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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut Wednesday March 12, 2003

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): I would like to call on Mr. Havioyak to say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco

Item 2: Ministers' Statements Minister's Statement 121 - 1(6): Minister's Youth Action Team on Tobacco

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon to you and Members of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of days we've had the opportunity to see some Members of the Minister's Youth Action Team on smoking and I'd like to talk about that today.

Mr. Speaker, our youth are among Nunavut's most valuable resources and we want to see them grow to lead healthy and productive lives. Lives, Mr. Speaker, that are not compromised or cut short by the kinds of illnesses and infirmities that accompany the use of tobacco and tobacco products. My department recognizes the importance of youth speaking to youth about these issues. That is why we have established the Ministers' Youth Action Team on Tobacco. That's right Mr. Speaker, Youth Action Team on Tobacco.

This team, Mr. Speaker, the Ministers' Youth Action Team on Tobacco which consists of 14 representatives from all three regions of Nunavut is having its first face to face meetings this week here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, this team is designed to be an advisory body to the Minister of Health and Social Services in the development of youth targeted media campaigns such as commercials, videos and printed materials.

Mr. Speaker, it is also my hope that it will act as a network of youth champions in tobacco reduction throughout the territory that can implement and plan programs in their communities or at their high schools and youth centres.

And as Minister Akesuk said at one point as the minister responsible for youth, our youth are a valuable resource and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for the good work that they are showing and demonstrating in leadership to the youth here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk

Minister's Statement 122 - 1(6): High Schools Options Committee

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, my voice is not what it usually is. I am pleased to announce that the Department of Education has established a committee to examine high school programs and graduation options. The committee is made up of educators from across Nunavut. It has been asked to consult with teachers, students, parents, DEAs and community members and make recommendations of ways to ensure our high schools better meet student and community needs.

Consultations on high school programs will be conducted in a number of communities across Nunavut during March. The chairpersons of the District Education Authorities were contacted to determine which DEAs and communities were interested in participating in the consultations. Students are being consulted through a variety of activities and teachers will be surveyed on their views and ideas. A survey of educators at the secondary level is also taking place in March.

The focus of the consultation activities will be school programs in grade 10 to 12. How can we better prepare students for further education and for employment? How do we make sure high schools reflect students' interest and needs? I also want to ensure our programs follow the principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit while supporting bilingualism and inclusive schooling.

Information from this consultation process will provide the department with a better understanding of student, family and communities expectations. It will provide direction for curriculum development and for increased graduation options for our students. I expect new programs and options to begin to be piloted in schools over the next two years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 123 - 1(6): Nunavut Development Corporation Sales in Toronto and Zurich

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, colleagues, and my constituents in Cape Dorset and Kimmirut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, during a recent visit to Toronto, the Premier had an opportunity to visit the gallery and gift shop owned and operated by the Nunavut Development Corporation at Queen's Quay. The role this retail shop plays in promoting the high quality of art and other products from Nunavut to Canadians in the country's largest city is an important one.

Mr. Speaker, I think the good work of the Nunavut Development Corporation in marketing our arts and crafts is to often overlooked. The Queens Quay store has annual sales in excess of \$300 thousand. More than 85% of these sales are made-in-Nunavut products. There is another small retail outlet operated by the Nunavut Development Corporation at Pearson International Airport. NDC also maintains an impressive showroom in Mississauga for sales to galleries and gift shops in Canada and around the world. Altogether, these outlets in the past year have sold more than \$1.6 million in Nunavut arts and crafts, including stone sculptures, prints, tapestries, sealskin clothing, jewellery, and gift items.

I know that the Premier visited Zurich in Switzerland in January this year to participate in the opening of a North American Aboriginal cultural museum. This museum has a gift shop that sells Inuit art supplied by NDC. The Nunavut Development Corporation has several customers in Switzerland and Western Europe and they are building a strong market there for the work of Nunavut's artists.

Mr. Speaker, the NDC has proven that there is a great demand for Made-in-Nunavut products, especially those produced by our artists. Through their marketing efforts, the NDC is building a Nunavut "brand" – one that stands for our strong attachment to the Arctic environment, excellence in design and the use of high quality, natural materials.

I believe we can build on the good work of the Nunavut Development Corporation so that the export of goods made here in Nunavut will play a greater role in our economic growth in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 124 - 1(6): Sport Financing

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that while at Canada Winter Games in New Brunswick last week, Territorial sports ministers reached an agreement with the Federal Minister which calls on both

levels of government to contribute funding to sport development. From this agreement, Sport Nunavut will receive \$72,000, which will be matched by funds from my department.

>>Applause

This agreement will enable us to develop our athletes by establishing a number of initiatives while incorporating northern and traditional sports into our sports program. We are excited about these new opportunities that will be available to youth throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has proposed that the funding be directed to five critical areas:

- 1. **The Nunavut Youth Olympic Academy** (NYOA) will be used to develop our elite athletes.
- 2. We have also developed at **"Aim High" public relations campaign** to promote the benefits of physical activity and the development of healthy communities, a priority of the Bathurst Mandate.
- 3. We will **enhance our aboriginal coaching and resource development** in a number of projects to develop culturally based coaching resources and programs
- 4. We will develop a comprehensive, **territorial coaching initiative**, as the majority of Nunavummiut responsible for sport development at the community level are not trained.
- 5. Finally, we would like to develop the territory with **enhanced community sport development in our educational system**. We hope to move towards an educational system that promotes the benefits of increased physical activity.

Mr. Speaker, In addition to these programs, I am confident that the federal government will partner with us over the next few years to build upon the Canadian Sport Policy and its implementation in the north. With this continued support we can continue to offer similar programs for our youth and for the development of sport in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we want to promote greater physical activity, support our competitive athletes and enhance our traditional games and culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 396 - 1 (6): Funding for Igloolik Community Centre

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Community Government and Transportation just elaborated on funding for Sport Nunavut and very interesting to hear about sports being a priority.

At this time, I believe that everyone here is aware that the Igloolik Community Centre is dilapidated and not spacious enough to meet the community needs. I would like to thank the Minister again as they met with the Mayor and the Hamlet Council to discuss the possibility of building the Community Centre at an earlier date and to discuss the funding arrangements.

Mr. Speaker, the Government mentioned that as soon as the community raises some funds up to a certain level, they could help to build the Community Centre in the community. This is not a new concept and we have heard it from the Government previously. I mentioned it before and I am grateful to get help from the Government.

The community of Cambridge Bay requested funding after raising money from other sources, and this was the bridge for the funding to start building the Community Centre. The residents of Igloolik are committed to getting a larger Community Centre and they have now started working on a proposal for funding to start building the Community Centre.

I am going to be presenting a petition from the community of Igloolik when we get to that item. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 397 – 1(6): Alternative Solution for Children in Specialized Care

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to voice a concern that has been raised by my constituents on a number of occasions in the Netsilik area.

I have raised this concern a number of times in meetings with the Minister of Health and Social Services. I have written letters to the Minister. Mr. Speaker, when youth have behavioural problems this can sometimes lead to situations where they are ultimately removed from their home and even from their home community.

Sometimes, they are placed in a facility or an institution where they receive specialized care. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of a number of cases where children have been removed from their homes and from their home community and sent to facilities outside of Nunavut.

This situation may not be any better for the child for certain reasons. It may be very far away and it is often difficult for family members to keep in touch or visit on a regular basis.

The conditions in the facility may not be appropriate for the care of the child. It may not be kept clean, or the behaviour of the staff may not be appropriate. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the Minister of Health and Social Services to put greater efforts into finding alternative solutions for these kinds of cases and solutions that focus on keeping children in their communities and in their homes or at least in Nunavut or at least to have facilities in Nunavut to take care of them.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that achieving this goal may take some time and some work. Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my Member's Statement.

Speaker: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you Members of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that achieving that goal may take some time and some work. I would therefore urge the Minister in the mean time to ensure that those facilities which currently provide care and support for our children be evaluated and managed on a regular and consistent basis to reassure parents and communities until the day that we can bring our children home to Nunavut.

At least we can now know that they are being cared for in a clean and safe environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 398 - 1(6): Alcohol and Substance Abuse Initiative

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a short statement today. I rise today to talk about the initiative currently underway in my community of Kugluktuk as it is a problem for some of our people. Mr. Speaker, in the past couple of days we have talked about suicide prevention. We had some valuable time addressing the issue of suicide prevention to make our communities healthier.

Mr. Speaker, every Member of this House knows that the issue of substance abuse is a serious issue. Substance abuse is a real threat to our youth and our communities. Substance abuse has touched us all and affects all the communities in our region, including alcohol abuse in the future as well.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Kugluktuk today is looking at the issue of holding a plebiscite in the community on whether to establish an Alcohol Education Committee. Under the Liquor Act of the Government, community residents may petition for a plebiscite to be held in a community.

Mr. Speaker, Kugluktuk is looking at ways to combat substance abuse. I applaud my constituents' determination to try and find solutions for a healthy community in Kugluktuk and what steps we require to resolve this issue.

(interpretation ends) However, Mr. Speaker, regardless of the outcome of this initiative, it is important to keep in mind that words on paper will not solve the problem. Alcohol and other substances will always be available to those who seek them out.

We can and should make efforts to combat illegal bootlegging and substance abuse.

(interpretation) I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you and fellow Members.

(interpretation ends) We can make and should make efforts to combat illegal bootlegging and substance abuse. However, Mr. Speaker, long term solutions are to be found in the areas of counselling, treatment, and family support.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to support my community of Kugluktuk. I support my constituents in their effort to fight substance abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 399 - 1(6): Escorts for Patients

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I want to clarify the comments I made yesterday to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I was frustrated as I raised the issue about incompetent escorts who go down south to escort elderly unilingual patients.

I do not want to give the impression to Nunavummiut that the Member for Tununiq does not support the issue of escorts for patients. That is not the case here. I was concerned about the escorts who travel to Ottawa and who abuse this privilege, especially where elderly patients are concerned.

I want more restrictions on escorts so that our elders are not left to their own devices when their escorts have been sent home. I prefer that capable and trustworthy escorts be used instead. Just to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 400 – 1(6): Funding for Wildlife Infrastructure Facilities

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a comment about my riding in the communities of Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Both of those communities are quite small and the population is increasing and there aren't many economic opportunities for our residents. We are trying to find ways to create economic development opportunities in our communities.

There are a lot of economic development opportunities between Greenland and Baffin Island because there are different marine mammals and wildlife that we can make money from or that we can market.

I generally believe that in my constituency, we should start building ports to drop off the fish caught in the Davis Straight area. We are going to have to try and come up with economic development opportunities for our hunters in our communities.

If we're going to be building a port of some kind in one of those communities, we would like to make sure that it provide for any kind of ship, whether it be small or large in my constituency.

I'm wondering how we can help our communities in trying to come up with funding to start building those kinds of facilities or infrastructure so that we can make economic development in our communities.

In the smaller communities in particular, we need to make sure that we have make employment opportunities available. When we visited Greenland, I was so envious about the fact that they were able to economically stand on their own. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 401 – 1(6): Kids Night Out at the Inuksuk High School

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I'd like to thank Mr. McLean for deciding to try to model me in the assembly by not only using the good verbiage that the Minister and the Member uses but also by his tie, like the tie that I'm wearing today.

Mr. Speaker, last night a huge turn out, Mr. Speaker, a huge turn out of Iqalummiut attended a kids' night out activity at Inuksuk High School. Mr. Speaker, the kids' night

out coincided with the annual teachers' professional development week being held here in Iqaluit over the last few days.

Mr. Speaker, the event at the high school also featured a childrens' entertainer and activities like face painting for the kids. Upstairs in the Inuksuk High School library, a motivational session was held with young people and Ms. Heather Crowe.

Ms. Crowe talked about the courageous battle she is fighting with terminal cancer and how as a result of workplace smoke, she contracted the disease. Nunavummiut should be very proud of the direction we are taking with the issue of tobacco as one of the messages that Ms. Crowe gave last night.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of a kid's night out and the excellent presentation by Ms. Crowe to all our young people last night at the Inuksuk High School library. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 402 – 1(6): Letter from a Single Mom – Finding a Care Giver

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is sad that the people in Nunavut know that me and Mr. Picco shop at the same store, but I guess everybody knows it now. On a more serious note, Mr. Speaker, I want to read a letter that was sent to me this afternoon by a single mom in Baker Lake and I will try to leave out some names as it just expresses the concern in Nunavut.

Dear Glen,

I am writing this letter concerning my needs for help for my 25 year old daughter and my family. I have had a seasonal job for many years and this affects my daughter because she is mentally challenged and also because she was abused in the past.

Because of these things that have happened recently, I feel that I have to be with her or have a caregiver with her at all times. She has attempted to overdose and I am scared that this might happen again, and that I would not catch her on time.

We all hope for the person we think will have a voice for us in all my years of asking for help. Since she became an adult several years ago, there has never been any money in any budget for the programs that would help the disabled.

We are always told that we have to keep working when we are able. But my pay check cannot cover the expenses for a caregiver as well as all of my bills. I am not asking for pity, but I want something done while there is still a chance to help disabled people.

We say that our kids are our future, even if they have a disability like my daughter. She has to take medicine for the rest of her life and income support is not just my style. The only way I would get income support is if I quit my job and stayed home all of the time to look after my daughter.

This would not be much of a life for her or for me. Income support only covers food, housing, power, etc. These are not the only things we need for our lives. I used to go out on the land, but I am not able to do that anymore and if I can get some help somewhere.

I would be so glad if social workers could get back up to help us get the kind of help we ask for, but their hands are always tied because of budget restrictions and cut backs. Taking this all into consideration, Glen, the thing that worries me the most and it is that the greatest concern to me and all of the parents of disabled people is what is going to happen to my daughter and others in her situation when we are no longer around to care for her?

I hope you can see your way clear, Glen, to stand up for the rights and needs of these disabled people who cannot stand up for themselves. I count on your help. Thank you.

Her Mother.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 403 – 1(6): Drum Dancing Competition in Kuugaruk

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Department of Community Government and Transportation made an announcement about the support for sport. There are some individuals in Repulse Bay who drum dance.

We are also going to have drum dancing in Kugaaruk at the end of this month or the beginning of April. It is something that is enjoyed by the people in our communities along with the other people who get together. They would drum dance and if you want to participate I would like to be there, but I apologize that I will not be able to.

These types of activities help the young people gain confidence and also gain more of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I would like to commend the people of Pelly Bay and Repulse Bay for reviving the drum dancing competition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 404 – 1(6): Keeping Sanikiluaq Arena Open for Longer Periods

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be very clear, but you probably noticed that I have a tooth missing. I had one removed this morning. This is an issue that I have brought forward on more than one occasion in this House; it is in regards to the arena that we have in Sanikiluaq.

On January 13, we finally started using the arena for hockey and this lasts only to the end of March. We get about two months worth of ice time at the arena. I indicated earlier the arena opened on January 13 and it will close at the end of March.

I am honoured to mention that this morning a group of hockey players travelled to Inukjuaq, Northern Quebec for a hockey competition. It is called the Eastern Hudson Bay Cup that they are competing for. My thoughts are with the Sanikiluaq league representatives. It is unfortunate that we cannot use the arena longer than we do due to the weather.

I will keep the Sanikiluaq Hockey Team in mind. I wish to extend my gratitude to Becky Crowe for travelling here for our children and offer my sincerest sympathy for her terminal illness. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 405 - 1(6): Quebec City Spelling Competition

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the issue of Educational Achievement and Excellence and to pay tribute to an Iqaluit constituent success story. Mr. Speaker, in April of this year Quebec City will host Dictate Merit, an internationally recognized Spelling Competition for young people.

Nunavut will be represented by one Iqaluit youth. Ms. Kim Lamongtaigne. Kim is an Iqaluit student and will be competing in the age 10 to 19 category. Mr. Speaker, over 18 countries will be sending competitors to this event.

Mr. Speaker, youth with strong spelling skills develop their academic potential and express themselves more effectively in writing. Mr. Speaker, we all know that the ability to write well is one of the foundations of a strong education. Young people who can write well in any language are at a strong advantage. Writing is also an avenue for creativity, self-expression, and self-confidence.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage our school students to support students involved in these kinds of events. And I ask all Members to join me in wishing Kim good luck, and bonne chance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 406 - 1(6): Education System in Nunavut

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the issue of education. I do not want to continue to berate the department of Education, but in order to represent my constituency I have to express their concerns. More than one parent has told me that the standards of education have to be universal so that our children can continue their education.

As I stated earlier, I will be posing questions to the Minister of Education to the statement made earlier. At the appropriate time, I will ask questions in regards to the high school Inuktitut curriculum and other options available in order to help our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 407 – 1(6): Going Home for the Weekend

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. We give our support to the Member for Sanikiluaq. I would like to say thank you to my wife Rosie, and our children, Lynn, Jen and Joseph and also Kevin in Broughton Island whom I keep mentioning.

In order to inform my constituents if the weather is good, I will be going up to Pangnirtung for the weekend. I also know that my colleague over there on my left would like to go home also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 408 – 1(6): Promoting Arts and Crafts in Toronto

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a Minister's Statement about the Nunavut Development Corporation's sales in Toronto to promote the sales of our arts and crafts. There were 61 items that were purchased and 28 of them Nunavut made.

As I also stated earlier in my Minister's Statement, we're going to be promoting arts and crafts that are made in Nunavut. There's an individual who was born in Cape Dorset. She now lives in Yellowknife and I grew up with her. Her name is Goota Ashoona. She is a young female and a very good carver.

Her carving brought up the highest bid. It's also a way of promoting and marketing to the world our Nunavut made arts and crafts. We should be quite proud of this accomplishment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Are there any further Members' Statements? If not, we'll move onto Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize an individual who I had recognized at prior sessions, Joavi Alivaqtaq and also on the right, James Alivaqtaq and Mathew, his son.

They are going to an outfitters conference in Toronto, the father and son team. I wish them a good trip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a visitor sitting beside you, the big ulu. Her name is Ms. Ulu Thompson.

>>Laughter

She was made by my uncle, Mike Panikak and was sent to me last week because he knew that it was going to be a pretty rough week for me. So it is a bigger ulu than everybody else in this building.

I thought I would let her sit beside you so you can use if the Members get out of hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Let's just hope that we do not have to use it.

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not very often that I recognize an individual from my riding but I would like to welcome one from Hall Beach, Sam Angugaatiaq and I am sure everybody recognizes him.

Another person here who is probably recognizable to residents of Cambridge Bay is sitting next to Sam. He was originally from Cambridge Bay but has been living in Igloolik and Hall Beach for many years, Jack Hanujaq. Welcome to the gallery.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a couple of individuals. The first one is Mr. Jean-Francois Delaurier, who is a northern representative on the Public Service Alliance of Canada. I am sure Mr. Delaurier recognizes a lot of Members who are here, especially the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Human Resources who he has had a good working relationship with over the last few years.

Also, an individual who was here yesterday and recognized by Mr. Picco and I would also like to recognize him, Mr. Rick Lefebvre here from First Air. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, very similar to Mr. Tootoo, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery a couple of different people.

First of all, I join with the Member of the Legislative Assembly from Amittuq in welcome Mr. Sam Angugaaqtiaq and Mr. Jack Hanujaq from Hall Beach to the gallery.

I would also like to welcome Mr. Jean-Francois Delaurier, RVP for the Public Service Alliance of Canada. Mr. Delaurier and I had the opportunity several times many years ago when I was the president of the union to have meetings and so on. I know he's very interested in the north.

I have been invited on Friday, I believe, to meet with some people who will be here from the Public Service Alliance of Canada and then the question is Mr. Speaker, if Nunavut receives enough money for health care in Nunavut.

So I would be interested in joining that debate if time allows during the session. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 399 – 1(6): Placing Children in Specialized Care within Nunavut

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I made a reference to the issue of foster children earlier during my Members' Statement.

I know that the Minister of Health and Social Services, we have exchanged a lot of correspondence over the years and had more than one meeting on behalf of the people in my riding, both in relation to foster children and young offenders.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services a question regarding individuals who are removed from Nunavut to be placed in a facility or institution to receive specialized care and while they are institutionalized, their parents are not able to go see them.

So, I would like to ask the Minister what you are doing in order to place these individuals within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all let me say that as the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Member has continually brought forward letters, concerns, and emails.

I had an opportunity to represented Gjoa Haven with him and I would say to you in all seriousness and honesty that the Member is a fantastic advocate to the issues for his constituencies of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Member's question, the Department of Health and Social Services feels, as do the Members of this House, that far too many children are in programs and treatment centers outside of the Territory.

Right now, the latest numbers that I have as of this week, we had approximately 28 children in placements outside of Nunavut. Now, Mr. Speaker, when we say placement outside of Nunavut, we mean in foster homes, long-term care, children's group homes, and in some cases, the treatment facility for behavioural problems.

In most cases, Mr. Speaker, we do not have the resources here in Nunavut to take care of those children. And that is one of the aims of the Department to repatriate or bring back as many children as we can and have them closer to home.

There are specific instances that the Member is talking about being addressed. Mr. Speaker, I guess the short answer is, is that there are only 28, but that is still 28 too many. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would also like to thank the Minster for looking at possibilities.

But, for the children and their parents, when they are separated and when the parents and the children are separated, it creates an emotional instability for the child and also for the parents. Usually, the separation is initiated by the social worker and at times, the parent says that, I am not going to do this again.

So, I would like to ask the Minister if we can repatriate those children and send them back to their parents if it is requested, instead of putting them through hardships. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are three basic ways that children are put into placements.

Mr. Speaker, the first is a clinical placement and that is where the health officials, the nurses, the doctors feel that the child is better cared for in the facility and that child may have multiple handicaps that require specialized care.

The second way that the child is put into a facility, Mr. Speaker, is by referral from social services. In those cases, Mr. Speaker, there may be a concern for the child, the way the care is being given. And those types of situations are not lightly made.

The third of type of placements can be done by the parents themselves when they have not got the ability to be able to care for the child and they bring the child for placement.

As the Member indicated just now, one of the things we are trying to do is repatriate more children. We have a limited number of children group homes available and we are very limited when specialized care is needed.

That is one of the things that we are looking at now; it is under review in the department. Hopefully, we will be able to make a move on that in this fiscal term. I will also add, Mr. Speaker that the care of the child is first and foremost.

That we want to make sure that the child is taken care of first and foremost and we do that in cooperation with the parents in most cases. In some cases where there has been a concern raised by social services, that is a different issue.

Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, it may be done under the statutory obligations, but the Member is correct. Where possible, we have tried to repatriate the child, but we do not want to go and take a child out of the facility and bring them home and not have the resources to take care of that child.

That is basically why we have not been able to keep them here in the beginning and refer them out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his Minister's Statement, he stated an announcement of a Youth Action Plan for Nunavut. In Nunavut, some kids are sent outside for treatment or care.

I have heard of some cases where there was some mistreatment of children and there is a Foster Home Treatment Centre that I am referring to. Is the Minister aware of this institution, and whether he has inspected that institution? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the foster home. It is one of the facilities that we refer children to, in those situations that we had just talked about, the clinical referral, indeed the parental referral or a social services referral. Mr. Speaker, I have not been to the foster home; I have been contacted by the Member on a couple of issues surrounding the foster home.

They are operating in another jurisdiction and it is my understanding from the last correspondence which arrived this week, that a review was done by that agency there and that everything seems to be in the very best way at that home.

So, we can be assured that children at that home are being taken care of based on the standards that are in place.

Second of all, Mr. Speaker, any facility that we refer children to, has to meet the standards and has to be up to licensure and had to have official status to be able to take the children.

And again, proportionally and statistically, they send a number of children out of Nunavut. The number of children who are actually in care outside of the Territory is very, very low, very miniscule. Like I said earlier, there are only 28 children in all of Nunavut at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He said that he has not been to the foster homes. There are some children from my riding in the homes and I have heard that some children in the home are not getting the proper treatment.

I have heard from parents, grandparents and the community that it is not a good care facility for children because they have no life skills training for the children. I would like to ask the Minister if you go to see that place if I could accompany you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I've seen an increase in my travel budget for this fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, the Member has made a good point. I wanted to go back to the repatriation issue, Mr. Speaker. One of the good things that the Premier has brought forward is the support for non-decentralized communities and that's smaller communities.

The St. Theresa's Home in Chesterfield, which is still operating right now with for example, children who need special care, we would hope that in the next nine to twelve months, we will have new facility and the space to be able to repatriate more children in Nunavut.

So that's one thing to look forward to. I will commit to the Member, that I will endeavour to visit foster homes and I would invite the Member and the Members from the Standing Committee on Health to be with me and join with me to see that facility like we have done when we went to the Lena Peterson Home and indeed the Larga Home. So, I would make that commitment to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 400 – 1(6): Matching Funds for a New Community Hall

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Members' Statement, I will just follow along the lines from my questioning to the Community Government and Transportation Minister.

When we first were elected, this can still apply today. When things take precedence, we can follow them here in the House. I know in Cambridge Bay, when they brought up the budget, we were allowed assistance. This is about matching funds when they have funds raised.

So, that's my question to the Minister. Is she able to match funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He's probably referring to the community hall. He didn't say so. He thinks I can read his mind.

The mayor and his staff of Igloolik and residents of Igloolik and the Member, we agreed that we'd have discussions regarding the community hall for Igloolik. So we will initiated discussions. Of course we don't know exactly what the cost would be for the complex because this is in the very initial stages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that this is a capital expenditure and I expect that Igloolik residents will be able to raise \$200 thousand dollars through fund raising.

If they were to raise that much, then what percent can her department match? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One community hall, if we were to think of its completion, it would cost \$1 million 255 thousand dollars, for the project.

We don't know how much Igloolik is expected to raise for us to pump money into the project. But it is something that the community has really fought for and it is their obligation to raise funds before we initiate putting some funds into the project.

As I said, this is in the very initial stages but Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say to the residents of Igloolik and the Member that we will work hard to ensure that the wishes of the community are met.

Once we have a better idea, we'll let him know because there's nothing on paper yet because it is in the very initial stages of planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't really know how to explain but because it's in the very initial stages of planning and we were in agreement at the meeting with the Minister that we would start dialogue, has the Minister directed her staff to start planning for the design of this complex? Has she directed her staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elders of Igloolik were going to be interviewed as to what their wishes were and what traditional values they would want incorporated in this project.

I have not even been able to commit funds from the department into the project but I directed staff in Cape Dorset to start planning. We have directed a staff person to undertake the project and we will ensure that the wishes of the residents of Igloolik will be put into account when we're discussing the design.

We're going to start looking at what the estimates would be to build such a complex. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 401 – 1(5): Education System in Nunavut – Completing Grade 12

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, I will direct my questions to the Minister of Education. As I stated regarding the concerns about the education system in Nunavut, things take time when we want to do it right but from his statement he said that this committee will be set up for the high school options committee within Nunavut and it will consist of educators from Nunavut.

What are the terms of reference for this committee and how can you know that this committee will be objective enough because they're already within the schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year there are two different committees set up within the Department of Education. We base them on the grades from kindergarten to grade 6 and then grade 7 to grade 12.

The terms of reference for this committee will be how the high school programs can be improved within the communities by incorporating the wishes of each community Member.

As well, we'd also like to get a better idea from the parents as well as teachers as to how much more involved they can be in the decision making of the high school curriculum. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question for the Minister is the Minister aware that in the smaller communities, students who complete grade 12 sometimes don't really pass that grade even though they have passed that grade on paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't seem to hear a question in there. Could you please clarify whether that was a question or a comment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm trying to ask him, in the smaller communities once they have completed grade 12, they don't have the same level of grade 12 as someone in Edmonton would have.

That's what they're going to find anyways from this committee. And that's common knowledge already. What is the Minister expecting from this committee? What is the expected outcome once the teachers have actually reviewed themselves? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The students in Nunavut who complete high school, I'd like to state Mr. Speaker, we don't make it easy for them to complete grade 12.

Whoever completes grade 12 has the same exams as those in Alberta. That is a requirement that every student who completes grade 12 must pass this Alberta exam in order to get their high school diploma.

Because of the concerns that were forthcoming, we have set up this committee to try and find out what concerns there are out there, what improvement need to be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What he's saying is very clear. Because of the language differences and dialect differences, some of us have children who have completed high school and who really don't have the levels that they should have.

No matter how hard they try sometimes, the attendance in high school is lacking and sometimes they can't enter college level, because they don't have the adequate credits from high school.

My question was, what other outcome is he expecting because what are we expecting that is different from what we already know anyway? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We hear different things within the House. Yesterday, we had questions regarding the drop outs and there was a call to have a review done as to why there is such a high drop out rate.

Yes, we know that, so, what we have started with this High School Options Committee, it is something new, but we will come up with recommendations at the end of the month. We are going to interview students, teachers and parents.

And I have great expectations, that this Committee will come up with something that we can use to improve the education system in Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 402 – 1(6): Programs and Services for the Mentally Challenged People

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, my statement today in regarding health care for disabled and mentally challenged people in Nunavut and the frustration a single parent in my community has been experiencing with trying to get care for her child so that she can pursue meaningful employment and also the lack of resources that are available for disabled people in our community who want to be contributors to this society.

And I do not have to quote the Bathurst Mandate, putting people first, but can the Minister responsible explain to me if there are programs and services available for the mentally challenged and disabled, the Minister of Health.

Speaker: The question is directed to the Minister of Health, but we are not quite sure whether that is the appropriate Minister. Minister Picco, if you would like address the question.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think there is some cross pollenization of the actual question and the area. Cross jurisdictional within the Departments, for example, how to support individuals and so on, that is the income support.

The council for the disabled is under the Minister responsible for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and I deal with the clinical issues of people with disabilities. So, for example, Mr. Speaker, someone who is in the hospital, or using the wheelchair and so on, that is to the Department of Health and Social Services.

But I can say to the Member that we have put in place a home care program and having heard the Member's Statement, I would suggest that there is an opportunity where we could actually have support brought into the constituent's home to support her in the care of the individual.

Again, I am not familiar with the case, only what the Member has said in his statements. I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that that was the first course to take in this very serious issue raised by the Member.

And again, Mr. Speaker, we have a good program in Baker Lake, as the Member knows and I would suggest that that would be the route to take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, see this is another example of when you ask a question, a serious question from a constituent that this Government is so big that they cannot deal with somebody who has a problem and cannot help themselves.

So you know, parents contact us and I am not the foremost authority on this issue either. And my question is yes, okay, he answered, as the Minister of Health, he answered that there is home care available for this individual and I am sure that the parent would be very relieved to hear this and I will call her right after Question Period and advise her of that.

For the issue of employment, are there any opportunities out there, economic opportunities and I am not sure which Minister can answer the question, but is there any programs there that can try to help this individual who is challenged to get into some kind of meaningful employment or training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again I take the question and the address by the Member very seriously. I am not the Minister for Employment, although I am the Minister for Immigration.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, and in all seriousness to the Member, and to the House, that there are opportunities for Training Programs, for offsite On the Job Training Programs through various organizations, for example, the Kakivak Association. Through the Regional Inuit Organizations there are subsidies in place, for example, for an employer, there are also programs available for standard employers, for example, Mr. Speaker, if the Northern Store in Baker Lake were able to find a position where the person in question were able to do the job, then there may be monies available through the Subsidy Program to encourage that type of program.

Again, Mr. Speaker, through Income Support, I know there are programs because I have had constituents who we have helped with when there are programs available to help people who are disabled, or who have not the experience necessary to find employment.

So there are different avenues. Again, Mr. Speaker, the Member just read the letter out from the Constituent, I do not have it, so it is not before the House. Maybe at the end of Question Period, or at the end of the day, the Member could draft a formal letter to me.

As the Minister of Health and Social Services, I will endeavour to look after the two issue, one being the respite care that the constituent needs, as well as some of the after care, maybe through the Homecare Program.

And the other issue on Income Support, or jobs, I am sure that my colleagues, and the Minister responsible would be able to see what we can do to proactively work on a plan of action for the constituent in question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his fine answer. On the issue of homecare, which brings up another issue, I was under the impression that homecare was only available for seniors.

My question is, is homecare available in every community for the mentally challenged, the disabled, and maybe the younger people in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with Mr. Akesuk that that was a good question. Homecare is available to people who need homecare, that may be the elderly, indeed they may be young people, it may be people who are disabled. We have rolled out a very successful Homecare Program in every community in Nunavut. We are doing it with our partner, the Federal Government, four point five million dollars over the next few years in the Homecare Program.

Mr. Speaker, what I would suggest again to the Member is to work with the constituents and write a letter to me as Minister to make sure that those types of care are in place, including respite for the mother of the constituent in question.

So the short answer is yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 403 – 1(6): Creation of Medical Travel Office for a Decentralized Community

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make my question short. Yesterday the Minister of Finance raised this issue through his Budget Speech.

In terms of the Health and Social Services Departmental Budget, what community is transferred positions under these figures? As well the Minister of Health and Social Services has indicated that they were moving. My question is where would the departmental offices be placed in Nunavut?

Speaker: Can I ask the Member who he wishes the question be directed to?

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): I had mentioned I was questioning the Minister of Health and Social Services.

(interpretation end) During the budget address yesterday, the Minister of Finance had said in his address, one of them being the creation of a decentralized medical travel office.

I'm just wondering if he has decided as to where this office will be located. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was thinking about placing it in Apex.

>>Laughter

No, Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, a decentralized travel office has been a long time coming.

The ulu, yes Mr. Speaker, I noticed that you have that heavy weapon there.

Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, the decentralized travel office is one of the components of the travel review, air travel, medivac travel that has been completed by KPMG. One of the recommendations there to help facilitate the number of issues surrounding the travel, as well as the decentralization and the scheduling of travel, based on what is available.

I would suggest to you Mr. Speaker that we have looked at the opportunities for decentralization in Kugluktuk. That is our second decentralized office, after Pangnirtung. We would be looking at an opportunity through the KPMG study of the opportunity of placing that decentralized office if the logistics and administration as well as I guess the financial matter can sustain that office.

I believe Mr. Speaker, that that would be the direction that we would be moving in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if my question wasn't clear.

My question is in terms of the decentralized travel office. When will this office be in place? Perhaps in the spring, summer or fall. When will this decentralization take place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues raised by the Members at the various Standing Committees was the not so successful decentralization of a regional Health and Social Services office in the Kitikmeot, specifically in Kugluktuk.

We have looked at the different ways of finding the positions instead of having specialized positions. We have spoken about that in this House before where for example, how would I find an epidemiologist in Kugluktuk.

How do I fill those local positions? The success we've had with decentralization for example with Baker Lake was actually going in there, doing an Nunavut Arctic College training program and then training people from Baker Lake and at the present time, around 80 or 90 percent people from Baker Lake who are working in the power corporation.

That's the model we want to see move forward in decentralization and that's the model we would put in place in the Kugluktuk if the decision is made to decentralize the travel office there.

I would suggest to you Mr. Speaker, that as soon as the KPMG recommendations are ratified, we would move very quickly, expeditiously to put that in place and we would be in contact with Nunavut Arctic College to have a training program in place.

And so, I would suggest to you that I would hope that by the fall, if the Member has pointed out, that the beginnings of the workings of the decentralized travel office, if not before then, would be seen on the ground in Kugluktuk based on the recommendations from KPMG. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister for your response. I often raise a question as to how many positions would be in place at this decentralized medical travel office because this is a concern in the community of Kugluktuk because we like to see as many positions that could be placed here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have not identified the late number of positions that would be associated with the decentralized travel office. That

will again, depend on the logistics as well as the administrative needs of the travel office and this is to coordination to this 1-800 call number.

So, for example, Mr. Speaker, the way the decentralize travel office would be set up the way we visualize it right now and that if you were in Whale Cove in a health center, you would need a medical travel schedule, you would be able to call on the 1-800 number or go online and you would be able to then facilitate that through a central office.

The beauty that Kugluktuk brings to this, Mr. Speaker, is that it would be two hours for example, later in the West or earlier in the West. So, for example, if it was 5 o'clock in Whale Cove, it would only be 4 o'clock in Kugluktuk.

Conversely, if it was 5 o'clock in Iqaluit, it would only be 3 o'clock in Kugluktuk, which means more people would be at work and it would be easier to facilitate.

One of the concerns raised by many of the Members of the Legislative Assembly is, when the Members at this House has been that when medical travel is being done after 4:30 or 5:00, the travel office has been closed and we have not been able to expedite the travel as necessary.

So, that is one of the benefits of Kugluktuk. I cannot say at this time, Mr. Speaker, how many jobs that would be. I would suggest that it would be more than at least a half a dozen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand most of these six positions are going there, so can the Minister let us know exactly when these positions will be opening up, although today they are just in preliminary stage?

Maybe once you find out properly, can you let me know as soon as these positions will be opening up because I would like the Minister to make sure that we would like to continue to get these positions decentralized to our community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the follow-up comments of the Member and as I said earlier, the final recommendations have not been approved yet, where the decentralized office would be as announced in the Finance Minister's Speech.

I will commit to the Member that as soon as this decision is made, that we will be able to put it in writing to the Members of the House to let them know the plans on the decentralized office when that final approval takes place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 405 – 1(60: Repulse Bay Hamlet Office Replacement

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is concerning Repulse Bay and the residents of Repulse Bay. I have been working really hard on this issue about office replacement, including radio transmitters and the like that was lost to fire last year.

Repulse Bay has requested that they replace the radio transmitter as soon possible so that they can listen to the CBC radio show, but what about the Hamlet Office in Repulse Bay?

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are fully aware that the hamlet office in Repulse Bay burned down and there was an emergency that happened just recently. I had my staff go to Repulse Bay right away to look at the building.

They immediately made plans for a replacement office with the insurance policy, but they have a temporary office space in the community and the cabinet had a meeting to discuss the emergency situation in Repulse Bay. I directed our staff to complete the architectural designs of the office for Repulse Bay on a priority basis.

I expect that we will start building the hamlet office this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that clarification and I now understand. The replacement building requested from Repulse Bay, is it going to be office space only? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are doing the architectural designs. We are only in the initial stages and we have not even decided whether it will include any type of recreational addition.

It may be similar to the hamlet office that was there previously. Mr. Speaker, I cannot really say what the design is going to look like as we are in the initial stages of doing the designs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as they finish the designs, are you going to let the Hamlet of Repulse Bay know along with Members of this House when they're finished with the design? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that perhaps the contract will be awarded around June 16^{th} , and we have asked our staff to come up with the architectural designs with urgency and we are hoping that the sealift from Montreal will bring the construction material for the hamlet office for this summer.

We are hoping that the construction will start in August as soon as we have all of the prerequisite materials available for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 405 – 1(6): Percentage of High School Graduates at the Academic Level

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These people have yet to pose their question and we are running out of time so can I ask a question?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was in consideration of the other Members but my question is to the Minister of Education. This is to clarify the question, out of those students who completed grade 12 last year, how many students passed Grade 12? And, out of the total number of students who completed high school, what was the percentage of graduates at the academic level?

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In respect to the numbers that the Member is referring to for those students who finished high school last year between those who graduated in the academic stream or the general level, I cannot clarify the numbers at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Minister can give me a Return to my Oral Question at a later time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I can get the information together. I will get the number of students who graduated in the academic stream and what the corresponding numbers were for our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 406 - 1(6): Plans on Studying Contaminated Wildlife

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for the Department of Sustainable Development. We heard that we have PCBs in some of our wildlife, although at relatively low levels, whether they are marine mammals or land wildlife.

What are you planning to do in the area of PCB in our wildlife? Is the Federal Government doing a study? Or are you planning to do a study whether there is too much PCB or not in our wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question to ask. The Wildlife Officers in the communities can work with the community to deal with the concerns that the community has. If they have a concern whether their wildlife has dangerous PCB levels or not or if they have a concern about the general health of their wildlife, whether they are marine mammal, or land mammal, they can contact the Iqaluit office for research matters.

They can get the assistance of the Wildlife Officer to send out the wildlife samples. The Wildlife Officer work with the local community residents, hunters and organizations to deal with these contaminant concerns. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How often does the government conduct research on the level of PCB contaminants in our wildlife? If I raise this, are you going to do the research after I bring it up? Has there been any research done on contaminants in our wildlife in the past or is it conducted annually? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I can use walrus as an example. There was a study done on walruses just recently where there is a disease in the walruses called trichinosis. They did a study recently on this infection and the communities are quite knowledgeable about the wildlife in their area, so they best can determine whether the wildlife species are sick or not.

It would be very hard to do any form of study on this contaminant at this time on all the wildlife as it is almost impossible. We can learn from the communities if they have a specific concern on a specific species, and then we can work with them on conducting the research on contaminants. Thank you.
Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So I have to ask you to do a study, or have there been any studies done at all whether we have PCB contaminant levels?

It's been a concern of our community. There are green house gases that cause pollution that can cause the contaminants in our wildlife. We can even be affected because it's in the food chain. So have there been any studies done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have started studies and there are some brochures and published material that has been translated.

Also there are pictures illustrated on those brochures, about what kinds of contaminants that might possibly be in our wildlife. I'm sure the local Hunters and Trappers Organizations have copies of those brochures and documents.

They are very colourful and they explain what kind of contaminants might be in our wildlife. We can also look into getting some more information for you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 407 – 1(6): Arctic College Student Drop-Outs

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I wasn't going to have an opportunity.

Yesterday, I asked some questions to the Minister of Education in regards to the high number of drop-outs in the Nunavut area. Today, I would like to ask some questions in regards to Nunavut Arctic College.

Since 1999, when we were established as a government, there have been a number of programs that have been implemented and taken on as courses at Nunavut Arctic College. From what I've seen, there are a lot of Nunavut Arctic College students who dropped out without completing their courses.

I think it's important to complete their program because it's very expensive to send them down here and then send them home in the middle of the school year.

Since 1999, and since the government was created, do you have the number of dropouts from Nunavut Arctic College, or is it something that's confidential? I don't want the names, I just want the figures on the number of dropouts that we have here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to get the data before I can give you the numbers.

It's true that there have been a number of dropouts from Nunavut Arctic College, but of course, some of them can't continue their education because of a variety of reasons.

We can compile the numbers and I'll give you the numbers as soon as I have them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for responding to my question and I look forward to seeing the numbers.

As you stated, you said there was a variety of reasons and I think it's important to find out what those reasons are because I'm sure that would decrease the number of drop-outs. If we found the numbers or the reasons, it would be something that we could work on to make changes to the programs or the way that we set up the system.

I would like to know if there is a link between drop outs and suicide in our communities. Are you going to be able to follow up on this and compile the statistics? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will talk to my employees at Nunavut Arctic College.

I do not have the specifics written down in regard to the reasons why they drop out, but I could get the information, get the number of drop outs that has occurred over the years because all that data is compiled and filed at the Arctic College Offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, it is obvious that you will get this going. Could you have your Department get the numbers from all of the Nunavut Arctic Colleges? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To give you a brief overview, we have different Arctic Colleges out there. They are the community colleges where they have short programs that are a week long or a little longer.

And then again, in the major regions of Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit, we have programs that run all year or multi-year programs.

It will be kind of hard to get the reasons from the small communities, but with the three regional bases of Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit and if the numbers are compiled, it will be easier to get the numbers. I would prefer to focus on the three regional bases. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is obvious that we are not going to get Nunavut-wide numbers.

As the Minister stated, it would be a little harder to get the information from the smaller communities, but it would be good to find out why they have high drop out rates in the smaller communities, it would be good to know.

Would it be possible for the Minister to get that kind of information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to sidetrack the questions, but I know that there are short-term programs that are offered at the community level.

And Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to say to the Member is that I would want to get the information from 1999 on and part of the difficulty will be pinpointing the different reasons. If they missed out on some of the statistics, we will be getting a false figure.

We will talk to Arctic College and I will give the information to the Member, if the individual colleges' have compiled the numbers, and it is possible that some of them might not have the statistics ready.

If that is going to be the case, then we would have a false figure complicating our approach to meeting these challenges. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Members will note that Question Period is now over. Moving onto Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr Quirke.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 006 – 1(6): Victim Assistance Funding

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the Members that I have tabled a Return to Written Question 006-1(6). Thank you.

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

Item 14: Tabling of Document

Tabled Document 078 – 1(6): 2003/2004 Corporation Plan for the Nunavut Development Corporation

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following documents, 2003-2004 Corporations Plans for the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Speaker: Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Ms. Williams.

Item 17: Motions

018-1(6) Extension of Mandate of Special Committee to Review the Official Languages Act - Motion

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Uqquqmmiut, that the Special Committee to Review the *Official Languages Act* shall continue as a Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly until it presents its final report to the House and further, that it shall continue under all other terms and provisions as established by the Motion 001-1(5). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. The Motion is in order. To the Motion. To the Motion. A question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

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Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 28 – An Act to Amend the Young Offenders Act and Other Acts in Consequence – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Baffin South, that Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Young Offenders and Other Acts in Consequence be read for the second time.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this Bill amends the Nunavut's Young Offenders Act, in order to prepare for the coming into force of the new Youth Criminal Justice Act, a Federal Act. And the Bill also makes consequential amendments to other Acts to change references to the Young Offenders Act to the Youth Criminal Justice Act of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the new Federal Youth Criminal Justice Act comes into force in Nunavut, and all of Canada, on April 1st, 2003. These amendments to the Territorial Young Offenders Act are needed so that the administration of the new Federal Act can be implemented smoothly in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, the Motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All of those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. Bill 28 has had Second Reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to the Committee. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco.

Bill 29 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Power Utilities Act and Certain Other Acts in Consequence – Second Reading

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I moved seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay that Bill 29 an Act to Amend the Nunavut Power Utilities Act and Certain Other Acts in Consequence, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will create the Qullik Energy Corporation, which will have two subsidiaries. Mr. Speaker, one subsidiary will become the Nunavut Power Corporation and will provide the generation and the distribution of electrical power much the same as the Nunavut Power of today.

The other subsidiary will become the Qullik Fuel Corporation and will assume the responsibilities of improving the provision of petroleum products services to Nunavummiut much the same as the Petroleum Products Division under Public Works and Services of today.

Now, in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, this Bill was in the creation of an affordable energy funds which will combine all Government of Nunavut energy related subsidies into one fund voted by all Members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, this is another step towards providing for the long-term Nunavut's affordable energy needs. Through the conservation, new companies and the consolidation of our fuel related enterprises, we are taking up all responsibility to enhance Nunavut's future energy self-reliance. Thank you.

Speaker: The Motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All of those in favour? All those opposed? The Motion is carried. Bill 29 has had Second Reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to the Committee. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of the Bills and Other Matters. Bill 22, Bill 23, Bill 24, Bill 30, with Mr. Puqiqnak is the Chair.

Before we proceed to the Committee of the Whole, we will take a twenty-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at15:32 p.m. and resumed at 16:01p.m.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): We'd like the meeting to start again. In Committee of the Whole, we will be dealing with Bill 22, Bill 23, Bill 24 and Bill 30. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with the review of Bill 23 followed by the review of Bill 24. If time permits, we would commence with the review of Bill 30, starting with the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Does everybody agree that we deal with Bill 23 and 24?

Minister's Opening comments for Community Government and Transportation. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have opening comments but before we go into it I would like to say a few words.

First of all, I would like to recognize those people who have worked on the City, Towns and Villages Act, which was started in 1995. It's been eight years since they've been working on this Mr. Chairman.

I have here with me Lootie Toomasi, Mr. Iqaqrialu, who he recognized the other day. He's been a member that took part in drafting this bill. Also, there was Johnny Ningeongat, from Coral Harbour, Denis Lyall from your riding and Joanne Taptuna and countless others from the GNWT.

These Nunavut residents have taken part in drafting the bill and I just wanted to acknowledge them and I'd like to thank Lootie for being present during this time.

(interpretation end) Mr. Chairman, the amendments to the *Hamlet Act* or those proposed for the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act*, are the result of extensive consultation as I just said with Nunavut communities.

Consultations took place took through community representatives on a Legislation Review Steering Committee, the working group, discussions at various Nunavut Associations of Municipalities meetings, mayors meetings and directly with hamlet councils.

This package also includes further amendments that incorporate suggestions made during the spring 2002 Legislative Session by Standing Committee for Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development. The Standing Committee reviewed these in January. We had an excellent discussion on a whole range of municipal issues. I hope this committee's review will be the final step in developing updated municipal legislation for Nunavut Communities. Municipalities have been asking for these changes for many years and I'm proud that we are now at a point to make the requested changes a reality. This lengthy process began before division and has involved the communities and their representatives from the start. Overall the proposed amendments will enable communities, give them more authorities to move toward a greater level of self-reliance.

These two pieces of legislation are essential to developing vital, vibrant and viable communities that are able to fulfill the Bathurst Mandate principle of self-reliance.

Communities will have the authority to take greater charge of their own affairs and work to achieve their specific priorities. Ensuring that municipal governments have the capacity in the future is the principal purpose of these amendments.

The proposed legislative amendments can be broken into four main areas; *Corporate Powers, Administration, Financial Affairs, and Liability, Enforcement and Other Legal Matters.*

Amendments under the Corporate Powers section of the legislation include:

- A new requirement for community agreements to include a mechanism for settling contractual disputes.
- New powers for councils to promote economic development. This will allow a municipal corporation to enter into a business to provide services where it is deemed to be in the public interest. In response to concerns raised by Standing Committee, it also provides for minister approval where there is a concern that the municipal corporation is engaged in economic activity in competition with the private sector.

Amendments under the <u>Administration</u> section of the legislation include:

- A new provision that clearly set out the duties and responsibilities of the mayor and councillors.
- A new power for councils to have the option to adopt a code of ethics.

Amendments under the *Financial Affairs* section of the legislation include:

- New provisions allowing access to the public to budgets, audited financial statements and auditor's reports.
- Provide the Minister with the power to prescribe by regulation maximum debt limits for municipalities. These limits would be tied to revenues. Community governments would be able to borrow long-term. The regulations would also impose borrowing caps and establish guidelines and procedures.

Amendments under the *Liability, Enforcement and Other Legal Matters* section of the legislation include:

• A provision for broader by-law making powers under the subject areas of people, activities and things.

• Expansion of the current civil liability protection for council members to include employees, officers, volunteer workers and board members. As well as new provisions limiting municipal liability for certain matters and activities, such as municipal facilities, services and utilities, fire protection and remedying contraventions by by-laws, except in cases of gross negligence.

Mr. Chairman, I know that the communities and the Nunavut Association for Municipalities (NAM) are anxious for us to finalize these amendments. I am pleased to note, Mr. Chairman that this is an example of what we can achieve when the communities and the Territorial government work together.

I want to thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues for this opportunity to outline the proposed changes in these Bills before the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Thompson. I would also like to welcome our legal counsel. Do you have staff with you that you would like to sit with at the witness table?

Do Members agree for the Minister to bring in witnesses? Sergeant-At-Arms, please escort them to the witness table. Minister, if you can introduce your staff please.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is John Walsh, you probably recognize him by now. He is the Deputy Minister and this is Lucy McGee, our Legal Affairs Officer.

As well, Peter Alison is also involved in drafting the Bills, I am sorry, there is no room for him, but I will ask him to respond if there are specific questions directed to him, I can ask him to come here. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. There is only room for three at the Witness Table. Back to the Orders, are there any Opening Comments from the Chair?

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair, the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development is pleased to have had the opportunity to review Bill 23, an Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and Bill 24, an Act to Amend the Hamlets Act with the Minister of Community Government and Transportation with her Officials.

Mr. Chairman, given that Bills 23 and 24 address many of the same issues with respect to Municipal Governments, my comments will address the contents of those Bills.

Mr. Chairman, the legislation Members have before them today is the product of several years of work. This work started before Division and included stakeholders' consultations in November 2001.

The Nunavut Minister of Community Government and Transportation introduced in the House, Municipal Legislation in the form of Bill 16, an Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and Bill 17, an Act to Amend the Hamlets Act.

Members will recall that one year ago, the Standing Committee recommended that Bill 16 and 17 fall off the Order Paper because of several areas of concerns the Members identified.

Mr. Chairman, a number of municipal bylaw-making powers such as the power to make land administration bylaws require ministerial approval. In the original bills, there was no time limit within which the Minister was required to grant or deny approval. And Members were concerned that costly delays could result in the legislation before us such as clear time frames during which the Minister must respond.

Members were also concerned that the previous bill opened the door too widely for competition between municipal corporations and the private sector. Members were concerned that emerging private sector enterprises could be driven out of business if faced with competition from municipal corporations.

Members were equally concerned that municipalities be allowed to enter into business to deliver services in most communities where the private sector cannot do so. Mr. Chairman, the legislation before us recognizes the different needs of each community by requiring ministerial approval to ensure that municipal corporations do not compete with the private sector.

In addition, Mr. Chairman, Members were concerned that the provisions for appointing municipal supervisors to municipalities experiencing financial or operational difficulties did not specify the length of such an appointment. The legislation before us today sets clear terms for those appointments.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report that through a close working relationship between the Standing Committee and the Minister, the legislation has been amended to address concerns raised by committee Members and would like to congratulate the Minister on her willingness to improve these bills.

However, Mr. Chairman, Members recognize that community empowerment without the necessary resources is not empowerment at all. Some people have called it down loading; a downloading of responsibility and cost. The committee will continue working to ensure that when additional responsibilities are given to the municipalities, adequate support is provided by the government.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee recognizes that regulations under the legislation will be forth coming and looks forward to reviewing them prior to their final approval. Mr. Chairman, the Committee also looks forward to further amendments to this legislation in the future including the combining of the acts into one Municipal Governance Act until such time as one new act on municipal governance can be completed.

The Standing Committee strongly urges the department to ensure that the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and the Hamlets Act are available entirely in Inuktitut. Mr. Chairman, Members of the Standing Committee recommend the passage of the Bill as amended and reprinted to all Members.

Individual Members may have questions and comments as we proceed. Before I finish this, I would like to comment that I want to acknowledge the mayors over the years, like the Minister did, on their hard work. Hopefully this bill will reflect what these mayors hard work over the last eight years, to bring this legislation forward, that they also got to take a lot of credit for bringing this bill forward, and I don't want to sound callous here, but it's the mayors' bill as much as it is the Legislative Assembly's bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, for your hard work to all those concerned. Thank you. I'd like the Members to know that we're hoping to have a good discussion.

I will allow ten minutes for each Member to make general comments. With Rule 77 (2), I will allow more time for Members but not until every Member wishing to speak has spoken. At this point, are there any general comments? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister and the committee Members, Thank you. I'm glad to hear the comments that were made regarding these bills.

It is nice to hear that the communities have had adequate input into these bills that will truly reflect the needs of the communities. Mr. Chairman, this bill will affect each and every community in Nunavut. I'm also proud that the Nunavut communities through their hamlets they will be truly recognized as the municipal government and it will ensure fair practices through financial assistance and it will also protect businesses by limiting municipal corporations to compete with the different companies.

As Inuit, we really don't understand what the responsibilities are within the hamlets. We're elected to these municipal bodies without really knowing what the responsibilities are but with this passage of the new bill, people will have a clearer understanding of what the responsibilities are and will better represent the wishes of community members with the help of these new bills. The Cities, Towns and Villages Act and the Hamlets Act, Bills 23 and 24 truly commend the work and the process that was undertaken in order for these acts to be possible and it will allow for smoother operation of the hamlets in the communities.

I am proud of the mayors who have truly represented their communities through their cooperation in drafting this Bill. As Inuit we didn't understand how the hamlets would be operated within the communities before they were hamlets when it was Northwest Territories Government. They weren't armed with enough resources to operate the hamlets.

It is good to hear that hamlets will now have adequate resources along with the passage of this Bill. The new legislation will allow hamlets to have more power and adequate resources.

I know in Clyde River, I knew the hamlet finances were not in order for quite a while because for one thing there is no economic opportunities in the communities and the funding formulas weren't up to date and there has been a lot of problems that rose with financial matters because resources weren't adequate and that is why a lot of the hamlets have run into deficit situations.

And because communities are not taxed based with no revenue coming in from taxes, they don't have any other revenue and only depend on the government and work hard to try and balance their books with limited resources.

With the problems in Clyde River, I'm glad to know that these Bills and acts especially for those non-taxed based communities will require further assistance from the Nunavut Government and I truly expect that with the passage of these bills and as I said earlier, I recognized in the House, the mayor of Qikiqtarjuaq who has been very patient, and has worked hard in drafting this Bill.

The Minister and I had discussed as to how we can have them come here while we were discussing this Bill. The Minister's staff, I'd like to commend them for their hard work and also their long serving employee as you hear, who has been really instrumental in helping Inuit understand the hamlets.

We have to be more proud of ourselves and that is the only way we can take on the different responsibilities that truly reflect who we are. We are the ones who truly know what is needed in the communities. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. That was a comment by Mr. Iqaqrialu. Just before there's another comment from the Members, does the Minister have any comments? Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief comment. In the Minister's opening comments there's one thing that I didn't understand. I'm happy to say

that this legislation that has been ongoing for a long time, that we will be able to talk about them today.

Mr. Chairman, this legislation has been expected by the communities for quite some time now and I'm happy to say that we will finally deal with it in this House. I just have a few concerns.

When the hamlet takes over a program, for example, not all hamlets, but, say for instance, if a hamlet takes over housing, and they have to deal with housing in the community, there has to be a problem because they haven't been able to let it operate effectively.

For those smaller communities, when these are empowered to the communities, those programs such as housing, there is a concern that we have in community's, like if there's a population of 1 thousand 800 in the community, it's not so bad but in a smaller community the workload is a little bit to heavy for them.

That's not the only thing. The people who occupy housing in the corporation's houses, there's more of those in the communities. I'm not saying that they're not doing a good job but as long as an individual owes money to the hamlet, they can't be included as a councillor.

These types of things will have to be resolved for the betterment of the hamlet councils. The other concern that I have is, as hamlets take over programs from the Government of Nunavut, they're not given assistance. They take over Economic Development Officers as well and the money has to come along with the position.

I do not have very much to say, Mr. Chairman, but if I could ask a question, my question would be, in the Minister's Opening Comments, she stated that on Page 4, in Inuktitut, she talked about the Minister's Powers to be able to borrow long-term or to provide the Minister the power to prescribe by regulation, maximum debt limits for municipalities. I just wanted to know what that meant. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Irqittuq. We are looking at the two Bills, Bill 23 and Bill 24, an Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and as well, the Amendment to the Hamlet Act and also as well, the Act of the Hamlet and an Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act.

We just have one city in Nunavut Region, which is here in Iqaluit, but the others are towns and villages, but they are mostly all hamlets in Nunavut communities.

So, which Act would you like to deal with first? Either 23 or 24. We are going to have to go clause by clause. What is the wish of the Committee in dealing with which Act first?

Bill 24 deals with the Hamlet Act and Bill 23, talks about Cities, Towns and Villages Act. Mr. Irqittuq, the question that you had, can you ask it again when we go clause by clause? Ms. Thompson, do you have any comments?

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to let you know that there are only three differences in the Act. In the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, there are the City Councillors; they all change office at once and get elected together.

And the other change is to deal with the Tax-Based Municipalities or Cities and Towns. And the Honorarium is fixed by the wishes of the councillors. It does not matter which Act we deal with first because they are practically the same. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is it okay? We deal with them together? Are there any more comments from the Members, I will give them the opportunity before the questions are asked. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Minister's Opening Comments and the Opening Comments from the Chairperson of the Committee, I am not with the Committee, I am not a Member of the Committee and what the Chairperson requested was that he would like the passage of those two Legislations.

A lot of people have said that there are a lot of things that we have to deal with and when their community is given empowerment the money does not come along with the empowerment and that's the concern that we have had for quite some time and if the money is going to come along with the empowerment it should go along with the legislation.

There are 27 communities in Nunavut and they are provided with such services such as water delivery and garbage pick up and clearing of the roads. On behalf of my constituencies I thank you for those.

Say for instance in Iqaluit, we didn't get our garbage picked up for a long time because there was strike by the city employees and it was very unsightly at that time and I would like to give my appreciation to those people that provide those services in the communities and in the cities for providing those services for the community government.

If those people were not around, we would not have those kinds of services that we enjoy today and the Minister stated that these legislations have been in the works for a long time and one of the people that was recognized, Lootie Toomasi, is here today and its good to see that, and I just want to thank the Members and the Minister for her opening comments and I feel that we have to give thanks to those people who have provided services for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Next person to speak is Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The GNWT tried working on this while we were still under the GNWT and I think it's been a couple of years now that we've been working on

the amendment to the Bills for Nunavut and I know everybody's not going to be happy with the changes to the act and although anything can be rectified and as soon as we implement this Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, it will improve the services provided to the communities.

Although I'm sure some communities will be unhappy with some of the changes, that's the way it is. That's the way people are. There are people who are happy with and there are some people who are unhappy with it and when the majority of the people agree with the proposed act, the amendment to the act, I just wanted to clarify that to the general public who are listening to us. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a short comment. I'm also a Member of the Committee.

As Glen stated earlier, some of the communities have concerns in regards to these acts. I just want to let the Minister know about one particular thing.

As we know, some of the hamlets come into deficits and this becomes a problem with the hamlet. When they have a big deficit they no longer have a lot to work with. I just wanted to let the Minister know that we have to support the hamlets who have problems with deficit so that their deficit can be reduced in a way that they are able to operate or function as a hamlet.

As we know, when a hamlet has a problem, their duties become overwhelming and it becomes harder to operate with the lack of funds. As well, in terms of loans, I want the Minister to know that when it comes to loans, that when the hamlets want to get a loan, they should be kept within the parameters of their capacity to repay the loan.

We have to be aware that we have to support and carefully manage the hamlets when they have deficits. When the hamlets have a deficit, there is a big concern on that. That is all I wanted you to be aware of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I don't have anybody else on my list for general comments. Mr. Irqittuq, you can raise your question that you wanted to raise earlier in the session.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments, I wasn't quite sure if I understood it in the translated version of the opening remarks, page 4 in Inuktitut; I am not sure what page it is in the English version.

Page 4, first bullet, I would like clarification in respect to page 4, the first bullet, the new requirement for community agreements, or pardon me, on page 4, first bullet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Irqittuq. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what he is referring to is debt financing. The previous legislation was quite convoluted and this new set of regulations for municipalities within this proposed bill is going to clarify the maximum debt limits for municipalities.

If municipalities would like to acquire a loan, it explains in detail what the Minister has to do, with the appropriate checks and balances to ensure that they do not end up in the same situation which caused them to go into a deficit situation.

The previous legislation did not cover this portion of the powers of the municipalities when it comes to their own ability to operate as an independent community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps in the previous years, there were problems with the municipalities paying off their loans or of defaulting on them. Is this why the Minister has to monitor the loans closely that are being given to the communities, because of their operational history? Does this mean that the Minister has to have the ultimate authority? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This pertains more to the larger communities that have the ability to tax their residents and then they can get debentures. As the taxes are paid, the funds are paid back to the debenture so that they can borrow more funds.

The Minister will have to monitor the communities so they are able to pay back their loan that they had borrowed. Mr. Chairman, even the hamlets sometimes borrow against their reserves, if the hamlets need vehicles for water or sewer services and they get the loan for the vehicles and if they have the adequate funding to pay back the original loan within the reserve along with the interest, they are able to do so.

In the past, the Minister did not monitor the operations of the hamlets, nor their performances whether they were going to have a deficit situation or not. This was entirely up to the hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. The reason I am raising this question is due to the fact that we are working mainly with the hamlets, but Iqaluit is what you call a long winded city, in Inuktitut terms.

I do not have a huge problem with the proposed legislation, but I want it noted that in the past, the hamlets had problems with this unfettered ability to borrow funds. Was this particular section written due to the experiences of the hamlets or was it due to the city's experiences? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This legislation can be applied to the hamlets as well. If they wanted to obtain staff housing for staff at the local level, they would have to borrow some money to build that housing.

The Minister will have to monitor that closely to make sure that acquiring staff housing or other capital asset will not put them into a deficit situation. This applies to both cities and hamlets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the explanation that the Minister has the authority now, but during the Ministers' comments she explained this will give more empowerment to the hamlets, perhaps through the legislation. I believe this was due to problematic repayment of previous loans.

At present the communities do not really have any ability to get interest on their vehicle reserve funds. If they are empowered under this legislation, will this allow a community the freedom to deposit their reserves under another financial institution so that they can utilize the interest on their reserves to enable them to be able to borrow against it?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Irqittuq. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlets along with the SAOs talked about this as well because they wanted the ability to invest the reserve funds that they received annually to accumulate interest.

Under this draft bill they now have this ability to be able to benefit from their sizeable reserve funds so that they can utilize the interest on these funds. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Mr. Iqaqrialu. No? Proceed Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if we were going to get through or not. I do not have many general comments, but I am very happy with the proposed amendments to the Hamlet Act because it will give more powers to the local hamlets.

The hamlets in the communities are the local governments and I am not putting any particular community down, but sometimes the hamlets go into deficit situations because of insufficient funding or due to mismanagement of funds.

Have you done any studies on how they can better manage their financial accounting? Sometimes, some communities will go into a deficit situation because some of the managers do not know how to run their accountings.

And that is why some hamlets go into deficit situations and I want to recommend or suggest that you keep a very close watch on some of the communities that might go into deficit situations. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. I do not have any other people listed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before we review this clause by clause, I want clarification on an issue not raised by the Committee Members and the Minister.

In the smaller communities, the hamlet funding situation cannot keep up with the operational needs of the communities. Some of the contracts require tendering for different goods and services, and when there are no contractors at the local level to provide these services, the hamlet is given the responsibility to provide the services required for the communities.

And sometimes there are no opportunities for businesses created for economic development because the contracts that could have been contracted out to smaller companies end up being contracted to the hamlet council, because they are also under fiscal pressure to fund their various obligations.

I am wondering if this issue will be addressed within the legislation. I was wondering if we could prevent the local governments from tendering if it is in direct competition with local businesses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Was that a question? Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was discussed by the private contractors who do not want possible contracts to be taken on by the hamlets, but the hamlets also believe they will be able to generate more revenue if they are able to take on contracts at the community level. If this bill goes through, I believe that the problem will be resolved.

For the private businesses, I think that there has to be some sort of protection for the local contractors but we have to look for a better system. In the previous draft, it was stated that an amendment was required to meet this concern according to these suggestions that were made by the Standing Committee. This is what is in front of you. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is very interesting to hear and in most hamlets, the revenues cannot keep up with the expenditures because they lack sources of revenue like taxes or economic development to generate revenue.

Other than the ability to create revenue from developing subdivisions, there is not much else. In these days of drilling piles, the hamlets are losing yet another source of revenue.

Two days ago we heard the budget speech that the hamlets are going to be getting increased financing from the government. I am sure that this issue of allocation to the needy communities has been previously discussed and dealt with. Has this been properly reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, this is being reviewed by the finance department and they are reviewing the municipal government budget allocations. The individual who is doing this review just walked in, the chairman of the financial review committee, Shawn Maley.

(interpretation ends) My Assistant Deputy Minister has arrived and is sitting over there so I just wanted to recognize him for that.

(interpretation) And Mr. Chairman, we are concerned about the budgets of the hamlets. We have put in a different system where we monitor these financial statements, to make sure that the hamlets are not in a deficit situation and where improvements can be made in their finances and how they can generate more revenue.

We have amended clauses here where the hamlets will be given the authority to generate revenue. There are also opportunities for other sources of revenue outside of the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you very much Mr. Iqaqrialu for your questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to this bill, we have been working on it for a long time and we have yet to assent either bill 23 or bill 24. One is the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, and the one is the Hamlets Act where we have made a various changes through this Standing Committee.

I am not sure how the communication link is maintained with the hamlets and this Standing Committee. Mr. McLean is the chairperson for this Standing Committee who is reviewing these two bills and recommendations have been made and incorporated into the bill. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities is the lead organization representing the municipal interests. How closely do you work with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities had their annual general meeting and when they had their AGM, they discussed the bills and also reviewed the proposed changes.

When the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meets, we send a copy of these bills to their executive committee. We have had correspondence given to the hamlets. The Standing Committee has reviewed the whole bill.

That is what we have been doing, consulting with these various entities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it the Standing Committee who has to provide the information to the affected parties or whose responsibility is it to consult with the local governments to see if there are any concerns over the draft legislation?

Is it the Standing Committee or your department who has to consult with the communities to ensure their concerns are heard? You partially mentioned that and I want clarification on the matter.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry you misunderstood me. The Standing Committee makes recommendations for changes and they give us their recommended changes, which we then pass onto the communities. This was also sent to them, although this is the last draft already.

The community SAOs have been included along with the Deputy Minister, the Mayors and the Justice Department, Lootie Toomasie and other individuals. But of course, it is up to the Standing Committees to review the bills and recommend changes and they also have discussions with the communities.

It is also part of their responsibility to get the information out there but our department is primarily responsible for putting the information out there. It is our collective responsibility to pass along the information to the affected individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. In January, we had a meeting with the Minister to give us a briefing on the recommendations to the bills. When did the hamlets see the final version of the bills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been working with the mayors association, with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. They are the main body representing the hamlets and included are the mayors and their SAOs. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I have no other names on my list. Did we want to start our clause by clause review of Bill 23? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just noted in the Minister's opening comments on the second page where it says that communities have the authority to take greater charge of their own affairs and work to achieve their specific priorities. Is this ensuring that municipal governments have the capacity in the future; is this the principal purpose of these amendments?

I just want to let the Minister know ahead of time that there are some specific questions that I will be asking in relation to the power given to the city under the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, where the City of Iqaluit would fall under as far as raising funds beyond the ratepayers and specifically where that is in the act.

Also when we get into it, I will be asking on the cities ability to collect development costs and charges or any other off site stuff, levies and in determining if they have the ability to do that.

Mr. Chairman, the fact that most people have been listening to the media lately and the city has passed a no-smoking by-law. It was reported that this legislation would give them the ability to enforce that in private clubs and places like that. I will be looking once we get into the actual bill at asking the Minister specifically where the clauses are in the act.

They said they are there. I hope they are. I think it is great to finally see a piece of legislation come out that does give the municipalities and the cities the authority, or the ability to have the authority to do the things that they want. And not always having to fight tooth and nail with a government department to do what they want or to be able to get what they want. That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation end) The Member has made a very good observation of the act and when we are going line by line, he will see where those clauses are and we can flag them where he wants in regards to revenue for tax based communities or cities.

I might be wrong, maybe Peter Alison can correct me on this, but I do not think there is anything in the act for enforcing the no-smoking by-law in private clubs. It might but I am not sure if it is in our legislation, for enforcing the no-smoking for private clubs, or private businesses. I am not sure where that it. Maybe Michael you can answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I believe your legal counsel can respond to that question regarding the no-smoking by-law portion in private clubs or private businesses. I would appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Chandler, our legal counsel.

Mr. Chandler: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Possibly if you continue on with the question and give me a chance to look at the act, I will try and have an answer in a few minutes.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo. In regards to the no-smoking by-law, could you elaborate a little further?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know it has been in the media for a while now that the City of Iqaluit passed the no-smoking by-law banning smoking in all public places and since then, the Workers' Compensation Board for Nunavut and the Northwest Territories has been in the media saying they are looking at introducing a ban in all work places.

One of the concerns, or one of the things that was raised during the by-law debate and in the media, was the fact that there are private clubs that the city could not enforce its by-law under. It was reported in the media that this legislation would give them the power to do that. And that is what I am looking for clarification on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thanks. I do not even know if we can give Mr. Chandler a few minutes to find it or if the Minister's staff have been able to find it or whoever can find it first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Chandler.

Mr. Chandler: If you could look through the Amendments in the Bill, Subsection 54.2 (a).

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, maybe for the sake of these concerns, when we get to that section in the Bill, that it be pointed out and for each of those two areas that I mentioned because I am not a lawyer.

I am not sure exactly where to find those specific things in there that I would like actually pointed out when we get to it in the Legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Please introduce your official who just came into the Witness Table.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Shawn Maley, who has been working with the Community Government for a long time since the MACA days.

I invited him here to the Witness Table because of course he has been working on this for a long time.

(interpretation ends) That Tobacco Control Act has not been introduced yet in this legislature and the general powers under that are on the public health side.

So, that is probably under that, but when we get to that section, Mr. Tootoo can probably address you with that. Just a comment I wanted to make in regards to having a no smoking bylaw in the private sector.

We have not introduced the Tobacco Control Act yet in this Legislation. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else? Questions? Would you like to go clause by clause now? Bill 23, an Act to Amend the Cities, Towns and Villages Act and the Hamlets Act, an Act to Amend the reprint of the Act. Clause 1. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 2. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 3.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Just let me know if I am going too fast. Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 5?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 6?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 8?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Clause 8, it states on the fourth line, it states, A bylaw made under Subsection 3 applies to the General Election and cannot be amended until two elections have occurred since it was made unless repealed through Nunavut through the prior approval of the Minister.

There is no numbers under 8. What are you talking about? There is no sub-section 4 in clause 8. Mr. Iqaqrialu. I'm sorry it's 24. Clause 24.

He said they were the same and there were 3 sections that were a little different within the act. I'm sorry I already had noted that I would bring it up but I was referring to Clause 23. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 23. We're on page 123 in the Inuktitut version, we're in clause 8. Clause 8. Agreed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I'm sorry, they're not consistent. I think in Bill 23 and 24, I think we should be referring to Bill 23.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes, that's what we're dealing with. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The bills in our binders have received second reading and that is the binder that we're referring to. Do we have an older copy or version of the bills?

Chairperson (interpretation): We're dealing with Bill 23. There is a binder under your area and someone will check to see if they're consistent. Perhaps I was going a little too fast for you. Okay. Clause 8. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 9. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 10. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 11. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 12. Turn the page. Page 5. Clause 13. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 14. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 15. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 16. Turn the page again. There is quite a bit in this section, in this clause. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess this is, I'm guessing this is corporate powers general section. I'm just wondering if this is the area that gives that power to the municipalities to borrow and maybe within this section be specific with my questions to the Minister is, will the city of Iqaluit be given the normal powers that other cities have to raise dollars beyond it's rate payers and I guess I'm looking for is, they indicated that would be the case and I just wanted to find out exactly where it is in here that it gives them the ability to do that if this in fact is the section that it's in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Member please give us an example of where the repairs would be at? What example is he thinking about? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's say, if the city wanted to be able to go and borrow money, or raise money some how, other than charging the poor rate payers and the city, to pay for stuff. That's what I'm looking at.

Will you give those powers? I believe that other cities and other jurisdictions have the ability to do that. I'm just wondering where in here exactly does it give the city the ability to be able to do that, to go and raise dollars beyond its rate payers in whatever form it chooses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps, I'd say it's on page 8, what he's referring to. Perhaps your legal counsel can respond to that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Chandler.

Mr. Chandler: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Members may wish to read section 150 of the amendment bill. It's on page 21 of the English version. I believe that's what the Member is looking for.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, I didn't hear any of what you just said. I heard what Michael said. Maybe they forgot to flick the switch but I never heard what you said.

But if that's where it is, I just didn't want to approve a section and then find out after that that's where my question was. This is under Corporate Powers, general, I just wanted to ask if that was the area where these things that I asked are looking, or are they in the bill or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I'm a little bit confused as well. Perhaps, Michael, if you get the question, you can respond to it.

Mr. Chandler: Okay, I'm unaware of the equipment here. I'm assuming when the light is on, people can here me. Okay.

If the Member is asking how municipalities can raise money other than tax from the rate payers, I'm assuming the only other way would be through borrowing and section 150 of the amendments gives the municipal corporation the municipal taxing authority which is defined under another act, the power to authorize a corporation to borrow on a long term basis.

So, they could go out into the financial markets and attempt to find somebody who would be willing to give them money. There are regulations that the Minister may put on the maximum amounts that can borrowed, but that gives them the power to borrow money. That's another way besides taxing the rate payers. I wouldn't know of another method. I'm hoping that answers the Member's question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that answers that part of my question. The other one again, because I don't know where it is in here and we're going through it so quickly, I don't want to approve something and then find out that's where I should have asked the question earlier was that if the city chooses to bring in a bylaw to allow them to collect development cost charges or off-site levies to ensure that the growth in the community pays for the growth in the community and not the taxpayers and then end up having to pay for that new development, new growth?

I am just wondering, you know, if it is under this Section, to give them the ability and the authority to be able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: We are now discussing 37, I think, which was under General Comments. If you read the (6), (5), (6) the Minister may by order extend the Long-Term Borrowing Bylaw for requirement for rate payer approval under the subsection and would have to.

That is where Mr. Tootoo is asking questions is 150 of 37; maybe when we get to that Michael will be able to explain it because what he is asking is right here. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else? We are in Clause 16, are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turn the page to 12. Clause 17. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 13. Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turn the page. Their Legal Council will clarify. Michael.

Mr. Chandler: Thank you, Sir. I believe that Mr. Tootoo asked to have pointed out to him about the by-law making powers of the municipality in relation to tobacco products and that is under Clause 18, Sub-Clause 54.2, Sphere of Jurisdictions.

That is the general area whereby you look to the powers or areas in which a city can make bylaws. You know, if I could just have a moment, a city can only do what it is given the powers by the Legislature to do.

It cannot go off making powers that have not been given to them by this or making bylaws that have not been given to it by the statute, but the Legislature in turn can only give the city powers that it has itself.

So, it used to be that the powers that were given to a municipality to make bylaws were very strictly defined because they, with the fear that people would make bylaws that were not within the powers to make.

But this new way of writing it, broadens the categories or does not define them strictly in which municipalities can make bylaws. That allows municipalities more scope for their by-laws but it does occasionally open up the problem. The municipalities will pass by-laws that aren't strictly speaking within their jurisdictions.

If I could just point to 52 4.2 sub-A. The safety health and welfare people in the protection, people in properties, might lead someone on a municipal council to conclude that they could pass the law but in effect would be criminal law.

Well, a municipality cannot pass criminal law because it can only pass under the powers that it's been given and only the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut can give it powers but even the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut doesn't have the power to pass criminal law so it couldn't have given it to the municipality in the first place. Only the federal government does.

It's just one of the things that's the way the powers are split up in Canada. So, there will always be questions, I believe, as to where the boundaries of particular by-laws lie. And whether they are actually within the jurisdiction of the municipalities or not.

But unfortunately, that can only be answered in the concrete after the fact passing of the by-laws. The municipality may pass the type of by-law that is a criminal, in effect, criminal legislation and people will challenge that by-law. But they could also pass something for the safety health and welfare of the people that go within their right to pass by-laws. So, it's very difficult in the abstract then to be able to say, yes this by-law is okay and that by-law isn't.

I know that it may sound like a complicated thing but the way I translate it is that such a powers nesting one with it, the municipality can only have the powers the legislature gives and the legislature can only give it the powers it has and since certain powers don't belong to the legislature, they can't be given away to the municipality.

Other powers that do belong to the legislature can be given to the municipalities. I'm sorry for the long answer but I hope that clarifies it a little bit.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, I guess based on Mr. Chandler's response and the Minister's concerns I would imagine that 54.2(a) could be an area where the city could draw on its ability to be able to pass and enforce such a by-law in private clubs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Chandler: I'm not used to the procedure here. Possibly also under section 54.2(e). After that by-law is passed, someone may challenge and say that its not within the jurisdiction of the city to do that, so the courts would have to decide at that point because they would then be looking at other legislation that the legislature may have passed another act to see whether they, it was thought that that power was given to the municipality. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From my other question on the ability for the city to collect or establish a development cost charges or off site levies, I'm just wondering if under 54(3) on I think its f. 54.3(f) and (g) are the areas that wouldn't allow the city to be able to do those types of things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm getting a little bit lost what page we're on now but I guess we'll deal with page 54.3. Mr. Chairman, the city doesn't have to go to the rate payers for ... can't hear?

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I'm sorry I couldn't hear the Minister. I was getting the Innuinaqtut translation coming through on the English channel.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel like we're all over the place at this point.

(interpretation end) Mr. Chairperson, on page 54.3 (F), I just wanted to say that the city doesn't have to go to the rate payers for the fees such as garbage pick-up or arena, you know for hockey and stuff like that. They don't have to go to the rate payers to pass those by-laws.

I don't know what else the Member has concerns of. We just seem to be all over the place now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll try and make it a little easier to understand. Under that subsection, in that section of the act, as I asked earlier, because I wasn't sure exactly where it was, if the city is to establish a by-law to allow them to collect development cost charges or off-site levies, is this the section that would allow them to do that? I never said anything about going to ratepayers for approval or anything like that. I hope that clarifies the question for the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask my Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. Maley to answer that one. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Maley

Mr. Maley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To answer your question, Mr. Tootoo, this section does allow for municipalities to charge levies in certain instances but it has to be done by way of a by-law.

So, for instance, as the Minister indicated, establishing and charging fees of a reasonable nature for municipally managed directive in controlled property, also, it would allow for instance, to establish and charge fees for a non-resident type activity.

Also, this section allows for the execution of licenses, permits and so forth that wouldn't be found in a normal revenue stream such as you described with the rate payers. So, your question, specifically though for land, you should wait until we get to the land area and I think we'll be able to address it more specifically. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? Okay, we'll go back to clause 18. Clause 18. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 19. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 20. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 21. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 22. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 23. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 24. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 25. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 26. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 27. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 28. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 29. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 30. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 31. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 32. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 33. Agreed? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Under Clause 33, it is just all section numbers. I am not exactly sure exactly what this section means, Clause 33. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Section or Clause 33, I will get Lucy McGee to explain Clause 33. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. McGee (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You probably won't understand me clearly because I have a very bad cold. These clauses are not all amended, but they are just all renumbered.

Perhaps Peter can explain it better than myself, but these Sections, these numbers in these sections have been changed.

They have been amended, but they are not deleted, but they have just been amended and replaced, but some of the numbers, their numbers were just changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All these Section Numbers, where do they fit in the Bill? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All these numbers in Clause 33, the Sections starting with 130 were just put it in one section so to let the Members know that they have been amended.

So, instead of just having one in various places in the Bill, they just put them in one if they have been amended. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sections 130-1. 130.2 and 131 and 132, 133, have been deleted but then they're still in this legislation so that's why I didn't understand them. I just wondered which section these numbers are at in this bill?

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, in the Inuktitut translation it doesn't say that those numbers have been deleted. They've just been amended.

It shouldn't say that they're deleted, they've just been amended. The Inuktitut translation is wrong. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Thompson. Clause 33, it says it's been deleted in Inuktitut. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're going to have to redo the translations to say that it's been amended. Thank you.

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

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As to the Member's question, as to what happened to those sections, 130, we already agreed to them on Clause 10. We just wanted to put them in one section or one clause. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu. Is that it? Clause 33. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 34. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 35. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 36. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 37. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 38. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 39. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 40. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 41. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 42. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 43. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 44. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 45. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 46. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 47. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 48. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 49. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Clause 50. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed. Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 51. Agreed? Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 52. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 23, as a whole. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 23. Does the committee agree that this Bill is ready for third reading? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 24. An Act to Amend the Hamlets Act. Do you want to go clause by clause? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to ask the Minister about Bill 23, and the specific questions that I had, I didn't seem to get them here, we just went through it. But I'd like from her or her staff if they could point out in correspondence to me where in the act that says that cities, a city will have the same power as other cities to be able to raise money beyond ratepayers. That one I think I got, but I just want it for clarification.

Also, where specifically in the act it will allow the city to collect development costs, charges or off-site levy fees in order to ensure that growth pays for growth. If the Minister could commit to providing that information to me because we didn't seem to be able to find it in here.

I think before I rubber stamp legislation, I want to be comfortable that that ability is in there for the city. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Thompson. And there's another person that's sitting at the witness table. If you don't mind introducing him, Ms. Thompson?

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Peter Alison. He's from Justice and has been helping with this legislation for quite a while. He may be able to answer some of Mr. Tootoo's questions.

Or I can offer a private briefing for Mr. Tootoo tomorrow with my staff if he would like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. But I think I'll allow Mr. Alison to answer some of the questions he may have prepared already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, if you'll allow him to answer some of the questions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Thompson. Welcome, Mr. Alison.

Mr. Alison: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the very able answer provided by your counsel, Mr. Chandler, earlier regarding the ability of municipalities to borrow, in order to raise funds, we should probably in addition point out, under clause 54.3 on page 15 of the English version, the power of a municipality by by-law to establish fees or other charges for services activities, or things provided or done by the community or for the use of the property under the ownership, direction, management or control of a municipal corporation.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the present time, it's almost six o'clock and I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): There's a motion to report progress and it's not debatable. All in favour to report progress. Opposed. The motion is carried.

I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses for coming here to report to the committee. Since we had a Motion to report progress and it is not debatable, the Speaker can return now.

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

Item 21: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And you could have us make an ulu in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the Committee has considered Bill 23 and deem it ready for Third Reading and Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a Motion in the Floor, is there a seconder? Mr. Irqittuq. Motion is in Order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Mr. Quirke. Orders of the Day.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, March 13th:

- 1. Prayer
- 2. Ministers' Statements
- 3. Members' Statements
- 4. Returns to Oral Questions

- 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
- 6. Oral Questions
- 7. Written Questions
- 8. Returns to Written Questions
- 9. Replies to Opening Address
- 10. Replies to Budget Address
- 11. Petitions
- 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
- 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
- 14. Tabling of Documents
- 15. Notices of Motions
- 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
- 17. Motions
- 18. First Reading of Bills
- 19. Second Reading of Bills
- 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 22
 - Bill 24
 - Bill 30
- 21. Report of Committee of the Whole
- 22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 23
- 23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. The House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 13th, 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 18:00 p.m.