mr. Speaker. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend our hospitality and to recognize someone. (interpretation ends) I would like to welcome to the Gallery some very friendly people from another Island, from a smaller Island, Prince Edward Island. A guy that I have golfed with and I lost all his balls, unfortunately. I don't know if I will be able to play with him again. He is a Member for Morrel-Fortune Bay in Prince Edward Island, Mr. Kevin McAdams.

>>Applause

He is here with the Atlantic Veterinary College people; Wayne Hooper and Olive Coombs.

>>Applause

(interpretation) They are here to assist us in fisheries and training. They would like to establish a better working relationship with us. We will continue to work closely with them in the near future and I look forward to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. It is always nice to see people from back in the Maritimes here. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone in the Gallery, an individual who is now related to Sanikiluaq, my assistant Johnny Manning, who is my Constituency Assistant in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) I would like to recognize a long time friend, Mr. Tony Whitford. I went to school a long time ago with him along with Mr. Kakfwi and Ethel Blondin in Fort Smith. So I would like to welcome Mr. Whitford. I used to call him Tony but now I just call him Mister.

That year, 1972 was a good year when we went to school. Welcome Mr. Whitford. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this individual has been recognized by the Sanikiluaq member, but I'd like to recognize Johnny Manning who used to live in Gjoa Haven, working at the airport.

This was around August of 1994 and during his time in Gjoa Haven we learned that he was very good at playing the guitar and he taught my children and my maternal nephew how to play the guitar. If he was to see them play today he would be very proud of their accomplishments in playing the guitar. So, I would like to extend my thanks to Johnny Manning and welcome him to the House.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Well I better recognize my constituency assistant right now before Mr. Picco does.

>>Laughter

A good friend of mine, Diane Ingmak from Arviat. Diane.

>>Applause

I'd also like to recognize a very good friend of mine, probably my best friend. It's actually somebody that I knew before I was born. We both knew each other before we were born. We actually both stayed in the same safe but small accommodations before we were born.

I'd like to introduce my twin brother Kirk O'Brien. Kirk.

>>Applause

Item 6. Oral Questions. Are we still on five? I thought we were finished. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize someone who I used to be a member with during the days of the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada. Zebedee Nungaq is here, and I would like to recognize him. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize that same individual again, Zebedee, I would like to welcome him to this gallery. Thank you, for coming to Nunavut and indeed to our legislature. We'll see you later. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also wish to recognize Mr. Zebedee Nungaq. Every time we would go to Ottawa, we met in Ottawa and he would keep mentioning the fact that he would like to run for Nunavut. He stated that he could do so if he moved to an offshore island and became a resident of Nunavut.

I know that you have not done so, so make sure you move so that you can run for Nunavut some day. I am still awaiting that day. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 124 – 1(6): Difference Between Consolidated and Cash Flow Financial Statements

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, last week the minister announced in his Budget Address that he's projecting on a cash flow basis an operating surplus of 1.6 million dollars for this year coming up.

I understand that the government's annual financial statements are prepared and consolidated based in accordance with the accounting standards for governments. They are published by the Public Sector Accounting Board of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

I'd like to ask the minister if he could explain to us the difference between a consolidated statement, which our financial statements are done on, and a cash flow basis on which our budget seems to be delivered in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister of Finance. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the consolidated statements take into account all the entities that the government has including corporations, the Business

Credit Corporation, the Nunavut Development Corporation, Nunavut Arctic College, all the entities that we fund, the Housing Corporation as well.

So, that's why it's a consolidated statement of all the government's operations. In respect of our cash flow and our accounting based on the budget right now there is a difference in reporting, in respect of public accounts versus government accounts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was asking what the difference was; I know there's a difference. I'd like to ask if he could explain what that difference is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not an expert in respect of the accounting profession. I have certainly somewhat of a background. I would be prepared to have my officials speak on the differences. It's very technical from what I understand, when we get to the Department of Finance's budget.

Or I can have certainly a briefing prepared for the member if he's interested from the comptroller general of the Government of Nunavut in respect to that if he wishes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think if memory serves me correct, when we met with the department officials, and the Auditor General, one of the differences they mentioned was a cash flow basis, it's exactly just what it is, a cash flow, and the public accounts are done on an accrued method.

I'd like to just ask the minister, based on the current information that he has, that he's delivered to us in his budget address, what our position would be if it was done on an accrued basis rather than on a cash flow basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, I would be prepared to have my officials speak to the member, and again any member, on that. But I could say that right now there is an issue surrounding the treatment of leases that, from an accounting perspective and again, it's somewhat of a complex matter in that we're being asked to account for all our leases on a net present value basis in the view that we'll soon enter into the lease and assume the property which the lease is attached to.

But at the same time we're not allowed to show the assets against the net present value, so there's a big discrepancy in that area that's not normal in respect of how we're being and in respect of other jurisdictions because of what is in place in the Nunavut Act.

We're required to follow the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants guideline. And that is not a normal practice for other jurisdictions. So it's one issue that we're trying to work through with the office of the Auditor General as we speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo. Sometimes I can't tell whether you want one or not so please signal me.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not very often that I finish before my final supplementary. I'm just wondering if the minister could also have his staff prepare something that would inform us whether and what would indicate what our accumulated surplus or deficit would be at the end of the 2002-2003 fiscal year on a consolidated basis in accordance to CICA standards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be prepared to bring forward both differences in the respect of what we would project based on our calculations versus the public accounts that come forward of course for this Assembly based on the CICA standard, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 125 – 1(6): Update on Negotiations for Chesterfield Inlet Care Facility

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My voice is not itself today. This is a question for the Minister responsible for Health. I thanked him previously as they were planning the construction of a facility for the disabled in Chesterfield Inlet and I thanked him while representing Chesterfield Inlet.

However, to this day I have kept up the questions in relation to the facility being negotiated for Chesterfield Inlet and yet there are no updates as to whether this project will proceed or even whether this facility will be owned by our government. Can the minister update me as to where this process is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Finance along with Public Works and Services have completed their analysis on the lease proposal that's been put forward and Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services is now in the process of developing a service contract for the Chesterfield Development Corporation to be able to bring the facility to the next stage.

That would include Mr. Speaker, the architectural drawings and the finer details on the project itself. I believe that's very good news for the people of Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your response. The technical drawings in relation to the pipes, wires and so on, for the facility. I would like to ask who is going to do the architectural drawings? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member's correct. The next phase of the program for the Chesterfield Inlet facility which will replace the old Saint Theresa's Hospital, is to look at the architectural drawings and that will include the technical aspects of the building.

For example, Mr. Speaker, the electrical codes, wiring, Mr. Speaker, if there's a need for the fabrication of steel and so on. That has to be laid out in architectural drawings.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the process right now, like I said earlier, of looking at the service contract and hopefully very expediently having that in place with the Chesterfield Development Corporation the next few days.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I think that's some news that the people of Chesterfield Inlet have been waiting for, for quite a period of time, and we're quite pleased to be able to say that today in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is very good news the minister just provided. I would like to then ask another question in regards to the re-supply ship that will be coming in. I believe the arrival date is August 25th, is that not too late to start building the facility. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns that we had on this project, along with Minister Ng, and I must take this opportunity to publicly thank Minister Ng and his staff for expediently reviewing the lease options that were available to us through the Department of Finance.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, that we can meet the window for sealift so that the facility could come ahead. Again, Mr. Speaker, it will be contingent now on the signing of the

service contract and again we're very hopeful that could be done in the next couple of days.

If that is the case Mr. Speaker, then we will meet the requirements and the window that is there for the sealift. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 126 – 1(6): Shipping of Liquor Through Canada Post

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Liquor Act. In the news, in the media, there was one published release that was put out last week and it's in regards to the postal services being utilized to ship liquor orders.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is to the Minister responsible, and I would also like to know if he's had discussions with the Postal Corporation and whether he can ask the officials not to ship liquor orders through the postal services.

There are communities that are prohibited or restricted according to the Act, and if we allow liquor orders to be shipped through the postal services, it's going to destroy the present liquor system which we have worked so hard on to have in place today. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of the reports that the member mentioned, but certainly I haven't any discussions with any Canada, or my officials for that matter with any Canada Post officials in respect of shipping but certainly it's something that we check into if I can get some more information from the member. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. On this issue they need to think about how they're going to be tracking the liquor coming in through post offices.

Also, this government generates revenue of about 10 million dollars from liquor and cigarette tobacco products. This will have an impact on that, so this government needs to be on top of this.

This is a very serious matter that they need to look at. This government will need to inform the communities just exactly what it's going to be doing and I would like to have some answers to this question before the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, any illegal importation of alcohol would be a problem and we'll try to deal with this as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 127 – 1(6): Maintenance Procedures for Community Freezers

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services.

Of the 26 communities in Nunavut, I believe all the communities have community freezers that can be used to store country food and they're also utilized by the Hunter's and Trapper's Organizations. The department might not be responsible for these freezers but I would like to ask the minister about these freezers just in case there's a break down or if there's maintenance required of the freezer, do they require approval from your department before they can repair the freezer on an emergency basis? What is the procedure to maintain those freezers, especially an emergency? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the member's question, if there's a breakdown or maintenance requirement for a community freezer, our department could be informed about the situation, by any community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was not in relation to a small repair job, but if there was a total breakdown of a building, if the freezer building collapsed or was no longer usable. What type of plans do you have for the replacement of the community freezer? Do you have emergency funds that could be used to replace these facilities? I am not just talking about the refrigeration system. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on what broke down. We have to look at the situation or the circumstance and make a decision. I don't know if we have any policy in regards to the community freezers. If there has to be a replacement of a community freezer, we would have to look at that unique circumstance or situation on a case by case basis. I will look into it and report back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you know of any community freezers that have broken down in any the twenty-six communities? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not heard of one experiencing problems to date. That has been one of the concerns of the people out there prior to my taking on this portfolio. To date, I don't know of any community freezers that have broken down. Thank you.

Speaker: Final supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. I will give you a brief preamble. I can refer to the Pond Inlet community freezer situation; I hear that it is being dealt with. The reason why I am asking you those questions is to find out if the community of Pond Inlet has informed your department of their community freezer.

Last year the freezer broke down in the spring and everything had to be destroyed because the refrigeration system broke down completely. Everything thawed out and all the meat was ruined and I have heard recently that it couldn't be used again and all of the meat within may have to be thrown out again.

Is it possible for your department to replace the community freezer on an emergency basis? If possible I would like to ask the minister to direct his staff to look at the Pond Inlet community freezer as soon as possible.

Part of the HTO office is in that facility and they are generating revenue through the sale of this meat and as well this is a communal freezer. I would like to urge the minister to deal with the community freezer on an emergency basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the community freezers are operated and owned by the Hamlet Councils. The Department of Public Works and Services can't give financial assistance for the maintenance of the buildings.

We can give assistance as a department, but if it's under the responsibility of the Hamlet Council it will be the Hamlet who will be responsible for the community freezers, if they own it. But our department can give assistance. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. I'd like to welcome the Terry Fox class from the Inuksuk High School and also the teacher, Nick Newberry. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

Members will note that there has been a change or a jump in their clocks. We're trying to deal with that and we're looking at 36 minutes left. That's fairly accurate. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 128 – 1(6): Community Consultation on Proposed Education Act

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for Education about the proposed Education Act.

There has been more than one occasion where concerns were voiced by the public out there in relation to the proposed legislation. Even prior to its completion, we were hearing concerns about the draft legislation even during the consultation. Are you going to consult with each of the communities to find out what concerns they have in regards to the Education Act?

Are you going to be consulting with each of the Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu, in reference to your question that responsibility is now with the Standing Committee, so you may want to re-phrase who you direct the question to.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm one of the Standing Committee members. I will re-phrase my question. Even though it is now with the Standing Committee since you are the Minister of Education, are you going to be working with the communities before dealing with the Education Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ever since this review was initiated by my predecessor, the previous Minister of Education and since the drafting of the bill, the committees, different organizations and regular residents of the communities were involved and they were informed that they could be involved in the process of working on the Bill. So we collected all the concerns and suggestions from all the communities, and to date they have been involved and we have made the report available. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To briefly ask the Minister responsible for Education, that this bill, and I'm sure that there will be various concerns voiced by the various communities, according to their traditions.

Perhaps when all the communities have voiced their concerns, what is your department going to do once you find out what the results are from the consultation. This question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Education. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk, that's a hypothetical question but if you care to try to answer it. Proceed.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could explain to my colleague that since the Standing Committee is now reviewing the Bill, only after they have reviewed the bill and after their consultation then we will review the recommended changes according to the Standing Committee's report then we can deal with it at that time and I expect to hear more results after the consultations. Thank you,

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

Question 129 – 1(6): Difficulties with Standby Tickets for Medical Travel

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to my friend, the Minister responsible for Health. In my constituency, in the communities of Igloolik and Hall Beach, we have only one airline that is scheduled to go to those two communities.

This is a problem for patients that are going home because on Saturday the airline ticket counter is closed even though the doctors had seen the patients they have to stay an extra day.

And secondly, every time there is a plane, there are always some patients that don't leave because they're on stand-by when the plane is booked and this is quite an inconvenience in my community and also in the community of Igloolik.

So, what is the process or how do you deal with the patients? Is it cheaper to leave them behind with a stand-by ticket or is it cheaper, I'm not too sure if it's cheaper, to have patients stay here in Iqaluit an extra day?

I would like to ask how the airline tickets are set up for patients going to and from the centre here. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct. We've had several complaints from patients travelling from Hall Beach and Igloolik, as well as some other Baffin communities who have been left behind or have been inadvertently delayed to get back to their home communities because of problems with the ticketing.

Mr. Speaker, specifically at the present time, we offer a one way ticket to a patient who's travelling from their home community to the point of the health contact, either in the Baffin Region for example, Iqaluit or Ottawa.

The reason for the one way ticket Mr. Speaker, is because we don't know when their appointment will be finished and how long the person will have to stay at that particular location.

Mr. Speaker, at that time, Monday to Friday, the ticketing office is open. And, Mr. Speaker, under the current transportation review that we're doing with KPMG that has been announced in this House, I'm hoping Mr. Speaker, in the next week to have a copy of the preliminary report. And Mr. Speaker, this is, as the member just spoke, is one of the areas that we're trying to deal with to see what is the most efficient way of handling patient services.

I want to emphasise Mr. Speaker, the cost is not the point on the missing of the tickets. The member is correct. It seems that logistically, we haven't been able to staff to the point for the ticket to be written on the weekend and that is not acceptable.

So that is something that we're reviewing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the problem is quite serious for patients that are travelling just for a single appointment. It is obvious that some patients who are not too seriously ill have an appointment to see their doctor, which is not the problem. It is only hard to tell when the doctor is going to be finished with their appointment.

I found I don't know how many people on their way to Hall Beach and Igloolik, a few patients who were left behind earlier on today. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister, if the patients came to see their doctor with the appointments for only one night and a day, I was wondering what the approximate cost was of the patient being left behind like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member has brought up a couple of very important issues surrounding the area of transportation. Mr. Speaker, almost 25 percent of our budget is in travel as all members in this House know.

I think we could cut those numbers if we could have a better way of doing ticketing before and after the point of departure for the patient. The cost right now includes, if a patient has to stay for example in Ottawa or Iqaluit or Winnipeg for more than one day, we have to pay for the room and board as well as Mr. Speaker, the cost of accommodations and food and so on.

Also Mr. Speaker, of course there's the cost of the return portion of the ticket as well as the portion for the outbound flight. So Mr. Speaker, those costs can contribute considerably to the overall cost of medical travel.

Mr. Speaker, the KPMG study is looking at, among other things, includes for example, the provision of washrooms on planes, that has come up to this House as well as Mr. Speaker, exactly what the member has talked about which is why our patients are being left behind. Mr. Speaker, I met with a representative of First Air, who holds the contract for medical travel in the Baffin Region as a result of the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board having negotiated with them previous to this government starting.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding today, that patients should not be left behind. They don't have stand-by tickets; they should be full fare excursion tickets allowing them to be put on the plane. There have been some instances brought to our attention this week where people were left behind and Mr. Speaker, we're looking into that right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked regarding one patient, if one patient stays here for one day, the patient's accommodation and meals, how much does that cost for a day when they are left behind? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends, Mr. Speaker, if the person is staying at Tammaativvik, then those costs are insured through the NIHB. Mr. Speaker, if the Tammaativvik is full, then at that time, the hospital, the person who is the patient receives a white paper and they take that to the home where they're staying and they get, I believe it's 40 dollars a day.

So it depends on what the cost is depending on the board and lodgings that are in place. That would be the primary cost. Those are covered, Mr. Speaker, under the NIHB Agreement that we have in place with the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, thank you for allowing me to ask my final question. Mr. Speaker, the patients that are left behind during the year when you total them, the number is quite huge. The patients that have been left behind, I was wondering if the minister is willing to table information on how many patients were left behind in the Baffin region for one year. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member has a lot of support around the table today for his question. Mr. Speaker, it would be very difficult to get the information of every patient that was left behind. It depends on how they were left

behind. Were they left behind, Mr. Speaker, because the plane went mechanical? Were they left behind because of bad weather, or were they left behind because the plane was full and they went stand-by?

Mr. Speaker, most of that information would have to come from the airlines and I understand, Mr. Speaker, as most of the members of this House do, the airlines don't keep records on how many flights were cancelled and how many passengers were left behind.

What I can say, Mr. Speaker is that the member is correct. We have had this complaint several times not just from the Baffin, but also from the Keewatin and from the Kitikmeot regions. Mr. Speaker, we have also had patients left behind for various reasons in Ottawa, in Yellowknife and Edmonton, as well as in Churchill and Iqaluit and Ottawa.

Mr. Speaker, I would not be able to provide the depth of the information that the member has asked for. However, Mr. Speaker, I would as I committed before to the member, table the report on the Transportation Study, which is a far ranging report, and looks at some of the issues that the member is talking about, to this House. I would commit to doing that, after the Cabinet has reviewed it of course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 130 – 1(6): Short Term Insurance for Seasonal Marine Operators

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. Although I have asked questions previously in relation to insuring boaters, or the operators of marine vessels and the WCB policy in relation to harvesters' insurance, the minister stated that he would respond.

We only go boating within the three months of the year and these hunters buy their insurance premiums for twelve months. The minister stated that he would respond, already the rivers have started to flow and the boating season is almost upon us.

I was wondering if the minister is willing to respond to me before the session is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have a very good question. Yes, in the coming week I will be appearing before the Committee of the Whole. At that time I will be able to respond to you in regards to that question. This information is included within the funding estimates of Nunavut Tourism. I will be announcing to you the Main Estimates as they relate to tourism. At that time I will be able to respond to you when I appear at the witness table for our O and M Main Estimates.

So in regards to the question of the member, if we were to look at boats, let's say Peterhead boats, how we can give more support to the Peterhead operators. When I appear before the Committee of the Whole, I will be able to respond to the Member for Nanulik's question at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 131 – 1(6): Funding For Community Freezers

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be talking about community freezers. My question is directed to the Community Government and Transportation Minister.

I directed a question earlier to the Public Works and Services Minister, and I was referred to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation.

I raised the question to the Public Works Minister whether a community freezer that broke down could be replaced. I was directed to you that your department would be responsible for that issue.

As I had asked previously to your colleague whether they be able to provide money for a new community freezer, I am now directing that same question to you, if there is funding available for replacing a community freezer that has broken down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Community Government funds, in any of the funds, there's no money available for community freezers within the capital plan, but it could be done through the Hamlet's priority list and if it was a priority for a Hamlet Council, then funding could be provided.

But presently, there is no money for community freezers within the capital plans. We are able to construct community or government facilities, such as health or school facilities because the money is already set aside for those buildings within the capital plans. We don't have any money allocated for community freezers at the moment and perhaps this is something that could be researched.

But if this was a priority for the Hamlet, then we would have to allocate money for this kind of project and at this point, I could not tell you the approximate cost of such a building. Perhaps a figure of five hundred thousand dollars would have to be allocated for this kind of work and that is only an estimate.

But presently there's no money available at all and these facilities are not recognized as core community facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I asked earlier if a community freezer was to break down, if there would be money available for its replacement. If the Public Works Minister and Community Government and Transportation Minister would direct their staff to go to Pond Inlet and look at the community freezer, then their staff would be able to see what problems there are.

Depending on the situation, would insurance cover this type of building? I know that if they reviewed the facility and all of their options, something could be done.

It broke down last year and if it was a priority something would have been done but my polar bear hide had to be thrown out because it spoiled. I have heard that it is malfunctioning again. The Hamlet would want assistance on the facility's replacement and it's something that needs to be looked into before some of the Inuit lose their only means of preserving their summer catch.

Can the minister look into this further, perhaps outside of this House? Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Public Works stated that this could be reviewed by his staff with respect to the Pond Inlet freezer but as the Minister of Community Government and Transportation, I'll look into how we could provide assistance for this kind of problem in the community and I'll work with my staff to deal with the situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 132 – 1(6): Policies for GN Staff on Medical Travel

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

My question is, what kind of rules or policies are in place for medical travel where unilingual Inuit have to travel, but if they work in any capacity for the Nunavut Government, they are given hotel rooms. What kind of policies do they have for staff regarding medical travel and hotels? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over a year ago we brought forward a travel escort policy. In that policy that was approved by the government from the cabinet, Mr. Speaker, we have different rules outlining different types of things for travel. Specifically for government employees, Mr. Speaker, government employees are

covered under their Green Shield and under that program Mr. Speaker, commercial accommodations for medical travel are reimbursed to the employee.

Mr. Speaker, for people in Nunavut who do not have insurance coverage, like the Green Shield, they are covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, NIHB, which is provided by the Federal Government.

In those cases, Mr. Speaker, those patients are housed by the Government of Nunavut in boarding homes which are situated in Churchill Manitoba, Iqaluit, Ottawa, Edmonton, Yellowknife and Mr. Speaker, Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps my question was not clear. I will try to ask it again. What is the policy for the people that are travelling on medical when you are working for the Government of Nunavut? Are they forced to just stay in the hotels? For example, if the person cannot speak very good English, sometimes they are uncomfortable staying in the hotel.

Is our policy very restrictive to employees of government that they must stay in the hotel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been instances in the past and depending on the patient, the first rule, Mr. Speaker, that we have put in place with the Government of Nunavut, is to make all medical travel, the best that it can be.

Mr. Speaker, after saying that, if the patient is a government employee, then they have the option, as I said earlier today, of staying in a hotel. If the person is unilingual, Mr. Speaker, under the NIHB we cover the cost of an escort for that person.

Mr. Speaker, if the person feels uncomfortable staying in a hotel, at the time of leaving their home community, they can make a request to stay at the boarding home in one of the communities where we have it.

In that case Mr. Speaker, we would accept the patient. So Mr. Speaker, it is not stringent. It is on a case by case basis, based on the need of the patient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very, I think very good information for the people in the communities because they think that they have to stay in a hotel because they're working for the government. It's good to know that they could have this option.

Perhaps, this could be communicated to all the nursing stations or health centres that this is an option that people can have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you're correct and that's a really good question. Mr. Speaker, very quickly, I want to make sure that we're clear on one point and that is that in the majority of cases, the boarding homes are for NIHB patients, that's people who do not have the opportunity for other coverage.

Mr. Speaker, if we had a case where several people wanted to stay at the boarding home but had optional coverage through Green Shield, at the point of departure, when they leave their community, the nursing staff make a recommendation. So for a unilingual person, for example, or for an elder who could be a government employee, at that time they're told that they have the option of staying at a boarding home.

We would not want to see Mr. Speaker, all patients travelling staying at the boarding home when they had an option of staying in commercial accommodations because they have that insurance coverage through Green Shield.

So the member's correct, maybe as a department we should be communicating that a bit more strongly, not only through the House but at least in hand-outs that we're doing right now for example in the Keewatin on the problems encountered when travelling.

Mr. Speaker, that's something that we would take a positive look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there are very few people that would rather stay in the boarding home and think a lot of people are very happy to stay in a private accommodation like hotels when they can speak, when they could order their meals and calls, use the telephone and stuff like that.

So this is the case especially for Ottawa, Winnipeg, maybe Edmonton for Kitikmeot. This has been an issue that they think that they have to stay in the hotel but it must be very intimidating to be put into some hotel in Ottawa when you cannot speak very good English, even though if you can communicate well in English it's strange to be in a hotel.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I think this information is good for the people of all of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a comment. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 133 – 1(6): Response to Request for Information on Proposed Education Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, I think I'd like to thank the minister for his comments he made earlier and I look forward to your ruling on it.

Mr. Speaker, one day it took the minister to come back with a response and explanation to concerns that someone had with regards to the Act and as members are well aware last week and for quite some time now not only myself but the Standing Committee has asked repeatedly for exactly that information.

I asked the minister in the House last week and finally he said he'd provide that information. It seems he can get that information very quickly when he wants.

I'm wondering if he can indicate to us, I know he said he'd get it to us, can he indicate when? It is something that judging by the response that he gave earlier, that he can get this information very quick. Is it something he can commit to providing the members of this House prior to the end of the session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the member which specific request he's referring to. Without knowing which request it is it's hard for me to give the response to the member. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'll have to do it one more time. We'd asked and I'd asked, the Committee's asked, for responses that the department's received in its consultations, results of the consultations and also a list of the changes and what's changed from the old Act to the new Act that he's committed to providing to us.

I was wondering how quickly, if he could commit to getting us that information prior to the end of the session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, I still have no specific request from the Standing Committee on the information that they will require to do their consultations. At the time I recall, when this matter came up in the House, I advised the Standing Committee that I'll be more than willing to provide the information that they request to do their consultations, in an open and also in accordance with what the Standing Committee sets out to do.

I am however prepared no later, at the end of the business day to provide an overview to the member of where the changes have been notified, same as the information that has been provided to the District Education Authorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on that overview at the end of the day and I'd like, the minister committed to providing to us as members of this House, copies of the results of the consultations and a list of what the changes to the act were.

And that's what I'm looking for and I think that's what we need if we're going to be able to go back to our communities and do proper consultations on the act so that our communities will understand and know what the changes are and the impact that they will have on them. That's the reason why we're looking for that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Mr. Speaker, I'm more than willing to provide to the member the same information that we have provided to the District Education Authorities and the stakeholders regarding the consultation process.

I must also stress the importance of the development of this new act which is not just simply an edit of the old act, though the old act was used as the foundation for the contents and structure of the education act. So Mr. Speaker, I'm more than prepared to provide to the member the same information we've provided to the District Education Authorities thus far.

I will, as I had stated, commit to providing additional information following the request of the Standing Committee for them to do their rounds of consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the minister is then indicating one, that he never received a request for the information that they received from their consultations, and two that he won't provide it to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairperson: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not state that I will not provide the information. I'm able to provide the information to the member and following the committee's request, I am able to provide them the information that they are requesting, but only after I've received a request from the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 134 – 1(6): Community Airstrips - Safety

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation. The airstrips in the communities, there are federal policies that the airstrips have to be very safe and updated.

Some of community airports and airstrips are very bad. The airports are also very small. Some of the communities don't have any garages for the airlines. Qikiqtarjuaq is like that. There is a very old airport there. There is no garage near the airstrip.

For those who don't have proper equipment on the runways in the communities, with the Federal Government policies on transportation, what will your department be doing to rectify this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was money put aside called ACAP that is for airports just in case there is an emergency. This is for emergency use and we have been requesting money from the federal government for the use of other communities.

We are looking into the other communities which don't have proper airport facilities and we are looking into the runways of the airports.

In the near future my officials will be looking into this to make sure that the community airports are looked into. There is money available although it's not for every community. I will look into this regarding the airport facilities. Like I said, I will look into this and look for ways to help the communities. There's not enough funding for these airport facilities at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question was that in Qikiqtarjuaq the community is lacking airport facilities and if you work well with the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq maybe this would speed up. Can you work more closely with the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq to gain a better understanding of the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, like I said we are going to review this with the help of the Hamlet Council and I will, if the Hamlet of Qikiqtarjuaq writes a letter to my department regarding their concerns we can certainly work together.

Writing a letter is the proper way to communicate. I would like to tell the member that I would look into this if the Hamlet Council can write a letter to my department from Qikiqtarjuaq we can work together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister and in Qikiqtarjuaq I can give the minister a written update on that airport facility in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you.

Speaker: Members will note that question period is now over.

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. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Kattuk.

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving Fund Act - Notice

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on May 10, 2002, I shall move that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Revolving Fund Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 7, Loan Authorization Act 2002-2003 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday May 10, 2002, I shall move that Bill 8, the Loan Authorization Act 2002/2003, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Mr. Ng for the record that is Bill 7, not Bill 8, Bill 7.

Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. 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; Bill 2, Bill 3, Bill 4, Bill 5 and Bill 6. Minister's Statement 20 - 1(6) and 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. Irqittuq in the chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, if members would like to join me in the Members' Lounge for a short break. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 3.27 p.m. and resumed at 3.55 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for coming back to the meeting. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with; Bills 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and Minister's Statement 20 - 1(6).

What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to deal with Bill 6 and deal with the Health and Social Services department. Once that is concluded I would then like to start with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Are we in agreement to deal with Bill number 6?

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services to make his opening remarks.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Honourable Members. I am very honoured today to present to you the 2002-2003 Main Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Before I begin I would like to introduce to you members of my staff who are with me today: Mr. Andrew Johnston is the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services; Mr. Abraham Tagalik is the Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Services and Strategic Initiatives; Mr. Keith Best, Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations; and Mr. Don Maychruk, Director of Finance.

The Department of Health and Social Services has the second largest budget of all departments in the Government of Nunavut. We are very aware of our responsibility to provide a wide range of services and programs while employing responsible fiscal management.

Our department is responsible to promote, protect and enhance the health and social well-being of all Nunavummiut while incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit or IQ at all levels of service delivery and design. I am very pleased Mr. Chairman, to tell you that the department has hired a full-time IQ Co-ordinator to guide us in achieving our primary goals and remaining consistent with the Bathurst Mandate.

The total departmental budget for 2002-2003 is 156.9 million dollars. Mr. Chairman, that includes 151 million dollars for Operations and Maintenance, as well as 5.9 million dollars for Capital Expenditures.

In September 2001, the Financial Management Board approved a 21 million dollar supplementary appropriation for 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. Mr. Chairman, this increase is related to a historical shortfall in the Main Estimates allocation for the department, and Mr. Chairman it is important to point out, that it does not represent funding for new program delivery.

The FMB has also approved 4 million dollars to carry out new initiatives and enhanced program delivery for 2002/2003.

The department will move forward in a number of identified priority areas in support of Mental Health and Addiction Services such as prevention, self-help, and crisis response. Within months, the department will be able to provide a range of critical, currently unavailable support to individual clients, families and communities.

Mr. Chairman, included in the Mental Health Initiative is the planned hiring of new mental health workers for the communities and the operation of the first, Mr. Chairman, the first psychiatric facility in Nunavut.

The department will be providing an increase to shelter organizations, including family violence homes. It will also be including in those increases groups providing alcohol and drug treatment programs. While the increases are modest, they represent the first increase in three years and with the members continued support the department will continue to try and improve the funding levels to these organizations.

Mr. Chairman, also approved in the new initiative funding was support to enable a community-based corporation to continue operation of a long-term care facility in Chesterfield Inlet that houses 12 to 15 developmentally delayed and severely handicapped clients. With the support of the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Works we are currently finalizing a value-for-money analysis to consider options for leasing a new building or constructing a new GN owned facility. The department will submit its recommendation to the FMB shortly and in questioning this morning by Mr. Arvaluk we hope to be able to do that in the next couple of days.

The Department of Health and Social Services remains responsive to the needs of individuals and communities. Mr. Chairman, we provide ongoing support to the Committees of Council, we continue to seek the wisdom and advice of the elders and to ensure that our services and programs are culturally relevant.

The department continues to face challenges, severe challenges, Mr. Chairman, recruiting and retaining nurses to work in Nunavut. We continue to examine incentive options for nurses to come to Nunavut and to stay for extended periods of time. Meanwhile, we continue to provide funding support to the Nunavut Arctic College for the Nunavut

Nursing Program, and we continue to deliver a program that trains individuals from the communities to work in the health and the social services field.

Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program is now being rolled out across Nunavut. Nunavut will receive Federal Funding in excess Mr. Chairman, of 4 million dollars per year to provide basic home care and community care services that are comprehensive, culturally sensitive, accessible and effective for all Nunavummiut.

To date, Mr. Chairman, I think it's important to note, to date, 80 Nunavummiut have received certified home care training; 44 have been hired already as community home care workers. Another 20 additional hires will result pending the training. Staffing is also underway for 11 dedicated home care nursing positions under that program.

Our Capital Plan is to be funded at a level of 5.9 million dollars for 2002-2003. Capital Projects have been outlined in the 5-year Capital Plan and include such things as renovations to a number of community health centres and other facilities.

We are also proceeding with the development of the three major health facilities in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay.

The functional plans for all three facilities have been approved and, with the birthright corporations, architectural designs are being developed. With the assistance and counsel of the Department of Justice, we are forming the contracts and agreements under which construction can begin. We also saw earlier this week the beginning of piles in Rankin Inlet.

The GN has conducted several meetings and discussions with officials of the Federal Government with respect to alternate financing options for the facilities. At the same time we have maintained close contact and collaboration with the Department of Finance with respect to value for money analyses of these options. Mr. Chairman, the next steps will be signing of agreements and completing design development for the hospital and the two health facilities.

In addition to these major capital projects Mr. Chairman, through the use of matching federal funds, we are entering year two of the expansion of the IIU Telehealth Network. This is bringing Telehealth technology and expanded programs to a number of our communities and lessening the dependence on health services from the south.

Mr. Chairman, the rollout of these services will continue throughout the fiscal year and will upgrade the existing five telehealth sites or five communities to 15 by March 2003. That's correct Mr. Chairman, 15 by 2003.

>>Applause

Thank you Mr. Ng, thank you members. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to address the committee today and I do look forward to your questions and comments as we begin the review of the departmental estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services for 2002-2003 here in Iqaluit this week. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I would like to ask the minister if he has any witnesses to bring to the Witness Table.

Hon. Ed Picco: That is correct, I would now ask the witnesses that are with me to join me at the table and they will include Deputy Minister Andrew Johnston and our Financial Controller, Mr. Don Maychruk. In the Gallery standing by, will be Dr. Keith Best and Mr. Abraham Tagalik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you agree to bring in the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you. Please introduce your witnesses Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on my immediate right is Mr. Andrew Johnston, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services, and on my immediate left is the Financial Controller, the Director of Finance, the man with a lot of power within the Department of Health and Social Services, the Director of Finance Mr. Donald Maychruk.

In the gallery Mr. Chairman, also standing by is Dr. Keith Best the Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations and Mr. Abraham Tagalik the Assistant Deputy Minister of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Is the chair of the committee ready to proceed with his opening remarks? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The Standing Committee on Health and Education has reviewed the budget estimates and business plans for the Department of Health and Social Services for the 2002-2003 fiscal year and I am pleased to provide you with the Committee's comments.

The Standing Committee notes that the overall budget for Health and Social Services has finally received a substantial increase for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Members are optimistic that this budget will more realistically meet the costs of the department's operations and avoid the necessity for repeated supplementary appropriations throughout the year.

Committee members are pleased to hear of the department's successes in the continued staffing of health worker positions, recognizing that this is still an area of concern across Canada. Specifically, the Committee would like to commend the minister for his efforts in reducing the reliance on agency nurses and the resulting costs.

Given that one of the keys to retaining health workers in the north is by training Nunavummiut for these positions, the committee fully supports the department's continued funding of the Nunavut Nursing Program and the related access program.

The committee encourages the minister to continue exploring sponsorship opportunities to provide additional support for the students in this program and to enhance the profile of this very worthwhile program.

The standing committee continues to have grave concerns about contracted services such as medical travel, local transportation for patients and boarding homes. Members understand that a study of such services has been commissioned and despite the minister's commitment to provide them, are still waiting for the opportunity to review the terms of reference for the study.

It is worth noting that Nunavut's distinctive geography poses a monumental challenge to providing health services across the territory. The resulting costs for medical travel alone are almost equal to the sum of the total budget of our three smallest departments.

Mental health issues and problems relating to alcohol and drug abuse are a continuing concern. Members are pleased to note that the minister has responded to committee recommendations by allocating funding for community based programs in this area as part of the overall mental health strategy.

Despite several recommendations, members do not note any signs of co-operative measure involving other departments such as Culture, Language, Elders and Youth or Education. The committee recognises the need for shelter services across Nunavut and notes that the 2002-2003 budget proposes the first increase in funding in this area in several years.

However, members feel that greater efforts should be made to address the issue of family violence using the principles of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit within the home community. Members were pleased to hear about the hiring of a new Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Co-ordinator for the department and look forward to seeing related changes throughout the department's programs.

As indicated in the House, the amount allocated for the local committees of council has been increased for certain communities, based on the size of the population. Members would remind the minister that on the national stage, Nunavut argues that needs based funding is more appropriate than per capita based funding.

I would like to quote our Minister of Health and Social Services in his presentation to Commissioner Romanow who was in Iqaluit as part of his investigations on the future of health care in Canada.

As his final recommendation to the commission, our minister recommended, and I quote, "Most importantly...that funding for Health and other related federal programs be based

on need and not on population or per capita funding which severely penalizes and handicaps smaller jurisdiction.” End of quote.

Mr. Chairman, the situation is no different for communities across Nunavut. Per capita funding for community committees of council is not appropriate. Members recommend that the department review this latest allocation formula at the earliest opportunity.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, even though details of the three new health facilities are still under negotiation, members understand that functional studies are underway. Members are concerned that although progress is being made towards construction, the determination of which services will be offered and delivered in each of these facilities has yet to be addressed.

In addition, the ongoing costs for the operation and maintenance of these facilities will have to be carefully considered. Members have requested regular updates from the minister on the planning for the operation and staffing of these facilities and look forward to being kept up to date on these plans.

That concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Before we proceed, I would like to recognize my two daughters who are in the House, Rena and Carmen Iqittuq and one of our colleague’s wife, Iga Iqaqrialu and my sister Geela and our friend Uttukuttuk. Welcome all.

>> *Applause*

At this time, following our rules and procedures we can now start with the committee of the whole. The members who wish to comment may do so, but you will have ten minutes to do your opening comments. You may pose questions after that section as is our practice. After that section, I will allow some time for further questions. The floor is now open. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Like my colleague, the chair, I really do not want to pick sides, but I want to express my pride for the minister when during his opening comments alluded so eloquently to one of my communities, Chesterfield Inlet and I am so grateful that this project will proceed. I would also like to mention that the facility in Chesterfield Inlet is for patients with physical disabilities, these patients are not just from Chesterfield Inlet, they’re from all over Nunavut.

I know that it has been in operation for a good number of years, and I think there are over 60 patients. I’m very glad and proud of the minister for considering all the Nunavummiut in this facility who come from all the Nunavut communities. One of the hardest tasks is to be a Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

In all of the Canadian provinces, there are no exceptions, their health departments are always short of funding. Even hospitals were closing down previously, such as in Alberta. Also the nurses, we always have a shortage of nurses, even throughout North America. Even though there was limited funding, the minister kept requesting additional funding and I commend him for that and I know that he's committed.

I would like to see the continuation for the training of the nursing program either by way of providing more assistance to the students and by way of giving them support financially or otherwise. I would also like this considered, as Mr. Tootoo stated, most Inuit do not ask for food until they are hard up, so those of us who go out hunting should be looking for ways to provide traditional food to the students of the nursing program or other students. I would also like you to consider that part.

Chairperson (interpretation): I apologise, we cannot hear Inuktitut on our receivers. Is that alright now? Mr. Arvaluk go ahead.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I apologise Mr. Chairman, I've had my cold for two weeks and I've had my hoarse voice for two weeks. Thank you.

As I was saying Mr. Chairman, in respect to the students of Arctic College, I know that hunters try to provide traditional foods for the students providing that they know of the situation. But some people here in the community and especially for the students from Kivalliq and Kitikmeot, where the population of hunters in Iqaluit don't know these individuals, they are not provided with traditional foods because they don't know that student.

I was wondering if the minister is willing to consider this idea of providing more support such as the provision of traditional food for the nursing students of Arctic College, and other students that are taking training programs at Arctic College from outside the region?

They don't know where to go, to either receive or purchase traditional food in Iqaluit and they don't know anyone. One thing I would like to mention, in the minister's opening comments, on page 2, the second last paragraph, the minister said that the FMB approved a 21 million dollar supplementary appropriation for 2001-2002.

In 2002-2003, when they applied for further funding in total, I don't know what he said, but I believe that he stated 115 million dollars which he mentioned in total. Total funding for the nurses, again it flew over my head but it was about 151 million dollars.

For fiscal year 2002-2003, it was increased by 36 million dollars for fiscal year 2002-2003. I would like to ask the minister, for fiscal year 2002-2003 during the year, I was wondering if you will fall into a deficit situation like last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. I will allow you to ask your questions later on, once all the members have had their general comments. You have another ten minutes after the members have had an opportunity with their general comments. General comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu, you have ten minutes.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services and his department officials. I would like to say since we became a Nunavut Government, we've been continually facing the department. I know that their departmental responsibilities are very challenging to deal with.

I know at times we run into some barriers because we have different traditions and cultures and languages. We have had a barrier between us because these social workers and health professionals perhaps we have different or ways of thinking.

When the department starts hiring Inuktitut speaking employees we will have less language barriers so that we can have a closer working relationship. I know that the health issue is very difficult to deal with for us regular members and actually for all members and I know that they expended quite a large amount of money ever since we became the Nunavut Government.

Because according to my colleague from Nanulik he mentioned some problems that arise since the department is very difficult to operate. Although we know that, but in regards to social services, the social issues are close to my heart as this has touched my life the most.

I think that we have run into problems due to lack of understanding and due to communication problems in the past. We're not just opposing the work of the department, we are not trying to belittle their mandate but if we work close together and if we can communicate with each other on the same level, then we can look for more improvements within the department and for Nunavut residents.

For that reason, there are many clients that the department deals with who are Inuktitut speaking unilingual people. They go to other provinces for medical purposes and when they go back to their community, the continuing concern we have is that the nurses have to work with patients who are unilingual.

After working hours, the patients have to go see the nurses who can't find interpreters after hours and that's one of the problems that we have encountered, having no interpreter after working hours in some of the communities of Nunavut. They then spend valuable time canvassing people for an interpreter.

For patients who would like to go see a nurse after working hours this is a problem when they can't find an interpreter to go see a nurse, they can't go to the nursing stations.

And we have also seen in Nunavut that the patients that are supposed to go to the health centres, but they do not feel comfortable with communication and when they finally go see a medical professional they are diagnosed too late and this has become an overriding issue, the fact that the diagnosis is usually far too late to do any good for the patient.

So, since we don't have the proper diagnostic equipment to diagnose patients earlier in their sickness, we need the proper equipment. I know that it will be very costly to get modern medical equipment which will be beneficial for all Nunavummiut.

But for those patients who have been ill for quite some time when they are finally diagnosed, they have no place to left to turn to and we can't help those people. And the doctors can't help them at that late stage; even the medical professionals can't help those patients.

In the past when we were living traditionally, and when we lived off traditional food, we didn't seem to have those kinds of medical problems. We were raised using our traditional food and the majority seemed to just age gracefully. Perhaps this has an effect on medical problems, this new diet.

Maybe it is due to the difference of our diet now, that we are starting to see poor health in Inuit people. I am sure that it has an impact because there are a lot of contaminants falling down on our territory.

These contaminants are contaminating plants, animals and the things that the animals eat. We have to make Nunavut residents understand the contamination level and its effects. According to our traditional knowledge in the north, since we live up in the north, in some of the department's work, within the system, they don't know the things that we know, much like my comments last year regarding Inuit traditional beliefs and traditional knowledge.

Last year I said when there was someone who had their legs amputated, who had frozen limbs, if the Inuit method of treating frostbite was used, if they had been treated using traditional methods, they would not have to be amputated.

And there are some people that drown as well, who die from drowning. According to the traditional knowledge of the Inuit, they can be revived if they follow the proper process. The Inuit method of resuscitation and the western method of resuscitation are different. We have our own method where we as Inuit, a person that has drowned, their mouth and nose cannot be touched when foam is coming out of the mouth.

Those are the things we know. They can breathe on their own afterwards, and once they put them on their belly flop them with their head down. These were methods that we used to use.

This has to be recognised and learned. But in the modern method of resuscitation you go mouth to mouth. We have to make traditional methods and European methods complement each other so that we can benefit from it.

In regards to midwifery, some women deliver babies that are stillborn. According to the traditional knowledge we know, there is a method. I cannot remember the year, we saw it here at the hospital, a mother had delivered a dead baby according to traditional beliefs an elder used traditional method by putting the baby on the belly and put the afterbirth on top of the dead baby. After a while the baby breathed again, we used traditional methods because the mother is connected to the foetus.

We have to look into these things and find out what kind of Inuit methods there are. If there is a good level of understanding between the modern techniques and traditional techniques we can perhaps combine those to complement each other.

We come from the north and we come from a cold climate, so therefore our methods are geared for our northern climate. Like warm and cold techniques, they differ, they have to be taught in Nunavut and be learned. That way we can complement those two techniques together at the same time.

We don't have all sorts of diagnostic equipment at the hospital. Since we don't have the technological medical equipment, we sometimes are too late in diagnosing the patients. Even though there are more ideas coming out, I am running out of time now so I will conclude before my time runs out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. The next person to speak, first of all I would like to welcome back Donald Havioyak to the House. Welcome Mr. Havioyak. At this time, the next person to speak is Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of things I would like to say but I would like to have a lot more questions than comments today, but I will ask them when I have the opportunity.

(interpretation ends) When I look at the Main Estimates that are before us like Health and Social Services. I question why is Social Services in there because it's not mentioned and it's all health related programs, which is wonderful. As we all know, quite a few years ago the infant mortality rate was quite high and it is not so anymore. So we are so grateful to have the health services that are provided to us.

I think some of us also have the understanding that we probably have some of the best health services in Nunavut; even compared to some of the provinces. If I go to the hospital here in Iqaluit, I may complain if I wait for two hours to see a doctor. But, if I was in Toronto, I may have to wait a good two days or for a very long time even for surgery. So, I praise the health for having a good health care system in Nunavut and it is free to Inuit in Nunavut.

So don't misunderstand me, I'm very grateful for that. I think most Inuit are very grateful to have this wonderful health service and interpreters that we have in the health field in Nunavut.

But, sadly, social services are missed and I don't anything in the main estimates that is going to enhance social service programs in Nunavut. There are things that we need to look at like foster homes, foster parent's associations. They're very much part of the system but they are never mentioned. And if it weren't for foster homes that we have in Nunavut, we would need to have at least three to four social workers in each community.

So I wanted to also mention in respect to prevention and at one time Mr. Minister mentioned something about prevention but I don't see any kind of programs that are laid out as far as prevention goes. I'm talking about prevention, like, so the children are not neglected or they're not abused. There needs to be prevention on that.

There also needs to be some prevention in other areas like youth. Since all of the social workers are youth workers, right now in Nunavut, there needs to be some programs to prevent some of the things that they deal with maybe the problems with family violence, prevention for family violence and I do understand that a lot of the programs that we have are crisis intervention but we need to also look seriously at prevention and that's also lacking in this department but it's their responsibility.

I would also again like to mention social workers. They are on call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We need to have more social workers in place in the communities. Again, we are getting psychiatric nurses, mental health people, and I'm beginning to think along with some of the people that I've talked to that we've been labelled as mentally ill people because we are getting more services in that area but no prevention either.

I would also like to briefly mention our Committees of Council in the communities. I think there is some federal funding in place to run home care through committees of council; however, committees of council are run by the department. In our community, not community so much, all of their tasks have been sort of, this is how you're going to do things, this is good for you, this is how you should do things, you shouldn't do that. Their tasks are in that kind of thinking.

Again, social services are still doing probation and parole, as well as youth work under the Young Offenders Act. I will be asking later on about how many social workers that we have that are doing probation and parole, which is taking a lot of their time and also conflicting with some of the roles that they have like child welfare worker.

I will just explain a little bit. If you're a social worker and you intervene because of child, family problems or the child has been victimised in criminal activities, the social worker's role is to protect the child under the protection act, protection issue.

Then the person that committed a crime became her or his social worker under her duty also, when the court comes in they are asked to do a pre-sentence report on the offender.

But at the same time they are child welfare workers. This is conflicting. They need to look at this very seriously.

So that the social workers are not to do that anymore because the tasks that they are asked to do are too much, plus they have no one to talk to in the community because they are there by themselves. There's no other co-worker that they can talk to.

So today when we're doing the estimates, I'm going to be asking a lot of social work questions because I know it is important and that this department is to do health and social services, not just the health department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Any more comments? Any more comments from the members?

We can start with the questions from the floor. Any questions? If there are no questions on Health and Social Services then thank you, Mr. Minister. No, I'm just kidding. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I'm sorry. Are we going to do page by page now on the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): If it's the wish of the committee to start asking questions. Maybe Mr. Haviyok has a comment. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): I'm happy to back here. I just want to inform everyone that my wife is doing okay. I just want to make two comments.

You have been hearing a lot about these concerns. Whenever the question period comes up in the House, there's been a lot of concern about cigarette smoking with the young people and the elderly.

I have been raising this question a number of times, also alcohol. We should try and inform the public and also our young people because smoking and alcohol and all those addictive drugs, are not healthy.

Okay let's use cigarette smoking for example, when these younger people start seeing these ads and that smoking is not healthy for anyone and they start to think that maybe I shouldn't even start smoking to begin with. So, if we could get the message out to these younger people. I will be asking some of these questions and how funding is going to be used for Health and Social Services.

In regards to the doctors versus medivacs. I raised these questions last year. It would be great if each community could have a doctor; maybe this way we wouldn't be spending so much money on medivacs because if there are doctors in each community maybe we wouldn't have to send so many patients out.

I know this is not going to be easy. Regardless, some of these patients have no other choice but to go to Yellowknife or Edmonton to see a specialist. If we have doctors in each region or in each community maybe we are going to cut down on medivacs and save some money, regional wise.

I raised this concern last year and I will be bringing up this concern again. Also I will be asking questions in regards to doctors in each region or communities as well as medivacs.

(interpretation ends) Another thing that I want to mention, you talked about the increase to shelter organizations. It's good to hear that there's something happening in that area but the questions would be in the area of O and M and so on. I'm sure we'll get some details on that issue. It's an issue that my community has been addressing for the last few years.

It's a need in the community where the protection is needed for an individual that uses such a service. I just wanted to touch on those three things anyways.

And lastly, the social workers, like one of my colleagues mentioned earlier on, we don't have enough social workers in our communities and I know the positions are vacant for the last two years and it seems like that it has been put aside and maybe we are good for social workers.

And I hope we have a better approach or, I'm not sure how to say it, but in terms of those positions, we need a better approach, I don't know how to say it, but fill those positions. When they need to be filled, I don't know, maybe it's not the department's fault, maybe it's a problem finding qualified social workers. I don't know but it would be an interesting question later today or tomorrow in that area. (interpretation begins) That's all I have to say Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have too much in the way of general comments but just some things on issues that hopefully I'd like to see the department work towards in the next year and I know some of the things they are probably looking at right now and I encourage them to continue to do so.

One of them is nursing, I think that the minister is quite aware that the cost of agency nurses is tremendous on the department and I think that they should try and continue their efforts to minimize and limit the use of agency nurses.

Maybe by having those agency nurses here compared to the nurses that are indeterminate it's a very inequitable situation, you know, when you look at it individual by individual.

I think that the more we can try and make it a more equitable playing field for all nurses, make it attractive for nurses to be indeterminate nurses and stay in Nunavut, anything we

can do to do that, you know, I support the department in its efforts. But I think that's something we need to focus on.

The turnover of nurses in the communities, I know from first hand experience in dealing with a new nurse every time if you have someone that's chronically ill or is going in all the time, every time you go into the nursing station you're having to re-explain the same thing that you've told three or four nurses before that, every time you go in there.

So you know I think not only in the way of continuity, safety and continuity would be very beneficial to have some more long term indeterminate positions, nurses here in Nunavut so that we're not getting them in and burning them out and sending them off or just bringing in people for short spurts like we are now.

I encourage the minister and the department, I know he's making efforts to do that and I encourage him to continue his efforts on that and try and bring forward to his colleagues on cabinet a plan to address that issue a little more.

Another thing, I think it's been mentioned already, one is that in looking at nursing, maybe we should try to find a way other than just the ten thousand, the bursary that's there for the nurses, but to try to find some funding similar to the law students to be able to attract and retain nurses in the nursing program.

I know of some nurses, there's some potential nurses that were in that program that left because they couldn't afford to stay in the program. So, I think if we want to have that long term stability in our nursing stations we need to be able to make it attractive for these students to go through and get the training and become nurses.

Another thing I think the minister indicated, a large portion of his budget is eaten up with medical travel. I think the departments on the right track in the way that it's looking at it in, I understand in the Kivalliq Region, they're splitting it up with airlines and getting more of a competitive nature that way.

I think that's something they should explore in doing here in the Baffin and I don't know if they're doing that in the Kitikmeot as well, but I think that they would be probably more beneficial to the department in the long run if competition was there. You know one airline is going to charge you this much for medivac or for medical travel, they're always watching each other's numbers so as long as there is two around you have a chance to have the best bargain that you can to do that.

Another thing that was mentioned also earlier is the fact of the shelters. I know that the minister is also the Minister responsible for Homelessness, and I think that there needs to be more attention paid to the needs and issues related to the lack of shelters in Iqaluit, not in Iqaluit but in Nunavut and the needs of the homeless throughout Nunavut as well. It falls under his portfolio.

Also, another area that I think that needs to be looked at and the question maybe if the minister in this whole program review exercise is looking at really truly taking on the social envelope with health and social services, that's the one component that's missing from there is income support that's being run through the Department of Education which is approximately around 25 million dollars of the Education budget.

Maybe, again going back to a phrase that the minister is quite familiar with from the past, is that a holistic approach to the social envelope and trying to find the ways to deliver those services in a more effective and efficient manner to allow us to maximise the dollars that we can put into our programs as a result of that.

That's it for my general comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. All the members present have already used their 10 minutes for comments. We can move onto questions. You have ten minutes to pose your questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked earlier before we got into raising questions to the minister, so I'll raise the question again.

During his opening comments on page 2 he stated last year they had to approve 21 million dollars due to supplementary appropriations for 2001-2002. There's an increase of 36 million dollars for 2002-2003.

I'd like to ask the minister if he expects that in 2002-2003, that with this increase they won't have a deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, first of all, a point of clarification on the process, usually we have an opportunity to respond to the opening comments of the members, as the minister responsible for the department that's being reviewed.

I'm wondering if we'll be doing that today. No. I think there were good comments that were made and I would have liked the opportunity to respond.

On the specific question by Mr. Arvaluk, do we expect to have a deficit in 2002/2003? Mr. Chairman, I can't say if we're going to have a deficit or not. What I can say is that in all likelihood, based on previous experience, there is a good possibility that that may occur.

With the extra funding that has been made available to us, which as we said earlier in the opening comments, was for the historic shortfall in funding or the under-basing of the budget, we believe that it should be considerably less than what it has been in the previous two fiscal years.

I would also ask Mr. Chairman, if there's an opportunity to be able to address the comments made by the members in the review. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman for his response. Also in his opening comments, on page 4. Mr. Tootoo commented on it earlier, in regards to the nursing program, can the minister just clarify this because Nunavut Arctic College will be funding or there will be courses on social work at the college.

So in your plans for 2002-2003, will there be an improvement in the programs at the Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am still waiting for your earlier response Mr. Chairman, on the review of the opening comments. But I will answer Mr. Arvaluk's specific question on the Nursing Program.

First of all Mr. Chairman, as we said earlier we had come up with a bursary to support financially and monetarily, the nursing students just this past year so that they wouldn't have the financial difficulty that they had been continuously telling us that they were experiencing.

We believe the commitment made by the government through the department demonstrated our support for that nursing program. At the same time Mr. Chairman on the other two programs we continue to review with the Arctic College, the Nunavut Arctic College the administration as well as the delivery of the social worker program and that's joint consultation between Arctic College as well as the Department of Health and Social Services and Mr. Chairman, for the first time in at least three years we delivered the first CHR program also at the Nunavut Arctic College.

Specifically in the opening comments of Mr. Arvaluk he made a good point on traditional foods being supplied to the students at the college and this has been an ongoing concern of the students for quite a while.

I would be open to suggestions from the member on how we could co-operatively try to address that concern also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. You asked me earlier if you could respond to the comments made, but the members made a lot comments, suggestions and recommendations during their opening comments. There were many comments and suggestions made and they're being transcribed for your information.

If you try to respond to all of the issues raised in the members' comments, it would take a while, perhaps too long, so we'll move onto the questions section. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I am trying to say is, perhaps if I ask this question. These courses that are related to health, we really want these programs to be successful, are they on par with other programs such as the Akitsiraq Law program?

By that I mean their financial assistance and housing. Is the nursing program on par with these other programs? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate your ruling on my earlier question. I had hoped to respond to member's comments specifically but I will not challenge the Chair in this case.

Mr. Chairman, specifically on the Nursing Program, as I have said in this House in the past, we began by putting this year a bursary in place of 10 thousand dollars for nursing students in the first, second and third year of the program.

At the same time in the access year, we made a bursary available of 15 hundred dollars. That was unconditional funding Mr. Chairman, so that when they received that money they were able to use it to help them with rent payments, tickets home, clothing and so on and so forth.

We believe that bursary program, and the feedback that we've gotten from the nursing students, was that it was well welcomed, well received and has been an incentive to keep the nurses in the program. Again I think it's important to point out, Mr. Chairman, that a lot of our students are unlike students in the south who go to college or university at 16, 17 and 18 years of age when they finish school.

A lot of our students are adults and especially in the nursing program they are young mothers who have children, common-law spouses, husbands, families to support and there needs to be a different way of supporting those students from previously what was done in there, for example in the south, taking into account the financial hardships that the member talked about. We believe the bursary program has done that.

At the same time, in other programs that we have run under Health, the member maybe recalls, that just recently we finished the Medical Terminology Interpreter/Translator Program course. It is the first time that has been delivered in a couple of years, helping with the interpretation as well as the translation of medical terminology at Health Centres and including the hospital.

We also ran the first CHR Program in some time. And we are in the process of doing the review, again on the Social Work Program.

So those are the types of academic programs that we put in place for the students through the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right here, on the same page, on page 4, in your opening comments in the first paragraph, on the same line. Could you tell us I believe that we raised this question last year, how many Nursing Program students have left since its inception? We know that the remaining students were quite low, those who remained in the program when most of the other students had already dropped out.

Can he elaborate as to how many students started the Program since its first year, and how many students that have continued in the Program. And secondly, could you give us details as to how many have started the second year and how many continued and perhaps we can move to the third year now. So, could he inform the committee as to what is happening with the success of these students and the program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the member may recall when we reinstated this Program, this Program, the Nunavut Nursing Program, had been under the NUHRDS Program which is the Nunavut Human Resources Development Strategy, before the creation of Nunavut, put in place by the Federal Government and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

On the eve of the beginning of Nunavut, the money or the funding for this Program was cancelled. Indeed the students that were in the Program were left without a Program.

Quickly after April 1st, 1999, Mr. Chairman, the minister at that time, Minister Arvaluk and myself had reviewed different programs and decided that this was one of the priorities with the support of our Cabinet colleagues to bring forward. At that time we put 600 thousand dollars into Program itself through the College as well as I believe about 150 thousand in Student Financial Assistance.

In 1999-2000 there were seven students in the NUHRDS Program. The following year, Mr. Chairman there were only three students in the Program. That was an attrition rate of about four students. We estimate right now that the attrition rate is about twenty to thirty percent.

In the year 2001-2002, that was last year and this year, we have seven students, three in the first year and four in the second year. And we anticipate in 2002-2003 there will be eight students in the first year, which is the access year, two in the second year, and four in year three, for a total of fourteen.

In the following year which we would be looking at Mr. Chairman, we would be looking at a total of twelve, six and two. We expect Mr. Chairman, that the first graduates would occur with a diploma in 2003-2004, and with a degree in the same year.

We expect that starting by 2007-2008 we would have graduated at least eleven or twelve students with a degree or diploma in Nursing.

So that will be over the next three to five years continuing with the Program. We think that is a very aggressive number to meet, but we believe that it is possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I will have Mr. Nutarak talk next.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): You just want me to just talk? Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me the opportunity. In regards to the nursing program, how is it set up? Does it go through the Department of Education; do they give you a pot of money that will be used for the nursing program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we would wish that would happen but unfortunately that is not the case. As is the case with most programs through the college, this is a purchased program, we purchase this program. We contribute 600 thousand dollars directly to the college in our base budget towards the Nunavut Nursing program as well as the Department of Education also includes in their budget the amount for the student financial assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In regards to the living allowance, food allowance, clothing allowances, is it possible to give them more benefits so that there would be an increase in the retention? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is one of the most important programs I believe that we are currently running in Nunavut. At the present time and looking at their continued rate, we will need at least 200 to 280 nurses over the next five years.

That includes the nurses that are currently employed as well as homecare. There's a huge opportunity for nurses. One of the concerns has been the financial incentives that are available, not just for this program but for other programs offered at the college and that's why the Department of Education has looked at a review of student financial assistance,

as well as trying to look at increases in their budget that was recently passed in this House.

We have put in place, as I've said before, a bursary of 10 thousand dollars for the nursing students, as well as a bursary of 15 hundred dollars for the students in the access year of the program.

That money is unconditional Mr. Chairman, which means when the nursing students receive the 10 thousand dollars, they can use it for a trip home, they can buy furniture with it, it's their discretionary funding to them.

The feedback that we have received from the nurses Mr. Chairman has been very positive. That indeed, they believe it has been an extra incentive and we believe that it has helped not only to retain, but to recruit new nursing students into the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Anybody else? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the nursing program again, it's obvious that there's less than 10 students going through this program and of course I'm all for increasing their numbers.

There's a large amount of money that has been set aside for the law school and they've also got 350 thousand dollars from Human Resources. Why is it that the Nursing Program is not given anything from Human Resources? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the Nunavut law program as has been explained in the past in this House, is a different program than the nursing program.

The nursing program is a standard program that is delivered within the college system. The law program includes a work tenure, where students that complete the program and indeed are enrolled in the program have to work in tenure to the Government of Nunavut or other sponsors of the program.

That's quite different, and there's a guaranteed wage in there. We have tried to compensate within the nursing program itself by the introduction of the bursary. I don't think those programs can be compared because of the differences as earlier explained. I also suggest that in the member's opening comments on the programs and some of the other comments, they were well received by my staff and me.

The attrition rate during the first year of this program was almost 50%. And right now I think we're down to about 20 to 30% and I have to apologize to the member because in one question she had asked me before I had used the figure of eight and it was quite embarrassing when the member came to me in the office one day and said I can't find

these students and she of course was correct because in one of the numbers I gave which was eight in the first year, 2003-2004 was the anticipated enrolment and not the actual enrolment and that's why I restated the numbers again today just to clarify that point Mr. Chairman.

So we did have a fall off from 7 to 3 in one year. That's when the GNWT dropped the program in 1998-1999 and when the program began again by this government of the seven that were in the program only three returned. But we have continued to increase the numbers since that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqutit, Itsivautaq. I just want to ask you in the area of home foster care. It'd be interesting to know across Nunavut I guess, to see if we're in a shortage of foster homes.

I know in my community, it was brought to my attention by some families that there's a need for more homes and it would be interesting to know how you're advertising to get more homes in the communities and how does the future look to having some group homes in some of these in communities.

As an example again, Kugluktuk, I'm just using that, it might be needed elsewhere. It might be Pond Inlet, it might be your home community Itsivautaq, but I'm just using that as an example where it was identified a couple of years ago there was a need of more homes.

Because of the lack of homes the kids are sent out of the community which really hurts the families when they are separating them from their relatives, but if they were in the community that makes a big difference and more trying to resolve the problem within the family group.

But I guess just to the question; how is it handled today? Are you notified or are you seeing the needs of more foster homes and how to try and get more foster homes in each community? Koanaqutit, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. Over the past 12 to 14 months we've experienced a severe shortage of foster homes and foster families available to take children who are in need of those services.

Two things have happened Mr. Chairman. There is a move underway to look at a foster family organization or group to review some of the procedures and policy planning and to provide support to foster families. That's outside the scope of the government, that's actually an organizational body of volunteers.

At the same time we are reviewing amounts that we are paying foster families and we have also put in more money into the actual program itself in the budget.

But I would suggest to you that, Mr. Chairman there is a greater need for foster families and with some of the supports that we have put in place, logistically as well as administratively and now with the review financially, we should see an uptake of more care available, not only in this community but across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Haviyak.

Mr. Haviyak: It's good to hear that there is some planning and it's on the go right now and like he said with the policy planning and trying to find more homes within the communities. It's good to hear that this department is doing something about this because it is badly needed.

Jumping to another subject, Nunavummiut hear from southern Canada, HIV/AIDS status. There's some control on it, but how can we let people know out in Nunavut saying yes it's under control that there are prevention programs and how we can prevent it from spreading across Nunavut?

What are the things you are doing today in that area by programs and services in the HIV/AIDS issue I guess? Koanaqutit, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyak. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member raises a very serious issue in Nunavut. The sexually transmitted rates in Nunavut for gonorrhoea and Chlamydia for example are seventeen times higher than the national averages.

That in itself is a shocking figure Mr. Chairman. Sexually transmitted infections or STIs, are in the process right now as a department to expand our diagnostic as well as our screening by offering all patients the opportunity for hepatitis, HIV and syphilis testing as well as other STIs across Nunavut.

At the present time as an example Mr. Chairman, only five percent of clients willingly ask for an STI test when making an appointment here at the hospital in the Baffin for example. We're in the process of introducing procedures for regular follow up as well as trilingual educational posters on STIs and we're also planning a pilot STI clinic.

The member may remember just recently during the Arctic Winter Games in partnership and co-operation with Pauktutiit we had joined together for the Arctic Winter Games safe sex messages where there were condoms, several thousand condoms that were distributed to athletes from across the different circumpolar countries participating in the Arctic Winter Games.

And myself, as you may remember Mr. Chairman, at one point dressed up as condom man and went around to different venues passing out condoms. I believe that program itself was quite effective. One of the sexually transmitted diseases Mr. Chairman, can be prevented; it's a preventable disease and I don't think we've had enough discussion on this issue not only in this House but in other public forums.

So I appreciate the member raising it. We have put an expanded diagnostic as well as treatment programs in place. We have enhanced and brought forward increased early detection through PAP smears that are delivered not only in community health centres but also at the hospitals.

We also have some interesting data and I'll just read one for you that we estimate that less than 50 percent of Chlamydia infections are present for treatment in Nunavut or in our patients. It's also important to point out too, while the member had asked this question, that Chlamydia infections alone, cause infertility as well as pelvic inflammatory disease as well as transmission possibilities during birth.

And that's why it's very important to have the opportunity for PAP smear screening. Especially in the early years and continuing when a person becomes sexually active. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess across Nunavut, there are some types of statistics, without names where you might have HIV/AIDS. You know if I was the public out there and you hear about these diseases coming up north from the south, how rapidly it's coming or I guess just the statistics, how many people might have it across Nunavut and so on. Do you have that type of information that maybe people could hear or even myself? Where in the future, that we can use in the House, use the statistics on how we can go about prevention and so on.

It's interesting statistics to know. Koanaqutit, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I tried to point out earlier, I think it's important for all the members of the House, as well as the public in Nunavut to remember that when you see rates of Chlamydia infection, Gonorrhoea infection that are seventeen times the national averages, then it goes to follow that other sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV would also be similarly high.

And the reason why Mr. Chairman, that we are testing low for HIV, because as I said earlier, only 5 percent of people who are infected with a sexually transmitted disease ask for an HIV test because that is up to yourself. That is your prerogative to ask for the test.

If 50 percent of people showing up for sexually transmitted diseases were tested for HIV, it may indeed follow that the rate would be considerably higher. But when only 5 percent, so 5 out of 100 people, get tested for HIV, then the number remains low.

I would suggest to you Mr. Chairman, it's safe to assume that HIV is present in any unprotected sexual encounter that members of the public at large are having. And that is why the Government of Nunavut, through your Department of Health and Social Services, has been promoting safe sex and the usage of condoms during sex as one way to prevent HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases.

And I appreciate the member bringing that comment to the floor during this budget debate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I can direct questions to the minister at any time because we're going to be having other days for meetings. But there was one time that we talked about a men's group. Could the minister give us an update on what's happening with the men's association or the men's group that we talked about in the earlier days? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe if the member could just clarify. I believe the member is asking about the men's self help group that has been formed in some communities.

If that's specifically what the member is asking, I'd like to get some clarification so I could try to answer your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): It was discussed on the radio for quite a long time when we were in the Fifth Session. At that time the women's groups were being funded by the government under the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and there was a lot of discussion on why there are no self help groups for men and why there are no shelters for men.

For example, if a woman goes to one of the shelters you cannot talk to the spouse at all as the facility is only for women and at that point we discussed the idea of possibly setting up men's self help groups so that there would be equal support provided to both the women's and the men's groups and the problems that they face.

Could the minister give us an update on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for clarifying his question. The funding that the group receives from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I believe it's the Status of Women's Council.

The member is correct. They work in an advocacy role for women throughout Nunavut and are funded by the government. There is not a similar organization for men and some of the discussion that has taken place over the past several months has been around the area of having some type of similar status of Men's Council as it were.

And the member is correct again when he suggests that in many cases victims of abuse in communities, women are taken out of their communities and it seemingly seems that the counselling for the abuser is actually not in place. One of the things we have been working on over the last several months Mr. Chairman, in our new mental health strategy which is part of this budget, is to look at an opportunity for having counsellors available on the ground to help both the victim and the abuser. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I'm sure that it's going to progress as the planning stages proceed. And since there is going to be a family violence planning process going on, does that mean when facilities are built for treatment that we won't need to be importing southern people to fill those positions to help our clients in need. Is that under consideration? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No Mr. Chairman, that's not what it means. Mr. Chairman, over the last couple of days in the House we've had some good discussion and debate on the role of social workers and counsellors and over the past five years social workers' roles have changed from being just, have changed in five years from, for example, writing social assistance or income support cheques, to that they don't do that anymore because income support workers do that.

Social workers now pick up the legislative as well as the statutory requirements in many communities. Member Williams on a couple of occasions has brought up the issue around what happens with the cross pollenization of a social worker and having to on one hand counsel a family and on the other hand having to for example apprehend children.

So what the government has done in the past three years is try to train more mental health workers or family counsellors at the community level. Through Brighter Futures money for example, a hamlet could hire a unilingual Inuk person to be a counsellor and we have for example, several trained Inuktitut-only speaking community counsellors working right now that graduated from the program in Clyde River. For example, from Hall Beach, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Pond Inlet, who are either in training right now or actually going through that type of training.

So, we're going to progress as the member has said with the issues around family violence and counselling and look outside of the box by incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and having those types of specialist positions in place.

So I hope that helps address the question of the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask, even though it's not in the main estimates, but social work is mentioned a couple of times. I would like to ask the minister how many social workers we have today that are doing probation and parole? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have that answer. My associates on both sides of me believe that I don't have it but I know I've seen it and having gone through psychiatric evaluation with Dr. Best who informed me at that time that I had a photographic memory as well as being a qualified speed reader, I know that I'm correct when I say I've seen it.

If the member will give us an opportunity, see I told you I saw it. We have found it Mr. Chairman and moving right along here with the help of Mr. Iqaqrialu.

The update on the repatriation of community corrections services from health and the Department of Justice tells me that community probation officers have been hired and trained by Justice and have assumed from the social workers in the following communities, Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Baker Lake, Kugluktuk and Pond Inlet. The Pond Inlet worker will also manage the community corrections for Arctic Bay.

That's the numbers that I have available at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not ask that question. My question was how many social workers today are doing probation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we believe the number is approximately 15 given the communities that have probation officers in them. So we

believe it's around 15 at the present time. So a little more than half of Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is that, what is taking place now between Justice and his department to make sure these communities will have probation officers so that the social workers will not do this work any more? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know the member has been involved not only in her former role, as a social worker, but also in her role with the government. There are some chronological dates that I'd like to go through.

There was a decision in 1992 by the GNWT to transfer corrections services from Social Services to Justice. Then in the following year, the Department of Justice assumed the management of adult and correctional facilities for youth and through the regional, setting up youth justice committees and justice committees at communities.

Then there was an MOU signed to try to alleviate some of the work of the social workers doing some of this work. In 1997 and 1998, the Yellowknife government at that time put new monies in place for Justice so that training and staff support for the transfer of those positions from social workers to community probation officers would begin.

When the Nunavut Government took over in 1999-2000 the Department of Justice did include that in their budget and that was the first time we did a development of community corrections supervision services.

At the present time Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is continuing to work with the Department of Justice to see the transferring of more of this responsibility from social workers to the community parole or probation officers and there are also more transfers that will take place this spring, the spring of 2002.

So basically that's the chronological sequence of what has happened and what is actually happening and what we intend to do is to continue with the process. And the member makes again a good point that it is not acceptable to have the social worker having to do not only the counselling for the offender but also the apprehension in some cases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear that this process is continuing and that we will see some of the probation officers or social workers not doing this work in the near future and I think that's very welcome by these workers in our communities.

Another question that I want to ask even though it's not in here, my colleague Mr. Havioyak has mentioned it, is foster homes.

We see a lot of, last two years, two to three years more and more families are taking their own family members as foster parents, to foster their own nieces and nephews or grandchildren. With Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that used to happen a lot but they didn't get paid. So when that happens if the family that is fostering children is on social assistance, I'm not sure if this minister could answer this, but can, okay, I'll go back a little bit.

The family member who is fostering children will get paid a per diem through foster care programs but they are family members, their aunts and uncles or grandparents, this is happening today in all of our communities.

And we also understand to look at ways to keep the child in the community instead of sending the child out to a strange family, that's very good. Have they looked at, should the family members who are fostering children be getting paid, or sometimes are they getting paid through social assistance by adding the child that is there instead of paying foster parent rates. I hope I'm clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I believe, it's my understanding that if for example, an aunt or an uncle is in a position where they are able to provide foster care for a child that they would be compensated for that foster child.

It is also my understanding Mr. Chairman that the foster care payments are made outside of the regular income support. So that when someone is on income support, they have to declare the money they receive above and beyond the amount for the foster care rate. That's my understanding of it as of today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.'

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams would you like to continue?

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question in regards to the foster parents. They are given very good support and the social workers go visit the homes and that's the usual procedure that the social worker follows.

Perhaps, if your department has started or even initiated the discussion of an association for foster parents so that foster parents can communicate with each other throughout Nunavut, this would allow them another avenue of support, especially having their own children to take care of and foster children to take care of on top of that. They try really hard to do it properly and they work very hard to teach the foster child some values that they are parenting and they have huge responsibilities.

I was wondering if your department is willing to consider starting up a group or an association of foster parents. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, not only will the Department of Health and Social Services be interested in supporting a group, we have in the mental health strategy monies already budgeted to actually help finance and fund a foster parents organisation in Nunavut following on the request of the member from Kugluktuk about seven months ago as well as some of the suggestions that had been made by the Standing Committee on Health.

So we have followed up on that and we have budgeted in the mental health strategy, dollars to facilitate and help set up a foster parents' organisation. The answer to the member's question is yes.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams. Just to jog your memory in regards to the minister's opening comments, I just want to inform the members that they can ask questions to the minister's opening comments and then we'll go on to the main estimates.

I just wanted to remind the members, we'll go onto the pages of the operations and maintenance Main Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services, but I'm reminding the members that they can ask questions in regards to the minister's opening comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Very briefly, Mr. Chairman, I'll ask a question. I would like to make an additional question related to the one made by my colleague from Tunnunig. In regards to the men's self help group, at least in my community, we have already started the men's self help group in the community of Clyde River.

But I need further clarification too. If the other communities are trying to establish such groups, have you have assisted those communities trying to establish these self-help groups? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, self help groups at the community level are done through the co-operation, as well as being facilitated by the communities themselves.

The Department of Health and Social Services hasn't gone in and set up self-help groups in communities. But they are a result, as the member just indicated, from the community of Clyde River, there has been a group set up on recommendations for example, Mr. Chairman, from the health committee at the community level.

Where there is a request Mr. Chairman, for resources, logistic support, administrative support, to set up a group similar to what the member has referred to, then Mr. Chairman, the department would be in a position to try to help facilitate that.

So the answer would be, we would be willing to do that but we have not received this specific request to date from an individual community to set up a men's self help group around the issues earlier discussed, like family violence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned about the doctors versus medivacs, I know this isn't a new subject. We talked about it last year. When does the community, or larger communities, or any community for that matter, when are they eligible to get a doctor?

How do you determine when that community's needs require a full time doctor? How do you say for example this year or next year we'll need a doctor. Or another way to put it too, a plan for Nunavut communities, is there something in the planning stage where you are working towards each community having a doctor in the very near future I guess to bring down the medivac costs, I guess?

That's how I see the medivac costs going down if we had staff in each community. Can the minister touch on that area? What's the plan in the future for that? Koanaqutit, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman here in Nunavut we have what's called a primary health care delivery model. What that means is that our primary health care is delivered in 90 % of the case by nurses.

Mr. Chairman, you may be surprised to know that many other jurisdictions in the other jurisdictions across the country would like to have that type of model because of the lower overhead to the system itself Mr. Chairman.

At the same time Mr. Chairman, at the current time, specifically to the member's question, the department is reviewing the staffing mix at our best practices division, through operations, to look at the total staffing mix at the community level, for example a mixture of primary health care nurse delivery, do we need more psychiatric nurses for example in communities, what's the opportunity for having a greater presence of general practitioners and so on.

That review is occurring right now Mr. Chairman, within the department and I would hope to be able to bring back something concrete to the Standing Committee that the member is a member of, hopefully sometime in the fall on the review of that staffing mix. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are there any further questions? I would just like to remind the members that we have only five minutes. After five minutes the interpreters and the

Sergeant-At-Arms will have supper in Tuktu boardroom in five minutes and the Members and table officers will be eating in the Nanuk room eating polar bear meat. We'll have a break for less than one hour for supper.

Since there are no further questions we'll go on to the pages. Page 10-5. Any comments? We'll approve this at the end of the department. We can move onto page 10-5. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Under the Department of Health and Social Services the budget has increased approximately 27%. What's the 27% increase for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: I'm just going to get the actual numbers and a list of the base increases to date, which also includes Mr. Chairman, as the member knows, the increase in the base adjustment.

So the total increase and total adjustments are as follows. There is a base adjustment of 21 million dollars which makes up the 27% which includes the 21 million dollars that was mentioned earlier in the supplementary appropriation.

There is also extra dollars available in the forced growth or new initiative proposals of the department and there is an extra 5.8 million dollars which includes the Collective Agreement adjustment and that's from the negotiations of the NEU, the Nunavut Employees' Union for the contract increase.

All together with the FMB approval, the forced growth new initiative approval, as well as the 21 million dollars base adjustment, the total amount is the 31 million 869 thousand dollars or the 27% that the member had asked earlier about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Anything else? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): You said that we only had five minutes. So I only have about one minute to ask questions, but I may not have time, so I would like break for supper. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, we will break for 35 minutes. Thank you. We will be back at 25 to the hour. Thank you.

>>House recessed at 5.56 p.m. and resumed 6.35 p.m.

Chairman (Mr. Iqittuq) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We can begin from the first page. Department of Health and Social Services. Program Summary. We're on page 10-5. Any questions on that page? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Under that page, 10-5, under grants and contributions, in 2001-2002 there was a little over 1 million dollars, and there's over 4 million dollars this year.

Is that to do with more employees or is that for the benefits that have increased? It's under grants and contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no the answer for this question is that in previous years in this line item for grants and contributions, we used to include the social services payments for alcohol and drug programs and the shelters.

They are now budgeted under contract services and after reviewing those agreements, we've transferred the budget to grants and contributions. So now included here, in this line item are the contributions and grants including Nunavut Arctic College, the nursing and CHR programs as well as the community governments for the Committees of Council.

So we've increased the different areas that were being funded in a different area on another line item to the line item of grants and contributions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Under the same page, under contract services, what kinds of contracts are we talking about here? Are you using professional contractors or is that to do with medical contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: The member is correct. That's for medical contracts. For example, out of territory hospitals 15 million dollars. Non-Insured Health Benefits, that's the NIHB, 12.9 million dollars. Physician services, 7.2 million dollars. Residential care, and that's for out of territory placement of children and adults in care, that's 5.8 million dollars. Child foster services 2.8 million dollars.

So, for example, Mr. Chairman, all those areas are covered under that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any more questions on that page? If not, we'll move to page 10-6. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total operations and maintenance 19 million 339 thousand dollars. Agreed? Questions. Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Haviyok: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under contract services there is a decrease of about 50%. Why is the decrease there? I know you touched on some contracts earlier but in the directorate why is it down by 50%? Koanaqutit, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. I would like the members to know that there's another page on the directorate which is 10-7. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a bit of clarification and that goes back to the Member for Pond Inlet's earlier question.

In prior years, under the payments for alcohol and drug programs and shelters, they had been budgeted under contract services. What we've done now is put them under grants and contributions because they're actually grants and contributions to those shelters for example. And it also includes the Nunavut Arctic College and so on.

So that's why the decrease, because we've taken other items out and put them under the other area, other line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: On the other expenses, you might have moved something there but maybe, it's good to know what you have put into the lines of the other expenses. It's quite a big increase, about a 2 million dollar increase. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess the largest item in that area would be the equipment for the departmental staff for hardware and software, especially for the registration of the health information, so that's basically what that's for. Or the health insurance program in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Both of you were talking there when you answered so, I'm sorry I kind of missed that answer. Please repeat. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologise to the member. That area there, Mr. Chairman, the largest item in that area would be for the hardware and software for the registration of the health programs that are in Rankin Inlet. We had been in the past using the NWT software, now we're using Nunavut software. Okay.

So that's the largest item in that area, for the member's information. I hope that helps answer your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on page 10-7, it's part of 10-6 I think. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Nunavut Nursing program if I could ask him simple questions at first.

We can't be given information on exactly how much they make. There's 600 thousand dollars for the Nunavut Nursing Program, and it's the same thing for 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. I think it's got to do with the 15 nursing program students for the first year and second year students. For the access nursing program at first and the second year students.

If that's the case, now we know that. Under 2001-2002, exactly how much money did you use for the nursing program out of the 600 thousand dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member may remember when this was initially set up, we had built into the budget of the Department of Health and Social Services, into the base, the 600 thousand dollars to purchase the program from Arctic College.

All that 600 thousand dollars would include, logistically, the administration as well as some of the financial costs to the college to deliver the program. That includes the hiring of instructors, as well as the practicum and so on. That's in the base.

So we contribute that directly to the college and then they run the program. I don't have the break-down here because it's transferred to another department. That would be Minister Kilabuk who would have that information on the total costs expended.

I have the amount that is transferred which is the 600 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask that question of Mr. Kilabuk in the House during question period. We all know that the people taking the law school program, the Akitsiraq Law School and the Nunavut Nursing Program along with other programs, we know that there are all sorts of courses, and that we are sparsely populated in Nunavut, but we have to feed the students because they are not from here and their financial assistance is quite low.

I know that there is a wife who goes to the nursing program and the husband is here with their two children. I heard that they were making 600 dollars a month. In the middle of the month they would get 100 dollars.

So at the end of the month they get about 500 dollars or whatever. I don't know whether it's true or not, maybe the minister can enlighten me, but I guess they went from 600 to 800 dollars a month. It was also scheduled so that half of the amount was paid out at the middle of the month, is that true or am I mistaken? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, you look very dapper this evening Mr. Chairman, very nice. Mr. Chairman, first of all under the Nursing Program there's two financial opportunities for the Nursing Program that I am aware of through the Government of Nunavut.

One is the Student Financial Assistance Program and based on the family needs of each individual student. So for example, if a student has, let's say a husband and two children they would receive more money than a single parent as an example.

So there are factors in the way the Student Financial Assistance is allocated and I can't comment on what the maximum or the minimums are. That debate was held over the last couple of days with the Minister of Education on the review of the Student Financial Assistance Program.

What I can say that with the Student Financial Assistance Program we had heard from the Nursing Students that they were having difficulty and that's why we brought in the bursary program which was unconditional funding to the nursing students.

So each student, nursing student received up to ten thousand dollars during their academic school year. That was unconditional funding in that Mr. Chairman, as you know unconditional means that they could use the money for rent, they could use it for food they could use it for airline tickets to go home it was theirs that they chose to do what they needed the money for.

At the same time we brought in fifteen hundred dollars for the students of the Nursing Program that were in the access year. Now I understand that there is a concern that the Law Program actually has a base salary and so on but that's outside the scope of what I could deal with today under the Nursing Program.

I can say that we believe that the bursary program has been successful and as I said before in this House, I need to go out now and get corporate sponsorship for that program from larger corporations to help me match the funds I initially put into it from the government to keep that program continuing.

So far Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to say that the uptake has been good. I am some ways away from reaching the goal that we need to be self-sustaining on a corporate donation basis. The ten thousand dollars that we talked about earlier, was paid out in quarterly payments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was whether I'm right or not? That was my previous question and can he respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: I think I answered the question by saying he is partially correct on his initial question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're talking about the Main Estimates and we have to approve this budget. Also we're trying to make the best representation of our people in trying to approve the budget.

I'm using as an example, in regards to the 600 thousand dollar budget; he stated that I'm partially right. If I am partially right, then as we have all heard, the people that are taking the law school program get about 50 thousand dollars annually. If the nursing program students make 800 dollars a month, it's about 9 thousand 600 dollars annually. If we use accountants to calculate the figures, it's about ten, I'm sorry; it's about five times more than what the nursing program students get.

From 1999, ever since we were sworn in as members of this House, we have been continually saying, especially my good friend the minister has been saying that we need nurses that are going to be staying in the north. He has been talking about options for retaining nurses in Nunavut. He even talks about giving them bonuses to retain them here in Nunavut.

We look for nurses in Australia and other places, and the really crucial nursing program has to continue. And here they're making 5 times less than the law school program students. What I am trying to understand is do we have a vision? Yes, the program is under Arctic College, we all know that but we have to make sure that the money is sufficient for the nursing program or on par with the Akitsiraq Law School students or just take it completely out of Arctic College. It has to be rectified.

The reason why I asked the question was because we state that it's very important to have nurses in Nunavut. At the same time, we're not giving them enough money to complete the course and they sometimes don't have enough to eat while they're taking the nursing program. They are on a literal diet with not enough finances and not enough food and this lasts throughout the entire program.

Do we really want nurses? If that is the case, and we agree that we need nurses, then I think we have to allocate the necessary resources to deal with these issues. Mr. Chairman, under directorate, 10-6, it states the compensation and benefits of staff is 11 million 360

thousand dollars. And the ones that are supposedly very important for Nunavut, which are the Inuit who are taking the nursing program; it's just 600 thousand dollars that we're giving them.

I think we're going to have to make a motion in the House which states, I don't know when it will happen, but the assistance that the nursing program students are getting while they're taking the program, this money they have to survive, it is not enough.

The importance of these positions is not irrelevant because you can exist without lawyers and nobody will die even if we have no lawyers. However if you do not have any nurses available, someone could conceivably die. Which one is more important to us, to Nunavut?

I would like to ask the minister if he can commit to and believe in the program which is training these nurses and he can commit whatever resources are necessary to have a successful program and to have these graduates work in Nunavut, whether that be housing, financial or otherwise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, first of all let me say that I appreciate Mr. Arvaluk's comments. Mr. Arvaluk, as members know and I have said several times in this House several times during the budget debate, he was one of the major advocates when we brought forward the nursing program three years ago.

The money that's being approved here Mr. Chairman, and I want to make it clear. The money that's being approved here today, the 600 thousand dollars is not for student financial assistance, it's not for compensation, that 600 thousand dollars is to buy the program from Arctic College to pay for classroom space, to pay for classroom instructors, to pay for the text books, and so on. It's not to pay students and it's not to pay any student financial assistance.

We just dealt with those issues with the education budget when the members reviewed the student financial assistance. I have suggested to you and I have said in the House that I realize this is a problem with the some of the financial considerations for the nursing students and that's why I brought forward the bursary, first time ever, in the history of Arctic College, Nunavut Arctic College or indeed Aurora College in the west that there was a bursary program funded by a government specifically for a program.

I think we can do more to keep students and to attract students. We've heard some good comments today in the House. So, I want to make it clear to the member that this budget goes outside the scope of allowing for extra student financial assistance for the nursing program and it is not there to compare the nursing program to the law school.

That's a unique program unto itself, where there is work tenure and so on involved in it, corporate sponsorship for salary dollars. The nursing program is base funded in my

budget and will continue year 1, year 2, year 3, year 4, and as soon as someone graduates year 3 or year 4, they keep going on in other years in the program.

So with that Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your kind words earlier and I appreciate the support and advocacy of Mr. Arvaluk and the members in helping us continue with the nursing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. At times the responses, when they start to get long it's hard to tell what questions have been responded to and what the question was. You could have just said what the 600 thousand dollars was going to be used for. So just respond to the question that is being raised. Please keep that in mind. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you to the minister for his response. My last question. Does he agree that he'll work with the Minister of Education to encourage students to stay in school and that they are provided with country food and that the money will be enough, and will they need supplementary funds for these students this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I mean I have agreed with Minister Kilabuk on many occasions. I have severely disagreed with Minister Kilabuk on many occasions.

So I can work with him and I look forward to working with him to see if there is an opportunity to continue the good work on the student financial assistance for the program and I'm sure that Minister Kilabuk, I see now he's willing, he is saying over there yes, he wants to work with me on this.

So I look forward to working with him on the program and I can commit to the Honourable Member that we will again review the opportunities that present itself with the bursary program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Arvaluk. I have a couple of names on my list. Ms. Williams and Mr. Iqaqrialu. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under 10-6, Directorate. How many staff does this 11 million go towards, how many staff members are there that it requires 11 million dollars. Looking at the other departments, they don't use up that much. Just to get an idea how many staff members this goes towards?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman that line item there includes the three regional offices, Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung, and the Kugluktuk decentralized

office as well as headquarters and we would be looking at in excess of 130 positions in total for the regional offices and HQ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so that I understand, the O and M expenditure for 2001-2002, it says 127 staff on the budget, the cost was 19 million 562 thousand. What's the difference now from that time to today? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. I wonder if the member could clarify which page that is?

Chairperson (interpretation): We're on page 10-6 and it goes onto 10-7, Directorate. Ms. Williams could you clarify your question?

Ms. Williams: I'm referring to the Program Review working document that was provided to us and it says a breakdown of divisions, the staffing and the costs, that's what I was referring to. It indicates PYs 127 in Directorate and the costs 19 million 562 thousand.

But the minister is saying that it's 130 staff in this one but the budget is 11 million, so I'm just trying to understand exactly where we are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We weren't on that page, she isn't talking about this page but I'll get the minister to respond.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I can respond under the 10-6 and suggest to you that on our compensation and benefits and if I may, I'll go slow so that you can write the numbers down.

Under headquarters, FTE or the fulltime equivalency there's 112 HQ, and that budget is 10 million 254 thousand. Under the Baffin region and that's all the communities in the Baffin there's 257 FTE and that's 21 million 984 thousand. Under the Kivalliq region there's 148.3 FTE and that's 12 million 80 thousand and under the Kitikmeot there's 72.6 FTE and that's 6 million 106.

So the total employees under the compensation and benefits for the three regions plus headquarters is 589.9 or 50 million 424 thousand now that compensation has been adjusted to reflect the increased costs in the new contract agreement that was just signed.

That also includes the departmental staffing which includes the three regions and the headquarters. So, I hope that maybe makes some clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Just to remind the members we're on 10-6, so if you have any questions you can raise your questions in regards to 10-6 and you can't raise questions on items that haven't been tabled in the House. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I confused the question. My question only was for the directorate division. I'm not talking about the whole Nunavut. How many PYs do you have in there that cost 11 million 360 thousand dollars? It's on 10-6. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I don't have the numbers here in front of me on what the total positions are in the directorate for the 11 million dollars. But I can say it includes headquarters, and three regional offices. But we can have that information for the member for tomorrow in the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Are you done? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please do not direct me to the Minister of Education when I am asking something as I will not be asking him. I would like to ask a short question.

Under fees and payments, it was 409 thousand dollars and it's gone down to 206 thousand dollars. What's the reason for the decrease under fees and payments on page 10-6? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member as usual is very observant, and I was just trying to help clarify the question earlier with the Education Minister.

I'm very pleased and proud to represent him as the Health Minister. I would like to take this opportunity to explain that answer. And the answer is very simply that the social services related expenditures for the Kitikmeot region were incorrectly coded to the directorate area or division.

So that meant the amounts have now been properly recorded under healthy children, family and the community for 2002-2003 and that's why the drop. So it was incorrect coding in the previous revised estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under other expenses on 10-6, Main Estimates for 2001-2002, there's 2 million 18 thousand dollars for 2001-2002 and

the revised estimate was 518 thousand and then for 2002-2003, it's gone up to 2 million 150 thousand dollars. Why have the figures changed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman. I think we had previously given that answer for that area. That was, when we talked about the extra money that we had put in place for computer related purchases, under other expenses, the software and the hardware that we talked about earlier. We were using previously the software from the Northwest Territories and have introduced the Nunavut software and that's why the increase.

So in the main estimates, there was 2 million dollars, and in the revised estimates, the 518 thousand. So we had to continue this year with the computer software and hardware purchases and that's why the amount is there. We weren't able to bring it forward completely last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On 10-7, Committees of Council. The contribution of 5 thousand dollars per community for support of the operations of hamlet committees. It is 200 thousand and it was 130 thousand dollars and the contribution hasn't changed.

I'm wondering if this hasn't been changed because the communities aren't asking for an increase, is it because some communities haven't started up a committee or because it's not properly done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, last year we had budgeted in the 2001-2002 main estimates 130 thousand dollars, for the Committees of Council. That was expended. We've increased that to 200 thousand dollars this year so we tried to increase the amounts given to each community and in the opening comments by the Chairman of the committee, he noted that there was some concern that it was unfair that smaller communities weren't receiving an increase.

What we have done is we haven't decreased anyone. Everyone received the same amount which is 5 thousand dollars and based on the per capita amount we increased. So, the member, what we've done now is increased the amount from 130 thousand dollars to 200 thousand dollars budget amount in the Main Estimates.

And it also leaves some room for us to review again, based on requirements from the committees, as communities come back and say you've given me 5 or 6 and there isn't enough money. I do have a little bit more money or flexibility there within that budget to be able to allocate more money based on need as indicated by the committee.

That's one of the recommendations we followed from the health committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand his response. Some communities probably haven't asked for more than 5 thousand dollars. How about if under the training when your staff went to communities to train councils, I'm wondering if the councils are aware of being able to increase their budgets?

Are they made aware of this? If he could please clarify this for me Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they wouldn't be aware of it until today because this is the first time we've had an opportunity to present the budget and the amounts.

So, if this budget is approved, then we will be contacting the communities and saying here's what the allocated amounts are and if there is a need for more money based on what we have contingent in the budget we'd be able to look at their request and hopefully increase it.

The money that was spent training committees of council is covered under the department's budget not in the committee budget. They don't have to pay for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): At this time I have Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Page 10-6, other expenses. (interpretation) Could the minister tell me what they use that 2 million 150 thousand dollars under other expenses for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I answered that question earlier. As I said earlier, one of the larger expenses in that other expenses is for computer related purchases under the directorate and that's for the software and the hardware. That's especially for the health insurance program in Rankin Inlet. That would be the basis of that. And there are also contingent funds there for example, sometimes for emergency needs, within the department also.

For example, if we had another RSV outbreak, then those are contingent funds that you'd have available. In one particular community for example this year, when we had an RSV

outbreak, we had to bring in a battery of doctors and fly out a lot of patients and we try to have some contingency funds that's included in the other expenses.

The major hard item in the expenses is the computer software purchases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak please proceed. I apologise. Mr. Havioyak then Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Itsivautaq. It would be interesting to know, you mentioned emergencies. How much of that would be emergency money that you put there? The reason, you know, sometimes you might not use it, and you know it really depends on the emergency. It would be interesting to know the number and how much that emergency contingency is. Koanaqtit.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that's why they are contingency funds, because it would be very difficult for me to say how much would be used for an emergency, it would depend on what the emergency is. There are contingency funds in that line item which allows us some opportunities for a crisis event like an RSV outbreak in a community or some pandemic pneumonia or something like that. But it would be very difficult to say what that total dollar value would be depending on what the situation was. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will just proceed then. We're on 10-6 and continue onto 10-7. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: It's interesting, the department put money aside on there, and in the general budget, they put some money aside in case of emergency. They're saying we're putting emergency money on the side, out of the control of the other departments and then again the department itself put another emergency thing on the side.

It seems like so much emergency money put aside there's no other funds to do actual work that can be done during the fiscal year. I'm just pointing out that there's too much emergency money put aside. I'm just saying there's some money put aside with the Government of Nunavut, 10 percent, in case of emergency or something.

I don't know but they probably could use some of that money for emergencies. I'm just trying to point something out so I could understand it, why is that the case there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the member is trying to say. Maybe I could explain it this way. Within my own budget, as all the

members know, I've always had deficits. Last year was 25 million dollars or something. The year before that was several million dollars.

Because you can't say no if you have an outbreak for example, an RSV outbreak, you can't say you can't fly the children and so on and so forth. So if you're going to be serious about putting a budget together, you know there's going to be emergency situations that pop up, for example, emergency medivacs, transportation, RSV and so on.

So when you cost out all your different areas, if there's an opportunity to have even a small amount in the budget for emergency situations like an RSV outbreak, then that helps your bottom line at the end of the day. That's what the department has done. I believe that's fortuitous as well as good planning on behalf of the departmental staff.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, under Finance, Minister Ng has been very capable in his work in providing for other contingencies which is for example, like the 21 million dollar supplementary that they brought forward. You could consider that emergency funding. That's what the supplementary was. We needed it for the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that it? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one comment first. It's interesting that my colleague would have to explain that there are no emergency or contingency funds from the Finance Minister for any department. It's not indicated yet you have one here but should that not appear in the total financial overview from the finance department. So at least we'll know there's some contingency or emergency funds set aside in some departments like health. Just a comment for now Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Iqaqrialu also asked about the 5 thousand dollar grant or contribution per community and the minister's answer was that it really depends on the per capita criteria for each community. The larger your community, the bigger you get, up to I think it was 75 hundred or 10 thousand dollars. I'm not sure.

But anyways, the little communities like high arctic, Chesterfield and Whale Cove; they got 5 thousand dollars flat because you said it is a per capita formula. If your community's bigger like Igloolik or Pond Inlet then you get more than 5 thousand dollars. I find this, I don't like the contradiction or oversight because in your opening remarks you said that the federal government should not be using per capita in the financing formula because of the high cost of transportation, the high cost of living in Nunavut, yet you turn around and you do per capita basis for the communities of 5 thousand bucks.

When the communities like Chesterfield Inlet been saying that we are the small communities but our work is as heavy as the others because we've got to meet on a regular basis like every other community like the bigger communities.

Can the minister explain a little bit why you think per capita basis here and go against with the federal on his opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the member giving me an opportunity to explain the grants for council. As the member knows, when we integrated the health boards almost two years, a little over two years ago, there were no committees of council in the communities and there certainly wasn't any funding.

At that time I had promised the hamlets and the members of the Standing Committee that I would give an equal amount of money to each community. And again, I was in a deficit situation. The money that I was able to allocate at that time, and I went to the committee, was 5 thousand dollars for each committee of council.

The difference between per capita funding federally, territorially, and provincially and the per capita funding that we're doing here is that there is no floor in federal per capita. So when you're a population for example, Mr. Chairman, for example when the federal government announced 4.2 billion dollars in CHST, the Nunavut Government only received 3.5 million dollars for health care because there was no floor. There was no minimum amount. It was solely based on per capita.

That's what I said in my speech to Roy Romanow, that's what I said many times. We need to have a floor so each province and each territory would have for example a minimum amount of 5 million dollars and a base per capita above that and that would be fair and equitable.

That's what we've done with the communities. No community got less than 5 thousand dollars. So we came in with a floor. Every community would get the equal amount and then based on per capita population size there was an increase.

On top of that, as I said to Mr. Iqaqrialu earlier, I've also put in the budget this time an incremental amount so that if the needs increase, if Grise Fiord came forward and said look, you've given us 5 thousand dollars, that's not enough money at the present time, we need an extra 4 thousand dollars, we actually have that within the budget there to be able to look at it.

So, the difference with the statement to Roy Romanow as Minister of Health, was that there was a floor in this. There was no floor in the federal transfer payments. There is no floor in the per capita transfer to provinces or territories by the federal government and that's the difference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else? Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total grants and contributions 19 million 339 thousand dollars. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Carried. Turning over to Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Page 10-8. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. In respect to the line item, compensation and benefits, under the section healthy children, families and communities, I'm sure we're talking about the Nunavut communities. My question is, if there's going to be an increase in the number of employees who will be working on paediatrics and healthy children, given the title. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Just for the information of the members, we're dealing with both pages 10-8 and 10-9. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we will be increasing some of the staffing in those particular areas, especially under the Nunavut home and community care program where we're actually introducing new nursing positions into communities including smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an increase of 6 to 11 million dollars in your Main Estimates. But there is no increase in the health centres and other facilities funds, even though the overall figure is larger. Are we going to be increasing the number of employees under this branch? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the answer is yes. We're going to increase the budget by several nurses including some additional support workers as well as child and outreach workers which are new positions to deal with some of the issues around suicide with our youth.

Mr. Chairman, we have new positions budgeted for a total of 12 new positions. Including the child and youth outreach workers which was a recommendation from the health community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. I understand your response. In regards to the addition of 12 employees to our communities, is the housing shortage a problem or not?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. The member is correct. In some communities we've had a problem staffing positions. For example in Kugluktuk, where we have been trying to put in the headquarters for the decentralized office, there has been a shortage of housing.

In some of the other communities it is the same. The Government of Nunavut as you know has put together a program to increase staff housing availability to many communities outside of HQ.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, it affects HQ or Iqaluit also for some positions. So the member is correct. There are concerns with staffing based on available housing. Some of the positions that we've just talked about for example, child and youth worker, those would be local hires in the community and we wouldn't necessarily be seeking staff housing if they're already living in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Page 8-10 says dental activities. Is this one talking about a dental therapist in the communities or is it talking about dental contracts because contracts on this page are 14 million dollars? So could we get some clarification about dental activities? Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, among other things, that does include dental programs, dental contracts and dental therapists. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I will have a question. It's on page 10-9. Shelter programs. There is a significant increase in the amount under shelter programs, for women's shelters especially. What is the percentage of this amount? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 300 thousand that was originally there last year was for the psychiatric drop-in facility that we had open in Iqaluit, for the first time we ever had a facility like that.

Under the grants and contributions, social service payments for alcohol and drug programs and shelters, they had been budgeted under contract services for other expenses. After reviewing the agreement, the respective budgets have now been established in grants and contributions. So we're recording them properly under grants and contributions.

It also includes for 2002-2003, new initiative funding of 172 thousand dollars for mental health and addictions strategy as well as suicide prevention. So that's one of the reasons for the huge increase that we're actually putting more things, more items under that line item under the main estimates in this session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Following the notes on the shelter programs it says various individuals with special needs such as women's shelters and elders' facilities. What percentage is used for the shelter and the elders' facilities? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I may, I have those numbers in front of me here. For example under the homeless shelter in Iqaluit, that's 75 thousand dollars.

For the crisis line in the Baffin, as well as for the Elders' Society, the Baffin Regional Agvvik Society, which operates the Qimarvik Women's Shelter, the Municipality of Igloolik, which runs social services programs for the government, and the Ilitiit Society, we have 1.4 million dollars approximately there.

In the Kivalliq, for the Kisarvik Society, we have 230 thousand dollars and in the Kitikmeot for the Cambridge Bay Safe Shelter, 85 thousand dollars; for the Inuit Women's group home 95 thousand dollars and in Kugluktuk, the Kugluktuk women's group home 70 thousand dollars for a total of 250.

So that's some of the ideas under the shelter program that the member has asked for including the homeless shelter as well as family violence shelters and safe homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): And just underneath, we have the alcohol and drug programs, 949 thousand dollars.

For example, you had a tobacco cessation program and after launching the program with the co-operation of the federal government, have there been positive effects from the campaign that you did in the previous year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to you that it has been very positive. The effects can be seen right here in this Assembly. Several of the members in the past year have quit smoking so I'd like to take this opportunity to

congratulate those anonymous members of the Assembly who have quit smoking and have butted out and yes they will remain anonymous.

Mr. Chairman, so I think it has been positive, as I said when we launched this program a couple of years ago that change takes time and to see the effects, the full effects of this type of program, it'll take 3, 4, 5 years. We have to change mindsets and we have to de-normalize the usage of tobacco, especially among the young people.

I want to re-affirm Mr. Chairman, that moving very forcibly and aggressively with the Department of Justice, we should be soon in a position where we'll be aggressively through the Department of Justice, enforcing tobacco sale regulations to our young people. I think that'll again have a major and positive impact along with the increase in cigarette tax to help people to not start smoking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): In regards to the alcohol and drug program. There are alcohol committees in the communities. The hamlets have a contract to administer and to authorize purchases for people who would like to order.

Does this line item involve the community alcohol and drug committees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the majority of the money here under alcohol and drug treatment that you see goes to our committees. The hamlets would deliver different programs for us. For example, the community of Clyde River received 50 thousand dollars for the Savik Society for alcohol and drug programs and the same is similar for other communities in Nunavut. However, we don't fund the alcohol and drug committees of hamlets.

That would be the way I visualize the alcohol and drug committees that allocate or interdict people and so on for alcohol in the communities. We don't fund that committee. We fund alcohol and drug treatment and other programs in the communities. Like alcohol and drug treatment workers. That would fall under our program but not the alcohol review committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Earlier on, the Minister of Health and during his opening comments in regards to income support or in regards to benefits he stated that he was going to work with the Minister for Education and it seems that they agreed.

Perhaps for those alcohol and drug programs, it seems like the alcohol and drug committees from the communities should be given some funding because the committee

members are volunteers. I was wondering if the minister responsible for alcohol and drug programs could do some work with the appropriate minister after this session. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman that would be something that we'd be very open to do as the department and as the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Minister Picco. Would you like to continue? Please raise your hand so that I could recognize you right away. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak: Thank you. Also, below this line item, new funding, 97 thousand dollars. Will this program be in place this fiscal year at the end of May or is this program already in use, suicide prevention? Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 97 thousand dollars for suicide prevention is to help fund the National Suicide Prevention Annual General Meeting and conference that will be held in Nunavut for the first time since April 1st, 1999.

It is being organised and co-hosted by the president of the Canadian Association for Suicide, Ms. Sheila Levy, who actually is a resident of Iqaluit. The other monies for suicide prevention, Mr. Chairman, there's over 2.1 million dollars, is included in the mental health strategy within the department.

Chairperson (interpretation): Would you like to continue? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Following up Ms. Williams' question in regards to contracts, 14 million 7 thousand dollars, on page 10-8. Looking at the Nunavut residents, even if the entire population of Nunavut got tooth decay or half of the population, he stated that dental programs like dental hygiene and dental therapy, that this line item is on that.

I think I misunderstood the minister. I would like the minister to clarify this to me. If we look at per capita of all the population of Nunavut, this 500 thousand dollars would pay for one individual's dental care. So I was wondering if the minister can elaborate to me because this doesn't seem right.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Thank you, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Thompson is correct too.

The money for the dental therapist as well as dentists and dental services are found, it could be three different areas within the budget. For example there are the salaries, and that's under the compensation and benefits as well as the contract payments, dental services are also included under the NIHB which is the non-insured health benefits.

The amount is certainly more than the half million dollars that the member mentioned. So he is correct on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Would you like to continue Mr. Arvaluk?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I was wondering, looking at one individual isn't it too expensive for one individual. Aren't we paying too much for our dental care and we're trying to educate our people in the nursing program and compared to this 500 thousand dollars per person.

Perhaps if you can review this, because if we're going to be paying 14 million dollars, I think there's only 27 thousand people in the population of Nunavut. I mean I know that it's expensive, we live in Nunavut. I know it costs a lot for transportation and meals, but five hundred thousand dollars per person.

So, I was wondering if you can clarify and inform us in a written form and give us a detailed breakdown on the costs as to why it is so expensive. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, what I would endeavour to do for the member and the committee is on the dental services, breakdown what the total costs the NIHB is covering, what the total dental therapists as well as dentist costs are, because we have contract services in place for those and some of those costs are covered by NIHB and including the transportation costs.

We just successfully negotiated an additional...I believe we have successfully increased our claim available to the NIHB by over 1 million dollars in the past nine months in negotiations with the federal government. So I can make that information available to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Well if it cost the total amount of 14 million dollars, I could buy that, Mr. Chairman. What I cannot buy is the efficiency of the department on the dental program on a per capita basis.

Can you try to find a better way or a more efficient way of having a dental program and use the remainder of money elsewhere like the nursing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would disagree with the member on that. I would suggest to you that if anything, I'm not putting enough money into dental services.

One of the biggest costs to our government right now under health care and health insurance programs, is flying out little children under the age of 2 for having all their teeth removed because of baby bottle decay and so on or hygiene.

I would like to be able to increase dental therapists and have those in every school. There are lots of schools that we don't have dental therapist in. What I'm suggesting to the member is the 14 million dollars you see there is contract services which includes a whole range of things more than and more than just dental programs.

I believe the total amount I'm spending right now on dental programs is a little over 2 million dollars. So, I'll be able to clarify that for the members tomorrow. So I would suggest to the members that the member has made a good point and I've committed to him, hopefully by tomorrow, we should be able to come back with the salary dollars for the dentists, the dental therapists as well as travel and what's billable under the NIHB.

Again, I strongly suggest to the member that if anything we're not doing enough in dental therapy and dental services and we should be increasing it.

One of the things I hear from the members, on a regular basis is that we don't have enough coverage and dentists in their communities and enough... (*inaudible*)... Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Would you like to continue? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Koanaqtit, Itsivautaq. Do you have emergency money put aside on this page? Thank you, Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: The answer is no, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): My colleagues have already asked the questions I was going to pose so I'll just stop for now. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Perhaps I will follow up Mr. Arvaluk's question. The minister has stated that he'll probably get the information tomorrow. If you want to continue skipping this part and go ahead. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I'll wait until tomorrow.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are we agreed to this? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): At times, in some rules, once we've passed this page, we can't ask any more questions in regards to that. Perhaps the minister can come back tomorrow to the House. I move that we report progress. Thank you.

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

Thank you for attending the meeting. We'll start off with the same department tomorrow. We can ask the Speaker to come back to the chamber.

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

Item 21: Report of Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Ms. Williams is the seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meetings for tomorrow Thursday May 9, 2002. Meeting of regular caucus at 9 o'clock in the Natsiq Boardroom. Meeting of Ajauqtiit at 10 o'clock in Nanuk and meeting of the Management Services Board at 11 o'clock in Tuktu.

Orders of the day for Thursday May 9, 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. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 5
 - Bill 6
 - Minister's Statement 20 - 1(6)
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills.
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 9 at 1.30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 7.56 p.m.*

