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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Enoki Irqittuq
(Amittuq)

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(Arviat)
Chair of Caucus

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(Baker Lake)

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(Cambridge Bay)
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Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Iqaluit East)
Minister of Health and Social Services

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

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Iqaluit, Nunavut**Wednesday, May 19, 1999****Members Present:**

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Olayuk Akesuk, Honourable James Arvaluk, Honourable Levi Barnabas, Honourable Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Mr. Kevin O'Brien, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Levi Barnabas): Mr. McLean would you lead us in the opening prayer please?

>>Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Today, before we will open the session this afternoon, I would like to welcome the new pages. We will have them for five days. I would like to welcome them first of all, then going back to our Orders of the Day, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng?

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Ministers' Statement 12 - 1 (2): Arviat P3 Project**

Hon. Hon. Kelvin Ng. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to announce that the Government of Nunavut has signed a Public-Private Partnership agreement with the Arviat Development Corporation for the health facility in Arviat. This is the first P3 project agreement in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

Public-Private partnerships are a financing alternative in which the government partners with a private sector business to provide some of the government's infrastructure needs. The private business invests in the project and then enters into an operating lease with the government. In today's dollars, this project is worth approximately ten (10) million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the ADC and their representatives who are in the gallery today for their co-operation and support in moving the process forward and ensuring that the agreement met the interests of the community: Mr. Guy Alikut, Ms. Cleo Prellwitz, and Mr. Joe Manik. They deserve great credit in bringing this much needed health centre to Arviat. It is expected that the design work for the health centre will be completed by the end of May with the construction schedule to begin early this fall.

This agreement is significant because it lays the foundation for future P3 projects in Nunavut. It was important that the standards were high, the GN received good value, the agreement would meet the Auditor General's guidelines for an operating lease, and that the interests of the community were best served. We believe that all of this has been achieved in this agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Mr. O'Brien, MLA for Arviat, who has supported the project from the start, and Mr. Glenn Sargant of the Department of Finance and Administration for all the work they have done.

Finally, a note of thanks and acknowledgement to my Cabinet colleagues who took a bold step in approving the first P3 project in the North!

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker (interpretation) : Thank you Minister Ng. Ministers' statement Mr. Picco.

Ministers' Statements 13 - 1 (2): New Health Centre in Arviat

Hon. Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, (English) I want to take this opportunity to reinforce the earlier comments made by Minister Ng. This agreement officially launches the work on a new Health Centre in Arviat, which should be ready early in the year 2000. This is an important project and has been one of my department's highest priorities. It is the first of four health facilities on the government's list of possible P3 projects and I look forward to seeing progress made on those projects in the near future.

Oqaqti, many people have worked very hard to get the Arviat project to this point today and I would like to thank them for their commitment to this project. In particular, my thanks go to the ADC representatives here with us today, my colleagues Mr. O'Brien who has worked tirelessly on this file for the last two and one half years, and Minister Ng, and a special thanks to the Departmental staff for their efforts.

Qujannamiik, Oqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Minister's Statements. Ministers Statements. Orders of the Day, Members Statements, Item 3, Members Statements. Mr. McLean.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Members' Statement 39 - 1 (2): CBC and Consensus Government

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Listening to the C.B.C. this morning, I understand that the media have started to refer to Members on this side of the House as Nunavut's Opposition. A pretty snap decision considering that this is only our sixth day in this session. It took God a full week to create the world. I guess the media needs less time to define this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that any of the regular Members would apologize for asking tough but crucial questions to the Cabinet, however for me at least, I don't see myself as belonging to a southern style opposition to the Government.

>>Applause: Hear Hear

The term Opposition suggests discord for the sake of appearing different, attacking to score cheap political points. Mr. Speaker, the regular members of the Assembly have made very clear their desire to work with the Government to make Nunavut a better place for all. To be consulted, and to have input on the issues facing us all. It's simply not correct to suggest that we have something to gain by acting as knee jerk opposition to anything the Government says or does. What we are working to accomplish, is to ensure through our questions through the work of the Standing Committees of the Assembly, that the Government's actions are scrutinized in the way in which all democratic governments are, however it must be remembered that when questions go unanswered or responded to with a vaguest of words that perhaps some frustration shows and the media are indeed correct to describe us as feisty. That's not opposition Mr. Speaker, that's accountability. There is a big difference. Thank you.

>>Applause.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements? Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Members' Statement 40 - 1 (2): Need for School Buses in Iqaluit

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a statement on the issue of school busing here in Iqaluit. As the members are aware the population of Iqaluit is increasing as more and more public servants are moving to Iqaluit. They move to Iqaluit with their families. Mr. Speaker, next year the new middle school will open at the top of the hill, but the two elementary schools will still be bursting at the seams with new students. While the numbers of classrooms is increasing, we have to consider the other services for which there will also be an increased demand, such as school bussing.

Mr. Speaker I want to make the point that these are examples of forced growth. The money allocated for services such as school bussing has to keep up with the demand due to more students. To give members a sense of the problem, one bus for the middle school

can hold forty four students per trip. Currently, I believe there are one hundred and seventy seven or one hundred and seventy five students enrolled at the middle school, of which one hundred and sixty of them will require bussing.

So, with one bus to service those students, that bus would have to make four trips in the morning, eight trips during lunch hour, and four trips in the afternoon just to handle the middle school. Mr. Speaker, next year there is funding for two busses which is the current level right now, two busses and one handicapped bus for the three schools. This is not enough. I know the Minister of Education shares the concern that the budget must reflect forced growth issues and perhaps his Department more than others is impacted by the increasing numbers. In this case the number of students. But communities such as Iqaluit and other decentralized communities that will be facing the same problem cannot be expected to absorb the impact of forced growth. The Government of Nunavut must consider it in their locations of funding communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Members' Statement 41 - 1 (2): Arviat Health Centre Agreement

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it gives me a great deal of pleasure today to acknowledge successful completion and signing of the agreement that will see the construction of the Health Centre the residents of Arviat at a cost of approximately 10 million dollars. Mr. Speaker this is agreement is one of the first of its kind in Nunavut and comes partly due to the dedication of the Arviat Development Corporation, its' Board of Directors and its' President Mr. Guy Alikut.

I would like to recognize also Minister Picco and Minister Ng for their strong support in concluding this arrangement. My home community has been waiting for this health centre for approximately ten years, as the old nursing station is about fifty years old, and serving a rapidly growing community of approximately 1,800 people with 18 babies being born each year. Mr. Speaker with the limited capital dollars we have available it was necessary to enter into a private partnership agreement with the Nunavut Government and the Arviat Development Corporation to ensure that this much needed health centre will be finally constructed. Mr. Speaker I would also like to acknowledge the work of Cleo Prellwitz and Glen Sargant for their competent negotiations on this very important project which will benefit all of the people of Arviat. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Members Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Members' Statement 42 - 1 (2): Overcrowded School in Hall Beach

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my constituency the residents have not been acknowledged under, although we are recognized but the population estimates are not correct. The population in my community is over 600 but in census, they say that the population is a little over 500. The census was done by the GNWT. Mr. Speaker, our school is going, this year it is going to be too small and the

community is growing in population so there is going to be overcrowding of the school so I am going to be asking a question to the Education Minister on behalf of the community and my constituency so we could have safe school.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Members Statements. Members Statements. Members Statements. Members Statements.

Going back to the Orders of the Day. 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, continuing with this little tradition that we have now I will introduce three Iqaluit residents. Kerry McClusky from News North, our intrepid reporter friend. Sandra Inutiq who is a Coordinator Trainee on Senior Assignment with the Government of Nunavut and a family friend, and Page Kingdon a sister of our other page here today, Clauda Kingdon, daughter of well known entrepreneur Eliza Kingdon and also my former Campaign Manager. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of the visitors in the Gallery. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to recognize a number of people, acknowledge rather, a number of people in the Gallery. Firstly Joe Manik who is a very good friend of mine, constituent and a strong supporter of the Arviat health centre and a life time member of the Arviat Development Corporation, one of its founders. Also, next to Guy Alikut, another friend of mine, a constituent, who is the President of the Arviat Development Corporation and who has been a leading and driving force behind the P3 project regarding the Arviat health centre. And the lady sitting next to Mr. Alikut, Cleo Prellwitz who is, I guess the Executive Director for the Corporation and she is involved in putting together the package and the financing and the negotiations for arranging the final agreement regarding the health centre. Thank you Sir.

>>Applause:

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. I would like to welcome all the visitors in the Gallery which O'Brien had mentioned and so I would like to welcome you to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation) : I would like to recognize the person who used to work in the Hamlet Council when we were dealing with Community Empowerment and transfer of responsibilities to the communities for he had assisted us in those, Mr. Chuck Gilhuly.

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my child Johnathan. He is walking now. He has been here with me and he is helping me and supported me throughout my stay here in Iqaluit so I am very appreciative of that fact. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. I would like to welcome you to the Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manikot Thompson (interpretation): My Executive Assistant Phil Bourdeau.

>>Applause:

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a person in the Gallery that has been a long term Iqaluit resident and former C.B.C. reporter and a neighbour of mine, I would like to recognize Jonah Kelly. I would like to also recognize two of our very dedicated hard working research staff for the Legislative Assembly who are sitting in the Gallery, Pat File and Alex Baldwin. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Recognition of Visitors. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Unfortunately I was beaten to the punch in recognition, but I would like to recognize a person, Ms. Cleo Prellwitz. Unfortunately I was beaten to the punch in recognizing the visitor.

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Ms. Thompson also beat me to the punch for a person I wanted to recognize. Ms. Thompson recognized him. I would like you to stand up again so you can be further recognized. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. For those of you who have not been recognized and are visiting in the Gallery I recognize all of you, I acknowledge you on behalf of my members. Back to Orders of the Day. Mr. Iqaqrialu?

Item 6: Oral Questions.

Question 50 - 1 (2): Funding for Hamlet of Clyde River

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I left the mike on, I apologize for that. Yesterday I posed a question in respect to Community Government,

the Minister of Community Government. And I spoke to him earlier today in respect to the Clyde River Hamlet and the process that they are undertaking, however when I called my home community, I checked to see if there was work being conducted with the Hamlet and whether the Ministers Officials have worked with them. Unfortunately nobody had spoken to them or asked them. It is an emergency measure and is putting them in a hard spot and if they are not speaking to the Minister, I believe that they have to work together immediately with the Hamlet of Clyde River. I believe this is an emergency issue and again I impress upon the Minister that he direct his officials to work with the Hamlet of Clyde River. Thank you Mr. Minister.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In respect to the first, we really want to be of assistance to the Hamlet of Clyde River, but when we were speaking with them we had to come to an agreement in respect to the deficit and what methods of repayment they would have back to the Nunavut Government. We would have to have an agreement with the Hamlet and at this time we have not reached an agreement yet on this matter. In respect to the Community Government Department and the Hamlet, in Clyde River, once we come to an agreement on the deficit and in respect to the matter then we will be able to proceed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Although they are undertaking that process, the residents of my community have not been touched and although the Minister stated that they are working together, they said they are not working together and that way it is causing a problem, and I am wondering where this statement that they are working with the Hamlet has come from when nobody is working with them, and I think it is very important that they press ahead at this moment. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. This is again Oral Questions. Number 6. Oral Questions. Please ensure that you are asking questions. Perhaps Mr. Iqaqrialu you could rephrase your question and I will allow you to ask another question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I am not sure how to rephrase it to ask a question. Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Hamlet of Clyde River, I am asking whether the Minister can proceed directly to have his officials work with the Hamlet of Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Anawak

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker we are already working with them, but again, the agreement is holding us back because we have to have an agreement with the Hamlet and we have to have discussions with them. As I stated yesterday, I stated that it had not been dealt with prior to April when we were still under the G.N.W.T. and it should have been dealt with by that Government.

We are at this time waiting for an agreement with the Hamlet as to how they will expend the funds and how they will repay the moneys. Of course we want to ensure that there is a proper process taken care of in respect to the funding. The S.A.O. of the Hamlet has been speaking with my officials in respect to this matter. Our officials are working with them at the present time with the Hamlet Council and the only holdback right now is the agreement on the repayment and once that is completed it will be finalized.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. O'Brien?

Question 51 - 1 (2): Boarding Home Contract

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker, My question is directed to the Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services and it involves the recent rewarding of a contract regarding the Ublivik Centre. This contract, or this award, has caused quite a bit of controversy in the last month or so, and for the benefit of the Members, I would ask the Minister if he could provide us with the information on the process that was used to award this contract and it's present status.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I know that there are concerns with the public on this contract and that is why I requested a review by our Department of Health and Social Services as well as a review by the Department of Public Works and Justice. For clarity Mr. Speaker if you would bear with me I would like to give a background on the reason for the R.F.P. and a chronological sequence of events on the R.F.P. to help answer the question, to hopefully put more light on this contract award.

The Keewatin Health and Social Services Board has historically contracted with Eastgate Inuit Enterprises to provide boarding home facilities and patient transportation in Winnipeg. In December of 1998, the Keewatin Health and Social Services Board requested a Request for Proposals, in other words an R.F.P., for patient boarding facilities and transportation services in Winnipeg. They did this rather than negotiating a contract with the current service provider for the following reasons.

The formal contract between the Health Board and the deliverer of the Boarding Home Services expired in 1995. Now since 1995, Mr. Speaker, the provision of services has been by a verbal arrangement, a verbal arrangement only to operate under the same terms and conditions as outlined in the expired contract. Both parties had concerns with the terms and conditions of said verbal arrangements. As well as in 1996/1997 and again in 1998, the Board had directed the Chief Executive Officer of the Keewatin Health and Social Services Board to issue an R.F.P.. Following up on this, Mr. Speaker, an R.F.P. was issued closing at 3:00 p.m. Central Standard Time March, 18, 1999.

A committee reviewed the proposals in Rankin Inlet on April 14, 1999 and selected T.C. Enterprises. Now, Mr. Speaker, the Board's evaluation team was charged with

determining which of the proposals provided the best value. The team had to weigh many factors including the cost to the taxpayers, the quality of service to be provided, and the implementation of Article 24. T.C. Enterprises satisfied the Board evaluation team that it could provide the quality of services of our patients and families at a price the government can afford.

Mr. Speaker, following up on the second part of the question by Mr. O'Brien the contract will take effect on July 1, 1999. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker can the Minister confirm whether or not the cost, the actual cost was the sole deciding factor in this contract?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I think it is fair to say that the cost of the proposal, the successful proponent was the mitigating factor in awarding this contract. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that partly answered my question. I will try to make it a little more clear. The successful winner, I guess, of the contract, who was awarded the contract, did they have the lowest cost. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Sorry this was the second supplementary, you have two more supplementaries. One more, sorry. Mr. Picco, Minister of Health and Social Services.

Hon. Ed Picco: It wasn't public. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Final Supplementary, Mr. O'Brien

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I used up my last two supplementaries and didn't get an answer, therefore, there's only one supplementary left, so I'll try again. The successful bidder, did they have the lowest cost, the bottom line was it dollars. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Mr. Picco Minister of Health and Social Services.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, indeed there was other circumstances involving the awarding of the contract, as I tried to explain, the cost was a mitigating factor, but was not the only factor involved in the awarding of the contract. There are several other aspects, as I explained earlier in my question, there was the benefit to the community, Article 24 and so on. The cost was not one of the mitigating

factors solely there were other factors involved in the review process done by the Keewatin Regional Health and Social Services Board and the people that reviewed the award made in Rankin. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Qujannamiik Mr. Picco. (interpretation): Oral Questions Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 53 - 1 (2): Items Deferred in Capital Plan

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is posed to the Minister of Community Government and Housing and Transportation. The Hamlet of Gjoa Haven have been trying to get Capital Items for this fiscal year and they are expecting some of their Capital purchases to be in the year 1999 – 2000. The Capital Items, which were listed in the report, I guess just to give you an example, the garage was written down along with the Community Hall and they were supposed to be in the Capital Plan, but they are not in the Budget Address for 1999 – 2000 fiscal year and in this Capital Purchase for Gjoa Haven. I would like to understand and I would like my Constituents to understand why? Why?, these Capital Purchase Plan are not in the plans for this future, because they are expecting these plans.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. The Minister for Community Government, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, when we go to the Committee of the Whole in respect to Community Government, Transportation and Housing, I can bring more clarity at that time. Perhaps I can defer this question to the Committee of the Whole, when I'm sitting in front of the Members. Perhaps I can answer that with greater detail later, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Puqiqnak

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. In respect to the Capital Plans, we have had in our hands for while now, I'm expecting an answer at this point in time and to use the example the Community Hall was built in 1973 and now I'm going bald and it's still standing.

Before I had children in Gjoa Haven, there were only about 300 hundred people, now Gjoa Haven has population of over 1000 and my hair is going away and I even got grandchildren and that's the way it is. At this point in time Gjoa Haven has a population of over 1 thousand and we have stated to have the Community Hall expanded, especially when we try to use the Community Hall, but it's now way too small, it cannot fit half the people and it causes concerns for Public Health and it's also very small and if any emergency occurred, for example if fire broke out in the Community Hall, people would have to run over each other. Some way this is a safety issue now therefore I would like to have this Community Hall as a priority for the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. I want to clarify, perhaps if we can shorten your examples because there are some members who want to ask questions, if you want to use your examples please make them short and concise and put your question to the Minister. Mr. Anawak Minister of Community Government Housing and Transportation.

Hon. Jack Anawak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I understand this completely and I was there in Gjoa Haven this winter and for 8 or 9 years now, I have travelled through Gjoa Haven and it has been the same Community Hall. I apologize for not answering his question directly, but as we will be bringing this matter forward to Committee of the Whole, I will be able to discuss the matter at that time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister I would prefer to get an answer and he did answer that he would answer that question at a later time but, I still would like to pose a question in respect to Gjoa Haven. I would like to hear an example of a priority Capital Plan item, and I would also like my fellow residents in Gjoa Haven to hear that I would like to find out the date for the construction of the Community Hall. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Anawak, Minister of Community Government Housing and Transportation.

Hon. Jack Anawak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We do want to listen to community priorities in respect to Capital Plans and what kind of construction we will have in the communities. When we are dealing with those issues, we know that funding will not be adequate for everything, but we will be looking at the priorities and we will make those priorities where the community has stated that they have a definite priority and perhaps, maybe when we meet in Gjoa Haven, I can meet with the Hamlet of Gjoa Haven. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Kattuk, Oral Questions.

Question 54 - 1 (2): Federal Funding for Housing

Mr. Kattuk: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question in respect to Housing, to the Minister of Housing Mr. Anawak. I just want to give a brief history. I remember that the Government, when they first came to the Inuit Homeland, we were told to move to a community and we were told that we will build houses, so that you can live in one community instead of being scattered and again I was one of those who was told to move to a community and the Government moved me from my camp, although I had been where I wanted to be.

For that reason the Minister of Housing should look at Nunavut, because Nunavut has long winters and he should speak with the Federal Government and whether he has discussions with them and what options they have looked at, because they have to understand from us or at least the Federal Government does, that Nunavut has to be given special status, because our Nunavut has very long winters and the South maybe the winter lasts for 1 or 2 months possibly 3.

At the time when the Government was having cut backs the Federal Government cut off Housing and I think it has to be recognized that Nunavut requires housing and whether or not the Minister has spoken to his Federal Colleagues, because when we were first elected and part of our Election Campaigns. I'm wondering whether, if he has given this consideration as he was speaking with the Federal Minister. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Anawak

Hon. Jack Anawak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member from Sanikiluaq. I met a little more than a week ago with the Minister of Housing, of CMHC, and in the previous year, while I was Interim Commissioner I met with the same Minister.

I met with the Federal Finance Minister Paul Martin and I spoke to him stating that Nunavut is different, that it is special and that Nunavut should have special status. I gave an example, if you do not have a house, how will you survive in the North? In some way it's a little bit different and must be taken into consideration.

In respect to the Minister of Finance, we discussed that matter, what kind of policy we would look at and whether we would establish a committee to look into these issues and how this process would be undertaken, but at this point in time, we still haven't appointed a committee because with the Government of Nunavut, we have both government houses and social housing and we're trying to look at that.

We're conducting a review and once we complete that, I will be able to report further and I would like to work together with MLAs' in the House, in respect to community housing because this is a very large, complex issue.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Do you have any further questions Mr. Kattuk?

Mr. Kattuk: I do not have any more questions, I just appreciate his answer Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 55 - 1 (2): House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a follow up with the member from Hudson Bay's question to the minister responsible for housing. Mr. Speaker yesterday I tabled documents in the house, the Interim report from the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.

The issues it dealt with specifically was a lack, the need for better housing in Northern Isolated communities one of those issues. Mr. Speaker I was wondering, the Minister indicated that he had been speaking to his Cabinet Colleagues at the federal level and I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker if the Minister can indicate whether he would have any of his staff try and approach this House of Commons Standing Committee to be able to present our concerns and issues to them in regards to housing. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes thank you. We have received that report. We appreciate the work of this committee, because they're working on our behalf. As the Nunavut Government and my Department is responsible for housing, we will do everything we can to bring Nunavut up to par in terms of the need for housing.

We appreciate the work of the Federal Committee in the work that they have done on housing and since it's our responsibility I'll be having an ongoing discussion with the Members of that Committee and different Ministers of Housing and the Ministry of health. We'll also involve other Cabinet Ministers. I've been thinking about how we can get the most housing because overcrowding is an issue in all communities in Nunavut. What we're looking at right now is how to help people get housing and own their own homes and we have to consider how much it costs to build a house. I'd like to tell the Member for Iqaluit Centre, I will be soliciting your support and trying to get new housing programs. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Tootoo

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I look forward to offering any support I can on that issue, it is a very important issue to the people of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, in his reply the Minister stated that the Department was concentrating on homeownership. Mr. Speaker I believe that from my past experience, there is a huge need in the area of Social housing, Public Housing which is something that the Federal Government got out of six years ago and I'm wondering if the Minister plans on pursuing that issue further at all levels for federal funds and also within this territorial government. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Anawak

Hon. Jack Anawak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry, it probably got lost in the translation, we're very concerned about people who currently don't have housing and those people who are unable to afford to get their own housing. We're also concerned about future needs for the younger generation and we're also looking at other ways like what they're trying to do in Taloyoak, they're concentrating on homeownership. That's just one area, we are supporting that too for those people who can own their own homes, but we're also most concerned about people who are currently homeless and trying to get a program going for those who cannot afford their own housing right now. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 57 - 1 (2): High Cost of Living in Nunavut

Mr. Alakannuark: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I will address this question to the Minister of Transportation. The goods available in Nunavut right now are very costly, are you looking for ways to cut down the cost of living especially in the area of food?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, thank you, the cost of living, housing, food, clothing, and heavier goods that have to be flown to the north are too expensive. When I was the Member of Parliament, we had a discussion with the people who provide subsidies, such as DIAND, on how we can address this cost of freight to different areas in the North and also in Southern Canada and to Northern Manitoba.

The Federal Government provides subsidies that are worth about \$15 million dollars and part of that subsidy goes to Nunavut and we had some discussions with DIAND, on how we should be spending the subsidy. We have not finished those discussions, we have not finished reviewing that, so we'll be looking at these subsidies further and how much more we need to get apart from that subsidy to Nunavut, because this is only provided for food mail, but it can also be applied to areas other than food. Because the member is asking about all areas of the cost of living, I can only assure the member that we'll be reviewing this further and looking at how more programs can be subsidized. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Second question Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Still on the same subject and I'm talking daily needs of the children, that's mostly I was concerned about and not everybody has ready cash all the time for their children and I understand your answer to that. Thank you.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. McLean Oral Questions.

Question 58 - 1 (2): Request for Proposals - Ublivik Contract

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Health regarding the awarding of the Ublivik Contract. Can the Minister tell me how many companies had proposals.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Picco Minister of Health and Social Services.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe there were 4 companies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. McLean

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question again to the Minister. Mr. Minister, if the lowest price was not the deciding factor in the awarding of the RFP on the Ublivik contract, can you please briefly tell me what were the deciding factors on this contract. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker cost was one of the factors as explained earlier in the oral question to Mr. O'Brien. The RFP was put out by the Keewatin Regional Health and Social Services Board. There are other factors that were looked into and I had mentioned some of them, Article 24 for an example, the quality of service with the proposal itself.

I guess it's safe to say that the contract after it was reviewed again by PWS with the Department of Health and Social Services and Justice, the contract award seemed to serve the people of Nunavut and Keewatin Region. As well, the proposal was sound and I think the fact is that, other than prices, was the quality of the service, of facilities, the people involved to deliver the service. The other factors are in RFP which are public knowledge because those were requested in the ad. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. McLean

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Minister, the company that had the contract provided service to the residents of Keewatin for over 20 years, was that in any way at all taken into account, by whoever awarded this contract. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you would like to answer the question, I could no, no. Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Government of Nunavut, the people of Nunavut recognize that Mrs. Penner for several years has done a very good job and dedicated herself to taking care of the residents of the Keewatin

Region. I can understand why there would be some disappointment that another contractor has been selected. I think it's fair also to say however that the Government of Nunavut and the Keewatin Regional Health and Social Services have the responsibility, Mr. Speaker, have the responsibility to the people of Nunavut to ensure the contractor with the best value is selected. This is done through an RFP, as I explained, I went through the process which the Keewatin Health and Social Services Board undertook which they did thoroughly and fairly and I'm confident of that proposal.

So I understand the experience and the dedication of Mrs. Penner. I think it's just when the RFP came forward, the criteria was set out and everyone was on an equal footing. The Keewatin Regional Health and Social Services Board picked the contractor, that the final contract was awarded to based on the criteria that was in place. It was a fair, sound process and I understand there would be disappointment from the person who had run the contract for several years. As I explained earlier, the contract was holdover since 1995, it was a verbal commitment. The Keewatin Health and Social Services Board had some concerns with the way the contract had been handled and indeed the proponent, Mrs. Penner had the same kind of concerns, so they went to a competitive RFP and Mrs. Penner was not successful in that bid. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me who finally signed off this contract.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Keewatin Regional Health and Social Services Board would sign off the contract. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Those people who have not yet asked a question will be given first priority to ask questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 59 - 1 (2): Vacant Head Nurse Position in Igloolik

Mr. Irqittuq: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker this is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services, regarding the head nurse in Igloolik, when is that nurse going to be in that position? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, I had an opportunity to go to the Health Centre in Igloolik and speak to quite a few of the staff that were there. When the Head Nurse would be instated and be put in place at the facility in Igloolik, I don't have that information in front of me, I would commit to find out the information and get in back to the Members as soon as possible. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions, oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 60 - 1 (2): Outpost Camps Eligibility for Income Support

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to address the Minister of Health & Social Services. How does the department of Health & Social Services, service their smaller communities? I want clarification on that Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Health & Social Services Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I believe that income support is under the Minister for Education, maybe the question could be redirected towards the Minister of Education.

Speaker: Mr. Picco, I believe the question was about Social Workers, which is under your department. If you could answer that question.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, then maybe if the member could just clarify whether Mr. Iqaqrialu is talking about income support delivery or the actual social workers in the community. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Picco. If you could clarify Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is regarding the funding that is given to the Department of Health & Social Services to be used towards outpost camps. I want a clarification as to how the funding is spent on outpost camps. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am not sure as to how much funding they receive. Are you asking how much funding they receive? If you are asking a question pertaining to figures, I don't have those figures written down.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Iqaqrialu, second question.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. What we want clarified is whether these outpost camps receive assistance or not. Yes or no?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Arvaluk, Minister of Education.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes those who require assistance do get assistance, but there are those who are able to support themselves who do not receive assistance. Yes, but those who do require assistance get it.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 61 - 1 (2): Capital Project Priorities, Town of Iqaluit

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Community Government, Housing & Transportation. Mr. Speaker I gave a rather nice story on the condition of the roads in Iqaluit. I would like to ask the Minister if he has had an opportunity, either him or his staff, to meet with officials from the Town of Iqaluit with regards to their concerns and priorities over the selection of capital projects allocated to the Town of Iqaluit. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Community Government, Housing & Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. We haven't met with the Town Council yet, but we are planning to meet with the Mayor and the Town Council and also the MLA's representing east, west and Iqaluit centre. We will be meeting with those representatives to discuss the concerns that have been raised at this sitting.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 62 - 1 (2): Sanikiluaq Interpreters for Assembly

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak. The first year that we were here; perhaps I should make a comment first. I don't want to lose my own dialect or my language and to make everybody understand what I am saying, I will be using a dialect that is not my own. I value my own dialect. I spoke to the Minister earlier this year that perhaps we should hire an interpreter from Sanikiluaq once in a while. I am going to have to borrow dialects to be understood here, I know that if I used my own dialect, that Minister would not understand what I am trying to say. I wonder if you have been told about that before, that we need to have the Sanikiluaq dialect interpreted here at the House? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This is one of the responsibilities of the Legislative Assembly, so I will have a talk with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly about that. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 63 - 1 (2): Status of Positions with Education Boards

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk. In regards to the phasing out of the Education Boards and the news release the boards will be phased out during the next year and no jobs are expected. Mr. Minister, could you please give me details where the 12 people employed in the board office in Baker Lake will be employed next year? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Yes, the policy objective, which we achieved through the Cabinet, is a no lay-off policy. When the transitional period is taking place, how these positions will be placed or replaced, or where they will be moved for example, I cannot answer about Baker Lake directly, but there is a plan to move Baffin Divisional Board to Pangnirtung, then there will be invitations to these staff members to move with that office and the same policy will apply across the board. If a divisional board office is in Baker Lake then the employees will be in Baker Lake. There is no plan for Kitikmeot and Kivalliq to move there headquarters, regional offices somewhere else, only in the Baffin is the regional office to be relocated to Pangnirtung. Everywhere else, we have no plans to relocate the staff, if the relocation isn't necessary.

However, I would like to add for the member, that because of the divisional boards elimination plan, we will probably require less administration and financial personnel. The Premier has indicated that as soon as possible we will start placing some of these unnecessary positions, after July 1, 2000, we will start placing them immediately elsewhere within the government. That may not be required after July 1, 2000. In this case if you have excess in the area of administration and finance sections of the divisional boards in Baker Lake, then they will be invited to seek similar positions within the Nunavut Government.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question again for the Minister. Could the Minister give me a time line as to when these employees can be advised of their options? They are all long term residents of Baker Lake and have families and mortgages to deal with. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, we are in the process, I hope sometime this week or next week, I will be able to announce the implementation co-ordinator. As soon as that is done we will certainly be talking to him about our priorities and our concerns respecting the members' concerns and naturally the employees' concerns of those divisional boards, who may not be required in that particular organization after July 1, 2000. As soon as we get those organized, hopefully within a month, we will be able to advise the staff as to the most suitable, or best way to deal with it. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 64 - 1 (2): Vacant Decentralization Infrastructure

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question concerns decentralization. Since we don't have a Minister in charge of decentralization, I will pose

my question to the Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services. Mr. Speaker, we spent millions and millions of dollars in some of our communities constructing office buildings and accommodations. In some cases houses have been completed and boarded up for the winter. These buildings have been heated but empty.

In my case, in my home community of Arviat, in reference to our office complex, it is my understanding that it is completed, I am now sure if it is turned over or not, I understand that it is but can't confirm that. We have a number of people, I believe there are seven people at least, that have been hired and waiting to take up office accommodations, unfortunately the building's not available. We are also told that there are no phones available, Northwestel is not able to hook the phones up until August.

My question Mr. Speaker, is when can we expect to get some solid confirmation as to when these buildings can be used so we can get on with the business of decentralization and running this government.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manikot Thompson: This is a question to the Finance Minister. My department is on track with the buildings, we are just a service department, so I will refer that question to the Finance Minister who is more involved in the decentralized model of the government. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker and I thank my colleague for referring the question to me. I think in yesterday's committee debates on the departments of Finance & Administration, and Human Resources that issue came up. Several members had questioned the timing and availability of staff housing and office space in their communities to accommodate some of these decentralized positions.

I had undertaken at that time that we will try to find out exactly what the status is, right now it is not within our jurisdiction, as I had indicated, the Nunavut Construction Company is providing the construction of facilities for the Federal Government which will be transferred. I understand that some assets are in the stage right now of being transferred to the Government of Nunavut. But it is my understanding that as of today that we don't have any of those units within our jurisdiction but it is in process. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is my understanding, and again I am not sure, but some of these units are actually turned over. So I would ask the Minister if he could give me a firmer time line, as I have said we have staff that have been hired. We have people that are waiting to move in, they don't have accommodations. So if you

could at least give me a date when I could tell these people back home when they could move into these accommodations, that we may be paying for even as we speak. So if you could give me some date that I could bring back home to the people. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as I said, I don't know, I don't have the specific details here. Possibly the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services, who was involved in the lease negotiations may have more specific detailed information. If he doesn't, I will certainly make a point of finding out as soon as possible. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: One last point Mr. Speaker. In reference to the concern over phone systems, I would hope that is not the case where we would have to wait for Northwestel until August to hook up the phone systems in our office complex. This is more a comment, if the Minister could look into that to see if it could be corrected. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien, a comment when you are asking oral questions you have to make sure you are asking the same question, you are changing the question now. Thank you. Mr. Alakannuark, oral question.

Question 65 - 1 (2): Disease Prevention, Incidence of Illness

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health & Social Services. The communities see a lot more illness nowadays in their communities. What can be done in Nunavut for the prevention of serious illness? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Minister of Health & Social Services, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the member could rephrase his question.

Speaker: Mr. Picco, please listen. This is a question for the Minister of Health. Mr. Alakannuark, could you please clarify your question?

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is for the Minister of Health. More and more people are getting serious illnesses in communities. Maybe the problems are caused by food, contamination in the food chain, or from the environment. Would it be possible to monitor the reasons why more people are getting sick in the communities.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Minister of Health Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker over the past several weeks now we have heard, for example, the first instances of diabetes are being seen more prevalently. One of the factors that the medical people are telling us is that with the changing patterns and lifestyles of the people of Nunavut, indeed one main factor would be the diets. As an example as we have gotten away from eating more country foods and we are now eating more processed foods, we seem to have more instances of heart problems, diabetes as I earlier said. Indeed, the rates of cancer have increased.

Right now in Nunavut under the department of Health, we really don't have the capacity to track individual diseases and so forth, we are actually contracting back some of these service. The Department of Health has been monitoring through the regional health boards the different instances and rates of the different diseases. One of the factors for the changing patterns of health and the new instances of different diseases has been the changes in lifestyle and the changes in consumption of food products as one example.

Speaker (interpretation): Okay question period is over. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7, Written Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 1 - 1 (2): Nunavut Share of Accumulated GNWT Surplus

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance and Administration Mr. Ng. Minister Ng's counterpart in Yellowknife, Charles Dent, announced in his budget address of April 19 that the GNWT would be receiving 56% of an forecasted 62 million accumulated surplus. My question is, when will the Government of Nunavut be in a position to know when it will receive our 44% share of this total, which is not reflected in our Main Estimates?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Written question. 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. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 11: Petitions

Petition 2 - 1 (2): Gloria Penner's Services

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the Keewatin Regional Health & Social Services announcement April 14, 1999 regarding Gloria Penner's services.

Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 227 signatures of residents of Sanikiluaq and Mr. Speaker, many people of the land are concerned about losing Gloria's services and would like to see Gloria continue to provide the services at Ublivik. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Item 11, Petitions. Mr. Akesuk.

Petition 3 - 1 (2): Kimmirut Community Arena

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a petition with 145 signatures from the community of Kimmirut. Mr. Speaker the petitioners request that the Government of Nunavut allocate funds for the construction of the Kimmirut arena, which has been promised to the community for many years. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Petitions. Mr. McLean.

Petition 4 - 1 (2): Ublivik Contract

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a petition that contains 200 signatures of the residents of Arviat that are concerned about Mrs. Penner losing this contract and would like to see her continue on in this contract. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Petitions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a petition in regards to the Hamlet Council funding. 100 and 30 thousand in 1988 and 31 thousand in 1989 have been cut back. For those two years the amount that has been reduced equals 161 thousand, 8 hundred and seven dollars. Thank you and God Bless you, this has been sent from the Hamlet of Clyde River and has been signed by Jonathon Palluq. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, we are requesting petitions, we cannot accept a petition with only one signature, but perhaps we can deal with your document under Tabling of Documents. Thank you. Item 12, Reports of Special and Standing Committees. Item 13, Reports of Committees on Review of Bills and Other Matters.

Speaker (interpretation): I am sorry, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I would like to get clarified what do you mean by Reports of Committees on Review of Bills? When can I do my Committee Report? Not now?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak, your Committee Report, you will do your committee report during the Committee of the Whole. Thank you.

Item 10. I apologize, Item 13. Reports of Committees on Review of Bills.

Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 6 - 1 (2): Analysis of Audit Reports, Hamlet of Clyde River

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Mr. Speaker I am starting to sweat a little already so I would like to apologize for the mistake I made earlier, so I will go on to tabling documents. Today, this is what you requested from the Hamlet Council of Clyde River. The financial figures which have been reduced. \$130,531.00, in 1988. Thirty one thousand three hundred and twenty (\$31,320.00), in 1999. In the two years the reduction totalled one hundred and sixty one thousand, eight hundred and fifty one (\$161,851), and that's how the deficit started in 1998. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. It is ok to make mistakes because we have only been meeting for six days since the beginning of the Assembly. You will get used to it. Tabling of Documents? Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 7 - 1 (2): Baker Lake Hamlet Council Support for NTPC Contaminant Clean-Up

Tabled Document 8 - 1 (2): Review of Baker Lake Social Groups for Amalgamation

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I would like to table two documents. One to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding a review of the health care in Baker Lake, and services. The second document is to the Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation regarding massive contamination in Baker Lake. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents? Item 15 Notices of Motions. Item 16 Notices of Motions for first reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 17 Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills

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

Speaker (interpretation): Item 20. Bills and other matters. Bill One Appropriation Act 1999/2000. Committee Reports. 1-1(2), 2-1(2), 3-1(2) and 4-1(2) with Mr. Irqittuq as the Chairperson.

Chairperson (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): We can reconvene the Committee of the Whole Meeting. Yesterday, we were supposed to deal with the Justice Department. What is the Committees wish for this afternoon? Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, I would like to deal with the Department of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, are you in agreement? Thank you. To the appropriate Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications, Minister Manitok Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Can I talk, can I do my opening comments now for Pubic Works?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. You may go ahead.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will do my opening comments for the Public Works, and after I do my comments I'll go down to the witness chair with my officials.

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to make some introductory remarks on the business plan as it relates to the budget for the Department of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services. This covers the time period of 1999 and 2000.

The main estimates for the Department are divided as follows:

\$67.1 Million for O & M.

\$5.7 Million for Capital.

Although there are a number of Headquarter positions that remain to be filled, the Department has well established regional offices in Baffin, Keewatin and Kitikmeot Regions.

Out of the 108 positions in the regional operations in the larger communities, a total of 40 are staffed by Inuit. This represents 37% of the workforce in the Department.

All regional Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services Offices are ensuring that services are being provided without interruption while the Headquarters positions are bring staffed.

The services provided are Purchasing and Contracting: Building Maintenance and the delivery of Petroleum Products.

The Department is contracting services from the Department of Public Works and Services GNWT. This will fill the gap in skills until they are developed in Nunavut.

The Decentralization Plan for the Department is proceeding. This is scheduled to begin in the year 2000 as additional housing and office space becomes available.

There are now a total of 46 housing units and 3 office buildings completed. These are located in communities in all three regions where regional offices will be located.

The Department also manages the Petroleum Products revolving fund. This fund I strictly for the financing of fuel inventory, and operating expenses and is recovered through the pricing structure.

Public Works also manages a large budget on behalf of client departments who are constructing buildings as part of their capital plan. The Department provides a high degree of services in order to ensure the necessary requirements are met.

The Department also intends to review the standards and criteria used to determine capital expenditures. The intent will be to designing criteria that meet the specific needs of Nunavut. All interested parties will be contracted for input including the MLAs through the Standing Committees. Current criteria were carried over from the GNWT in order to ensure that some standards were in place until a review.

Central purchasing is also a major task handled by the Department. This represents a significant opportunity for Nunavuts' businesses to develop and grow.

The Department ensures contracts and purchases meet all the requirements of Article 24 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, in addition to the Government's purchasing regulations. A review will be undertaken with NTI to ensure that the policies meet the needs of Nunavut and Article 24.

One of the largest Divisions in the Department is Petroleum Products. Petroleum Products is responsible for providing fuels to the communities of Nunavut. The fuel is distributed by local contractors employing local people. This Division has annual revenues of over 1.4 million Dollars.

Fuel is supplied by ships or barges during the resupply period in the summer time. There is currently a contract in place with NTCL to supply this fuel until the end of year 2001. This will provide time to allow a review of the options available to lower costs. This will be done in conjunction with a review of the Eastern Arctic Sealift which is co-ordinated by the Coast Guard until the year 2000. There are no problems being anticipated at this time. I hope these comments have been informative and I hope that I have been clear. So I am ready to go down to the witness chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. You may go to the witness chair with your officials. Ms. Thompson could you introduce your officials please?

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): To my left, I don't have a Deputy Minister so he is my Acting Deputy Minister, Ross Mrazek. On my right Patrick Galbraith, Comptroller in my Department.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms Minister and you are going on with the Committee of the Whole item. Do the Committee have reports. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the following is some brief remarks on reference to meetings that we held with the Minister for the Department of Public Works, Telecommunications, Technical Services. Mr. Chairman, Minister Thompson appeared before the Committee on the afternoon of May 2, the main estimate

summary provided to the Committee indicated that the 1999/2000 expenditure of \$72,901, 332 of which 5,000,769.00 is capital spending.

In reference to Petroleum Products the Petroleum Products situation in Gjoa Haven a member requested an update to the situation facing the community. The Ministers Deputy advised that samples of the gas had been tested and most of them had been satisfactory. The Committee was advised that the studies were continuing and the final results will be available within a few weeks. The Committee was advised that in the Deputies judgement this was a one time rare situation. The Committee received a commitment to be updated on the situation.

In reference to Article 24 and the business incentive policy, the Committee was informed that the PWTTS staff are now reviewing the issue with a review, with a view to the GN Government of Nunavut dealing with both together in order to achieve one streamlined policy for the Government. It was acknowledged that there is a present confusion between Article 24 and BIP. The Ministers Deputy indicated that a goal of the policy review was to provide a reasonable support and assistance to Inuit owned firms and that the Department officials would be discussing the issue with NTI. The Committee stressed to the Minister a strong desire to see the provisions of Article 24 adhered to by the Department. The Committee also seeks clarification as to whether the provision of the BIP will apply to tendering in Nunavut during the upcoming construction season. As members of the Committee we are concerned about the possible negative impact that on certainly this regard, would have on Nunavut firms.

With reference to the 1999/2000 Capital Plan. Members of the Committee requested clarification on the start dates of the PWTTS 1999/2000 Capital projects. The Committee received a commitment to receive this information.

In reference to Centralized Purchasing. The Committee was informed that the GN tenders over \$5,000.00 will be tendered through the Department. The rationale provided was that this policy will achieve a significant cost saving to the Government. The Committee expects that the Department will closely monitor and evaluate the success of this policy.

In reference to the Housing Corporation. The Committee was informed that the Housing Corporation has been slightly, slightly dismantled, with some program personnel having gone to CGHT, and some technical personnel to PWTTS. The Committee was also advised that the Corporation has experienced a number of resignations over the past few months. The Committee was informed both departments are in discussions. The Committee would like to be updated on the progress in this area.

In reference to fuel costs. The members of the Committee expressed strong concern over the high cost of petroleum products especially in the smaller more remote communities. The Committee asked whether the department had a subsidy plan to lower costs to home owners. The minister indicated that a review of the sealift is being undertaken up to the

year 2000. The Committee supports these initiatives designed to fairness and affordability to the communities in this area.

In reference to staff housing. The Committee was advised that approximately 120 NCC units are currently under construction. The Committee was further advised that the Department of Human Resources has the responsibility for establishing policies for the allocation of staff housing units.

In reference to the information super highway. The Committee was provided with a brief overview of the progress to date in establishing the GNs' I.T. system. It was also advised that the Departments Chief Informatics Officer was to start the following week. That is to start work? The committee was advised that the Departments first priority was to complete work in the larger centres Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay. The CIO would be developing strategies for making progress in the smaller communities. The committee encourages the department to vigorously pursue initiatives designed to bring the benefits of the Information Super Highway to all communities of Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I have some motions I would like to move.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes Mr. O'Brien

Committee Motion 7 – 1 (2): Communities Benefit from Information Superhighway

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson I move that this Committee recommends that the Department work to ensure that all the communities benefit from the Information Super Highway.

Chairperson (interpretation): Comments to the motion? To the motion. I don't think there are any comments. All those in favour? The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien?

Committee Motion 8 – 1 (2): Adherence to Article 24 By Departments

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the second motion. I move that this Committee recommend that the conditions of Article 24 are adhered to by this Department.

Chairperson (interpretation): Member from Arviat has a motion on the floor. To the motion, questions, comments. There are no comments. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? Abstentions? It is carried. Mr. O'Brien.

Committee Motion 9 – 1 (2): Mid Year Progress Report

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My final motion Mr. Chairman, I move that this Committee recommends that the Department provides a mid year progress report to the Standing Committee for review in October of this year.

Chairperson (interpretation): Comments or questions to the motion? Minister Thompson?

Hon. Manitek Thompson (interpretation): Progress, on what progress? Petroleum Products or Purchasing. What Division can he be more clear on that issue. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I think that this motion reflects similar motions by all the other committees and basically it is an overall motion to review the progress of the overall department. Very straight forward, not to be singled out to any one Department or any one issue or any one Division. Thank you

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson are you more clear?

Hon. Manitek Thompson (interpretation): Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Questions or comments? To the motion. All in favour? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried. Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That concludes my comments and motions that I wish to put forward.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you to the member for Arviat. At this time, looking at our main estimates. Directorate. Mr. Iqaqrialu?

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity for voice my concerns in regards to petroleum products. If there was an accident or a spill of petroleum products it doesn't seem like it is included in your opening comments. Mr. Chairman could I get further clarification as to what their plans are with oil spills?

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson would you like to respond or would you like one of your officials to respond?

Hon. Manitek Thompson. As to the oil spills, I do know that we have a program in our department but I will ask Mr. Mrazek to elaborate more on oil spills in Nunavut. Thank you.

Mr. Mrazek: In order to ask and answer the question as to the potential oil spill officials from sustainable development and other departments, Public Works, Telecommunications, even if it is within the actual organization of Petroleum Products is not directly involved with official clean-up even if the people are knowledgeable and they're always ready for otherwise regarding potential clean-up.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for talking slowly, at least then your interpreters can keep up with you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have a little knowledge of the plants if just in case there was any oil spill, but in case there was a large oil spill in Nunavut, it would require a lot of cleaning up. I was just wondering if you have any cleaning up supplies.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if you could understand him, that the Department of Sustainable Development is responsible for your question. When the department goes to the witness chair, you can ask the question on the cleaning up of the potential oil spills and that department is responsible for that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I just have a question for the Minister. As the chairperson indicated in his general remarks, he talked about the slate, dismantling of the Housing Corporation and the Department of Public Works and Telecommunications and Technical Services taking on the technical function; I was just wondering if the Minister could inform us as to the relationship between the department and the Department of Community Government, Housing, & Transportation and their relationship between themselves and the local housing organizations within the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson:

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can call me angayuqqaq anytime you want. I'll have Ross respond to his question, Mr. Mrazek, rather.

Mr. Mrazek: To answer the question to Mr. Tootoo. As I mentioned earlier, the staff from the Housing Corporation offices, through all regions have been divided between the technical side, which is mainly the building inspectors and some purchasing people to go with the Public Works, and the programming side of the people which went to the Community Government, Housing, & Transportation departments. I would like to add that this happened in Cambridge Bay, and probably the best scenario there is that many people stay employed, in case of the Rankin, there have been a number of the vacancies, I believe only one or two persons went to the Public Works office, and in case of Iqaluit, I think we have only one person transferred from housing, and I'm not exactly familiar with how many program people will be going or went to the Community, Housing, & Transportation office.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Tootoo?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Mrazek, for your answer. I know I wasn't so much as asking about the staff whether they're going to be going around as far as the relationship between your department and the Department of Community Government, Housing, & Transportation and the relationship between your department and the local housing organizations. Right now, the technical staff with the prior to April 1, the staff that were with Housing Corporation dealt directly with the community LHO staff providing technical support and assistance to each and every LHO in the community and there was a direct relationship...working relationship between the two.

It is my understanding in this structure now that there is a possibility for the maintenance of those public housing units that any other homeowner or I'll say public housing units, I think, to be fair that's all that falls under that area. This all falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Community Government, Housing, & Transportation. If the LHO wants, or needs to get some work done, or needs some technical support or assistance, they have to go to the Department of Community Government, Housing, & Transportation, it will then go to Department of Public Works, Telecommunications, & Technical Services will then go to the community and fix the problem, or work on it, but then again, from what I understand from before, your department doesn't have any direct responsibility or tow the load the community to the LHOs'. I'm just wondering if that's the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I'm sure your comment was understood or your question was. Please proceed, Mr. Deputy Minister?

Mr. Mrazek: Yes, you're completely right. What has been developed for the last few weeks is a memorandum of understanding how to handle the housing issues as far as the technical or maintenance between the Local Housing Association and Public Works. Funding is directly provided through the Community Government, Housing, & Transportation as the funding agencies. Public Works is providing the technical advice, technical assistance. Only after, we will be able to staff a few positions to help. Meantime we are working on a temporary arrangement with several communities in order provide response to them on a technical basis.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo, perhaps if you could make your comments or questions more concise, perhaps you'll get a more complete answer. Mr. Tootoo?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'll try. Mr. Chairman, I'm wondering if the...then the Deputy Minister could tell me if an LHO needed some technical advice or need an inspection done say on a sewer tank upgrade on a house or something like that, would they go directly to Department of Public Works & Services or would they have to go to the Department of Community Government, Housing, & Transportation who would then go to your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Mrazek: The contact is direct without going to Community Government, and they will obviously transfer the information is much faster and it's clearly stated in the

memorandum of understanding between the Public Works and individual housing local association in the communities which has been developed, and is being negotiated with individual communities at this time.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Did you raise your hands? I didn't quite catch who raised his hand. I don't know whether it was Mr. Kattuk or Mr. Akasuk. Which of you raised your hands? Oh, it was Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Akasuk?

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. I have just a comment. Perhaps the opening comments read by the Minister when she was still sitting in her seat. I would like to get a written copy of the opening comments read by the Minister.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Could you give her a copy? Thank you, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: If there is a copying machine, they are available. The copies of my opening comments is available. I'm not sure who or whether the legislative assembly clerks, I believe they deal with requests for copies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Mr. Akasuk?

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. A question in respect to the houses which are already constructed in the regional centres where there are still no offices, we know they have to have maintenance payments, I would like to ask how much it costs for the maintenance, or whether we could find out more detail about those costs, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson or Mrazek, Mr. Mrazek? I hope I'm correct in pronouncing that?

Mr. Mrazek: If I could get more clarification, I would appreciate that because we have a number of different types of housing in the communities.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk?

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In respect to... I'm trying to refer to the buildings built by the Nunavut Construction Corporation, the offices...not the offices...the houses which are to be utilized by staff...I'm referring to them because the Nunavut government will own them or lease them back...and right now there's nobody inhabiting those units so I'm asking about those units. What are...what is the average monthly payments for the maintenance of those empty units? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I'm sorry I keep making mistakes in respect to the names. I called Mr. Akasuk, I was trying to call someone else. Ms. Thompson, could you respond please.

Hon. Manitek Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might make mistakes because this is definitely a male department so I'll refer that to Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: I would like to give a brief overview of the Nunavut Construction Corporation activity. So far, they have built 146 housing units in a number of the settlements. This year, they will be building 104, in total number, it will be 250 units by next summer 2000. You're right, there's nobody living in those units yet, some of are completed, some of them are not; they have a number of deficiencies, and the interim inspection has not been passed. I think we will start paying the leases within the next month, and the amount of the leases is available but I don't have that with me. I can supply that later on. We're making arrangements currently to use one housing unit in Arviat as the temporary office space for education.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk?

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you. I ran out of questions, thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay. Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's my understanding that the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the federal government has spent between eight and ten million dollars on information technology for Nunavut government. This was done through the Office of Interim Commissioner. Do we have a figure in place now as to what the total cost of our information highlight of what it will cost us... I don't know if it's in the budget... we have an estimate as to what it will cost and if the federal government will continue to support my funding for this huge project?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek?

Mr. Mrazek: I'm not familiar and I cannot confirm the expenditure on behalf of the OIC office last year or year before. The only thing I would like to confirm that we have approximately about fifteen million dollars in this capital budget, in this main estimate which is basically for operation and for the policy and program assistant development for all department.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm not so much concerned about the Minister's department being able to confirm the ten million dollars that was provided by the federal government up to this date, but more or less, can we expect additional support, human support from the federal government from the department of D.I.A.N.D. in reference to our efforts to connect, I guess, all the communities the information highway. I'm not sure, did you indicate that there was fifteen million dollars that you were going to spend, okay? The second part of my question is in reference to connecting up the smaller communities... we always hear that the larger centres for many, many years that they're always hooked up first... there's lots of good reasons for

that, but I guess my concern is that the smaller communities are equally as important, probably more so because they need that service. My question is...is there any relationship or co-ordination between your department and, Minister, and the Department of Education in reference to the information highway.

Chairperson (interpretation): Which of you will provide a response to that? Ms. Thompson?

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Not being fully briefed on all the details of this department, we've been very busy with our priorities, I'm sorry to say that, but our priority is to serve the communities the best we can. I'll let Mr. Mrazek add on to what I've said. I'm pretty sure that we will also service the small communities with the Department of Education if we have to, but I'll let Mr. Mrazek elaborate more on that. Thank you.

Mr. Mrazek: With that, I think we will put a little bit of light into it so member from Arviat will get hopefully little bit clear picture. Eventually, all communities will be connected through the server and the main network. We have just completed meetings last week with NorthwestTel and we tried to resolve a number of the telecommunication issues between government, between the NorthwestTel, between the Ardicom and few other suppliers. This thing is really a complex project. I'm sorry I'm not able to give you a specific date but we have the three major communities operational. We will be hooking up the Arviat within the next several weeks and so is Kugluktuk, which will be operational and other community will follow. This progress, it's extremely complex; it takes a very lots of energy, manpower, and it's basically going every two weeks and there are very serious meetings and progress check outs. I'm sorry I cannot give you anymore specific dates, but it's definitely nothing more original than to have all the communities connected in all through the intercom.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mrazek. Mr. O'Brien?

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that response, Mr. Mrazek. So the people back in my home community will be pleased to hear that, we hope not for the next few weeks. My next question is in reference to some clarification on the BIP, the Business Incentive Policy. In article 24, do we have anything in place at this point to say that the B.I.P. will be in place prior to the summer projects being started or concluded?

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson?

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope you will be able to understand that because they will be translated to English for sure. At this point in time, some of the duties as I understand them, they're being developed and we're using the existing policies at this time, but as I stated earlier in my opening comments... Article 24... we are reviewing Article 24 because there is no way around it; we have to implement it especially with the creation of the Nunavut territory and again it's part of our...part of the constitution and this help and we'll be developing a policy as how best implement Article 24 and we'll be involving NTI and consulting with them, and we have

to work with different organizations because, as we're developing the policy, we have to have a working relationship with those different organizations, both departments and Inuit organizations as well as federal departments. Perhaps Mr. Mrazek will speak to this point a little further so he can clarify the situation. Sometimes, when it goes through the translator, it kind of loses the meaning.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you wish to add on to this, Mr. Mrazek?

Mr. Mrazek: I would like to add just a few notes for the benefit of everybody. The Business Incentive Policy has been approved last week, and it's interim measure for one year, and what's happened basically is that the business and companies will get preference only within the Nunavut territory. This way, they benefit the companies and definitely benefit from that location. As far as the Article 24 is concerned, we will be honouring that Article 24 and will start negotiating later on this year with NTI to develop working relationship and more details how to implement Article 24 because we are still going and adopting the working details which were developed two years ago between the G.N.W.T. and NTI as the interim measure.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Mrazek for that information. I wonder if the Minister and her staff can speak briefly to their current thinking on sealift options.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Mr. O'Brien: I couldn't hear that...my headset...could she repeat that?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman...Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Can you please rephrase your question and ask...make it as understandable as to what you wish to make it understandable... what you wish spoken to...what you are alluding to, can you clarify that please?

Mr. O'Brien: In reference to sealift; have they reviewed sealift as it is? Do they anticipate any changes as far as usage, schedules, and so on...is there any...we're thinking of existing sealift operations.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Thompson?

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson. We're up to review anything now because we're the new government, I guess. That's our goal, to develop a new system in this government if it doesn't work in the old system, but I'll let Ross elaborate more on that, but what I did say in my statement was that we will be reviewing the cost of fuel that's with the re-supply through barges and ships because there's different subsidies in different communities, if that's part of that, but everything's up for review if the members wishes for something to be reviewed in my department, but I'll let Ross elaborate more on the ships, and barges, transportation in that area because I'm not very familiar with that yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Please proceed.

Mr. Mrazek: In case of sealift, you probably know that there is still contract with NTCL which government will be using. I believe that contract will expire next year. Every region is slightly different rate, and to be totally honest with you, we didn't spend time and effort due to many other priorities for the last two months, and that's basically what is happening right now.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien? I'm sorry. Mr. Puqiqnak was actually ahead. Please proceed. Go ahead, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the Minister was sitting and making her opening comments, in respect to petroleum and the purchase of petroleum... I just want to clarify... I just want to understand buy the gasoline in the Baffin, where do they purchase the petroleum for the Keewatin, where do they buy the petroleum for the Kitikmeot. I would like to understand who the suppliers for the petroleum are. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I might be mistaken, I seem to know a little bit of it, so I would refer that to Mr. Mrazek.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Petroleum Products division tenders the fuel supply every year on the world market. One year you may get gasoline from Amsterdam, and another year from Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and everywhere else. It depends on who will give the government the best possible price for fuel or oil. In the case of the Keewatin it is usually through the port of Churchill. So maybe that will give you some idea, it's not exactly locally bought purchase for fuel, because when you are dealing with millions and millions of litres you have to look for an economy of scale so the people in the community will be able to pay a reasonable price also. I hope that answers some of your questions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Mr. Chairperson, I would like to buy petroleum from Saudi Arabia because when I smell the petroleum here, it's smells better than the gas we have. It has a sweeter smell than the fuel we have. I keep going back to the petroleum because, I am sorry I have to debate these issues, because I am representing my constituents and they keep expressing concerns about that and I am trying to do a good job in representing my constituents. Therefore I keep bringing that up.

I would also like to raise another question, Madame Minister and her officials, I know that you will be meeting with them but however, we have heard through the media and I

have heard from my constituents both through telephone, faxes and mail that the residents of Gjoa Haven are extremely displeased with their gasoline. I tend to believe that. I wish to raise a question to you and your staff.

Your review, or research into the petroleum products, when will that be completed? Perhaps if you found out the reason for the gasoline problems, I would like to hear that as soon as possible. Again, there have been a lot of machines breaking up and if you could find out, perhaps, the reason for the breakdown of these snowmobiles, I would like to find that out. As well, I know that this year, I was there, and the search & rescue division had to go and get people and had to use a lot of gasoline in order to rescue the hunters. Even the search & rescue vehicles were breaking down and that was causing a safety concern. What are you going to do about this, what are your plans for this problem that we are having in Gjoa Haven.

Starting in 1999, in January, from then we have been sending letters to the GNWT and it's already been four months. I am sorry, I have started to ramble on here, but I would like to find out about this. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I understand that he is trying to represent his community and he is doing a good job. Again, we are the conduits for anything whether it be pleasurable or not, because we are representing our community concerns because that is our mandate. He is representing his community, I understand his comments properly and he raised a question in respect to the petroleum in Gjoa Haven. Although I understand now and when he posed his question I have kept trying to get a response on this. My staff know exactly what has been happening in Gjoa Haven, as well as the research into the petroleum.

This is the one thing that I have understood today, the government research into the gasoline, they said that it was in acceptable levels. I understand that the Hamlet also had an independent researcher look into the make up of the petroleum. I am not sure if this is true but I believe that they said it was acceptable. This is the extent of my understanding on the matter.

In respect of the snowmobiles that were breaking down, I have heard about it through the radio, I heard the Mayor alluding to this point. I think you all know that I am not responsible for skidoos or for spark plugs, but I have agreed to go to Gjoa Haven, with my staff, especially when the Kitikmeot leaders have their meeting, but right now I am not sure what my plans are in respect to the breakdowns of the snowmobiles and I am not sure how we'll deal with it. There are a lot of factors involved in skidoo breakdowns, this I know, however, to date the research results have consistently come out saying that it is acceptable. That's all I have at this time but I will be visiting Gjoa Haven and the residents to meet with them on this petroleum issue. I am sorry that this has been like this for a while and I know that they're very displeased with it.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak, perhaps if you have questions other than the petroleum, because I know you will be dealing with that and the Minister has stated that she will go to the community. Do you have any other questions in respect of some other matter for public works?

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. If you had a better response then I would prefer to be at the meeting, but if you are just bringing the same response then I would prefer not to be at the meeting. If your response is going to continue to be the same then I am not going to be there, but if you were to show some new initiative then I would want to be involved. Mr. Chairman, I also wanted to emphasize to the Minister and her department the gasoline that caused the breakdowns this winter is going to be used again for the summer season. I guess some of the hunters are giving up on their summer travel plans, because again they know they might lose their outboard motors if this winter is any indication of the breakdowns of snowmobiles.

I am sorry that I keep referring to gasoline and petroleum, because again this has caused a lot of stress in our community. Especially this winter. Again, you did not quite respond in respect to, I know that you stated that you are not responsible for snowmobiles broken down this winter, but what are you going to do about it?

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I understand that the member doesn't want to meet tomorrow, and I accept that, I have other things to do I guess, it's okay. I appreciate his comments, I don't know if I have any new items in regards to this, I am just a new Minister. I am sorry to say that, I am reviewing what has been going on with the departments. What I can say is that, if we are going to compensate the skidoos, then we will have to do it for everybody else that has problems with their skidoos and I am not prepared to do that. I'm sorry to say that. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Puqiqnak are you done? Don't give up just because you get refused once, you have to be persistent and that's why you were elected. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I think I should be sitting where you are Madame Minister, I think that I would be perfect for the job. Also I would like to say the opening comments that you made, we didn't have a copy in front of us and I think that some of them were really good, so I think that is part of our difficulty. Since we don't have the paper in front of us and we are trying to deal with that, and we do have the budget estimates, we have these figures, but your opening remarks, I think we are going to keep having difficulties until we have them in front of us. Perhaps we should take a break, and copies of your opening comments could be made and we would feel much better to deal with the budget estimates, Madame Minister. I do think that I would

be good in your position as Minister because I know all about the man things, like you said before.

Chairperson (interpretation): Would you stand up Madame Minister and Mr. Iqaqrialu will take your place, just kidding. Let's take a short break to regroup after Ms. Thompson makes a comment.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I am sorry, I am the best person to do this job, I know this department, I am going to learn it, I am the best man for this job and you are not much of a man if you stand beside me, so don't bother challenging me. Yes, I can do this group and don't patronize me because I am a female, because I know that I can work for PWTTS, Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will regroup and get copies of the opening comments and come back shortly.

>>Committee recessed at 4.38 pm and resumed at 4.57 pm.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you please take your seats. We are not supposed to have coffee in the Legislature, so please ensure that you don't bring your coffee in here. I was told that even in the Committee of the Whole, that was the protocol. The translations are still being carried out and when they are completed they will be handed out. You will be receiving an English copy at this time. Again, the clock is running and I would like to return to our meeting. Mr. Iqaqrialu, I believe Mr. Iqaqrialu has another question, we will not be voting on the matter right now. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. In regards to the BIP that we just heard about, Article 24, that we just heard about. This afternoon earlier in question period, contracts in regard to RFP's. I am sure that these are awarded to the best proposal and if they have BIP and if they have Article 24.

The problem that I see with RFP's, and I have asked the question earlier today to my colleagues, is that it is not necessarily the lowest bidder that gets it. So if we have an RFP that is 20 - 40% higher than the low bidder and then we throw BIP on there, and then we include Article 24, is there going to be cost down the road at some point that we may not be able to afford to do this in our contracting?

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Ms. Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I would like to thank the member for his concern. We had talked about that and we have the department working with other departments to see how we can deal with Article 24, in the Nunavut Government, in a public government. I will have Mr. Mrazek update us on his discussions in regards to Article 24 and BIP for contracting in Nunavut. Mr. Mrazek will elaborate a little bit more on that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: I will try to describe the correct answer to Mr. McLean specifically. There is a major difference between a tender and a request for proposals. Tenders are completely public, request for proposal is not. That doesn't mean that people are prevented from providing a request for proposal. The only thing which contracting procedures, according to the Financial Administration Manual are prohibiting is to disclose prices to the general public with a request for a proposal.

The reason for this is that you may receive more than one, or several proposals which are completely different and you are not able to award an request for proposal to a proponent strictly based on the price. You will be basically comparing apples to oranges, technically, if you are disclosing that. Requests for proposals are evaluated on selected criteria, price is one of them, but obviously there are many others. The evaluation process is completely fair, can be verified, it is usually a committee, and obviously the cost/benefit analysis, including BIP and Article 24 plays a major role.

I am not sure if I answered your question, but any request for proposals, even including the tenders, they don't have to be awarded if the government finds that they are not able to pay for it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. In the presentation out of 108 positions in regional operations, a total of 40 new are staffed by Inuit. This represents 37% of the work force in the department. The services provided are purchasing, contracting, building maintenance and delivery of petroleum products. Is the department taking a concerted effort to make sure that the Inuit employment factor gets up to at least 50% and is the department conscious of that in bringing more people into this department?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Sorry Ms. Thompson, or Mr. Mrazek.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. We will make a commitment to do Inuit employment plans for the department if it has not been done already. I will be committed to bringing more Inuit staff into this department as I have been asked by the member. We will make sure that this is done by this department. I am sure that we have Inuit employment training plans within this department and I do know that my staff is very good at trying to recruit as many Inuit as they can, but I will review that with my department and make sure that it gets done by this department. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: The decentralization plan for the department is proceeding. This is scheduled to begin in the year 2000, as additional housing and office space becomes

available. Speaking for my own community there is an abundance of staff housing and office space. If the Minister needs correspondence, I can make it available to their department, but I am sure that they have it. There are two technical service positions slated for Baker Lake. Getting to that, I am also asking, is decentralized going to happen a bit quicker than next year in this department?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: From the Public Works side there are two positions slated with information technology as the support staff for Baker Lake. That is my understanding according to the organizational charts. To be honest with you I am not sure if these things will happen between now and the next summer. Those positions are strictly depending on the decentralization of the other departments to the community, because those two positions will be supporting the network for other departments.

Besides that there will be, or there will have to be, a training period when we have the outsourcing period with a contractor to train a number of people for those positions. I have just been involved in the Rankin situation when we had three potential Inuit employees who have Microsoft experience and who will be put on line, probably within the next couple of weeks. As far as Baker I think we will probably have to wait a little while until decentralization is in progress. Otherwise those positions will not be able to support anything at this point in time.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: On that answer, I don't find it acceptable. If we are going to put two positions in Baker Lake next year with Technical Services why doesn't the department identify a few Inuit graduates or people in existing positions, as has been done in the past they've transferred them to Rankin to take the technical training there and when the decentralization happens we have fully trained individuals, preferably Inuit, that can slide into the positions rather than wait. There is a training component in it, I have been in the office, in Rankin Inlet at Public Works and Services there, and there's an abundance of staff there. So I think by identifying and training a few unemployed Inuit people from Baker Lake that this would probably fast track your positions in Baker Lake. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: You are partially right. The training plan for those supporting positions is being in the beginning of developing. The reason for that is that we are working with the contractor to develop a training module for the decentralization plan for outsourcing the network in every community. That's the reason for it, as I mentioned before, we don't expect the positions will be filled next week or whatever, but it will be filled as soon as physically possible.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. At this time the clock is running could you please make your questions and comments concise and understandable? Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I would like to ask this question in respect to petroleum products. Because of the high cost of petroleum in the Inuit homelands does your department, have you looked at homeowners and hunters, those who go through a hard time in the winter, has your department considered subsidies for homeowners or hunters because of the high cost of petroleum. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson or Mr. Mrazek.

Hon. Manikot Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. We will be reviewing the cost of fuel in the future, but I think the question is more directed to, I know EC & E, or housing has a program where the senior folks who own their own home can get subsidized for their fuel. Sustainable Development would probably have something for subsidizing skidoo fuel. But we would be reviewing the cost of fuel in the near future, so the members' are invited to put in their comments at that time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that all? Mr. Tootoo could you make your question concise and understandable please?

Mr. Tootoo: Honourable members, Mr. Chairman, I am trying to think how to say it really quick. Mr. Chairman I am wondering if the Minister or her staff can let us know if their department is responsible, or confirm if their department is responsible for providing all the capital delivery of Nunavut? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manikot Thompson (interpretation): Yes we are.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. In light of that I know that in some communities and again, going back to housing, not only in Baffin but in other regions there are communities that have been empowered to provide the capital delivery responsible to housing. I am just wondering Mr. Chairman if the department will be looking at honouring those...*(inaudible comment)*...or maybe taking back those responsibilities from the Municipalities that are already doing it? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: Every case will be slightly different, when the local housing association is able, willing to provide for capital projects, I'm referring to housing as you mentioned before, but definitely we'll give them every opportunity to do that. Most housing associations are developed to the point that they are able to provide this type of building activity. Some of them are more developed than others, but it's individual cases,

because it's supporting local community, we always look into that first before the decision is made. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mrazek. Mr. Tootoo

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would hope that it would happen within the Baffin, I know over the last 2 years all the LHO's had delivered all the capital. In the case of the existence the old structure the housing corporation provided technical advise and support, to the LHO's and to Municipalities and with that advise and support, that type of a structure they were able to deliver this program. I'm wondering will that be still the case and continuing along with that type of service and more of an advisory and support role. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, that basically will continue Mr. Tootoo and I said before and we are giving local housing organization, every opportunity for further improvement, so they are able to deliver the Capital Projects.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have few more short questions, is your Department responsible for setting the rents, the staff will be paying for all the staff housing units. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mrazek: It's not exactly public works responsibility it's joint responsibility mainly it is the Department Human Resources and some advise from public works as far as the technical qualifications are concerned. Thank you Mr. Chairman

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Does your Department, would they have an idea as I understand your Department covers off all the lease costs related to staff housing. We have to know what rents are going to be charged in order to know the effect and therefore, determine the levels of subsidies that are provided to staff for staff housing. I'm wondering if the Ministers' staff can provide us with information on what those subsidies are for the various staff housing units. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mrazek: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'll be glad to give you, there is no very simple answer to that question, but I'll be glad to give you a written response, if you want or a summary rent list scale and proportions between the subsidy and the full rent because individual cases vary quite a bit, slightly different community by community.

Approximately 60% very roughly, 60% to 40%, when the 60% is paid by the tenant and 40% is approximately paid by the Government subsidy. But that's a very general rule.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Mrazek. I told you that you would have a last question, these people still have not made a comment. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question in regards to petroleum products. In Pelly Bay, usually when the planes come in to my community, there's no fuel for the airplanes, and that barge cannot really transport fuel and we are requesting that we get aviation fuel in our community. I was wondering if your department can find ways if to get aviation fuel in Pelly Bay. That's my first question, to find out if we can get aviation fuel, how can we get aviation fuel in our community. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to the MLAs comments, I will look into it, because I don't know if we have dealt with it but I'll look in to this issue and get back to the MLA, when I get the results and I'll get my officials to look into that. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. Alakannuark, I think Mr. Puqiqnak would like to make a comment now because he has been writing notes to me. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to apologize to my colleague and to her Department, although I stated earlier that I was a little upset. As I had stated that, I don't want to take part in your meeting, but I would like to apologize to you as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I have to represent my community and I hope that we will be working closely together in the future.

I would like to say to you again, that I would like to meet with you Minister, thank you for responding to me, in regards to the snowmobiles, compensation and I know that you are not responsible for compensating for the lost of ski-doo's for example, this is just going to be a comment.

In 1967 we've been utilizing snowmobiles since then in Gjoa Haven, although we've never requested for support financially from outside the community, or outside government, we've never requested from the previous government for support but the only thing is we're running into problems, because the communities are quite concerned about their fuel and it's costing the community residents considerable amount of dollars when their snowmobiles breakdown. If the minister can respond to me and perhaps clarify to us after, I think that it would've been better had I known about it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you. Tomorrow morning I'll meet with you at 11:00. I will go ahead and meet with you, I didn't think you wanted to take part, but we'll continue meeting with you. I received a letter from Mr. Puqiqnak, quite a lengthy letter. I know that our Department will look into it but in regards to my comment, my comment is still not changed in regards to petroleum products going to the community, it has been researched, they said the results were positive, so for that reason according to my understanding, the snowmobiles, I still don't understand if the gasoline is the cause of the snowmobiles breaking down.

I cannot tell you that I will be compensating for the snowmobiles but as I have stated to you earlier, we will look into it and we will deal with that. I will continue to work with it but I apologize that the results from the study, we still have not gotten the results yet, we haven't had a chance to review the results yet. We are very busy and we still haven't even had a chance to get together. So I apologize to my colleague, but I must state that I am not prepared to, at this time, compensate for the skidoos because the results have come back from the review, both from the department and also from an independent consultant that was hired by the Hamlet. So, based on that I can't do anything about the skidoos, because I am not sure that it was the fuel that caused them. Anyway in the future I am not prepared to help out with the skidoos. Thank you very much.

Chairperson: Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Now that we will meet with you tomorrow, I will expect better answers then. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Thank you for giving me a copy of your opening comment, for it gave me better information here. Your main estimates for the department are divided, 67.1 million dollars for O&M and 5.7 for Capital. In regards to Article 24, there is quite a bit of dollars to be contracted out accordance to Article 24. Article 24 states that only if the company is 51% Inuit owned they would be the first priority to get the contract. Are you using Article 24. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I would like to apologize, we were going to go before you tomorrow, so therefore the opening comments were not translated into Inuktitut, but in the future all of the documents will be translated into Inuktitut for all of our business. I know that the documents have been translated so I apologize to the interpreters for rushing them around, but the opening comments have been translated.

In regards to your question, Article 24, we will have to do things in accordance with Article 24. Our department is now looking at BIP and Article 24. It seems like Article

24 was not acknowledged by our previous government because there were more than one Aboriginal in that area. For that reason we will work in accordance to Article 24 and how we can implement Article 24 and we will be working on this issue in the future and we will involve the regular members. I would like to get your input but at this time we are at our initial stage. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you for giving me a very clear response.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman in the Ministers remarks she has indicated that we will spend a budget of 67.1 million dollars for O&M. I just note that a large part of this O&M is under asset management and is approximately 42 million dollars but there is no detail. I wonder if the Minister and her staff could provide some detail as to what this 42 million dollars is for? It is not contained in the budget book. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I am sorry we don't have the detail in front of us right now, but the Finance person here might be able to give us an idea what the question is. We can certainly provide it in detail on paper at a later date if you want. I will ask my finance person here to provide as much detail as he can from what he has. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Mr. Galbraith:....(*inaudible comments*)...million dollars and the other O&M consists of 50 million dollars. That line includes the lease payments, O&M for the maintenance of the buildings, a multitude of activities that we perform. Computer purchases, we now have computer IT technologists with us, we purchase all of the computers for the government and that is a major portion of our budget as well, I believe some 10 million dollars, 6 million of which is O&M.

I don't know how much detail you wanted but I could definitely provide that to you at a later date.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not trying to be difficult for asking if information is not reasonable, but I think it will be very, very difficult to pass this budget of this department without having that information available to us. We're talking about \$47 million. I think it's important that we have an opportunity to see this otherwise, it wouldn't be prudent for us to pass such a large amount of money without knowing the details. Thank you.

Chairperson: (interpretation) The Finance Controller would like to respond. Go ahead Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I just wanted to him to give me some clarification, because it just seems like you're into the budget detail now. I wasn't sure if we've moved into that because it was in the general questions and if that's the case it's fine but they'd be prepared to answer when we get to the detail page. Because we haven't gotten into the page by page yet that, Mr. Chairman, is the point I was trying to make. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Since your information is on the main estimates, go ahead.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm referring to the opening remarks made by the Minister. It does indicate \$67.1 million. So, really what I'm questioning is, it's a question relating to opening remarks. I don't see the details in the budget, period. But if that information is available going page by page well that's fine if we can have it before we conclude this department. I'm more than pleased to agree with that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. It seems like the finance person here has dug out the information. He can just read the list down if the member wishes to hear that. (interpretation) The finance person can go down the list with details. Can he go ahead with those? They're not very long. If it's okay with you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. O'Brien: If the department has those details that's fine. We can wait until the page by page and hear what the details are then. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): So, are you done? No more question? Mr. Tootoo. Let me first ask if Ms. Thompson, are you going to ask for comments from the person beside you? What we usually do is that you have to ask general comments and then we go into the detail page by page. And, I think that some of the questions that are being asked will be fitting into the page by page and then we can add in the amounts that we were talking about. Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just want to go back to the earlier comment made by Mr. Mrazek in regards to inquiring whether we wouldn't mind seeing information written. I would love to see that. Then I would just ask for some kind of timeline when to expect that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: If you're referring to the rent scale, as far as the individual housing are concerned we can provide that within one weeks time.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will that include the lease cost, the rent charged to the unit that the tenant would have to pay and the subsidy that the Nunavut government is paying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead.

Mr. Mrazek: I can provide that to you within one weeks time. In the case of the other region it's probably a little bit longer but you know no problem there.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo. Since there are no more people willing or wanting to ask questions or comments. So, back to the main estimates. Do you have a copy. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two people beside my witnesses don't have a copy of the main estimates. You can just go ahead, our financial officer doesn't have one. So, if there was a spare copy, he's got it already. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you going to be reading? Okay, do you want to go ahead with detail? Good. Who has bifocals, cause I can't see up close. I'm farsighted. I left my reading glasses at my hotel. I'm sorry. Too strong. Maybe those are better. Okay, page 644. If you look at that page. Those glasses are very good, we have same eyesight. Directorate, operations and maintenance total \$4.317 million. Agreed. Total capital zero. Total expenditures \$4.317 million. Project management, operations and maintenance total \$5.448 million. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just on this area, I guess, this is the area that provides all the project management in the communities. I'm wondering if the minister could provide us with the organizational chart of how many positions are in here and where they're at in the communities they are going to serve. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Hon. Manitok Thompson: You want that provided right now or can you wait for the next few days?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman I can wait for the next few days, maybe included on there put the level that your staff are right now and the schedule of when the rest of them are going to be filled. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Total O&M \$5.448 million. Capital projects nil. Total expenditures \$5.448 million. Asset management, O&M total \$47.278 million. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman Without going into great detail, Madam Minister. Get a breakdown as to what this \$47 million consist of. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Financial controller, I've forgotten your name. Sorry. Mr. Galbraith.

Mr. Galbraith: I'll try to be as concise as possible. The \$42 million, of course, is designated in this area of \$586 thousand would be for travel, \$1.5 million for materials and supplies which is for repairs through our maintenance program the buildings and to put into maintenance...137 thousand, my apologies. Utilities costs that we pay comes out of this task at 5.5 million dollars. Contract Services is 34 million dollars, Fees & Payments 405 thousand dollars, other expenses 39 thousand, and computer hardware they have at 9 thousand dollars.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I could be mistaken but it doesn't seem to add up to 47 million dollars.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead.

Mr. Galbraith: My apologies Mr. Chairperson. It is 42 million that is for the O&M operations of asset management. 4.7 million is included into that for salaries and wages which is a total of 47.277.

Chairperson: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Under Asset Management do I assume that in this amount also covers leases?

Mr. Galbraith: Mr. Chairman that is correct.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Can I have the amount that is dedicated to just our lease costs. The amount that is for leases.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead.

Mr. Galbraith: Yes Mr. Chairman, the amount dedicated for lease payments for this year is approximately 20 million dollars.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien does that answer your question?

Mr. O'Brien: Yes Mr. Chairman, I would ask if we could get a detailed written copy that the finance comptroller just provided to us in more detail, and just to get this clear in my mind. He has indicated that our lease costs out of this 47 million dollars is approximately 20 million dollars. Is that correct?

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead.

Mr. Galbraith: That's the amount that has been budgeted, that's an approximation, I can get the exact and the specifications at a later date, but it's approximately 20 million dollars of that amount that has been budgeted for lease payments.

Chairperson: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Madame Minister, if it is possible to get a detailed written list of all these items, not now but if we can get a written copy of that, hopefully later this week and especially what we are paying for leases. My final question Mr. Chairman, if I may. In reference to contract services and other amounts. Can I have that amount again and maybe just a brief breakdown as to what it is for?

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson we will provide that information he wanted and to everybody in this house. I will ask that Mr. Gilbert to answer your other question. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Galbraith.

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson it is something as well in that 34 million dollars contract payments, part of that is leases. I mentioned about 20 million, the rest of that would be contracted out for the maintenance of the buildings, the electrical checks, the plumbing checks, that sort of thing. That's all privatized, most of that is privatized, and we do go out for contract tenders on this amount.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay your very last question Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson for your indulgence. Just a quick question. In reference to our lease costs, does this 20 million dollars include leases, for example, I am just trying to find out where they are at, leases for our new Legislative Assembly building, our new office complex in Arviat, and other office complexes that are being built as we speak. Is that included in that 20 million dollars.

Chairperson (interpretation): Galbraith or Ms. Thompson.

Mr. Galbraith: Yes that is included in that amount. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. This 20 million dollars you say is budgeted for lease payments this year, is that anticipated, or budgeted to be more next year, as more building come on line? I am just wondering how much it is going to be increasing over the coming years. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. We do Main Estimates each year which are approved by this house, and at this time we don't have this information, once we go through this budget process again it will be there, if it is there, but right now these are the numbers that we are working with. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We have to recognize the clock, we have to extend by motion to go past 6 o'clock. Thank you. Total operations and maintenance 47 million 278 thousand. Capital Projects. None. Total expenditures, 47 million, 278 thousand. Asset Management, detail. Baffin total 2 million 950 thousand. Agreed? Baffin. Everyone seems to agree. Keewatin 1 million, 469 thousand. Total Kitikmeot. Total 1 million 350 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Total Capital 5 million, 769 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Informatics and telecommunications, total operations & maintenance 10 million, 89 thousand. Capital nil. Total expenditures 10 million, 89 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Petroleum Products division, I wonder who did the translations they don't make much sense. Operations & Maintenance, total operations & maintenance, nothing. Capital, total Capital 5 million, 769 thousand. Total Expenditures, 5 million, 769 thousand.

Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. Information item. Public Service Revolving Fund. Information item. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. In reference to the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. We have an authorized limit of 60 million dollars, the expenditures are at 39.807. I wonder if the Minister or one of her staff could speak briefly to the workings of this fund and the purpose so members can have a better understanding as to what it is for? Thank you.

Chairperson: Galbraith.

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. The Revolving Fund is set up separately from Public Works as all revolving funds are. I guess the best way to put it is that it is basically a separate balance sheet altogether and it doesn't play into the regular expenditures of the government. The authorized limit here of 60 million was taken from

all of the GNWT for last year, and it could be cut down considerably. It was put together, as you'll notice the other revolving funds as well, and it was taken from the Main Estimates from last year, because we couldn't put the number together quick enough. But that is the authorized limit.

As far as the revolving fund works, it's independent of all, and it conducts sales and operations independently and at the end of the year it is all audited and its' main purpose is not a profit making organization, but to come out even for all their sales. Their supplying the service of providing fuel to the communities, so their expenditures are to try to equal the sales. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, in view of the time we will soon have to make a decision as to whether to extend our hours to conclude this department. Or we would have to make a motion to report progress. I certainly don't want to make that on behalf of the members, so we should get consensus as to what the wish is before we run out of time.

Chairperson: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, I would like to move that we extend the hours to conclude this item.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to extend the time to conclude this department. To the motion. Those in favour of the motion, please signify. Those opposed. The motion is carried. Our meeting will go beyond 6 o'clock to finish this department.

Public Service Revolving Fund. Information item. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Just on that, you said the authorized limit is 60 million dollars and we should be able to come in way short of that and that was the amount for last year that was in the total GNWT budget. Is that an amount that is taken out and put aside, an amount of dollars, or is that just, a limit that you can go up to, it is not tying up any dollars from anywhere else. Is that the case? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Galbraith.

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Yes that is correct Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Public Service Revolving Fund. Information item. Agreed. You don't have to agree to that. Okay. 6.12 Granular Program Revolving Fund,

information item. 6.13 detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Information item. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I had a question on the Granular Program Revolving Fund. Unfortunately I didn't get recognized in time before you switched over. I would ask to go back and ask a short little question in regards to the Granular Program Revolving Fund. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo is requesting to go back to the Granular Program Revolving Fund. Are there any nays? Since I don't hear any nays, you may go ahead Mr. Tootoo. Try to put your hand up high when you want to speak so we can see you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I'm only so tall but I will try better. Mr. Chairman just again, just a question for clarification. Is this amount again another amount that was derived from last year's GNWT budget? If so, if it was not, that is my first point on that question, if you could answer that. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Galbraith.

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I want you to understand that the department of Public Works really didn't have a finance division set up at headquarters and the regional office, we weren't much involved in this. Well we were involved in the sense that we were consulted by the department of Finance in putting this budget together. To answer your question, yes this is a GNWT number coming from last year's Main Estimates. The number, more theoretically here, in Nunavut is more to the 4 - 6 million range.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I just want to confirm that it was not just a Nunavut thing as I would imagine that if it was taken off last years' there's going to be a lot more need for granular materials throughout Nunavut.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairperson, the second comment, I think the last comment he made was just a comment not a question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Is that all? Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I ask for your indulgence. I was concentrating on the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund when I asked the question as to whether we should report progress or continue. Once we made that agreement, I didn't get a chance to finish my question. I wonder if I could go back for one question regarding the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund and the 60 million dollars that's

identified in the budget?

Chairperson (interpretation): I believe this has to be approved. Are you asking us to agree? Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. As I've indicated the authorized limit is 60 million dollars in the revolving fund. This I believe is also a GNWT figure. So is this representing, at the time, the total fund for the GNWT and for Nunavut? If it is then this fund should be much greatly reduced and probably cut in half, if that is my understanding. What is a realistic number, because this is what the budget is now, so what actually is a closer number that would represent Nunavut?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Galbraith.

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I am not all exactly sure what the authorized limit actually means. It is not necessarily a budget figure, I believe that they would have to, should they exceed this in sales or expenditures, they would have to go and get some sort of permission. But yes that is a GNWT figure, 60 million dollars and then you can see that the east is more active because we do sales at 40 million dollars a year and the west comes in at half that much.

Chairperson: Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. One final question and a point of clarification. If this figure is not accurate and we're being asked to pass this budget and the figure is not accurate...what figure would more closely reflect the Nunavut situation?

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman, we are just borrowing Mr. Galbraith from the regional office, he is not a headquarters person, we are just borrowing him from the region. He is doing us a favour by being here, so just be patient and bear with us. When I became the Minister of the department we just had three staff, that was the DM, the ADM and another ADM or a secretary. For two days I just had two staff in headquarters, so just bear with us, he is doing us a favour, we will get you the definite numbers if they are not here, we are not asking you to approve what you don't think should be there, we are not trying to pull anything, but we are short of staff. My apologies, Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Galbraith, if you could perhaps clarify the figure?

Mr. Galbraith: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I just want to emphasize that the authorized limit is the upset limit so to speak. It is an arbitrary number, they tried to get it as accurate as possible, but this number included the west. The numbers below there, the income and expenditures, the salary and wages was put together by our team, in Rankin Inlet and was put into the budget, and these numbers are right on. Thank you Mr.

Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Did you get the clarification you wanted Mr. O'Brien? Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairman maybe I am not as informed on this issue as I should be. I don't want to cause any confusion or embarrassment to the Minister or her staff and I realize that they are a very new department and so on. But I think what I am trying to do is just get this straight in my mind, and in the other members that are here, in their mind. This is, I think, a very significant barrier, we are talking about a large number of dollars here. I will ask a question, maybe Mr. Mrazek, because I know he has been around for quite a while, he may be able to shed some more light on this.

If for example, the authorized limit is 60 million dollars, if that weren't utilized, could that money be used for something else? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Mrazek.

Mr. Mrazek: What I would like to answer is that finance is not my background, and I cannot really make that comment or commitment as to what could be done with the balance of the money. As Mr. Galbraith said, basically the money is not really in the budget from that standpoint. It is a maximum limit to which Petroleum Products can buy fuel or any other thing. They cannot go anything over that, but they always stay below.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madame Minister, perhaps you could shed more light on the matter.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. What you are approving is the two numbers and those are the numbers that make sense. These are Main Estimates, what we would think that we would be spending, but as Mr. Mrazek has just indicated, this is not the actual number, it goes below that. What you are approving is 39 million, 807 thousand, if you are wanting to approve it. Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. Please bear with me. I am just trying to sort out more details about the revolving fund itself. Can the revolving fund be used, for example, to construct a capital project? Can the revolving fund be used for anything other than petroleum products? It strictly deals with the purchase of petroleum products. Is that correct?

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairperson, I know Mr. Ng would really like to answer that but I will answer it for him anyway. This is strictly for petroleum

products, Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I am going to beg the indulgence of the members and they might know better, but maybe I am just asking, would a better way to explain this revolving fund authorized limit, would be like a line of credit? So there is no actual cash involved from any other sources within government dollars. Is that a simpler way to explain it? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson: Mr. Galbraith. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manikot Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairperson, I might refer this to the Finance Minister. He wasn't listening, was he. Did you get the question? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. It is my understanding that this is like a line of credit, it authorizes the petroleum products fund to purchase inventory and then use the inventories to recover the costs of supplying that inventory. This isn't an approval item, this is actually an information item that we are debating here. So I don't know if that clarifies it, it is supposed to be revenue neutral, whatever you bring in it goes back out in expenditures and inventory. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I believe that question was answered. Mr. Anawak, I believe you wanted to make a comment or question?

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Not to the matter, I just wanted to tell Ms. Thompson, in respect to the Granular Program Revolving Fund, I know that they stockpile in some communities. I have noted twice in Broughton, Clyde River and Rankin Inlet, that the granular materials usually have a written thing, "this is owned by DPW, do not trespass". I am just wondering about that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. You stated that you were talking about some other matter, I just saw a do not trespass sign on the granular stockpiles, I believe that is more of a comment than a question. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson. I have had a question for the longest time, although I approved it earlier the 60 million for the revolving fund, but as I was getting more information, I started seeing the 39 million, 807 thousand, and if that was to be approved, then what would the remaining amount up to 60 million be used for? Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

Chairperson: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Chairperson. It is like this, the petroleum is purchased from wherever they purchase it then it is transported to the community and as the community sells the petroleum, the income is used to offset the cost of the purchase and it is just a see-sawing form, because whatever is used to purchase is paid back by the revenue from the sales. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): There are no more people I have written down for questions. These are just information items on some of the details we have been talking about. Detail, work performed on behalf of third parties, the distribution of budget, I believe these are just informational items. Let's return to 6-3, Operations, detail of expenditures. This is in respect to the details of expenditures, operations & maintenance, total operations & maintenance 67 million, 132 thousand dollars. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Capital. Total Capital, is 5 million 769 thousand dollars. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Total expenditures, 72 million 901 thousand dollars. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you agreed to the Directorate Budget?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Do you agree that the report of the committee is complete? Everyone is agreed. Thank you Madame Minister. Minister Thompson and your officials, Mr. Mrazek and Mr. Galbraith. I thank you for taking the opportunity to present these to the committee. In highlighting your budget estimates for the fiscal year, I am sure that the members will now know these details.

Ms. Thompson do you wish to make closing remarks?

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): I just wish to thank you for approving the budget estimates for my department. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Item 21, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Irqittuq.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and Committee Reports 1, 2, 3 and 4. I 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 (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. In respect to the motion, is there a seconder. Mr. Ng has seconded the motion, the motion is on the floor. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Orders of the Day, item 22, before we reach that I would like to recognize a visitor in the Gallery. When we were the GNWT the old Deputy Premier, Mr. Goo Arlooktoo. As well one of Mr. Irqittuq's constituents, Mr. Isaac Mablick. Please feel welcome, all of you visitors. In respect to the orders of the day, item 22, Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills.

Before we move to item 23, I would like to inform you that at 7 o'clock, the Ministers and MLA's will be playing floor hockey at the Arctic College Residence and I think we will try to play hockey when the arena is ready and we will play against the media, and we will have to start practicing now in order to beat the media.

Orders of the Day, item 23, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thursday, May 20th, 1999, caucus meeting here in the Parish Hall.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, May 20th, 1999

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions

8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills:
 - 1 - Boards of Management Dissolution Act
 - 2 - Divisional Education Council Dissolution Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters:
 - Bill 1 - Appropriation Act 1999/2000.
 - Standing Committee Reports 1-1(2), 2-1(2), 3-1(2) 4-1(2)
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. At this time the House stands recessed until Thursday, May 20, 1999 at 1.30 pm.

>> House Recessed at 5.13 pm.

