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Speaker: The Hon. Levi Barnabas, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Amittuq)

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(Hudson Bay)

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should be directing my question, but I have been given some information about where I can go. I thank you for the response. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 192 - 1 (2): Grants to Radio Societies

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This will be directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth regarding the grants provided to the radio societies.

They are given to the Hamlet Councils, is there a requirement as to which community should be getting how much. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, I realize that should be the communities whether they have community radios or not. I think when we are doing our language and for young people, if they can get some letter of support to, because they need funding to do radio programming in their communities and right now we are working on that at this time.

I have also seen that maybe policies should be in place, I think we can support these radio societies but we have a limit of 6 thousand dollars and if the communities want to support this, maybe I have answered your question.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 193 - 1(2): Licensing for Watercraft

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for transportation. Over the last couple of days I have heard news reports on a new regulation required for licensing people operating boats or water craft.

I am just wondering Mr. Speaker, if the Minister has been made aware of this new legislation and how it will effect the residents of Nunavut.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have unfortunately not been updated on the information that the member just provided. I would also like to make a brief comment on the need for safety in boats.

Every year we have people who go through a tragedy because of inadequate safety measures on a boat. We would like to ensure that, while not inconveniencing the people

who go out hunting in boats, we want to make sure that they comply with some of the basic necessities for safety in a boat, such as personal flotation devices.

I will take that question as notice and respond to the member at the earliest opportunity. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 194 - 1 (2): Mineral Accord

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Speaker I had mentioned earlier in my members' statement the need for a mineral accord and I would like to ask the Minister if he could speak briefly to this issue and tell the members if there is any activity right now on behalf of the government in working toward an accord. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien, Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes we plan on aggressively pursuing some form of an agreement with the federal government. In fact the Premier announced that in conjunction with our northern territorial partners, who are supporting us in this initiative, it is one of the things with which we could possibly go forward in unison.

Having said that, we recognize the importance of it and are planning on trying to pursue it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister provide the members with any kind of a timetable as to the sequence of meetings or even the timing as to when they plan to get down to serious discussions with the federal government on this serious issue. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can say that it is high on the priority list, right now our focus has been on trying to complete our budget and the main estimates to give us some flexibility to move on with other initiatives.

That is one of the things that we plan on developing a strategy to move forward. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

I would like to see gravel pads being built where the houses are being built. I wonder if that is going to be put back in place. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu, Minister responsible for Community Government, Housing & Transportation. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. At the time we had gravel pads, when houses were first being built in the north and when I was living in Repulse Bay at the time, we wanted to know exactly what was happening.

I don't know why now that the government and all the communities are using piles now, maybe it is cheaper, but I think I need to survey all the Hamlet Councils to find out what their preference is.

Yes, we will be asking the communities what their preferences are for building pads, whether they should be using gravel pads or piles. We'll look into that and I am sure that all the members are concerned about that. I will get back to you on that.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 197 - 1 (2): Doctor's Placement

Mr. Nutarak: (interpretation): The doctor that we have been discussing, that was supposed to go to Igloolik, would that doctor be responsible for more than one community or just that one where she's moving to.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. I would just like to remind everyone that when you are asking your question please identify the Minister. Minister for Health and Social Services Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker there was a plan that the doctor, if the doctor went to Igloolik the doctor would be able to cover off logistically Hall Beach and indeed there might have been an arrangement to cover off Arctic Bay and also Nanisivik that's also my understanding. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Now if that doctor would be located in that community how is the logistics or air travel going to be, moving between the communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister of health Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the member makes a good point, I guess the concern from the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services has been the

difficulty of covering off more communities if the doctor is placed in Igloolik, that's what they've explained to me with the decision in maybe not to move the doctor to Igloolik.

That's basically all I can say on it there indeed seems to be the concern that if the doctor was put in Igloolik would you have the maximum number of communities the doctor would be able to service from that community. Would it be more conducive to put the doctor to another community to cover off more communities, so that's exactly what the question is and what's happening. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions, Mr. Akesuk.

Question 198 - 1 (2): Status on Water Reservoir Pipeline

Mr. Akesuk: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'm not sure how, but to the department of PWTTS, regarding the question I'd asked previously about the pipeline to our water reservoir. I wonder if that was looked at since I ask that question to Ms. Thompson. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister of Public Works, Ms. Thompson

Hon. Manito Thompson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker maybe you should be calling us "government servants". I was going to give my officials, I made them aware of the concern that the member raised earlier, but they have not updated me as to the status of that. I will take the question as notice.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo

Question 199 - 1 (2): Staff Housing Allocation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker regarding the response to my question for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. I'd like to ask the Minister, in light of that response, I'm pleased with these units now available on the road to Apex.

Mr. Speaker I'd like to ask the Minister as he indicated in his response that these are headquarters units. Mr. Speaker are they for employees that are yet to be hired and come in or will employee's who may currently be residing in inadequate housing, would they have an opportunity to also be allocated one of these units. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Human Resources Mr. Ng

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker right now as it stands they are headquarters designated units and will be for a headquarters staff. Like I indicated to the Honourable member, the whole staff housing policy is under review right now and we're going to bring some consistency to the whole process. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo

Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services
Report on the Review of Draft Departmental Business Plans and Preliminary
Information on the 1999/2000 Main Estimates

Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Premier Okalik appeared before the Committee on the afternoon of April 29. The main estimates summary provided to the Committee indicated total 1999-2000 expenditures of \$7,734,000 dollars.

The Committee recognizes the unique nature of the Department. As opposed to a line department, which delivers services directly to the public, EIA is the Government's lead central agency in providing support to Cabinet, policy co-ordination and amplification of political direction.

The Committee has the following general comments and recommendations.

Premier's Travel and Relations with Other Jurisdictions

The Committee was pleased to receive a briefing on the Premier's recent trip to Ontario. The Committee was also pleased to learn of the Premier's efforts to save public money wherever possible during official travel.

The Committee expressed its view that Nunavut can learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions where indigenous peoples have achieved the means of guiding their destiny. Such issues as community justice, corrections and liquor distribution were suggested as being especially worthy of comparison.

With respect to federal-Nunavut relations, the Committee was supportive of the Premier's efforts to identify additional resources wherever possible, during discussions with federal Ministers. While recognizing the challenges in this area, the Committee encourages the Premier to make every effort to ensure that Nunavut's voice is heard clearly in appropriate intergovernmental forums.

The Premier was asked to update the Committee with respect to the situation concerning disputed islands in Hudson Bay. He advised the Committee that the Department was fully aware of the issue, and that efforts were underway to secure sufficient resources to defend Nunavut's interests in any court action.

The Premier advised the Committee that, as a result of an agreement between the federal government, the GNWT and the OIC, the Government of Nunavut is responsible for any deficit incurred by the OIC prior to 1 April 1999. The Committee shared the Premier's dissatisfaction with this situation, and is supportive of any efforts that can be made to resolve it.

I move that this committee recommends that the government make development of a strategy to incorporate Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit into the governments' decision making process a priority. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Those in favour. Thank you. The motion is carried. You may continue Mr. Akesuk.

Committee Motion 42 – 1 (2): Secure Needed Resources from Federal Government

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I move that this committee recommends that the Premier and the Minister of Finance continue to make every effort to secure needed resources from the Federal Government and that the Premier continue to work in co-operation with other northern jurisdictions to ensure that Nunavut gets a fair share of resource revenues. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor, those in favour of the motion. The motion is carried. Thank you, Mr. Akesuk.

Committee Motion 43 – 1 (2): Consult Standing Committee on Appointments to Boards and Agencies

Mr. Akesuk: Last one. Mr. Chairman,

I move that this committee recommends that the government consult with appropriate Standing Committees when filling appointments to Boards and Agencies. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. There is a motion on the floor, those in favour. The motion is carried. Thank you. General comments to the department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The floor is now open for general comments.

Are there any general comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just kind of a comment and a question. In a number of the reports that the Committee has heard over the past couple of weeks, there have been a lot of referral back to statistical information.

It is a vital function, Mr. Chairman, because that is how all the funding basically is applied throughout Nunavut and to Nunavut from the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering if the department has someone in that capacity, and are they looking at a plan to update the statistics to reflect the current and most up to date numbers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. I don't think you clarified too much about this 1 thousand dollars. Maybe you could give us a more detailed explanation about what this 1 thousand dollars is for. Clarify for us please. Thank you.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, when I was making my presentation I think this was included for all staff, that there is 1 thousand dollars set aside for each employee for this coming year. If they wish to take courses or get further training for the coming year. I hope this clarifies it Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Premier Okalik. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just one more question Mr. Chairman, back on May 14th I asked the Premier for some clarification in regards to the memorandum of understanding that the government is working on with Nunavut Tunngavik.

Mr. Chairman, at that time the Premier indicated that he did not want to hold up the process as a result of waiting for it to go back to the Standing Committee. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Premier if he could commit to just providing correspondence, updates to the Standing Committee just so that they are aware of what is transpiring, and that they could by way of correspondence provide input back to the Premier without any undue delays. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. From what I have been advised we have a very rough draft from NTI so far. It requires a considerable amount of work to work out the details and our first priority has been the sitting and we just received the draft just a few days ago. We haven't had time to review it in detail so I don't know when we can conclude, but we don't want to provide very, very rough drafts to the members, it's at a preliminary stage, but we continue to talk to NTI. Okay.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I could understand about having to send over every draft to the Standing Committee but as things progress and the department feels that they have something close to a final draft if they could provide a copy to the Standing Committee to review by correspondence, or even with myself, I am in town here, just to review it. If that could be a possibility, Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Chairman, I can make staff available to committee members on the progress of our discussions with NTI at this time. Okay?

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

