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Acting Speaker: Mr. Donald Havioyak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Arviat)

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(Hudson Bay) Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Hunter Tootoo

(Igaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco

(Igaluit East) Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Nunavut Power Corporation

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Igaluit West) Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Justice

Donald Havioyak

(Kugluktuk)

James Arvaluk

(Nanulik)

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung) Minister of Education Hon. Jack Anawak

(Rankin Inlet North) Minister of Community Government and Transportation

Hon. Manitok Thompson

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)

Minister Responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister of Public Works and Services

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(South Baffin) Minister of Sustainable Development

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Iqaluit, Nunavut Thursday March 22, 2001

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Honourable Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Honourable Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Acting Speaker (Mr. Havioyak) (interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Iqaqrialu to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 042 – 1(5): Long Service Awards

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the last two evenings, the Department of Human Resources hosted a reception and a banquet to recognize and thank numerous government employees in Iqaluit for their long service to public service. The department is hosting award ceremonies across Nunavut to honour employees who have reached five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five and thirty years of public service.

Recognition ceremonies were held earlier this year in Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk. We are currently planning to hold long service award ceremonies in the rest of Baffin, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot communities during the month of April.

I was pleased to be there along with the Premier and many of my colleagues to recognize the Government of Nunavut's valued employees. These individuals have worked continuously over the years to build much of the public service that exists today.

Mr. Speaker, as the Government of Nunavut's longest serving employees, these award recipients have been part of monumental change in the North – in not just one but two territories. Many of these employees were part of the building of the public service in the early days of the Northwest Territories. And now, they are in the early days of building the public service within the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the collected wisdom of these employees, the experiences they have had in their years of service, is not something that can be learned through textbooks – it is

something that can only be gained through hard work and experience. We consider ourselves fortunate, as politicians and leaders, to be able to rely on their advice and experience as our fledging government continues to grow and develop.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I want to thank our employees for the dedication they have shown and for the commitment they have demonstrated in building something that will set the stage for the future of our public service.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 043 – 1(5): National Social Work Week in Nunavut

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes today to recognize National Social Work Week in Nunavut.

There are few among us whose lives have not been touched by the contributions of social workers. While many of us take the work they do for granted, it is during the difficult times we are reminded of the important role they play in our lives.

They are there when children are born or adopted. They are there in difficult economic times and during times of illness or death. They can be found helping parents cope with an unwell child, or assisting elders and families through times of transition.

Mr. Speaker, Social Workers provide the government with a hand of compassion with which to reach into communities to provide vital services to people and indeed Mr. Speaker, families in need.

As the Minister of Health & Social Services, I would ask that you join me in this House in recognizing March 19-25, this week 2001 as National Social Work Week in Nunavut. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 044 – 1(5): Science Summer Experience Program

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Nunavut Research Institute and Nunavut Arctic College have initiated a new program entitled Summer Science Experience Program.

The purpose of this program is to facilitate the positive interaction between Nunavut students and the scientific community. The program, with the student's permission, will develop an inventory of Nunavut students interested, sorry Mr. Speaker. Will develop an

inventory of Nunavut students interested in employment in summer field projects. The Research Institute will then "broker" field placements for students with federal and territorial agencies, and with university researchers.

Information on the program is being sent out to campuses of Nunavut Arctic College and to high schools. It is also being placed on the Institute's web page. I encourage all those interested students to contact the Nunavut Research Institute to register.

Mr. Speaker, the scientists and researchers undertaking field and community-based research projects in Nunavut can provide excellent opportunities for students to learn in the field while gaining valuable employment experience.

Many of those students who have participated in these summer field projects have gone on to post-secondary education in the sciences, and are now returning to related employment positions in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 045 – 1(5): Nunavut Sealing Strategy

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the past two years we have made great strides in revitalizing the sealing economy in Nunavut. This is a program where, with relatively modest investments from our government over the past two years, we have seen a significant resurgence in support for the Nunavut sealing industry.

At the national and international level, our main challenge has been raising the public's awareness of the new Territory of Nunavut, our lifestyle, our history in sealing, and the principles that govern our seal hunt - sustainable use, humane harvesting, and use of the whole animal.

Mr. Speaker, last year the Department of Sustainable Development released the booklet "Seals & Nunavut: Our Tradition, Our Future." More than 5,000 copies have been sent to schools in southern Canada and to other selected addresses in the United States and Europe. The department also produced the video "Waiting at the Edge" which documented the proud tradition of sealing in Nunavut. This also was distributed to southern schools and many comments have been received about its effectiveness in changing attitudes about sealing in Nunavut.

I am pleased to advise members today that the "Waiting at the Edge" video will be airing on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network on April 11 to a national audience.

I am also pleased to report that the demand for sealskins and sealskin products continues to grow in the north and in the south. At the December fur auction in North Bay, Nunavut ring sealskins sold for an average price of 45 dollars. This reflects a better quality of

skins than a few years ago and, even more so, a dramatic increase in world demand. It is too early to tell if this new demand will prevail over the longer-term, but we are optimistic.

The Department of Sustainable Development has also worked on developing capacity in Nunavut on the production and design of sealskin clothing. An advanced furrier and design workshop is scheduled for Iqaluit in April, with participants from Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions. This workshop will produce the 2001 Nunavut Inuit Collection. Exchange trips have also been arranged for seamstress/designers from across Nunavut to work with New Vogue Furriers in Newfoundland who are major producers of sealskin garments in Atlantic Canada.

In May I will be travelling to the North American Fur and Fashion Exposition in Montreal, where I will be honoured to see the unveiling of the 2001 Nunavut Inuit Collection of fashion sealskin garments.

I share with Nunavummiut the excitement of seeing more and more visible signs that we are making steady progress with the Nunavut Sealing Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 137 – 1(5): Congratulations to Maggie Gordon

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to thank the Minister of Human Resources for giving me the opportunity to personally express our good wishes and congratulate our long term award winners last night.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for one of the long service award winners last night. Ms. Maggie Gordon was the only recipient last night Mr. Speaker, the only recipient of the 30-year award for continuous service with ours and previous governments.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, Maggie has been continuously employed for more than 30 years. Maggie has worked at Joamie School Mr. Speaker, since its opening in 1989. She is an integral worker and staff member of Joamie School and is well recognized Mr. Speaker, by her warm smile and her interest in the students.

Mr. Speaker, she plays an important part in running the school on a daily basis and that's why Joamie School has the shiniest floors in Iqaluit. She often volunteers as a mother, makes snacks for special events and participates in all Joamie School functions. She

makes everyone feel at home at Joamie School and the staff and students admire and respect her.

Mr. Speaker, for residents of Tundra Valley, no matter what the weather, Maggie can be seen walking to and from work. She is a devoted mom, a role model, a model employee and I am proud to say, Mr. Speaker, a constituent of ours.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of her colleagues, the staff at Joamie School, her family and indeed Mr. Speaker, the people of Iqaluit, we wish to offer our sincere congratulations to Ms. Maggie Gordon on reaching this milestone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 138 – 1(5): Traditional Life & Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say how pleased I am to be able to live comfortably and to have fast and reliable modes of transportation. Looking back it seems to be so easy now, although we still have to work extremely hard to create a better future for our children.

Mr. Speaker, our ancestors had no choice but to use animal bones for hunting and use things like antlers for bows and arrows or for snow knives to build igloos. They also made them into spearheads to hunt sea animals. They carved soapstone for qulliit to light their homes and to cook their food and heat water. These things were a very important part of Inuit lives.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to see today the items that we have here, the soapstone qulliq being displayed in the chambers as symbols of our ancestors. That's what we call Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and I appreciate what they represent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 139 – 1(5): Long Service Award – Maggie Gordon

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as an ordinary MLA I experienced the awards ceremony last night for long-term employees. I saw Maggie Gordon being awarded her 30-year service medal. I know that she has been employed for many years, even though she has no formal education.

But seeing her, I was very proud, and perhaps looking at what we have lived through all of our lives and the efforts that she made to accomplish what she has done. There seem to be two main areas that we need to work hard on these days. Our lives and our education. Taking literacy courses and being able to work with the language and doing our paperwork, we have to be able to manage our Nunavut Government.

We know today as we live that we can be in the world that we live in. Knowing that someone like Maggie who has worked for 30 years is now being recognized, I have felt for her and I know I will be able to handle today my responsibilities after hearing what the Minister of Health & Social Services said. We know that we have made long strides to make ourselves independent. It makes me very proud today that we have come to its realization in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 140 - 1(5): Charles Ward's Lawsuit Against Federal Government

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My member's statement today is from an article from the National Post, also from an email from a student in Ottawa, going to post secondary school.

Inuk lawyer Charles Ward said people have been denied federal assistance given to other aboriginals. A 65 year old Inuk lawyer plans to sue the federal government in a bid to secure for Inuit people the same rights and economic benefits enjoyed by First Nations in southern Canada.

Charles Ward, the first Inuk called to the bar in Canada, will argue the Inuit have been denied access to a host of federal programs granted to First Nations, including university education, medical benefits, housing and employment assistance.

It's bad enough that they call one set of aboriginals First Nations. What are we going to be, Second Nations he asked. Following a 1939 Supreme Court decision to declare the Inuit to be Indians for the purposes of federal jurisdictions, the government changed the Indian Act to specifically exclude the Inuit.

Mr. Ward said as a consequence the Inuit have been unable to enjoy the economic benefits of their aboriginal status, he said. Mr. Ward intends to ask the Federal Court to declare the government's exclusion of the Inuit from aboriginal programs, discriminatory under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Dale Gibson, a constitutional expert, whom Mr. Ward has hired to handle the charter challenge, said the case is clear-cut because the Supreme Court has already included the Inuit in the constitution as aboriginal people.

However, the federal government continues to focus on land claims settlement such as the deal that led to the creation of Nunavut as a means of avoiding the costly benefits issue he said. The federal government think that having created Nunavut for the Inuit was all they had to do, forgetting Inuit all over the place, Mr. Gibson said.

The settlement of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement from the federal government includes a transfer of 1.17 billion to more than 22 thousand Nunavummiut in exchange for Crown title to their ancestral land. There are three other similar federal agreements either under negotiations or already settled with Inuit in Northern Quebec, Western Arctic and Northern Labrador.

Mr. Ward said that he would like a larger portion of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 4.8 million budget dedicated to programs and services for the Inuit.

I also would like to include an email I received from a student in Ottawa. "I have also met First Nation students who receive 100% of their tuition unlike Nunavut students, 100% of their book costs unlike Nunavut students, 100% of their living expenses unlike Nunavut students and a 40% higher monthly living allowance. What is interesting to me is that the funding for Nunavut students and Indian students apparently both come from the same sources within DIAND.

If it is it true, why is the Government of Nunavut paying their students less than the First Nations students. This afternoon I'll be asking some questions in question period on this statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 141 - 1(5): Language Barrier in Application Forms

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm quite tired, and because of this, I will be talking about specific problems. I'm going to be talking about problems that we have in dealing with government documents. The GN and also the Canadian Government have different programs to assist residents that seem to be quite simple to apply to for the general public, but are nearly impossible if it is written in a language you don't understand.

For example, there are quite a few problems in dealing with documents for heavy equipment operators. I know many Inuit that are experienced and capable in operating heavy equipment. They have the capabilities but the paperwork is what stops them from being certified and employed.

Even with our own government, the GN, acquiring fuel subsidies for harvesters, and the fuel subsidy for homeowners. The assistance is being offered but it very difficult to fill in the forms.

Things like drivers licenses, heavy equipment operator certificate applications and all those other forms that have to be filled out are very difficult for ordinary citizens to fill out, especially when they are only in English which some can't read well.

These are the roadblocks that people run into. When I was in Igloolik I was told they had to go fill out a form, then bring it to the RCMP and then they have to fill another form in another department in order to go around to try and acquire, for example, the fuel subsidy program. That is one of the things I want to bring to your attention today.

As I said I wanted to complain as I am tired today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize in the House individuals from various communities who work as paralegals and are here for a workshop. I would first like to recognize Mary Umingayak from Baker Lake

>>Applause

George Qalliaq from Kugluktuk. I'm sorry he's not here. Constance Merkosak from Iqaluit.

>>Applause

Sharon Idlout from Igloolik.

>>Applause

Nicotye Kolola from Kimmirut.

>>Applause

Lizzie Anaviapik from Broughton Island

>>Applause

And also the last person, whom I have worked with previously, Inuk Petaulasie from Cape Dorset.

>>Applause

I would like to welcome them to the House and recognize they work very hard every day and I would like to recognize them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I am sorry Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we were still part of the NWT, I went to visit the House in Yellowknife and Amittuq MLA Titus Alooloo recognized me so I owe him a recognition in the House. Today I will pay him back this debt and therefore I would like to recognize Titus Alooloo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter, Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Welcome to this gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not had much opportunity to recognize people but today I would like to recognize the people that come from my constituency.

First of all, Isa Ipeelie is my brother in law from Clyde River.

>>Applause

And from Qikiqtarjuaq, Lizzie Anaviapik Arnaquq.

>>Applause

Also from my constituency, Saila Kayak and Jennifer Jaypoody.

>>Applause

Those are the people that are here for the para-legal program and training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to recognize a constituent as well, Kim Tologanak, who is one of the students on the Health Careers Access Program, leading up to nursing. Stand up please Kim.

>>Applause

I also would like to recognize Mr. Speaker, a former colleague of mine in the NWT Legislature, he will probably end up owing me a recognition, that's Mr. Titus Alooloo, who has been recognized already.

>>Applause

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I also have a former colleague from Justice, a former Justice Minister of the Yukon Territory and also a former Education Minister of the Yukon Territory who happens to be doing some work here with our Department of Justice, that is Lois Morcraft. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) I would also like to take the opportunity to recognize someone as well, while I am in the Speaker's chair. This is my assistant who has been helping me, and tomorrow she will be leaving for home. Doris Nancy, please stand up. Thank you for coming.

(interpretation ends) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 165 - 1(5): Fur Price Assistance for Fox Pelts

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Sustainable Development in regards to his earlier statement. The fur price subsidy for fox fur was 25 dollars and 30 dollars for sealskin.

We realize that the sealskin prices have increased up to about 45 dollars per skin. Will the subsidy that is given by the Nunavut Government go up to 45 dollars. For example, the fox pelt could also go above 40 dollars per pelt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sealskins and the fox pelts sell at different prices each year. Sometimes our supply of sealskins is not adequate when we sell them at the North Bay fur auction, for example when we brought down the seal skins they were bought out right away. It is possible that next year they will have the same price range and we could review the prices again at that time, as soon as we find out about the prices. If they keep going up we will consider it in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, if I could ask the minister, what does he mean by "in the future". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if we have very good prices for the fur prices in the next year, then it could be the year after that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He said that he would review the price of the subsidy. In his statement, he said that it depends on the quality of the sealskin or the quality of the fox pelt. Is that part of what he is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not really sure at this time but I will get my officials to look into it and I will give you a response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, he said that they are doing a review on the pricing of sealskins and that the price goes by the quality of the skin or the fur. He said previously that he would be reviewing the pricing of fox pelts and sealskins. I assumed that he was talking about the subsidy of those two items.

Those two things that he said he was going to do a review on, is he going to be reviewing them together or is he going to be reviewing them separately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be better to do them together instead of separately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 166 – 1(5): Mining Opportunities and Employment

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. It is very good to be able to hear him talk about the mining activities in the north, so Nunavummiut could be assisted in getting employment in the mining sector. There are various kinds of employment in the mining sector, and different types of mining.

Nunavummiut should take advantage of the employment in the mining companies. What is the minister doing in trying to get employment for Inuit in the mining sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minster Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some other members have asked this question and I will give the same response as previous ministers have. The Department of Sustainable Development is looking at opportunities to deal with employing people in the mines in Nunavut. In Arviat there is a prospector's course to teach the people that would like to work at a mining company and the Department of Education will be working with our department to do more for employment of Inuit in the mining sector.

I know that they should be done as soon as possible and we will continue to look at the training needs of the Inuit, Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister another question. I know that there are some people that have worked in mining industry before and took some training and will they be considered for that kind of training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are trying our best to do whatever we can for Nunavummiut in regards to training them for employment, to get them ready. We will be looking at the training that they have in the prospector's course in Arviat to help them gain employment when it comes, when the mining comes into Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The prospector's course in Arviat, how long does it take them to take that kind of training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a very important program and there are various training opportunities available and once the arrangements are completed we will be able to take in students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Iqaqrialu. Your third and final supplementary.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to ask more questions tomorrow but my next question is while they're planning courses for prospecting, we just mentioned people with previous training, will you ensure that people with no training will be involved as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will have to work with the mining industry and it is important that we work with them right away so that people are trained in the jobs that will be coming up. That is the goal. To have the people trained by the time the mines open. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 167 - 1(5): Staffing Competitions and Capacity

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. First, I'd like to thank him for showing the recognition to our long service employees, 5 to 30 years that they have and I certainly hope they continue to appreciate and recognize the hard work that these people do.

Mr. Speaker, my question is, in the minister's statement yesterday, he indicated that the staffing division had initiated 115 competitions in the last quarter. I'm just wondering out of those 115 competitions, how many of them were successfully filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's very detailed information that I don't have with me, I would be willing to commit to finding out and advise the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to that answer, maybe if he's looking into it, the minister, if he can also look at of these competitions that we're advertising, are they competitions that were recently advertised in the past, been vacated and recently filled again. I was just wondering if the department have a method where they track different things like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are, as the members know in the past on discussing this matter, we are trying to develop a system that more adequately and quickly and in a timely matter, puts together the information so we can have accurate information to work from. Based on the decisions on and I have told members that there were plans that they would have it by the end of this fiscal year which is next week now.

I think that we have fallen a bit behind on that, but certainly I know there's been a considerable amount of work done and I'll be happy to report on that as well. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just would like to ask the minister if they have, if the department has the capacity to be tracking what our turnover rate is within the public service right now, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is part of the overall human resource information system that we are trying to establish. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo. Third and final supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take it then the department does not now have the capacity to be able to track, or find out what our turnover rate is. I would like to ask the minister if it is no, that they don't have the capacity to do that, how soon, or is it something they are monitoring or they are concerned about. If they do have the capacity to monitor and determine what our turnover rates are, I'd like to ask the minister if he could inform this House as to what it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't say we don't have the capacity. I said, as members know this has been a manual system that we have and we are trying to update it so we can have adequate information in a timely manner, so that is part of what I was indicating, a new automated human resources information that we're trying to develop.

The issue for me quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, is whether or not we dedicate human resources that we are trying to staff up now, to provide information manually to go back over all the records and to provide information that may not really be what we would feel as valuable at this stage. I think with our resources right now we are trying to focus on hiring first of all, on the staffing division and secondly trying to establish the human resource information system so that we can in the future have the timely information in a manner that I think would help the government and help members as well. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 168 - 1(5): Communities Eligible for Training

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Earlier he talked about sealing during his minister's statements, he talked about the Nunavut Sealing Strategy and he talked about a sewing program that would be developed so that people can go take

training in Iqaluit, in April I believe. It mentions Kitikmeot and Kivalliq. How many students would be attending that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate Ms. Williams' question. The students would be coming in from all three regions but I cannot state how many students could be taking the program but I will get back to her with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the communities in Nunavut there are a lot of individuals skilled in the art of sewing and garment making. Are all communities informed about that course that is coming up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will inform the communities and we will inform the member of how many students take the program. We will find out how many students will be coming in from each region. It will be open to all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 169 - 1(5): Fur Price Subsidy Limit

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. We seem to be aiming our questions at the same minister, although this is not planned.

It is a question that was raised earlier regarding sealskin subsidies. These sealskins are purchased by Renewable Resources. He talked about seal skin and fox furs, are they increasing, the skins that are bought by Renewable Resources and is there a limit of how many can be bought in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The number of seal and fox skins that are purchased change each year. Some years there are many foxes and seals to harvest and other years there are less.

There is 120 thousand that is available to purchase sealskins and fox pelts. The past year we spent 290 thousand because there was a good harvest. We do not know yet what it will be like this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hunters, do they sell them for the same price in all communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suppose they would be the same for all the communities, but I will look into this and give him the information that I find. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the individuals that are unemployed, some the hunters are provided with income support under the Department of Education. If an individual is subsidized and the person receives income support do they have their support reduced.

For example, if I was receiving income support and I sold two sealskins to Renewable Resources for 250 dollars and I went to the income support office would they take that money out of what I would have received during that month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry but I can't respond to your question. Perhaps if I could discuss this matter with the Minister of Education then I would be able to respond to you further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I would just like to let the members know that I am going to have the members who haven't an opportunity to ask a question yet go first. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 170 – 1(5): Staff Housing and Decentralization

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the Minister of Finance about staff housing and he responded by saying that he is not responsible for staff housing so he couldn't respond to me. So I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Housing since the Minister for Finance has stated that she would respond to me more. For decentralization, do you expect to see a staff housing shortage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't know what the future holds and as such we don't know how many of the new employees will be

from that community with housing already and how many will be brought in that will require staff housing. So it is hard to give you a definitive answer on that.

However it's becoming evident that is a concern to MLAs and of course something we are working on. If there was a staff housing shortage in some communities, we would look into it and I am working with my officials on this. What I can also tell you is in some of the 11 decentralized communities, some of the staff housing units are still vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Although I had said that I was tired, I'm no longer tired now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason I'm asking this question, I don't know whether it's true or not if there was any problem with the housing shortage.

When we have to fill positions, if we have any problems, some of the positions are being filled very slowly. That's why I'm asking this question. Do we have any problems in the 11 communities whether it be Iqaluit or Cambridge Bay, is there a staff housing shortage. Is that why you can't fill some of these positions because of a staff housing shortage in one of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister for Public Works, I have not been told of such a problem. I have not been told that we have opened this position but we can't staff it because of a housing shortage. I have not heard that.

We don't know if the decentralized communities have existing staff housing or whether they will require housing. Every time they get these positions, that's the only time we know. As I have stated before, we are preparing and I met with my officials yesterday, if this is going to be a concern, we want to be prepared for it so that there won't be any stumbling blocks.

But up to today, we have not heard if there is a problem, when Human Resources hire an employee, then it becomes our responsibility for housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been told, I don't know whether the individual came to Iqaluit to work, but they had to wait 20 days in a hotel while we're paying for the accommodations. So that's why I'm asking these questions. Are we encountering any problems. Is that why employees have to wait at the hotel for their units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into it to find out if there are any individuals waiting at the hotel. I have not heard of anybody waiting at the hotel. I will commit to finding out if we do have employees waiting at the hotels. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 171 - 1(5): Court Challenge by David Ward

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate Nancy Tupik and John Quirke, our staff, for their long-term service awards. I just saw this in the brochures and I did miss it last night purposely.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker my statement today on the court challenge by Charles Ward to the federal government on benefits for Inuit people. Was the minister aware of this court challenge before I brought it up today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the Minister of Justice considered supporting Charles Ward in his bid to secure the same rights and benefits that first nations people have for Inuit people of Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was a good answer. Is he going to let us know about it by press release so the population of, for the citizens of Nunavut and update us on it briefly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, it is an issue for Inuit and we are a public government that's one consideration that we have to look into. It would be likely NTI that would take the lead on the matter as they represent Inuit and actual Inuit rights, both on the land claims and additional rights that Inuit may have.

The land claim agreement itself provided for an extension of certain benefits and rights that Inuit have had in the past and that was not released so it still continued. Therefore, we are watching the issue and we talked to NTI and will continue to do so especially in terms of housing which is a real issue for our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Final supplementary.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's the answer that I am looking for. But does it also include and this a public government and I have had numerous requests from students that I represent in my home riding of Baker Lake about accessing this funding to go to post-secondary school and we seem to fall short as a government supplying funding for post secondary compared to the First Nations and I do not want to ramble on here too much but will the minister commit to looking at education and health also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when I first heard of this I advised my Department of Justice to seriously look at the case and to monitor how much money they received from the federal government for some resources but a lot of it falls short of other programs that are delivered to other actual people in the country.

I should mention that for students, when I was a student the best funding that I ever received was under Indian funding unfortunately the Government of Northwest Territories cut me off. So that was the best funding I ever received in my life.

Some Members: Shame.

So I've also asked the Department of Education through the minister, and they are reviewing support for our students overall. Hopefully that will be done within this coming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 172 - 1(5): Elders Societies and Inuit Qaujimajatuque angit

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't recall raising my hand...

>>Laughter

...but I will ask a question anyways to the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. How far have are you now in dealing with elders' issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, a similar question was posed on whether elders' societies were going well in the communities. But I responded by saying that I personally have not heard or been told whether it's going well or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, what's the progress in regards to culture and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and how is it being made relevant to our daily lives. What difference has been made now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the regions of Kivalliq, Qikiqtaaluk and Kitikmeot, the elders will have their meetings this month and as we speak they're having a meeting in Coral Harbour from Kivalliq region.

Next week the Qikiqtaaluk region will have a meeting to discuss what the ideas are and how they can help using their knowledge and experience. But I can tell the member that the elders are now starting to meet with the youth to discuss their concerns and how they could incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in Nunavut. My department provides funding and that's how we support the elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is news to me. Can he give us a further update about activities. What else have you been doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kattuk, I didn't hear the translation.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elder's councils in the communities are doing well within their capacity, knowing that they are capable of handling their own affairs. I have never heard of any problems that they have encountered so far, from our department I have never heard of any to this date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Alakannuark. Your final supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask this question because I want a direct and straightforward answer. I haven't received my answers so far, so in my last question, I am asking the same question and want a better answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Kattuk,

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear a question there, maybe if he can ask a question I can answer it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Can you rephrase your question. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the question I asked earlier that he did not answer, that's what I want an answer for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I want to say again Mr. Alakannuark, can you rephrase your question so that you can have an answer. Thank you.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): On the question, I would like to hear more news on the cultural aspect of the department, how come there's never any news on what your department may be doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is he asking a question on the elders council or is he asking a question on the cultural programs, this is an ongoing day to day program that being operated by the communities and even though it's not in the news often, it's still a program that's ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 173 - 1(5): Payroll Division and Turnovers

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask the minister if the payroll division of Department of Finance is an area that initiates and terminates employees' pay on request of either the Department of Human Resources or other departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if this is a manual system or automated system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an automated system. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would assume since it's an automated system that the data from that system could be used in determining our turnover rate. I was wondering if the minister could commit into looking at that information to assist in providing some detail on what our turnover rates are within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes. I could Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 174 - 1(5): Job Competitions for Decentralization

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't expect to ask my question at this time. On the decentralization programs, I know that jobs are being distributed to the communities, I'd like to direct this question to the Premier.

To date, the jobs that are forthcoming and the jobs that are being filled at this time, do you have any data on the jobs that are available and the jobs that are being created to provide to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The affected communities and mayors and hamlets and the elected officials have been informed of the jobs that are going to be transferred to their communities.

We are waiting for the funding that is going to be available for the decentralization programs to be approved by the House, so before that I cannot release the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there's not very much time left for us to meet. You should have made an estimate by now as to how many jobs are going to be available this year and next year.

He said that there are plans that are being submitted to the House, are these jobs that are being filled to date following the principles that were set out. I don't believe that the main estimates, the approval of the main estimates, should be used not to answer questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irgittuq.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When is the document going to be tabled.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These jobs are going to be available, as soon as the funding is approved then I'll table them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq this is going to be your third and final supplementary.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm having a good time now that I'm getting my answers directly. Mr. Speaker, he, the Premier agreed with me and said that the jobs that are being filled are up to date or have some positions not been filled as of yet. Is that the information that he will table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I answered him too briefly, up to date we are keeping with the plan that was set out. We are on course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 175 - 1(5): Delay of Court Cases

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Justice also. In Nunavut the people that are charged and have to go to court, sometimes they have to wait for up to two years. Having to wait for so long for a court date makes life very difficult for them.

Has the department made any plans to attempt to rectify the backlog of proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Justice. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that there is a backlog. In the communities they have Justice Committees that can help with court proceedings, but they can't do criminal proceedings and we have separate legislation that deals with that.

We are also trying to acquire another judge and have set aside some money for that reason.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I like the response of the minister but I have worked on one of the community Justice Committees before. I feel that the people of Nunavut in the communities should deal with those people that have to go to court, so they will not have to wait a long time for their court date. It brings hardship on the individual if they have to wait a long time for their court date, some may even result in suicides.

I just want the minister to know that they should do a review to see if those people can be dealt with sooner than they do now. Can the minister work on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree with the member. The court system is dealt with by legislation and we have to use federal legislation so the problems that we encounter right now are beyond our control. We have tried our best to deal with them by letting the Justice Committees deal with the people who have been charged and to train the committee members so they can better deal with those individuals. If we can do more, we will do more. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 176 - 1(5): Income Support Deductions

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education. I asked the Minister of Sustainable Development a little while ago, if the income support for individuals gets reduced when they sell their fox furs or sealskins.

The Minister of Education deals with income support recipients. For individuals who are not working they receive about 50 dollars from selling his furs, so would his income support money be deducted by that amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has to be according to how much the individual has received for income. There's a thing in the form where by if the individual makes a certain amount of money, there's a certain allowance and that money does not get deducted when he sells his furs or his sealskin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that I had about the selling of fur and sealskin has got to do with income support. Say for instance, an individual or myself gets some money by selling an ivory carving. The minister stated that there's a limit of income support that you can receive, is it the same if I sell my ivory carving and I'm not working. Would they deduct so much money off my income support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has to follow the guidelines, if it's a small little ivory carving or whether it's a big one, it depends on how much it costs. On the form that he has to fill out, if he received a lot of money out of it, then some of his income support would be deducted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individual who receives income support and after they figure the income support and the money that he's making from his carvings or his fur, say for instance if I'm going to get 300 dollars on April 1st, and if I receive 50 dollars from selling my products, then would they deduct that 50 dollars as soon as possible even though it's a new year.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on where that individual gets that money. They would deduct it right away. The income support workers have a policy or a manual whereby they will know what amount of money to deduct or what the limit of the income support should be for the individual. Income support workers have to follow their manual in cases like that and they would deduct that 50 dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. The question period is over. We will go back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 012 – 1(5): Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Public Works and Services on the NNI Policy. Mr. Speaker, the first one;

- 1. Who are the members of the contracting policy review committee that has been established pursuant to section 17.1 of the Government of Nunavut NNI policy.
- 2. Which members of the contracting policy review committee were appointed by the Government of Nunavut.

- 3. Which members of the contracting policy review committee were appointed by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.
- 4. Who are the members of the contracting appeals board, CAB, that has been established pursuant to section 18.3 of the Government of Nunavut NNI policy.
- 5. Which members of the CAB were appointed by the Government of Nunavut.
- 6. Which members of the CAB were appointed by Nunavut Tunngavik.
- 7. Which members of the CAB were appointed by the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce.
- 8. How many challenges have been received by the CAB pursuant to section 18.1 of the NNI policy.
- 9. How many decisions has the CAB issued with respect to challenges received.
- 10. When is the first annual report of the CAB due to be received by the Government of Nunavut and NTI pursuant to section 18.8 of the NNI Policy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Written Questions. Written Questions. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 9: Replies to Opening Address

Reply 001 - 1(5): Mr. Alakannuark

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been approximately two years since we were elected to our position and looking back it doesn't seem to have been that long. First of all I would like to thank my wife, my children and my constituents from Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay.

Mr. Speaker, there are many issues related to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that we can use today in the modern world. There is Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that can be applied to social issues, to the climate, to the environment and management and leadership issues.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, our traditional common laws and systems and practices were applied in the past and are still applicable in the modern world. The Inuit of today are still using them. Mr. Speaker, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be used in the Education system. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can play a critical role when we are dealing with social issues.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit can be applied when we are doing community planning and Mr. Speaker, we can utilize our elders when there is a crisis or emergency at the community level. I could use the example of where we could bring psychologists from the south to intervene during these times.

Mr. Speaker, our elders can assist in doing this type of work. I know that there are many Inuit in Nunavut who can help and who want to help. Mr. Speaker, I urge you let us utilize the elders more in these situations.

Mr. Speaker, our elders with their traditional knowledge can be great benefit to the department of Justice. All you have to do is ask some to participate and incorporate that knowledge. Mr. Speaker, Arctic College should invite the elders to speak to the students so they can share and pass on their knowledge and wisdom to the next generation. Elders from the Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Baffin regions may not have diplomas or certification but they have been given the wisdom of the world, they have had life experiences that can never be taken away by anyone in this world.

Mr. Speaker, it often appears to me that the government does not always see the practical connections between traditional knowledge and the world of contemporary programs and services. I'd like to give one example of how they can be integrated.

In the past, if you were out on the land, you couldn't depend upon the government or the military to send out a Hercules to find you if you went missing.

Today, it's comforting to know that modern search and rescue procedures are there for us. But, Mr. Speaker, we all know that search and rescue isn't cheap, and involves risks itself, and happens too often. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the Elders could be involved in teaching on-the-land skills courses to our younger residents. These skills would go some way to reducing the incidences where search and rescue is required. Traditional skills would have a positive impact on modern programs.

Mr. Speaker, it would make things a lot easier in the future if we included the Elders when we are making plans for the whole of Nunavut in the areas I have just discussed.

Mr. Speaker, the Inuktitut language is extensively used in the circumpolar countries, and in Nunavut. There are different Inuktitut dialects used in Nunavut. Geographically, Kugaaruk, Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven might be situated closely together, but different dialects are used in each of these communities. We cannot, and should not, forget the original dialects that originated from these Nunavut communities.

I am pleased that the Legislative Assembly has established a Special Committee to review the Official Languages Act. I would like to see the Members work to explore ways that will protect the diversity of the Inuktitut language.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I raised the issue of restoring the famous and historic stone church in Kugaaruk. I think that the Government must be active in preserving all aspects of our heritage and diversity.

Mr. Speaker, we have to teach our children Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, because they are the future keepers of the land, and we are only in this world for a short time. Our children

will also only be here for a short time, and they have to take care of the land during their time. I have many things to say, but I'll leave it at that.

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Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Thank you for your comments. Orders of the Day. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1 with Mr. Irqittuq in the chair. In accordance with the authority vested in me by motion 002-1(5), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. With Mr. Irqittuq in the chair.

Before we proceed with the Committee of the Whole, I think members will agree that we should take a short break for fifteen minutes and return as the Committee of the Whole with Mr. Irqittuq. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 3.26 p.m. and resumed at 3.42 p.m.

Item 19: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you members. We can start our Committee of the Whole, what is the wish of the committee. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Qujannamiik Itsivautaq. This afternoon we would like to continue with our review of Bill 1, Department of Sustainable Development and then we can commence with our review of the capital and mains of the Department of Justice. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the committee agree. Does the committee agree. Good. Bill 1, Appropriations Act 2001-2002, Department of Sustainable Development.

We'll start on page 11 in the main estimates. We are on page 11-9, we concluded yesterday on page 11-9. Mr. Minister, you can take your seat at the witness table.

Will you be sitting alone or will you be asking your witnesses to join you. The witnesses could be brought in to sit at the witness table. Thank you for taking your seat. Mr. Minister could you introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Katherine Trumper the Deputy Minister for Department of Sustainable Development and on my right is Jim Martin with corporate services.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. I would like now to ask if the members would like to ask any questions on this page. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the Deputy Minister, her name is easily pronounced. Regarding the fur-pricing program for 120 thousand dollars. The minister said that it depends on the quality of the fur if the price is going to increase. If that is the way it is going to be, would it be possible to raise the 25 and 30 dollars per skin prices.

I am wondering if the review will be done at the same time and when the review will be done. The reason why I am asking this question Mr. Chairman, is that it is not only the hunters in the communities who go out hunting. Retired elders hunt as well and they enjoy going out seal hunting and fox trapping. My question is when might the fur pricing program review be done. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon members. I hope that I respond to his question accurately. We are working on the pricing of sealskins and hopefully we should be able to announce it this spring. The fur pricing program, the 120 thousand as I said earlier, and the pricing, when we sell fur pelts and sealskins in North Bay, it is to benefit the hunters and we will continue to do this.

The fur-pricing program is intended to help offset the revenue shortfalls from the fur wholesale revenues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for your excellent response, I appreciate and look forward to it.

How about caribou skins. For example, in Coral Harbour we lose over 3 thousand caribou skins because we can't send them out anywhere. In the winter, the quality of the skins is very good. I am sure the hunters could benefit from selling their caribou skins and I think they are very good quality. Some can be prepared as leather and into other varieties. Has that been thought about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Before I turn to the minister, I would like any member who might want to ask questions after Mr. Arvaluk is finished to raise their hand right away. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not reviewed the sale of caribou skins, but we do know that some are made into products for sale through sewing activities, but we could ask the Nunavut Development Corporation to look at this and see if they can come up with something. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you want to continue. We are on page 11-9. If there are no other questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 11-9, Science Scholarships and Bursaries. The 20 thousand is to recognize excellence in science at the grade 10 and grade 12 levels. Does this include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit such as on weather information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 20 thousand has not been spent and we will start to spend it in next two months. We are presently working on its funding policies. It is set aside towards students who might be interested in pursuing further science courses that are often not available. It is primarily aimed at encouraging Inuit students to take on programs such as science. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once you have identified or gone through the policy, will the schools be informed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that will be the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Is it my turn. I apologize, I did not hear you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will use my Inuit knowledge. Ten dollars. Allocated to renewable resources in partnership with Canada for researching potential health risks to wildlife. I think we are on 11-13. Is that correct.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are on page 11-9. Do you have any comments to make regarding 11-9, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize I made a mistake. I am on another page again. I apologize. I do not have any comments to make regarding 11-9.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On 11-9 it states that this is for science programs. I wonder if that includes the research project near Grise Fiord. If I could say it in English, it's called the Mars Project, under the science scholarships and bursaries, is money available for that project.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. You could ask in whatever language you are comfortable with, just to let you know Ms. Williams. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): This will be towards any projects that may come up but once we have gone through the policy, we will be able to make it available.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): I'll have a question regarding the last item, disaster compensation. Grants are available to hunters and trappers to replace equipment lost as a result of natural disaster. I'd just like the minister to clarify what kind of equipment they'd be able to replace.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's 15 thousand dollars that would be towards boats or snowmobiles. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add to that, it states that loss as a result of natural disaster. Can the minister clarify what he means by natural disaster.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I could use an example. If somebody was hunting at the floe edge and his equipment, if he lost his snowmobile because it went in the water, that would be what we mean by natural disaster.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): My last question. That 15 thousand, I think that the 15 thousand can purchase one snowmobile.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that this is a small amount but if there were more that we would need to compensate, we would look for more money to compensate individuals that might lose equipment.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If an individual was to lose equipment that is over 15 thousand dollars, to replace the equipment, 15 thousand dollars is like, you'd be able to buy one boat or one snowmobile. Are you, do you have plans set up so that you could replace it if it's more than 15 thousand.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I realize that this is a small amount. Just to, we would make sure that individuals understand there is compensation for disaster and we would work with the communities and make them understand that there is money and we would try to cover whatever we needed to if it ever came up.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to add to Ms. William's question. I think there's insurance for hunters through HTOs and that's how I understand it. Hunters are able to insure their equipment through hunters and trappers associations. Is that the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): We would look at working with Nunavut Tunngavik, we have worked with Nunavut Tunngavik and other organizations on how to compensate individuals. When an individual is assisted by being given a snowmobile, they are insured as soon as the snowmobile is given to the individual. So they are able to be insured but I don't know how well it's done in the communities. But we could look into seeing that they are insured when assistance is given.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for the reply. In my constituency, from what I understand, we can be insured and we have worked on insuring equipment and I would like to thank the minister for his response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't hear a question but we will look into this with the renewable resource officers in the communities and the

HTOs, we could work with those organizations as to what we can do to better compensate for equipment that is lost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I asked a question but I think we need to look into this so that the people in our communities are able to understand what is available. I think we need to look into this further so that our people are able to understand what is available and our people know what can be compensated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I didn't hear a question. If you'd like to respond Mr. Minister.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree, this is a very important issue and I agree that we should work with the community members and inform members as to how they could insure their equipment and what kind of compensation is available. I'd like to thank him for his questions.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the same topic that it's very difficult to get coverage by traditional insurance companies with those kinds of disaster, you know, it is a lot easier to get forest fire coverage in Nunavut than to get one for the floe edge.

Because traditional insurance companies usually don't have policy coverage under these circumstances, I would encourage the government to come up with some kind of recognition of what the natural disasters are whether floe edge, anything that could happen on a traditional hunting method not expedition type things. And the cost for example, the person must be, must drive carefully on the highway and not recklessly in order to get good coverage you know, that kind of thing.

So with that you probably can distribute the responsibilities for different communities like Mr. Iqaqrialu is saying by giving them grants and contributions for that coverage. Also have some, it's education, like by the elders, like they do with Workers' Compensation Board, like you know, I would encourage you to explore that a little bit more.

Because this, this disaster compensation is a start but it probably will require better recognition of the hunters equipment importance, like GN recognizes their buildings all of them are covered Nunavut-wide under the umbrella coverage.

So I think that kind of recognition would really help to say that yeah, we are using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit or at least having a good consideration for Nunavummiut with all the things we do as a government. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your comments are very well taken Mr. Arvaluk and also it's very clear as to what we can do if we were to make policies on insurance, insuring the harvesters.

His comments were very interesting and we will note them down to make sure that we'll use these options when we start dealing with reviewing the insurance in Nunavut because Nunavut is quite unique to the rest of the world.

Because we don't have highway systems. Yes, in view of our uniqueness we will review it very carefully to see how we can deal with the harvesters' insurance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Would you like to continue. Since there are no further comments, 11-9. We'll go onto page 11-10. New questions. Page 11-10. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Under the hunters and trappers organizations, HTO contributions that, we give 317 thousand for example to the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the board distributes that 317 thousand to communities. There's nothing else, no contribution from NTI, management boards, regional organizations or development corporations to help the GN out to work with to contribute to the HTOs. Qujannamiik.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Sustainable Development contributes and also NWMB through the land claims agreement do give support to the HTOs. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Your contribution is 317. What is the NWMB contribution then. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contribution is given to the NWMB and then in turn they distribute it to the HTOs in the communities. They do provide more funding than that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also on the same page I would like to ask a question about the contribution to the NWMB, which is 317 thousand. When they are allocating it to the communities, do they set the criteria, or does the Department

of Sustainable Development set the criteria, or does the NWMB provide criteria on how to spend the money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department does set criteria for the communities, we know how much each community will be receiving so this funding is allotted with criteria to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any additional questions. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Just for further clarification. For example, when the Department of Sustainable Development gives the funding to the NWMB does the department have a written document, like here is an outpost camp and here is the funding for that outpost camp with those criteria.

If the outpost camp meets the criteria then that is when they receive the funding. Is that how it works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is allocated to the NWMB without criteria, just to support them. For example, they support wildlife meetings. If there was going to be a meeting in Arctic Bay, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board would allocate 50 thousand and our assistance would be 11 thousand. So that is how it goes. So the funding has no criteria. NWMB has no criteria. Thank you,

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the bottom, regional wildlife boards. (interpretation ends) The government is trying to rid some of these regional organizations so that we will have unity in Nunavut, to have direct access to the government.

Is there, do you have plans with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, to get rid of some of the regional wildlife boards so that the HTOs could have direct access to the NWMB, directly. Or is it covered under the DIOs under the land claims agreement that they must exist in the regions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the NWT days, we inherited the system and how funding is allocated so, since we inherited that, we're still using it. We're still using the Government of the Northwest Territories system and we're reviewing it. This is the part of what is being reviewed. I'm sure it will be part of my response to your questions because they are in review at this point in time. This has not

changed and we're still using it since it was inherited. Once the reviewing is done, we'll have a clearer picture as to where we're going to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to 3-17, Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations. Although we completed the capital estimates yesterday, I wanted to make further clarification to the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations while we're on this topic. Perhaps in my constituency, only in Qikiqtarjuaq and Clyde River, the HTOs office was using very mediocre office facilities. I was wondering if they could be given better facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the contribution to the secretary managers, each HTO has one secretary manager. Some part of this is for the HTO members. It's totally up to the discretion of the HTOs on how to expend their funding. They have the discretion as to how they would like to expend the funding. That's how it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Just for further clarification, yesterday we passed and agreed to the capital estimates. Mr. Iqaqrialu, just a reminder.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you. Although I know that I asked a question which was agreed to yesterday, we're still on Sustainable Development, on HTOs. I did not see any capital items to be allotted for HTOs, so therefore I have no questions in regards to that. At this time, since I have seen the HTOs under the main estimates, I thought it would be an interesting question because the officials and the minister are sitting at the witness table, I thought it was proper to ask.

Three hundred and 17, hunters and trappers, yes I know the funding is now up to their discretion. If the HTO had used this 317 it's only good enough for three communities. Perhaps, how much assistance have you given to the communities. That's why I'm asking this question. I'm not going to go on and on, I just want further clarification. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I know what Mr. Iqaqrialu is talking about, thinking that he could go back to this item even though we're not talking about capital estimates anymore. I think he could be breaking the rules. As the Chairman what the Chairman says is what goes on with the procedures of the meeting at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. At this time anyone can speak. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Under the budget of the previous Government of the Northwest Territories we did not have any money budgeted for this particular program in the Nunavut Government either.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I would like to ask, can you consider this funding possibly in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wildlife boards, regional wildlife boards, use the funding and it is allotted through the Nunavut Wildlife Board.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I know that they receive very little funding and they do not have any other leeway to use this funding for other purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I think you are getting answers that are quite clear and this is not the responsibility of this particular department so can you make comments on this particular page and on this particular department.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I am getting quite frustrated because of the fact that there is not funding, there is no funding that is adequate for that particular program.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you have any further questions on this page or comments. I am sorry, Mr. Tootoo, I thought I had your name written down. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 11-10 of the main estimates some questions on that. I see last year, I will just start at the top. There is initially 60 thousand dollars for the Arctic Energy Alliance and it was revised to 85 and now it is down to 60 again. Can I just get an explanation as to why it is like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My assistant will answer this question. My Deputy Minister.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Mr. Chairman, the Arctic Energy Alliance does work on behalf of the department on the climate change file and last year we asked them to do a specific analysis of greenhouse gas emissions in Nunavut which was additional work to what we had already contracted them for. So we raised the amount mid-year by 25 thousand dollars.

We do not have to do that study again this year so the amount is reduced back to 60. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I am glad to hear it is not less funding because there is less time for them to be out there now because of global warming to do some work so.

Also, under the Canadian Energy Research Institute, there were some dollars allocated last year and there is nothing there this year. I was wondering has that been re-profiled and put somewhere else or is it just something that is no longer sponsored by this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Trumper: Mr. Chairman the contribution to the Energy Research Institute has been deleted this year because in reviewing what they were giving back to Nunavut in terms of information we determined that it was not particularly relevant to the needs of Nunavut so we deleted this contribution, it's been re-profiled.

I'm not sure if there's an exact transfer of 25 to another program, there's been a number of shifts in our contributions this year and that was deleted and added to another program area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the work that they were looking at, energy research, would this have been an area where they look at different sources of, alternative sources of energy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're getting that information from the Arctic Energy Alliance, they are doing some work for us on alternative energy as it applies to northern climates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that that work is still being done somewhere because I think we can't continually look to depend on fossil fuels for a source of energy and we have to try and find other ways and means to be able to provide energy to our communities.

Under the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations, a very small increase over last year and this is providing core funding for the HTOs I understand.

Is the department looking at the HTOs taking on a more established role in working with the department in different aspects that they are looking at and is that why we have core funding there for them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The changes in this organization for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board support is because they're working on the Wildlife Act in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik in co-operation with the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations.

They give us advice as the Nunavut Government. After this project has been completed then we will be looking to further research the Wildlife Act, especially geared towards the hunters and trappers of Nunavut after the research and review has been completed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, I know that the department is after or is looking at working with the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations in consultation for developing a new Wildlife Act and I think it's great to involve consultation at the local level because I believe that's where you get your best input from.

Is the department looking or has the department looked at working with the HTOs for the delivering of other programs or services that are being offered through this department. You know, has there been a look at their role changing and being more enhanced through the delivery of other government programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I'll start off from the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations, the wildlife officers in our area are working in conjunction with the Nunavut HTOs. We'll be using the organizations for the fuel subsidy in organizing the fuel subsidy using the local consultation process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no further names on the list. Under page 10-11, 11-11, which one, 11-11. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Fur institute. Grants and Contributions. Ten thousand. Maybe this institute is not well used. Maybe that's the reason the funding has been reduced.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): The contribution to the institute supports efforts in the promotion of the fur industry. To promote the fur industry throughout the world using this institute. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand his answer. In addition to my question. In my constituency in Broughton Island, there used to be a sealskin tannery. If there were a request from the tannery, would we refer the request for this funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not under this program. But they can access funding from on the other page, we'll be coming to those items in the following pages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 11-11, under page 11-11, are there any further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I was wondering whether there were any more questions on the fur institute.

Chairperson (interpretation): That is done, it's completed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Under the 14, delivery, Qamanittuaq Barren Grounds, caribou management board, contribution to the co-management board for the Beverly and Qamanittuaq caribou herd between Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. Can you clarify this project further for the definition, the details on the, it's not clear.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the 14 thousand dollar contribution to the management board for the Qamanittuaq Barren Ground Caribou, the herd is between Manitoba, Saskatchewan and NWT. The migration route is being researched in conjunction with the provincial government and also the Government of the Northwest Territories. So part of our funding allocation is for the management board study. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, before we move onto 11-12, I'd like you to know, my colleague, Mr. Iqaqrialu, was talking about 14 dollars, the way they are written down or the way the Hansard is written, we should know this is 14 thousand and it's going to, all our discussion here in this House are going to be used as a reference, so I would like you to use proper language.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does Mr. Iqaqrialu understand what kind of proper language is to be used in this House. This is for 14 thousand. I'm sure you understand what your colleague is taking about. Please refer to the page.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I apologize, I have never attended school, I have never taken courses in accounting.

Chairperson (interpretation): This is not the subject that we are talking about, we are talking about this page, in reference to this page.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Maybe it would be better if you don't address me to speak.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 11-11. If there are no further comments, 11-12. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like the man to feel welcome. One million 364 thousand under Nunavut Tourism core funding.

Looking at other jurisdictions and that funding that's received by outfitters and also artists and it's used to promote tourism industries under the tourism industries associations. Looking at other jurisdictions Yukon and NWT, 1.3 million seems to be quite small. So, in this kind of industry it's going to be raised in the future. So can you show more funding for that particular program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this funding is not adequate but we'll be able to make good use of this amount of funding. We have made plans in the future to make agreements with the federal government for job creation programs under this project. Not just necessarily on the tourism industry but also for other projects too. The agreement with the federal government it's called the Economic Development Agreement. If we make this agreement then we will get more funding from them for tourism.

We are looking forward to the agreement to be signed within the near future from the federal government and after the agreement has been reached, the tourism funding will be raised and we'll be able to give tourism more funding in turn.

So we have to deal with other parts of the department too outside of our government. When we have reached the agreement then within this year we'll be able to get another 179 thousand, which is geared for the tourism industry.

We'll be able to let you know in the future as to how our agreement negotiations are coming along. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Alakannuark

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to get some clarification on the top of the page. Under 11-12, prospector's assistance program. Contributions to Nunavut residents holding a valid prospecting license who require financial assistance to carry out prospecting activities. There's an amount of 150 thousand dollars. Is it for the mining companies or is it for people or is it for soapstone purchasing. I'm not sure exactly what that's for. I just want to get some clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year people used up the money to take training. Those individuals who would like to take prospecting courses can acquire 5 thousand dollars from our department under this program to do whatever they want. To do some prospecting outside the community. It's also available to individuals in the amount of 5 thousand dollars each. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no more names. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the prospectors assistance program, my understanding is this program was geared to provide a grubstake for prospectors to be able to go out and prospect. I just want to clarify if the minister indicated that if someone wanted to go out and take a course on prospecting was also able to apply for funding under this program. I just want to clarify that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. People that would like to take a prospecting course and would like to go prospecting can use that funding of 5 thousand dollars. These people that have already been trained in prospecting can acquire that 5 thousand dollars to do prospecting out on the land. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman is it the department that issues the prospectors' licences. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't provide licensing but the federal government gives out licenses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, unless there's other guidelines on here, I would assume that all the people that receive funding under this program held valid prospecting licenses and I'm just wondering if that license wasn't something they got after they took a course. It was indicated it was available for people to take training. I'm just wondering if it was only individuals who held valid licences that received assistance under this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After we give them training and after they get their license from that, that's when we finally give them the 5 thousand dollars assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that last year, that amount was increased to 250 thousand dollars and I'm just wondering how successful the program was last year and if all those funds were utilized last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, last year there were 50 that received funding from this program from nine communities. If it is going to be the same as last year we will be looking for more funding for that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then Mr. Chairman is the minister indicating, if anyone applies for prospector's assistance program that if they have a valid license and they have not received funding already this year that they will able to receive funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So this amount here is for less than the 50 people that, it does not really matter how much is allocated you won't have anyone turned away because we do not have the money budgeted for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different kinds of assistance so what we do is if there is not enough in this program then we will get it from another program that is not being utilized as much as this one.

If there is some funding in other programs in this budget then we will put it into this program and give them more if there are more people that apply for that assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not the same question. I have two questions. Community futures, do these community futures like say for instance in Kivalliq Region I think that 700 thousand dollars is divided four ways and it is not very much. It is about 75 thousand dollars that those non-profit regional organizations can get. Do they have their own committees these organizations in the regions.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are three regional organizations.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Baffin is twice as big as Kivalliq and the Kivalliq is closer to Kitikmeot and they have three, don't they use up that 700 thousand dollars for their committee or can you find out to see if there is already an existing organization that could do this kind of a job. Like the money that they use for meetings might not be adequate.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy to respond to the question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Mr. Chairman, as the minister noted in his opening remarks, community futures will be delivered through the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation next year and this you see is found later on in the main estimates on 11-17.

Right now, the department is working with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation on a plan that will deliver loan programs in all three regions. Putting this money together with NBCC's money to deliver in all three regions the programs for loans anywhere up to a million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: So what you are telling me then is that the board dedicated to this Community Futures Program will be eliminated and it will not cost you any more to deliver that meagre amount. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Yes, Mr. Chairman, in two of the three regions, the boards are not in good standing. In fact, they haven't met in over a year. So the boards will not be reactivated, but the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has a regional representative from all three regions on its board. In the third region, there is an active board and it will continue to work with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation in the delivery of loans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Any further questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): I am sorry it is not here. I will ask about it later on.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Arvaluk already asked the question I wanted to ask. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the community futures, 700 thousand dollars, you just woke me up there that there are two regional organizations that are not in good standing. Can you tell me which two organizations are not in good standing and why. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ones in the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Why aren't they in good standing. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: The two boards in question, the department has been reviewing their operations for the last year. When we went in and checked how the organization was operating, we found that the board had in fact not been meeting for some time. There had been a disintegration of interest at the board level.

So we have been handholding the two organizations through this review and at the point when we determined that two of the three organizations we not doing very well, we began looking at consolidation of the community futures program with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: That's good, if they can't handle it they shouldn't have it. I will be the first one to say that. But the issue here is if they weren't operating properly, was it because loans were given out and not being repaid. Or was it because they just weren't administering the program properly or were incapable of administering the program properly. Was it because of a combination of issues, like loans not being collected, maybe loans being given out that shouldn't have been given out. Was there sort of like the whole operation was sloppy and that was why it was hauled back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Yes, Mr. Chairman, circumstances are a bit different in the two regions. But a combination of those circumstances existed in both regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if you pulled those out of the Kitikmeot and the Kivalliq, because of those reasons, which are good, you are bringing that over to the BDC and you are making them deliver the programs, which I guess is okay. Now is it going to be up to the BDC to and I am sure there are loans that are unrecoverable, are they going to be capable as the new organization being set and I think it is being moved to Cape Dorset, I think, are they going to be able to recover those loans.

Is there going to be a function left in the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot, where there's somebody. If there is a bad loan there, negligent loans or something like that, is there a function there that they going to be able to recover those loans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Yes, Mr. Chairman. The minister has asked for an operational plan from the Chairman of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. He's asked that there be a delivery mechanism in each of the three regions. That there will be a person representing that portfolio in each of the regions to collect the loans and evaluate new loan submissions that come in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Really interesting today. So if one of my constituents in Baker Lake wants to put a proposal together, he wants to borrow some money, he wants to put some money in, things like that, where does he go now, so I can tell him that because I don't know if they know that anymore. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is in the process of establishing a point of contact in each region. In the Kivalliq region for example there is someone administering the community futures portfolio, in all likelihood, the NBCC will establish that person as their point of contact for loan collections and new loans. Those details are presently being worked out and it's hoped that in both Kivalliq and Kitikmeot, those services will be in place on April 1st. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I don't want to corner the minister here but how much in outstanding loans is there in the Kivalliq region. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be able to give that information to the member, once we're out of this meeting. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'll wait for that outside the meeting. How does pulling community futures out of that organization that's set up there now, in Rankin Inlet going to effect that overall operation of that organization in Rankin Inlet at this point. Is it going to hamper it. Is going to make it better, operate better, how is that going to impact the organization if at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Mr. Chairman, right now Kivalliq Business Development Centre has only one employee, and no board. So it's our expectation that service can only improve under

an organization such as the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation which has a functioning board and systems and procedures in place already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is public money we are talking about that we as legislators have to watch when it's transferred over to an organization. Is there going to be more accountability on this organization in the future because by the sounds of this coming out, there were serious problems there.

The Government doesn't do this on a whim, it's something that has to be studied and looked at, evaluated things like that. So are you going to make sure as a minister that there is going to be more accountability in this organization that something like this doesn't happen again, and further deteriorate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were able to pick this up and in the future we will make sure that they are accountable and we'll be able to look into it and make sure that they are accountable. We'll be reviewing to see if the money is being spent well, the money that is given by Sustainable Development. We'll be expecting to see an audit report, a review on the financial statements.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you. This is my final question here and it's more a statement than a question. It's no fault of yours minister, or it's no fault of the previous minister. I think this nightmare was created a long time ago. I certainly have not been happy with the organization because it was sort of hit and miss. It was a good idea. It was a great idea. I still like the philosophy of it but when you take public money, which is our money, the government's that's given to us in the public interest, then we have to watch what is happening to it.

Now, if the other organizations involved don't want to be as accountable as us, then I think it's time to maybe re-evaluate our partnerships with these organizations. Because we're painted with the same brush. It's not the other organizations that people come complaining to. It's me, as an MLA in my community in Baker Lake and the Government of Nunavut. I'm not lecturing you because I know you aren't the problem. I know where the problem is and where it was. But I'm just saying we're painted with that brush right now because services deteriorated because of history and we as the Government of Nunavut are the ones that are going to have to pay the price by trying to make services more readily available to the people that we just took it from.

You know this has been a bee in my bonnet for the last couple of years and I've brought it up in standing committee various times and Minister Kilabuk can attest to that. But I'm hoping when we get into partnerships in the future, that when we sign these agreements

or if they're verbal agreements that the other organizations involved are as accountable as we are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman that's all I got in the way of that one.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funds that we provide to these groups in the communities, we will in the future keep an eye on how the money is spent and how well the groups are spending the funds. It is very important that we do this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I think that was Mr. McLean's last comment. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is regarding the third party program delivery. I just realized that in 2001-2002, money is not allocated to that program. Can the minister clarify or I'd like to know, it's states that this program has been incorporated into the community initiative program. Where would that be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money that was put into that was put into the community initiative program. We took some money out of the community initiative program to use for, well, we'll be able to explain it better when we get to that. Some money was put into the CEDO fund.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is just a question on those community futures loans that are put out there. Those are public funds that are distributed out under those loans. Are those loans going to be listed in the government public accounts under a brighter future clause, section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, community futures are set up as a society so they are not part of the Government of Nunavut's accounts. They have their own society status and their own portfolios. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that Mr. Chairman, but since we are giving them public money, I'm just wondering how, maybe if you could just explain how

or where it will show up in our public accounts because I believe that that money has to show up in there somewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Yes, the money that you see on 11-12 is the operational costs of 700 thousand for community futures, it is the operational costs of the three offices. The loan portfolios are separate accounts with revolving funds under the societies. The legal experts are now looking at how the loan portfolios of the three community futures will be absorbed into the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Those details have not yet been worked out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any other comments, questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on that page 11-12 there's also just over 1.3 million dollars of core funding listed there for Nunavut Tourism. I'm just wondering how is that funded, is it just done through a contribution agreement with Nunavut Tourism to provide a service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): It's done through a contribution agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm would like to ask the minister how the amount is determined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Tourism, we have tabled the Nunavut Tourism core funding on how the money would be spent and how it's divided and you could see it as we have already tabled the document on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): You want to continue Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I realize that there is a tabling of how they come up with this number but is it Nunavut Tourism that puts forward their proposal to the department for funding and that's what they get. Or is it the department that determines what the Nunavut Tourism Association receives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money that is distributed we are able to distribute it and divide it for the groups. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, I heard that the money that is out there you are able to distribute it and divide it, I am just wondering how. Who comes up with that number. Is this a number that Nunavut Tourism comes up with and says that this is the amount that we want to be able to deliver our programs and services, or is it the department that says this is what you are going to get to deliver your programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Sustainable Development requested proposals and they state how that money would be spent in their proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, then the amount here is that what the minister is saying this is what the association put forward in their proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We give them that amount and they are able to provide us with information on how the money will be spent. We give them that amount and tell them that is the amount that they will be receiving.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I believe then that the minister is indicating that it is the department that determines how much the association receives in funding. In determining the amount of funding that the association receives, where did the initial numbers, where did the initial budget come from and how was it developed to figure out that this is what you need in order to be able to operate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money, when it was the GNWT days, we just inherited that from the GNWT and we are still using the same system. They are given funding as well from outside of our department from other sources, but we inherited the system from the GNWT when we took on that responsibility as the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess unfortunately there are a lot of programs and services that we inherited from the GNWT that were not necessarily in the best interests of Nunavut. A lot of programs I think that were operated over here may have been more geared to a more diverse territory. Now with Nunavut we are very specific. I am just wondering if and when, if this has been something that we have had handed off and it isn't working according to some of the media releases and stuff, over the last week, the stories that you hear out there. When will the department review and amend or change the way that this association is funded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Nunavut Tourism funding was increased perhaps by 179 thousand dollars and there was an increase. The agreement with the federal government, as I have stated earlier, we are now in negotiations. Once the negotiations are complete, it will be easier to get additional funding from the federal government. I know that we would like to complete the negotiations as soon as possible. We were able to get additional funding which we are happy about. But according to the best of our abilities, tourism is very important to Nunavut as a new government. Since we're recognized as a territory we will be dealing with tourism for it is very important to us in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I recognize and appreciate the fact that the minister is trying to negotiate with other jurisdictions and other levels of government to try and get additional funding for tourism. If you look at, will, when they're reviewing the funding that this government gave, which is this 1.3 million dollars, will they take a look and say okay, this is what we inherited.

What are the other jurisdictions, like the Yukon and the NWT, what are those governments contributing to tourism. I know, I believe, I've heard numbers like 3.5 million dollars in the Yukon and just over 5 million dollars in the NWT. I'm just wondering if those numbers are substantially different than the 1.3 that we have and we all know that the cost of doing business and things in Nunavut is higher here than it is in those other two jurisdictions. So is that something that the department is going to be taking into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My predecessor prior to me becoming a minister to this department has reviewed this issue and I have reviewed this work. I know that our funding is a lot smaller than the other two territories, which we're fully aware of. The Nunavut government, NWT government and Yukon

government are looking at how they can be supporting each other and we're going to benefit from that. We know that we do receive a small amount of money compared to the other two territories. That's what we know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know and I'm sure that the minister does as well as most people out there that right now at this point in our history of a new territory about all the attention globally that's been paid to Nunavut right now. Is the department looking at ways and means in which to capitalize on that interest in Nunavut right now.

An example, like we had the President of France this year, last year and we've had a number of fairly well known and high ranking officials and people come to Nunavut because the whole world is watching us right now. This is the first time in a long time that they've had something like this happen within a nation, in the creation of a new territory and a new government. Is the department along with Nunavut Tourism, looking at new ways in which to be able to capitalize on this interest that is being paid globally to us since the new territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know that the world has finally started to find about Nunavut and many of the countries of the world know that we are a new territory. As a government with the assistance of Nunavut Tourism, we will look at ways to capitalize ourselves to world and we will continue to work on that recognition part with the world.

We also say that we will work very closely on this and we know that many countries are interested in our territory so we are looking at how we can promote tourism. So, we will be working on promoting tourism. I know it is a challenging task to get the tourism recognized worldwide but we will do it to the best of our abilities. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here I go again. How was the amount of funding set to fund Nunavut Tourism. Did Nunavut Tourism get you a set budget or was it just something that was plugged like grabbed out of the air. I also realize that we are always looking for more because MLAs are always saying okay put more money into this, put more money into that, sort of things. I know the ministers get tired of it.

How was the initial budget set for Nunavut Tourism. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): As I have stated before, it was GNWT days, as I have stated before we have inherited the amount of funding that was given during the NWT days, 179 thousand. The figure was derived from the GNWT figure and we still have not changed that figure from GNWT days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I was involved briefly in tourism a long time ago, as an outfitting company and I got out of it really quick because it was not very profitable. You have to operate over a four-week window and you really have to make 100% of your business in four weeks. It was not very profitable for me so I got out of it.

Going back, you say you inherited that from the GNWT. We really inherited a lot of nightmares from them that we are trying to clean up now but I remember when we were with the GNWT that they had things like regional tourism officers that were under payroll. They worked out of the local offices of, it was called Economic Development and Tourism at the time. When this budget was set, do we have any people in our Government of Nunavut working for Sustainable Development that work directly with tourism related issues. Whereas before I know that they did, they had regional tourism operators, they had product development officers, what do we have in the Government of Nunavut now to work with the Nunavut tourism operators. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my deputy minister to respond to that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Mr. Chairman, the regional tourism officers that existed some years ago no longer exist in regional offices. On page 11 of the Nunavut Tourism Business Plan, you will see an organizational chart for them and they have a training division, a product development division and a marketing division. So those functions are now absorbed into Nunavut Tourism and in each region Nunavut Tourism has a representative for product development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Yes, I'm looking at that page I just had it open that's why I have been asking. But I don't want to go the way that I want to go here right yet in regards to how it's run.

It seems, the organizational chart is great, you've got the board of directors and then you've got the executive director and administrative assistant, obviously the executive director, you've got the marketing director, co-ordination executive members services,

director of tourism development and training and then you have your regional tourism development coordinators.

It's a nice system, I think it's set up right. Does it cost 949 thousand 500 dollars a year to run that organization, for that part of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Mr. Chairman, that's the budget that Nunavut Tourism has submitted to us, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: So, out of a budget of 1 million 360 odd thousand dollars almost a million dollars of it goes to the staff. That's correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The salary money is 586 thousand 450 dollars and the other 900 thousand dollars is used to maintain and operate the offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: So, I'm correct in assuming that the 949 thousand includes salaries and office rentals and administration we call it. So, I'm correct that of that 1 million 364 thousand almost a million of it goes to administration. Is that correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Nunavut Tourism says that they bring in over 50 to 60 million dollars a year in tourism which is outside dollars coming in so, I think it's money well spent. But looking at the budgets on page 42 tourism development initiatives 179 thousand, development and training 17 thousand. So, we're going to have a meeting with Nunavut Tourism and I wanted to talk to them about how they operate. So, we've got an association set up, it costs us a million dollars a year for wages, benefits, office stuff like that.

So, I take it that if this organization was somehow able to find more money that money would go into product development and where it should go in the tourism development, product development they just wouldn't increase their staffing. Is that the way that it's

supposed to operate. Or would they just beef up with more wages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have found some other funding under the 650 thousand dollars from other sources. Those are also used for other programs that they have in their budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the federal government kick anything in into the Nunavut Tourism budget because I know there's a few, I should know there's one, two, three national parks, we got a couple of heritage rivers. Do we work in conjunction with the federal government in promoting tourism or is it or they're doing one thing and we do the other.

And is Nunavut Tourism out there hustling for outside dollars like in kind contributions and various other agencies like I say the federal government, EDA to beef up their budget to maybe be more effective in the delivering of tourism programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Federal Government grant we have contributions that have programs that are allotted to them, and the 650 thousand dollars is allocated to the tourism funding. They don't just give funding out right but it has to be reported towards their funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We heard from Nunavut Tourism that they're under funded by about half. Like I said earlier, we're always as MLAs looking at the ministers, the poor Minister of Finance there with the deficit budget and asking for more money and you know, we seem to think as MLAs that there's lots of money out there, but we actually know now that there isn't.

But what I'm getting to here is if Nunavut Tourism can't provide the mandate that we expect of them as people that fund them, it's kind of sad, what opportunities have we lost by this organization being under funded. Tourism is like I said earlier outside dollars coming in. How can we help, you know as a government help Nunavut Tourism access more funding, to be able to do their mandate properly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're always talking about the Economic Development Agreement with the Federal Government, as that continues to move forward, our funding has expired. So the next agreement that we're going to have, the previous one was signed in 1996 and has expired, it was not renewed since then but we're going to be introducing the proposal to get this funding back within the near future.

I'm hoping the new agreement will be signed in the near future and once the negotiations are completed then we will be able to sign the agreement, to get more funding for this particular program. I believe we will be able to assign some more funding towards the Tourism industry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish you luck, because if Mr. Martin was here, he didn't say too much about additional funding, and I'm sure that you and the Finance Minister can come up and be a little bit more creative on finding something.

But my last question on Nunavut Tourism before I beat one to death. How do we find out how accountable they are. You know the existing money we give them, the 1.3 million and they are looking for more money. So if we do in fact find more money for them and we happen to give them more funding, how do we know that they are delivering what we expect of them like other than me sit here beat you to death and to say that, are they delivering.

What mechanism is out there for them or for us to know what tourism dollars are being brought in. Because we can increase their funding by double and they can say, well we brought in 100 million dollars to tourism, which is hallelujah, I'll be the happiest MLA in Nunavut but how do we make them accountable to if we do give them more funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's my final question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have an annual report that they give to us, and they make a report on their previous budget. We'll be getting annual reports from them regularly and table them. It's called an operational review after their budget has been given to us, reported to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): You said that was your last question. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: This is my final answer. This is my final question. When will you be tabling the final results of how successful they have been in attracting business. Taima.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, the report was submitted to us but from the previous year, it has not been completed yet. When it is completed, I'll table it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu. We have 10 minutes and 31 seconds. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a short question. Following the line of questioning under the 1 million 364 thousand dollars, Nunavut Tourism, funding is quite different from other jurisdictions, and the fact that we have a different lifestyle in Nunavut. Is there under the funding, using our culture, under this funding are there tourist attraction projects under this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Olayuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the capital projects, there's funding allotted for local tourism committees. There is some funding available for them and also if there are going to be tourism development programs, there are also funds available through that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make my question clear. Under the tourism, is there any program that's been used as an Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit program under this project.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes, of course I believe that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is used. That's exactly the reason why the tourism industry is surviving for that reason. Some people would go and visit the Tamartirvik and Tuniit archaeological sites. Those are the heritage areas that we promote in our tourism promotional items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I'd like you to know that when the food comes in, we'll be having a 30 minute break in the Tuktu Committee room. Within 30 minutes, so you have to eat fast. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the line of questioning, the answer was very good. Using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, promoting tourism in our region, using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have used this 19 for tourism promotion. For instance, his constituents in Clyde River, using the local people and using the knowledge of the local people and perhaps myself too in my region, using the local people, we do promote the tourism in their community. In their communities we do try and promote the tourism aspect of their community.

What attractions do they have in their community, only the local people would know for sure exactly what type of tourism promotion or areas that they can use for this promotion using the local people and have their help in promoting the tourism industry in their region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We're under 11-12. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This information is good to hear. Do the administrative people know how to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for tourism promotion.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that my staff knows how to work with the local people very well. Our staff has lived in Nunavut for quite a long time and people who do work for us like David Monteith have worked for a long time in promoting the tourism industry in our region and he has done excellent work for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Do you treat all the people in the tourism industry the same as everybody else in each community.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are under 11-12. Any more comments on 11-12, 11-13. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Centre. (interpretation ends) I think last year, in fact a year and a half ago, Coral Harbour requested a lab because they have a trained lab technician who was trained in Northern Quebec, specifically at Kuujjuaq.

I understand through the news media that there has been some reported mammal diseases that were not known before but were more commonly known under land animals like bison or things like that.

Will there be some consideration given to you know, I mean this 10 thousand dollars is not much to speak about. Will there be consideration for Igloolik, Hall Beach, Coral Harbour, Cape Dorset who eat a large amount of their diets as walrus meat, if there'll be consideration given to setting up some kind of a lab so that a quick test can be done randomly every time there is a community hunt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will have to look at how much it's going to cost us to do that research of animal tissues or sea mammal tissues. We can look into it Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever there is a diseased animal we shouldn't even think about the price of how much it's going to cost if we have to send them down to Edmonton or to Ottawa.

This could be very dangerous for the people of the Nunavut communities, whenever there is somebody that eats a diseased animal people might get sick. We know that people of Coral Harbour if some diseased animal were eaten they have to go on medication for that, we should not think about how much it's going to cost but we should think about how dangerous it might be for the people who are eating those diseased animals.

Will your department be doing more research on those diseased animals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 10 thousand we are using right now, we are trying to use it effectively as possible in regards to diagnosing tissue samples from the diseased animals and we send them out to the labs down south, and we are concerned about this, about animals that might be diseased in our communities. So I know that the amount is very small but we are using that as best we can, at the moment. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any more. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the same question, under the Bathurst Caribou Management plan, did they just get established.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's just the same as the Kivalliq and Qamanittuaq Barren Ground Caribou Management Boards and we need an

agreement with GNWT and DIAND to do a management study on those herds. So we can look at managing the Bathurst caribou along with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Was it just run by the federal government or DIAND or is that the first time that you have some money in there so we can be in the management together.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The agreement for the co-management that we have in place is being reviewed at all times. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): That 35 thousand dollars in 2000-2001, there was no money budgeted but now in 2001-2002, there is a budget in place. That's why I asked whether this is the first time it has, this is being done, is this the first time that the Government of Nunavut is involved.

Chairperson: Olayuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under 11 dash, it used to be 11-7, under O&M, under service contracts but we transferred it to the grants and contributions area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, thank you for that response. Thank you. 11-13. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that I have is the amount of 80 thousand, I just wondered if it's part of the next page. It's talking about Nunavut Economic Developers Association and the money given to the hamlets for economic development officers or is that for training purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That 80 thousand dollars is what we use annually to be able to have economic development officers to attend their AGM. At this time, this week, they had a meeting here in Iqaluit and they are using money budgeted for that purpose from this and this is for their annual meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money compared to last year is a lot more, so do they have more employees now.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, the amount of money that they were given was not adequate so we have increased it because they requested it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Centre, contribution for disease of tissue samples, in the amount of 10 thousand dollars. When I was out hunting, I had sent some samples down south when I thought the game that I got was diseased.

I have not had any results from the ones I sent out. I just wondered, maybe if I ask this question, if we could have somebody in Nunavut that could diagnose animal samples that might be diseased and the people from Nunavut can send samples to that individual that's located right in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That 10 thousand dollars is going to be used effectively, as much as possible, in Nunavut. I know it's not much but we feel that it's adequate at this time. We have a shortage of money as the Nunavut Government, we feel that the 10 thousand dollars is adequate for Nunavut communities or the government because we send out samples down to a lab, so we feel that this amount is adequate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I used to be a member of NIRB. We feel that this is a very important thing that we are doing. Even though we're making good use of this money, when we don't get any results back from the lab, the people that send samples should get their results back from the southern labs. That's why I was asking that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, perhaps the individual who sends out animal samples to the lab, whether it be Mr. Iqaqrialu or Mr. Kilabuk, perhaps, they could get some assistance through the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations or Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Maybe they can use those groups to find out what happened to the samples.

Our wildlife officers could probably help Nunavut individuals who might be sending those diseased tissues to the labs and maybe they can get a better result from the southern labs. That's probably the way to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we could probably do that but we have a Nunavut Government now and we want to be more self-reliant. I think there should be a lab situated in Nunavut so that we don't have to send our samples down south.

I've sent out samples years ago, but I can't really remember exactly what year that was but I have not had any results since. I feel that it's, we don't get any results. So, that's what I was wondering about. That's good enough. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 11-13. I don't hear any questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just a couple of questions on one thing here or do you want to have a break or wait until after the break to finish the questions. I'll leave it up to the committee.

Chairperson (interpretation): The food has been brought into the building so we'll be back at 6.35 p.m. We'll take a break now until 6.35 p.m. Thank you.

>> Committee recessed at 5.57 and resumed at 6.34 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for coming back to the chambers. We are on 11-13. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome back, it was a good quick supper. Sure was good.

Mr. Chairman, on here we have core funding for the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association, I am just wondering, what, by providing this funding to the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association is this the only funding program in which the department provides any support to carvers and artists throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Speaker. Mr. Chairman, I accidentally called you Mr. Speaker. The 150 thousand is given to the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. It is a contribution made to core funding of the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. The 150 thousand is used to deliver services to artists in Nunavut and this money is given to them and they receive 250 thousand dollars from another organization besides that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the minister for that answer and also ask if this is the only funding or support that the department provides to carvers and artists throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also have programs for small business funds and we fund artists with their tools and we also have grants to small businesses also so that is the other one that we provide for small business and carvers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know earlier this week it was brought up in the House about looking for providing assistance for locating and making soapstone more readily and easily accessible to the carvers. Does the department also provide any assistance to carvers and artists in assisting them to market the products that they produce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We also provide funds under the business development fund to support carvers and crafts people on how they could promote their products and market their products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman is there a strategy that the department has or is working with whether it be the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association or other organizations within Nunavut that they have or are developing specifically towards marketing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association also promote products of arts and crafts and they do promote it for marketing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the beginning I talked about tourism, looking at capitalizing on the attention on Nunavut right now but does the department have a

strategy when it comes to marketing of arts and crafts and other goods from within Nunavut whether it be national, international markets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Development Corporation is also working on promotions. They have an office in Toronto and they are able to market crafts outside of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you done. Mr. Tootoo. We're on 11-13, 11-14. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 1 million 963 thousand dollars for 2001-2002 main estimates and for 2000 and 2001. The amount hasn't changed, community economic development officers contribution to hamlets. Why hasn't it been increased. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount, it's a contribution to hamlets to hire community economic development officers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He didn't respond to my question. The question I asked was, for the year 2000-2001, and the 2001-2002, the amount that is put into this program hasn't changed. Why hasn't it been changed. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The agreements were amended recently and the amount has increased from prior years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): The collective agreements are negotiated between the Government of Nunavut and the union. They decide on how much money will be provided to that program and if there was an increase in benefits, would that increase this amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could get the Deputy Minister to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Trumper.

Ms. Trumper: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's right, the funding was increased in the middle of last year when the department introduced its new policy on program partnerships. That raised the amount of funding made available to each hamlet to 80 thousand dollars per community. That increase was introduced in the middle of last year raising the revised estimates from last year to 1.963 so that's why that estimate is the same as this year's estimate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That one did not answer me either. Mr. Chairman, what I'm asking is, there are negotiations right now. In the event of an increase in those salaries, because you have an agreement with the hamlet and the government, respecting the employees, will they also be adjusted accordingly. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To respond to the member's question. When I was visiting the communities, this was a concern that was brought to me. They were concerned that the 80 thousand was too small. This is a concern that has been brought up and I am sure it will be raised again. It will probably be brought up at the mayors' meeting in Rankin Inlet and we will look into this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. When the economic development officers were removed and replaced them with the community economic development officers, I think their average salary was something like 76 thousand or 77 thousand for economic development officers from the government and when the agreement was reached between the government and the communities the contribution was about 80 thousand.

Under the agreement in the overhead cost or administration costs given to the hamlet that does not leave very much for the community economic development officer. In fact, the salaries dropped. Will there be also review or is there a discussion when the municipalities meet with your department on that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, during the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meeting in Rankin Inlet we will further discuss this concern. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you done Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. When Mr. Arvaluk talked about 1 million 963 thousand and he said 19 hundred 63 afterwards. When he is going through each page, I want to instruct him to say the numbers properly.

Chairperson (interpretation): Good point. 11-14. 11-15. 11-15. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A real quick question on the business development fund. These are administered directly from the headquarters and I understand the way it is being explained here. How is this administered and how does the community find out how they are eligible for this business development fund. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Your question is clear. Although we did not want to mention regions but the three regions of Nunavut now have regional superintendents, Kitikmeot has Steve Hanna and Keewatin Brock Jenkins and Baffin Region, Duncan Cunningham. These are the people you can ask if you needed further information on the funding contributions, they're available.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under community initiative programs, it's very beneficial especially in Coral Harbour because we're a non-decentralized community. If this community initiative program can be used for anything, it can be used to for economic development strategies. Perhaps what I'm trying to say, is Mr. Chairman, that the department of Transportation is responsible for access roads either to the recreational or hunting grounds.

Perhaps if they can include that under this line item where they can include the recreational fishing areas, perhaps if you can work with the Department of Transportation when they start negotiating with the federal government to include that with the department. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Arvaluk's comment is very interesting. If I wanted to build a bridge from Cape Dorset to Greenland, I could perhaps use this but I'm just joking.

Yes, we have to work with the other departments such as Mr. Anawak's Department of Transportation and when they build access roads, we can encourage the ones going to the recreational camping grounds or fishing grounds. We could work together with the other

departments. As a department on our own, we can't work on it alone but we would get better benefits with the co-operation of other departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you have any additional questions. Page 11-15. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just got a question under community initiative programs, I had another one. I hate to bring up regional issues. The CIP is a great program in my region. I think everybody utilizes it and uses it well. Out of the sum in the Kivalliq, how much is just a regional program of the 1.2 million dollars.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contribution funding for three regions, 25% is for the regions and 74% is contributed to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 25% for the regions, who determines where that's spent and what on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For grants that are applied for by the hamlets in the three regions, as I mentioned, the three superintendents decide where the 74% goes to, through the approval of applications. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Igagrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to have two questions. In regards to the business development fund the 559 thousand and also in the community initiative programs, the 2 million 715 thousand, looking at these two.

What's the difference between the two, it seems like they're geared towards the same, the first ones are contributions of up to 5 thousand dollars, under contributions you have 2 million is also under grants and contributions, so I was wondering if you could clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This 859 thousand is geared towards private businesses, like for example in your community the Aaruja Development Corporation can try to obtain funding from there and the community

initiative program is for economic development in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Do I understand that this 5 thousand can be given out as a small grant and 2 million 715 thousand is for the larger projects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, this 2 million 715 thousand dollars is allocated to the communities and the figure varies from 2.715 and it's quite different from 859 thousand, this is for community business development fund, and this 2.715 million dollars is for communities' initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 11-15. Page 11-16. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: This community organized hunt, contribution to assist the transportation costs of organized hunts that are eligible for communities. These hunts are conducted for example, if the animals are too far I suppose, when the caribou is too far etc. Throughout these pages I did not see the things that I talked to the minister about, that is specialized hunting skills that are acquired by very few people in each community.

I will just make an example, in Cape Dorset that very few people will go boating in January and February, very few people, only a couple, in Igloolik, down in the floe ice and hunt walrus, and the floating ice etc. etc.

Those kinds of things, because it's these specialized hunting skills acquired by these individuals, that they're the only ones who go hunting for the whole community all the time. But because there is no contribution for their gas and things like that, that they cannot continue to do this, there is a cost restriction.

Is there any thought by Sustainable Development to include these people who feed the communities, to offset those high costs. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Arvaluk's comments are very interesting and it's very clear that each community has specialized hunters that community benefits from and at times they go hunting right in the middle of winter time.

They are distributing the meat in the communities, especially if they went hunting in the wintertime in Igloolik, the hunter can try and be reimbursed the money he used to go out hunting from the wildlife officers.

They can go and obtain application forms to get their money back or reimbursed especially in the communities where it was a very specialized hunt and that the community benefits from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): The HTOs or the hunters or wildlife officers, do they all know what the minister was talking about. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, the wildlife officers are knowledgeable about this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any additional questions. Page 11-16. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, just to make an addition to Mr. Arvaluk's comments. If it weren't for the specialized hunters, especially when they're the main hunters for the community, the government would be spending a lot more in things like income support. So therefore, I would suggest that the government make available more funding because the whole community would have to buy more steaks and chickens at the community level.

Because the specialized hunters, if they're not hunting for the community, the community ends up buying groceries from the stores rather than supplementing them from the country food. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the High Arctic, the population of the Peary caribou was declining. Grise Fiord and the community of Resolute Bay have used this. They transported caribou meat to these two communities and also this is part of the harvesters support program review. This is also being reviewed as to how we can better utilize it and whether we should increase it. So it's under review at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under 11-16, we're on page 11-16, 45 thousand dollars is used in my other constituency community of Qikiqtarjuaq for the organized hunts in the community. That's what it is stated for, am I right, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, these communities are not so close to the caribou hunting grounds and it's designed for the whole community, if the whole community is going to organize a caribou hunt. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is a good program for our community but if the assistance was getting to be inadequate, could they apply for additional money. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when the funding is inadequate, then we'll have to look for other sources of funding from within our department so that we assist all communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): 11-16. 11-16. 11-17. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just under the Nunavut Development Corporation, 3 million 215 thousand under the business plans. Your department was going to go in to expand operations in a few communities. Can you give us some detail on what communities you will be expanding into this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this program 100 thousand dollars is assistance for expanding some programs for economic diversification and stability and 100 thousand dollars has been aside for the business sector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any further questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Chairman just, the standing committee requested a few times that the communities that were not effected by decentralization that the Nunavut Development Corporation should take a more active role in trying to do some community capacity building in whatever it is, opening a tanning plant or another fish plant or things like that.

Is the department moving that way at all in this direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Nunavut Development Corporation, we are working with them to help especially the smaller communities that do not benefit from decentralization. We will visit the smaller communities who have not been able to get economic development under the decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: The Business Development Corporation has some fixed assets now in place. In order for it to expand and build an arts and crafts centre in another community or a couple of them over the next few years it is going to be quite a few capital dollars.

Has the department looked at trying to find some venture capital dollars for capital expansions for the Nunavut Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the capital estimates, under the program there is 500 thousand dollars, which is to expand some existing businesses, and we set aside 70 thousand dollars to assist businesses for expansion and diversification of their business. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I am trying to get at here is if the Nunavut Development Corporation came forward with a business plan saying that they want to build a tanning factory or an arts and crafts facility or a couple of them in a couple of smaller communities or a fish plant and if it is going to cost 4 to 5 million dollars, we know that it is going to be very difficult for it to come out of the capital plans because the capital plan is pretty well set.

I know that other departments in the government like housing and education are a priority in the government. Has the department looked at any other ways of accessing capital dollars through refinancing the assets they have in the development corporation or by looking for outside sources of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I met with NDC representatives when they were here recently and I spoke to them to see if they can research to see where they can get more funding. Their legislation will be reviewed this year to see if there's any need for amendments to the Act so they can be able to apply for other sources of funding. Not just necessarily from the government but also from other business investment sectors. So that they'll be able to access those funds as well. So we'll be reviewing the Act that governs their board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the department is working with the Nunavut Development Corporation looking at finding ways for them to raise more capital for capital projects in the non-decentralized communities. So the department is working with

them for outside sources. Does the Nunavut Development Corporation have the ability or the power in their mandate to borrow money for capital projects based on the assets they have now. Thank you. That's my final question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes we are working with NDC to help non-decentralized communities. Until we change the legislation, they can't look for any money from elsewhere so, what we're going to do is we're going to work with them and try and change the legislation and make sure they're eligible to get more money or leverage from other organizations. Thank you, very much, Mr. Speaker.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're on 11-17, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, is there a credit corporation in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the ones we discussed earlier on this afternoon. The ones that are called the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. They have an office in Cape Dorset and yes, there is one like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So they're working in Nunavut and does it provide money.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, like I said before, we're trying our best to make sure that before I became the minister we wanted to be able to have easier access to make them more simple so this is the way we want them to operate. The officials will be more available to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because there's a lot of people that want to start up their own business or have their own business and it's very hard to acquire money from them because they probably figure that we cannot run our own business. All they seem to do is set up roadblocks.

Because the Nunavummiut have not historically had any businesses, that's why it takes us a long time to try to start up our own business. Enoki mentioned yesterday that there's always a problem getting funding that we require as a business, and he was right in

saying that. So I just want to make sure that there is less obstruction from getting funding from that corporation.

That it should be available to all of people of Nunavut and easy to access funds from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hear the member, and we are trying to make it simple for people to acquire money from the Nunavut Business Corporation, we're trying to make it a little bit simpler for people to acquire money from those corporations and make it more available.

I mean we have also made it easier for people to ask us for money from the corporation and for the public to have access to these services and it will be made as simple as possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is good to hear. We'll probably know in the future whether it's simpler to apply for some funding from them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): 11-17. 11-18. 11-19. 11-20. Distribution of budget going back to 11-7. Sustainable Development, branch summary. Total operations and maintenance, 28 million 236 thousand. Agreed. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Just a quick two comments Mr. Chairman, before we pass this, that I really feel I have to re-emphasize that the community initiative program must include tourism potential development in communities, including access roads etc.

Secondly, that specialized hunters must be included in the community hunt funding program, so that they can be more independent and have pride and recognition for what they do. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the comment from the member is welcomed and we will look into making sure that it is done. Thank you, Mr Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total operations and maintenance, 8 million 236 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 31 million 36 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. 11-5, Sustainable Development, program summary, details of expenditures. Total operations and maintenance, 31 million 532 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Total expenditures, 34 million 332 thousand dollars. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Did I hear one opposed on the ministers' side.

>>Laughter

Carried. Thank you, Minster Olayuk Akesuk and your officials. If you want to say your final comments.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Katherine Trumper and Jim Martin for being able to assist me with my appearance before the committee. I would also like to thank Peter Ittinuar and Robert Connolly and I would like to thank the Members of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to work with you as closely as we can and to be able to answer questions that you have asked in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): If we can continue with the Department of Justice. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): I would like to move to the Department of Justice now, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. We can go to Bill 1, Appropriation Act, 2001-2002, Department of Justice. Who would like to begin the opening comments. I am sorry I was thinking about something else. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My department has been very busy and accomplished much over the past year.

Over the last couple of years, my department was spread out in different locations in Iqaluit. This was awkward to work as a team on a daily basis. Now the majority of our personnel are under one roof.

(interpretation ends) I am also pleased to advise the members that Legal Registries is no longer an orphan to Iqaluit. Legal Registries made a successful move from Yellowknife to Iqaluit this fall with minimal service interruptions. All of our program services are now located in Nunavut with an exception of the placement of some correctional inmates in the NWT when we do not have enough space within Nunavut facilities.

(interpretation) Over the last two years, it has been a learning experience for all of us in the Department of Justice. We had to make adjustments and necessary changes according to the evolving and maturing government. The budget for the Department of Justice has not seen major changes but there is some significant fine-tuning, based on the experience of the first couple of years.

In some areas, we have been able to place additional dollars in the budget in order to support government priorities. In other places, we have been able to re-allocate funds from one area to another, to better reflect program needs and priorities.

Based on Inuuqatigiitiarniq, we are working to reform Justice programs to make sure they reflect the priorities of supporting healthy communities, encouraging self-reliance, and incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

We have tried to follow these priorities by increasing community- based initiatives, particularly in Corrections and Community Justice. Teaching and learning is another of the important priorities of the Bathurst Mandate, and you will see our commitment to this objective demonstrated through the support we will be providing to Akitsiraq Law School.

Let me turn to specific areas where we have increased the Departmental budget with new funding.

Legal Aid

As you review the Main Estimates for Justice, you will see that there is an increase of 350 thousand dollars in the budget allocated for the Legal Services Board. This Board is set up under its own legislation to operate independently from the government. The Board administers the Legal Aid program ensuring that legal representation is provided for people who require it, and cannot afford to hire a lawyer themselves.

It also has responsibility for providing public education and information about the law to Nunavummiut. Although the Legal Services Board is independent in making its decisions, its funding is all from government.

(interpretation) Government of Nunavut provides the funding, with some support provided by the Government of Canada under a cost shared agreement. It is worth noting that the amount of federal funding has not increased in proportion to the demands on the program.

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(interpretation ends) When the Nunavut Legal Services Board took over last July from the Government of the Northwest Territories, we immediately became aware of some shortcomings in the budget allocation. There were three concerns: the overall expenditures related to services in Nunavut were projected to be higher than in our allocated budget; there had also been no increase to fees paid to lawyers for some time, and the fees were structured in a way that they did not encourage lawyers to be located within Nunavut; and a third and smaller item was that the previous Board had approved a small increase in the contribution to the Maliganik Tukisiniakvik clinic for Baffin, which required an adjustment to the contribution funding under the Board. These three areas have all now been addressed by the addition of 350 thousand dollars to the budget for the Legal Services Board.

Legal and Constitutional Division

(interpretation) The next area where we have increased the budget is the Legal and Constitutional Division. We have added some new money here, and have also reallocated some from elsewhere in the department, to support the creation of two new positions.

One of the new positions is an additional legal counsel position, which is needed to make sure that ministers and departments of the Nunavut Government have access to legal advice as they operate government programs and implement changes to reflect the priorities of Nunavut.

The other new position in Legal and Constitutional Division is a bilingual clerk in the Public Trustee's office. As you know, this office administers estates, and handles the financial affairs of child beneficiaries. This work involves considerable contact with Nunavummiut, and the ability to provide this service in Inuktitut is essential.

Court Services

The single level trial court is different from the court structure elsewhere in Canada, where there are two separate levels of court which are each limited in the matters that are brought before them. The unique streamlined court structure was designed specifically to address the critical need of access to Justice for Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Regardless of the model of courts that we have, the reality is in Nunavut that our courts have to travel constantly, and this is expensive. Although we are constantly strengthening the JP program with a view to having more local persons trained to hear cases within their own communities and own language, this is a gradual process,

and the circuits of the Nunavut Court of Justice are a fundamental part of our court system.

The costs of operating the courts were roughly estimated prior to Division, based on information from the GNWT. Experience since then has shown that our operating costs in Nunavut are higher. We have therefore increased the budget for Court Services Division by 427 thousand dollars, which includes new money, approved by the Financial Management Board, and money re-allocated from elsewhere in the department. This funding will also cover the costs of the staff support for the third judge of the Nunavut Court of Justice, who we expect will be appointed during the fiscal year. The increasing workload of the Court necessitates this appointment.

(interpretation) Akitsiraq Law School is the most exciting and innovative new item within the Department of Justice's budget. The Department of Justice will be contributing 206 thousand dollars for the Akitsiraq Law School. Our intention is that this funding will be given to Nunavut Arctic College for the administration of this program, which will be offered in conjunction with the University of Victoria Law School.

(interpretation ends) This program model is monumental as it is post-secondary education for Inuit students located here in Nunavut. They will begin their course in September of 2001 here in Iqaluit, and will study for four years, with their academic schooling interspersed by work opportunities in either the Department of Justice or other legal settings. They will graduate with a law degree from the University of Victoria, equivalent to any law degree in the country.

(interpretation) After a one year articling period and successful completion of the bar admission examinations, they will be lawyers qualified to practice law in Nunavut. This will fill a very important gap that currently exists in Nunavut, as we have no lawyers offering services to the public or appearing in court that can communicate in Inuktitut.

(interpretation ends) It is our hope that these individuals' cultural knowledge and legal expertise will help to continue the process of growth and healing within our legal system and to make it more responsive to the people of Nunavut.

Corrections and Community Justice

This is another area where you will see changes in the department's budget in the Corrections and Community Justice Division. You will remember that in the budget for the current year, we put new funds into the development of a community corrections program where community positions are dedicated to providing probation and other community supervision services.

(interpretation) I am pleased to say that for next year, we have re-allocated money within the Corrections budget, money that was originally intended to pay for inmates to be incarcerated in Yellowknife, in order to support the further development of this program. With the staff already hired, and the additional recruitment in the next few months, we

will have dedicated community corrections workers in Rankin Inlet, Arviat, Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Igloolik, Baker Lake, Cape Dorset, and either Pond Inlet or Arctic Bay. These locations were selected based on analysis of the workload demands.

(interpretation ends) Within the Corrections and Community Justice Division, we are continuing to build on our commitment to Community Justice and its members in the small communities as we are adapting to their needs and improving the programs. We have re-allocated 120 thousand dollars from Corrections into the Community Justice contribution funding. This will allow us to increase the funding provided to Community Justice Committees.

(interpretation) Those are the main areas I wanted to convey to you with respect to Department of Justice Main Estimates for 2001-2002. (interpretation ends) Those are the highlights for the budget of the Department of Justice. I can now answer any questions you may have. Qujannamiik Itsivautaq.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. McLean. Opening comments from the committee.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development has carefully reviewed the budget estimates and business plan of the Department of Justice for the upcoming fiscal year.

As Chairman of the Standing Committee, I am pleased to be able to provide the committee's opening comments as we begin the review of the department's 2001-2002 budget.

The department's emphasis on reforming the justice system in Nunavut to be more reflective and supportive of the unique needs of our communities and residents has pleased members of the committee over the past year.

Members believe that initiatives like the Akitsiraq Law School are deserving of our support. Members will be particularly interested in learning how the department will be assisting the Law School in providing a sponsorship program that will enable these students to stick with their program.

Moving forward with community-based and alternative justice initiatives has been a major concern for members. Members are concerned that adequate resources and training be provided to Community Justice Committees and Justices of the Peace. Members also wish to see the role of elders in the justice system being respected. Members are also concerned that community-based groups be provided with the training necessary to enable them to handle sensitive personal information and files.

Members were pleased to hear from the minister that the department has been negotiating with the federal government for additional resources for JP training. Members were also

pleased to hear the minister express willingness to find the dollars within the department's own allocation, if necessary.

The issue of growing backlogs in the court system in a number of communities has also been a concern to members.

The need for Nunavummiut to be aware of their legal rights is important. We look forward to the department coming forward with initiatives to ensure that the public has access to legal information. The committee has also suggested that when the court is travelling to communities, the opportunity should be taken to provide such basic, but important, information and assistance to residents as the drawing up of wills and other documents.

Mr. Chairman, corrections has been an issue of concern to members for some time. The issue of future correctional facilities in Nunavut is one about which members have held discussions with the minister. Keeping prisoners closer to their families and communities plays an integral part in the healing and rehabilitation process. We will be seeking further detail on where any potential facilities might be located, and how they will be funded. Mr. Chairman, the committee noted that a further 100 thousand dollars has been allocated in 2001-2002 towards the planning for a new courthouse facility, on top of the 50 thousand dollars spent in 2000-2001. This is an area that requires additional clarity from the department with respect to the final costs for this facility and the timelines for its construction.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to conclude today with the theme of public safety. Over the past couple of months, a number of tragedies have taken place in Nunavut, tragedies that have shocked us all.

Members have expressed concern to the department and the minister over whether the police presence in our communities is sufficient to meet the public safety needs of our residents. We know that the men and women in the RCMP detachments in the communities are working tremendous hours, and deserve our support.

The committee understands that the GNWT has formally requested the RCMP to do an assessment of policing needs in communities. We would urge our government to do the same, so that our part of the north remains a safe and secure place in which to live and raise children.

Mr. Chairman, we will be looking to the department to continue to work hard with the RCMP to provide the training and support to our community constable program and Inuit policing program. We also would like to see every effort made to ensure that the recruitment efforts for these programs serve to build a representative presence in our communities.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening comments. I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2001-2002 budget estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Are there any general comments from the members. At this time we have Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this department will take a while and I think we did very well today, and I think we should start this off with a fresh mind, so I would like to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion to report progress. All in favour of the motion. Opposed. Four opposed, four in favour. Can you listen please. On this side some of the members weren't listening and did not vote. Three abstentions. So we have four and four.

It is difficult when there is a tie and some members refuse to vote. As the Chair I have to break the tie. You were out of the chamber. We voted. We will continue. Could the Premier move to the witness table. The Premier has taken his seat at the witness table. His witnesses could join him. Mr. Premier, could you please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seated with me on my right is Nora Sanders, my Deputy Minister. On my left is Simon Awa, a well-known individual, he is with the policy and planning department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We are on Justice, program summary. Page 5-5. Details of expenditures. Any general comments from the members. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on the opening remarks from the minister, during his opening remarks where would I find the Inuktitut and English. When he talks about Akitsiraq Law School, it does not seem to be included, could he clarify where that may be.

Chairperson (interpretation): For our committee to run smoothly I would ask the minister. The members have ten minutes for general comments. Would the Premier like to respond before general comments. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I will have Simon respond.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): In Inuktitut on page 5, it talks about the Akitsiraq Law School and it seems, on the bottom of page 5, that's where it talks about it. Then you go to page 6 and it continues in Inuktitut.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any general comments. The members have ten minutes for general comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware of the documents or the opening remarks. It is hard to read as they are not following each other. I think that needs to be corrected, if they differ from each other. I think that needs to be corrected before we continue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will take a five-minute break to have the staff look at it. Thank you.

>> Committee recessed at 7.50 p.m. and resumed at 7.55 p.m.

Chairperson (interpretation): I think we can go ahead again. 5-5. Any general comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I'd like to report progress, I make a motion to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor that cannot be debated. All in favour of the motion. Against. We will continue. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My opening comments are going to be very brief, based on the business plan, it seems that the Justice System is bursting at the seams with inmates. Correctional centres are overcrowded, we're still continuing to send inmates south, I don't think they're being looked after in the south the way that they should be, they're throwing them in general population and I don't really think there's too many programs that are helping them.

The inmates that I see coming back to the community from the southern institutions, they really haven't learned anything and I don't know if the rehabilitation has been good to them. They don't seem like anything's really happened to them to rehabilitate them, I think they're just being warehoused, and I'm hoping that down the road, when we're in a better fiscal situation that we'll build some correctional facilities up here. Then maybe we can take better care of them. So that's about all I want to say on Justice today but I hope some time in the future we'll build our own facilities, so we don't have to warehouse people down south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Who else. Anybody else. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a brief response. Currently we don't ship any prisoners south, and the only people that head south are federal inmates. We don't have a federal penitentiary in the territory, that's why we have to ship them outside of the territory. There are some inmates who go to Yellowknife on occasion when there is no room in our territory. The majority of the inmates are territorial and they go to the Iqaluit facility here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are on general comments. The members have 10 minutes each to make general comments, if there are no general comments we can go on to the estimates. I left my glasses so, I'm trying to look at the pages, we're on 5.6.

Page 5.7. Somebody's gone to get my glasses and I have to be able to read what I'm looking at. At this time, the Department of Justice, branch summary. Registries and Court Services. Total Capital expenditures 121 thousand. Justice Department, branch summary. Registries and court services for building and works. Total headquarters region, 121 thousand. Do you agree. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Just for further clarification under building and works what are they really even I though I read the details. There are quite a few explanations and from 2000- 2001, 43 thousand 400 thousand to 350 thousand under community justice and corrections. Thank you.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I am sorry Mr. Chairman, I thought we were on page 5-7 and I did not realize we were moved to 5-8. Perhaps after we agree to it then we will move on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Perhaps I could suggest that we go to 5.9 or 5.10 first or 5.9 first before we go back to 5.8. In that case, I would understand what they are for. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Justice Department, branch summary. Registries and Court Services, Building and Works. Total headquarters region, 121 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. It is carried. Total Building and Works, 121 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. None. It is carried. Total Capital Expenditures, 121 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 5-8. Department of Justice, branch Summary. Community Justice and Corrections. Page 5.9 Building and Works. Total headquarters region, 350 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): It is carried. Total building and works, 350 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Equipment Acquisitions. Total headquarters region, 29 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Equipment Acquisitions, 29 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total Capital Expenditures. 379 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 5-10 information. Did you have a question Mr. Arvaluk. Justice distribution of budget total capital expenditures, 379 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): It is carried. Going back to page 5-5. Justice. Program Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures, 500 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are complete with Capital Estimates. Would you like to continue. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, do you agree. Thank you. We'll see you again tomorrow Mr. Premier and your officials. The speaker can be asked to come into the House now.

Speaker: Thank you. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Irqittuq.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and would like to report that Bill 1 is still under consideration. I would like to report progress and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: There's a motion on the floor. We need a seconder. Ms. Williams. The motion is in order. All in favour. All those opposed. Motion carried. Thank you,.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. We'll carry on. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for March 23, 2001:

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

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn for the day I will take this opportunity to thank the pages who have been assisting us for the past week and who are returning to school tomorrow. They are (interpretation)...if I say your names improperly, I'm sorry, Nujaliaq.

>>Applause

Can you stand.

>>Applause

Dennis Tigulliarak.

>>Applause

Halley Anawak.

>>Applause

Again thank you. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Friday March 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>House adjourned at 8:10 p.m.