



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

6th Session

1st Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 46

Thursday March 20, 2003

Pages 2964 - 3034

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)

Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

Enoki Irgittuq
(Amittuq)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)
*Minister of Health and Social
Services; Minister Responsible for
the Nunavut Power Corporation;
Minister of Energy, Minister of
Homelessness and Immigration*

Hon. Manitok Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)
*Minister of Community
Government & Transportation*

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Sustainable
Development, Minister of Culture
Language, Elders and Youth*

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

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

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunig)

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Finance and Administration;
Minister Responsible for the
Nunavut Housing Corporation;
Government House Leader*

Donald Haviyok
(Kugluktuk)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)
*Deputy Chair, Committee of the
Whole*

James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)

Hon. Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)
*Minister of Public Works and
Services*

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
*Minister of Education; Minister
of Human Resources*

Rebekah Williams
(Quttiktuq)

Officers

Clerk
John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-At-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer	2964
Ministers' Statements.....	2964
Members' Statements.....	2966
Returns to Oral Questions.....	2974
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	2975
Oral Questions	2977
Written Questions	2996
Reports of Standing and Special Committees.....	2996
Tabling of Documents.....	3004
First Reading of Bills	3006
Second Reading of Bills.....	3006
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	3008
Report of Committee of the Whole.....	3033
Orders of the Day	3033

A.

Daily References

Thursday March 20, 2003 2964

B.

Ministers' Statements

137 – 1(6): Minister Akesuk Absent from House (Picco) 2964

138 – 1(6): Community Justice Activities in Nunavut (Okalik)..... 2964

139 – 1(6): Iraqi Conflict (Thompson) 2965

C.

Members' Statements

456 – 1(6): Decentralized and Non Decentralized Communities (Puqiqnak) 2966

457 – 1(6): Polar Bear Quotas in the High Arctic (Williams) 2967

458 – 1(6): Departments Recognizing Inuinnaqtun Language (Havioyak)..... 2968

459 – 1(6): 1960s Activities in Sanikiluaq (Kattuk)..... 2969

460 – 1(6): Helicopter Pilots' Exercise Near Pangnirtung (Kilabuk)..... 2969

461 – 1(6): Post Secondary Students – High Cost of Transportation (Alakannuark)... 2970

462 – 1(6): Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate – Leonard Sweetland Commendation
(McLean)..... 2970

463 – 1(6): Rankin Inlet Comments and Concerns (Thompson)..... 2971

464 – 1(6): Medical Patients Travelling South for Treatment (Arvaluk)..... 2972

465 – 1(6): Power Corporation Payment Centres (Iqittuq) 2972

466 – 1(6): Standardized Testing (Picco) 2973

467 – 1(6): Pond Inlet Athletes (Nutarak) 2974

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 365 – 1(6): Small Business Grants for Construction (Kattuk) 2974

E.

Oral Questions

454– 1(6): Plans for Equal Opportunity in Non-decentralized Communities (Puqiqnak). 2977

455 – 1(6): Telephone Communication to IDEA (Tootoo) 2979

456 – 1(6): Transportation Assistance for Post Secondary Students (Alakannuark).... 2981

457 – 1 (6): Number of Outpost Camps in Nunavut (McLean)..... 2982

458 – 1(6): A Need to Increase Inuinnaqtun Teachers (Havioyak) 2984

459 – 1(6): Update on Tammaatikvik Boarding Home and Patients' Concerns (Irqittuq) 2986

460 – 1(6): Tabling of Recommended Rent Scale (Irqaqrialu) 2988

461 – 1(6): Medical Travel Routes – Skyward and Scheduled Flights (Arvaluk)..... 2990

462 – 1(6): Rent Scale – Consider Family Size for Homeowners (Tootoo)..... 2993

463 – 1(6): Homeowner Applications This Year (McLean)..... 2994

F.

Written Questions

009 – 1(6): Dental Services (McLean)..... 2996

G.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

003 - 1(6): Bill 1 – Education Act (Nutarak)..... 2996

H.

Tabling of Documents

088 – 1(6): Written Submissions on Bill 1 Received by Standing Committee (Nutarak)..... 3004

089 – 1(6): January 28 Letter to Hon. Ed. Picco – Martha Taliruaq Centre (McLean) .. 3004

090 – 1(6): Inter-Branch Transfer (Ng) 3004

091 – 1(6): January 29 Letter Regarding Eye Glass Repair (McLean) 3005

092 – 1(6): Job Ad – Child and Outreach Youth Worker (McLean)..... 3005

093 – 1(6): January 8 Letter to Hon. Manito Thompson – New Docking Facility (McLean) 3005

094 – 1(6): Health and Social Services Medivac Contract – Jonah Amitnaaq Building
(McLean)..... 3005

095 – 1(6): January 28 Letter from Hamlet of Baker Lake (McLean) 3005

096 – 1(6): PPD Positions to Baker Lake (McLean) 3006

I.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3 – 2002/2003 – First Reading 3006

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2 – 2002/2003 – First Reading 3006

J.

Second Reading of Bills

Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3 – 2002/2003 – Second Reading.... 3006

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2 – 2002/2003 – Second Reading.... 3007

**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday March 20, 2003**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good Afternoon. Mr. Premier, Members. Welcome to the first day of spring. Welcome to the people in the gallery. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 137 – 1(6): Minister Akasuk Absent from House

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, First of I would like to thank you for the gift of the flowers. I know you have noticed that I have been a little bit depressed over the last few days so I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Olayuk Akasuk will be absent from the House from March 20th to the 21st, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco, and we're pleased that you like your flowers. Item 2. Minister's Statements. Premier Okalik.

Minister's Statement 138 – 1(6): Community Justice Activities in Nunavut

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you look quite feminine today with all the floral arrangements.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with Members of the Assembly the activities of our Community Justice Committee and the work that the Department of Justice has done in assisting them.

Our Corrections Committee, Justice Division provides funding to our Community Justice Committees to support and assist in the development of community based justice projects.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, 12 Community Justice Coordinators based throughout Nunavut and five Community Justice Specialists will attend a 4 day course to practise and develop community development facilitation skills. This course will be held in Cape Dorset starting this week, from March 20-24. Additional funding has been provided by Justice Canada.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, our Corrections and Community Justice Division, in conjunction with the RCMP, have undertaken a role to ensure that Community Justice Committees are trained in Family Group Conferencing.

(interpretation ends) The values of Family Group Conferencing methods are consistent with and reflective of traditional Inuit values. I am please to report that training in Family Group Conferencing has taken place in 15 Nunavut communities to date. In April of this year, training will be given in the communities of Kugaaruk and Taloyoak. Training for Baker Lake and Chesterfield Inlet has been postponed to a later date due to bad weather. Our goal is to get all the communities trained. It's a matter of scheduling with the ones we haven't gone to yet.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am please to report on these very important initiatives regarding Community Justice activities and ask that Members acknowledge the very important work that our Community Justice Committees are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 139 – 1(6): Iraqi Conflict

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Minister responsible for Nunavut Emergency Services to comment on the situation in Iraq.

I want to reassure Nunavummiut that the events we see on our televisions from Iraq will not affect Nunavummiut directly. It is understandable that when most channels are broadcasting the events in English, our elders and unilingual Inuktitut speakers might be troubled.

Mr. Speaker, I want to advise this House and all Nunavummiut that GN Departments have been briefed and are receiving information from the Federal Counterparts regarding impacts on Canada of the Iraqi conflict.

Awareness and response arrangements are in place throughout Canada. Action Plans can be implemented if the need should ever arise.

Although we are quite distant from this conflict, I hope for the sake of our world and the people directly involved that it is over quickly.

Mr. Speaker, although these events may not affect us personally, we should pray for all the parents and the children that may be involved in the conflict on all sides.

(interpretation ends) As Minister responsible for Emergency Preparedness, I recognize the need to ensure all safety measures are in place.

I would like to inform residents of Nunavut that though our Emergency Measures Office we have taken steps to ensure Nunavut is included in all discussion regarding the security of Canadians as well as to ensure resources are available if required.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the elders because they have been asking a lot of questions on the Iraq conflict. We do not want them to worry about it because it is quite far away from Nunavut because they might be misled while watching television, looking at the conflict in Iraq. We don't want the unilingual elders to worry about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. If not, we'll move onto Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 456 – 1(6): Decentralized and Non Decentralized Communities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Please let me know when my time is almost over.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about decentralization. Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows, there are a number decentralized communities in Nunavut: Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Igloolik, Baker Lake, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk and Arviat. Mr. Speaker, I know that the people in those decentralized communities are happy to have those jobs in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I also know that Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay have their share of jobs because they are the three big Regional Centres. Mr. Speaker, what I am concerned about is the non-decentralized communities in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Bathurst Mandate says that by the year 2020, Nunavut is a place where equal opportunities exists across Nunavut in areas of jobs, education, health, justice, and all other services.

Mr. Speaker, jobs are very important to the people of those non-decentralized communities. I would like to stress that these communities should be given the same opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues share this concern, as they have expressed various issues of decentralization, or non-decentralization in this House. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 457 – 1(6): Polar Bear Quotas in the High Arctic

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the issues of polar bear quotas in the High Arctic. This not the first time that I have risen in this House on this topic.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, I addressed this issue in November of last year, and my questions have not been answered yet. Mr. Speaker, at the time I voiced my concerns regarding quotas in Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and Arctic Bay.

As Members are aware those three communities currently host close to twenty polar bear sports hunts every year.

(Interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I have heard that discussions and consultations are being undertaken regarding the polar bear quotas and a new memorandum of understanding across Nunavut.

My colleagues and I have risen in this House to advocate for the use of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in the management process. However, Mr. Speaker, the procedure used to determined quotas for sports hunts in our community, remains unclear.

Mr. Speaker, Article 5 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement indicates that the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board shall have full authority to establish, modify, or remove some of the total allowable harvest. At the same time the Government retains the ultimate responsibility for wildlife management.

Mr. Speaker, it is now clear to me how these organizations work together to determine quotas for sport hunting and community hunts.

(Interpretation) Mr. Speaker, polar bear quotas impact greatly on the economy of each community in my constituency.

Sport hunting accounts for a significant amount of money flowing into those communities each year. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is important for the quota allocation process to be completely transparent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statements. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and honourable colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is important for the quota allocations to be completely transparent. The process should be clear to me, my colleagues and my constituents as it is to the Department of Sustainable Development itself. Currently that is not the case.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister of Sustainable Development questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 458 – 1(6): Departments Recognizing Inuinnaqtun Language

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a short comment. This is an old item that I've been bringing up for some time. I've been talking about this issue for quite some time now, the Inuinnaqtun language and our writing system that.

I am happy that some of the departments are now starting to work with Inuinnaqtun language and also working in our language. I appreciate all the hard work for the department for recognizing the Inuinnaqtun language.

I would like to see the Inuinnaqtun language be used a lot more in the House and in our communities. Today, the Federal Government only have materials that are presented in English and I would like to see a lot of Inuinnaqtun translated from English to Inuinnaqtun from the Federal Government documents.

I would like to urge the House to inform the Federal Government to have their documents written in the Inuinnaqtun language as well as all the organizations and other agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 459 – 1(6): 1960s Activities in Sanikiluaq

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to inform my fellow colleagues regarding activities in Sanikiluaq.

In Sanikiluaq in the 1960s, the Belcher Islands and the surrounding area, the water levels have fluctuated and the ownership of those islands has been an issue with Quebec and other territories.

So I'd like to raise this concern, when in the 1960s, there were two residents from Sanikiluaq who went to a meeting in Iqaluit regarding the islands in the Hudson Bay area and the jurisdiction issue of those islands.

I'd like to recognise the two delegates that attended the meeting. One has since passed away, Lucassi Inuktaluk, is still alive and has really fought on the jurisdiction issue for the islands to belong to the Northwest Territories.

The other person, Joe Imiqqutailak, who has since passed away. I'd like to recognise them in the house. Mr. Speaker, what I'm trying to say here is that the residents of Sanikiluaq are now a part of Nunavut and we're very proud of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 460 – 1(6): Helicopter Pilots' Exercise Near Pangnirtung

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm kind of impatient for the evening because we're going to go get our hair cut this evening with the Nunavut Arctic College students.

Mr. Speaker, you've probably heard on the radio that close to Pangnirtung, there are four helicopters, and they will also be going to Qikiqtarjuaq. They'll be in Qikiqtarjuaq today and tomorrow before they return to Quebec City.

The helicopter pilots are training in Arctic conditions with the help of local Canadian Rangers. Captain Brian Martin was leading this exercise from the Armed Forces. As well, it was an exercise for the army to be tested in Arctic conditions and if they were needed for future search and rescue purposes, they wanted to be comfortable in Arctic conditions.

I'd also like to state that this training exercise has nothing to do with the Iraqi conflict, just in case people were worried about that. But I'd like to recognise the Canadian Forces and the participation of the local Canadian Rangers in these training exercises. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 461 – 1(6): Post Secondary Students – High Cost of Transportation

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the issue of post secondary education and having to move to elsewhere to gain this education. A few complete their courses, while others fail.

Many of the parents of these successful students desire to attend their graduation, but are unable, due to the prohibitive cost of transportation. Mr. Speaker, education, as we said, is very important. Parents want to see our young people complete this education, and many of these students work hard to do so.

I will raise further questions at the appropriate time regarding education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 462 – 1(6): Heavy Equipment Operator Certificate – Leonard Sweetland Commendation

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're on the lazy days of the Assembly I'd call it. We're half way through. It's been getting into what I call the drag part of the Assembly where some of us have been away from our families for over two weeks and we don't have the luxury of having our families here in the capital with us all the time.

I speak for the ones of us that are away from our families. And when we get quiet moments among ourselves, we discuss how much we miss them. Sometimes we don't appreciate them. But when you're away from somebody, you really start to appreciate them.

My colleagues around here, that are away from your families, for up to two to three to four weeks at a time, cheer up. We may get out of here one of these days. But what brings me to my Member's Statement today is that I had a young gentleman in my community by the name of Leonard Sweetland. And here is the letter.

Dear Leonard,

Congratulations on your success in your Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians Level 4 and Inter-Provincial Examination on December 11 and 12, 2002 at Aurora College with a mark of 87% in your level 4 and 73 % in your Inter-Provincial examination.

Your certificate of qualification 00000-7-06 with red seal and -0600003 and completion of apprenticeship 000004-06 with your wallet card will be mailed to you in the near future.

And that speaks for itself. We're making a little headway on getting journeyman heavy equipment operators in Nunavut. That brings up to date three in my home community that are Inuit.

But on that part, I have to commend Leonard because he was a young man with a young family. He spent anywhere from between 3 to 4 months every year for the last 4 years away from his family. Like I said, he has small children and I used to pass his wife on the street and how much he really missed him and how much he really missed her.

I might complain about being in the capital, away from my family for 2 to 3 weeks at a time. But I have to seriously commend Leonard for being away for 3 for 4 months at a time away from his family in Fort Smith.

So today, I'd like everybody to join me in congratulating Leonard Sweetland for being one of the first Inuit Journeyman Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Ms Thompson.

Member's Statement 463 – 1(6): Rankin Inlet Comments and Concerns

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My riding of Rankin Inlet had a misunderstanding regarding the statements of Ministers and the restrictions put on Ministers regarding voicing the concerns of our constituents.

But I'd like to say it is not so, they're concerns in Rankin Inlet that I am dealing with as their member, on the radio this morning in Rankin Inlet there were concerns regarding the transportation of medical patients.

I am aware of the concerns and brought them to my colleague, Minister Picco and made him aware of the situation.

As well, Mr. Speaker, there were also comments made in Rankin Inlet about arts and crafts. We're all having problems marketing Ivalu. Emma Tatti made comments regarding those wall hangings that I had also brought them up with Olayuk Akasuk and met with him regarding the concerns of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, there were also comments regarding the Canadian Rangers and the Kivalliq region had some problems during a blizzard and as a Minister Nunavut Emergency I have looked into the matter.

In Whale Cove, Sam Agualaak became lay readers in the community and I'd like to congratulate him.

Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to bring these up, that we as Ministers are still able to deal with constituency concerns even though we are within Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 464 – 1(6): Medical Patients Travelling South for Treatment

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just coming back from the Kivalliq region, and I would like to make a statement regarding especially medical patients who have to travel to Churchill and Winnipeg. I will just make a statement from what I have seen with my own eyes.

There are definitely problems. What I have seen in Naujaat, a patient going to Winnipeg for an examination, an older lady who was over eighty. When she left from Naujaat to go to Coral Harbour, from Coral Harbour to Rankin Inlet, Rankin Inlet to Arviat, Arviat to Churchill, and from Churchill to Winnipeg, in a small airplane, with no washroom in this aircraft.

I received a letter from her regarding this issue to ensure that this problem is dealt with, and whether they will be using Skyward for medivacs, or use a scheduled route for these patients. This is quite a long trip and every time they would go into a community, she had to step out if she needs to go to the washroom. This lady was over eighty years old.

These are very real situations. We have to do something about it. They do not speak in English, and they will not voice their disappointments on the system. They are very patient people. I will ask questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 465 – 1(6): Power Corporation Payment Centres

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems today is Inuktitut day, everyone is speaking it. I would encourage my riding from Igloodik and Hall Beach to call me, and I say hello. I had a concern that I raised and I had some questions on this, concerning the Nunavut Power Corporation.

The payment centres are not run properly, we talk about Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit being implemented in the workforce, and how it is going to be easier for unilingual Inuit.

Although that is the case, some people do not know the 1-800 numbers to get information about their accounts. All the receptionists who answer the phone at the 1-800 numbers are English speaking people. They are the ones who are dealing with the consumers who have to pay for their electricity bills.

I believe the electricity bill payment centres should have people answering the phone in Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Member's Statement 466 – 1(6): Standardized Testing

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there has been considerable debate in this Assembly, around the issue of standardized testing. First of all, Mr. Speaker, the issue around standardized testing is not new. The first question that I asked in the Assembly in Yellowknife, almost eight years ago, was what was the GNWT's position on standardized testing.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, testing occurs in a regular basis in each class, at each grade, at any given time, in Nunavut Schools, each semester. Standardized tests that have been suggested would be used to compare grade equivalency in Nunavut with equivalent grades, whether they would be in Alberta, or another jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, this type of testing serves no purpose. It does not take into account, issues surrounding ESL instruction, social and economic factors or indeed, Mr. Speaker, median scores for our number of students being tested.

Mr. Speaker, a standardized test to see if a child is performing at or near the median given for a grade 7 student in math for example, based at the first, second or third quarter of the school year, occurs today Mr. Speaker, in individual classrooms across Nunavut.

This may consist of oral and written tests. Mr. Speaker, I agree with many parents, teachers, educators and the Department of Education when they maintain that any type of test given first has to reflect the cultural, language and the reality of Nunavut.

That's the test, it must be realistic, and it should not be, Mr. Speaker, an artificial yard stick of some predetermine outcome. Mr. Speaker, it is important to take into account, the curriculum currently being used here in Nunavut.

Parents want to know and be assured that their children are receiving the best possible education Mr. Speaker. An education that will give them the tools to be successful in life. One tool, instrument or an evaluation is a standardized test based on active curriculum, school and public home work, and most importantly, testing what has been taught, and Mr. Speaker, most importantly, what has been learned in unison with the social, cultural and language aspects of our children.

Mr. Speaker, without this, the test would be redundant. Mr. Speaker, I support the Department of Education's positions on testing and agree with many parents, teachers and education officials that say that arbitrary testing would serve little purpose for, most importantly, our children. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? I believe I heard a nay. No. Please proceed Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: I thought you said you heard a nay Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a parent with children in high school, in the middle school and in the elementary school level, I have had an opportunity to be involved with teachers, faculty and other parents and agree with them that the test arbitrarily would serve no purpose unless it tests what has been taught in conjunction with our schools and based on our curriculum in place.

Mr. Speaker, our teachers, counsellors and program support staff work hard every day for and on behalf of our students and, Mr. Speaker, on behalf and for our children. They should be commended for that and involved directly, Mr. Speaker, in any debate on standardized or other testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Are there any further member's statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 467 – 1(6): Pond Inlet Athletes

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't feeling well yesterday and in my dialect and Mr. Iqaqrialu's dialect, I was ill. I'm still not up to par but I have to be here so, my comment is there were some athletes from Pond Inlet who went to Cambridge Bay for some games.

I don't have their names at the present time and they won one of the competitions and I would like to say how proud I am of them and those were the younger children who went to the competitions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Are there any further Members' Statements. If not, we'll move onto item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 365 – 1(6): Small Business Grants for Construction

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to Mr. Arvaluk's question posed on , March 5, 2003, the Department of Public Works and Services does not provide finds to business that are not working on Public Works and Services contracts.

For large contracts with Public Works and Services, the contractor may receive staggered payments. For example, a contractor may invoice for materials when they are received in the community and then may invoice for work completed each month. However Public Works and Services does not pre-pay for materials before they are received or for work before it is completed. It is the responsibility of the general contractor to determine what materials are needed and providing them as part of the construction contract.

For some small projects, Public Works and Services purchases materials directly and contracts for labour only. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms Thompson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Manitok Thompson (Floor): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ajauna Mablik. Now that Ajauna is in the Kivalliq now she is now called Ajauni. Ajauni now resides in Rankin Inlet with her husband and Mr. Speaker, her husband is doing good work with that program that was mentioned regarding spousal abuse counselling. **(NO INTERPRETATION TO THIS POINT)**

I would like to recognize someone right behind me who is from Greenland and who has been living in Repulse Bay for quite some time now. Beverly Beverage and I taught her in grade one and kindergarten quite awhile ago. Neverana Beverage.

I would like to recognize her in the gallery and Ajauna Mablik.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am please to recognize some people from Kugluktuk, as I don't often get the opportunity.

First of all I want to recognize someone for Health and Social Services. Erni Berndheart, could you stand up please. As well as my EA from my constituency of Kugluktuk. Nancy Evaluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She was already recognized but I too would like to recognize her.

I would like to recognize Neverana Beverage who I worked with previous and she is a very competent employee and please feel welcome to work with her and I welcome you the Legislative Assembly.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From my riding of Toonoonik, I would like to recognise Charlie Inuaraq who is right behind me. He's on the Water Board so if you need a license, you'll have to go to him. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to take this opportunity to welcome some people to the gallery.

First of all, I would like to recognise the community liaison representative for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Ernie Bernhart, and the member for Kugluktuk just welcomed him. Ernie works out of our Kugluktuk office and is involved heavily with the committee to counsel for the Department of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery, a good friend of mine who's spent a lot of time at my house, and actually did some baby sitting for on several occasions, Mr. Israel Mablick. Isreal has moved around a little bit and I understand he's taking up a new residence and I would like to wish him the very best.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to welcome back to the booth behind me, Ms. Salome Awa, from CBC. Salome is joining us again and Mr. Speaker, some where in the bowels of the building I would like to welcome Ms. Blandina Tulugarjuk and Mary Nashook, two constituents of mine who mentioned that I did not recognise them, so I would like to take this opportunity to recognise them.

And Mr. Speaker, a well known individual in the assembly. I was in Montreal and then went to Quebec, and at the art gallery in Quebec City, there was a piece worth \$7 thousand 580 dollars. I said, this is a really nice carving and when I looked at it, the name was Uriash Puqiqnak.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to welcome this very well known carver in Nunavut, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak to this assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to recognise Charlie Inuaraq although, I know him, he's originally from Arctic Bay but he now belongs to Pond Inlet and he works on the water board and he's really involved in the church services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Members, there is always an opportunity to go back to an item. You don't hold up the House waiting for people to enter the building. Would you like to return to Item 5. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for your patience. As always, you're very patient with me and I really appreciate that.

I'd like to take this opportunity to take the time out that not very often, I get to recognize constituents from my community because Baker Lake is so far away. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take the time to introduce a close personal friend for the last 20 years, Mr. Frank Tootoo from Baker Lake. He's also the new director of Sports Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Mr. Tootoo. It's nice to see you again. Any further Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 454– 1(6): Plans for Equal Opportunity in Non-decentralized Communities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question I raised in my Members' Statements around decentralization. The decentralization issue will be questioned for the Minister of Decentralization, the Premier.

The communities that are non-decentralized, do you have any plans to develop jobs in those communities?

The Bathurst Mandate indicates that by 2020, Nunavut is a place where equal opportunities will exist. I am wondering when you are going to start working on the non-decentralized communities so that we can have equal opportunities in the year 2020. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the non-decentralized communities have started working on their own plans, and we have been helping them in looking at ways of developing the economy in their communities.

Maybe, perhaps in Taloyoak, they started doing their own development in their community. We do not have any actual plans to date on the issue of non-decentralized communities. We are prioritizing the decentralization first before we start working on the non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has said that this would be their final year, and I would also like to ask, Mr. Speaker, that the decentralized communities have over four hundred jobs, which is really good for them, and I support them.

Mr. Speaker, there is also those non-decentralized communities in Nunavut. For instance, the Department of Education Minister, during Committee of the Whole, said that they would have to have to go to a trade school in the Edmonton area for the students to take more education.

Does your department that deals with decentralization, are you planning on putting in training centres here in Nunavut, in one of the communities? Has there been any plans in place to have a training facility in one of the non-decentralized communities, rather than sending them to southern centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister for the Department of Education, I have spoken to him and he had assured me that he will be reviewing the question. I would also like to make the Member aware that perhaps he could ask that question to the Department of Education.

Under the Bathurst Mandate this has been one of the plans to do some decentralization to non-decentralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague from the Kitikmeot, I appreciate his concerns too, about decentralization, because we have to be supported in regards to the correctional facility. When you live in the Kitikmeot region and try to come to the east, for those inmates, it is too far away for them to travel, and to stay away from home for a long time.

It seems like the correctional facility is being planned by the Government and we would like to create some jobs for the non-decentralized communities. I would like them to be considered.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is how many communities did you receive requests from for a correctional facility building to be built? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just received a note from the Member. I have received two names of the communities that would like to have a correctional facility, one of which is from Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Bathurst Mandate it is are different. We are giving the decentralized communities more jobs and we have nothing for the non-decentralized communities and that is not equal.

For those communities that are not decentralized and the decentralized communities, you have to try to equal the requests from each one of the communities. Have you thought about building a facility in a non-decentralized community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can review that to try and find out. As we all know that building a correctional facility is not a very easy thing. We have to take a good look at each community that has asked to have a facility built in their community, or their region.

We have to look at all sides and make a careful decision before we can commit to putting it in any of the communities of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 455 – 1(6): Telephone Communication to IDEA

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions is for the Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Speaker, during our opening comments in the Committee of the Whole in the education budget, I mentioned my concern about the attitude that the department has about pointing out the negatives about other groups or organizations, with comments made in the Ministers' opening comments.

Mr. Speaker, to follow up on that. Yesterday the Minister had indicated in replying to a question of mine, again trying to find out why the department did not get a hold of the DEA to inform them that they had contacted Alberta. He went off onto a different topic altogether saying I do not know why the DEA never called me back, and he said that there was a call that has not been responded to them.

I would like to ask the Minister if he could indicate when that call was made and by whom? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I already told the Member yesterday, I already told Naullaq Arnaquq, who is my Assistant Deputy Minister. If I am not mistaken to date, I think that it was February the 12th that we made those calls. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I didn't want to read between the lines of the Minister's response so again I ask who made that call.

Can the Minister indicate what message was left, who his ADM talked to and what message was left with the DEA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Deputy Minister spoke with the DEA but I'm not exactly sure who that individual was that he spoke to at the DEA office here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, If the Minister is indicating that the DEA office is in Nakasuk school here, they don't have an answering machine. It was either the secretary at the school or the secretary working for the DEA that the ADM must have left a message with.

But if he could find out who that was and also Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister what message was left with that individual and who was the message for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can look into the events that happened and give the information to the member. I cannot exactly say who the person that answered the telephone was. I will look into the events that happened and let the member know. I'll take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Although Mr. Tootoo has one supplementary left the Minister is indicating that he will take the question as notice. There will be no further questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 456 – 1(6): Transportation Assistance for Post Secondary Students

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a member's statement earlier on and I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Education.

There have been a lot of times that students that have gone to school outside of their community. Some go to school in Ottawa, and some other southern centres. When their child is graduating the parents would like to go and see the graduation ceremonies where the individual is going to school.

Is there any way of helping them with travel money to attend their children's graduation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the question that the member is asking, we all know that the money that we use for travel for the communities for the students are limited. Because of that, we have to give priority to the students travel.

We don't have very much money, we haven't had any money for the parents to attend their children's graduation. There is no money in place at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that there is a limited amount of funding and I know that the students work very hard to complete their schooling and the parents also assist in the education of their children.

Is there any way of assisting them to go and attend their children's graduation ceremonies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can consider that, but, although we know there have been a lot of people requesting funding or assistance or support to go and attend their children's graduation, we can also consider that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I appreciate the Minister's response because we all have limited sources of funding.

I feel that the parents deserve to go to their children's graduation ceremonies. If there could be a surplus amount of money from the department's budget, I just wonder if you could consider that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all found out last year that we had to get supplementary funding for the Department of Education's funding shortfall.

I would just like to inform the member that there are different months of the year that those people that go to school graduation. If we have any surplus in our department at the end of the fiscal year, that's how we do our budgeting.

Sometimes the graduation dates differ but I could tell the member that if we were to give some funding for travel for the parents, we would consider that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 457 – 1 (6): Number of Outpost Camps in Nunavut

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of days, we have heard how much the Government of Nunavut is spending on sending inmates to the south and to other correctional institutes and the high cost of doing that.

Over the last four years, I've stood up in this house and asked the Minister of Justice about outpost camps and the establishing of new ones. Currently, how many outpost camps are in Nunavut today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there three or four outpost camps in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Premier Okalik. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary, Mr. McLean.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little slow today, but it must be because of Mary Brown's chicken.

>> *Laughter*

Anyhow, on that issue, if there are three or four outpost camps operating currently in Nunavut, how many inmates are currently in these outpost camps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I believe they have a capacity of up to twelve so far but I don't currently have the exact figures for those three camps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last four years, I don't think there has been too many new camps opened up and I think the reason not too many have been opened up is because of the cost.

It's very difficult for a lot of people to get the capital together, to get a plan together, build cabins, have snowmobiles, safety issues and things like that.

Is this department currently working with any organizations to try to open up more outpost camps, which we all know is much better for Nunavummiut because they can be out on the land where they belong rather than in southern institutions?

Does his department have any plans or is he working on any plans to work with organizations to provide this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past we have worked with the Hamlet council in Arviat. We'll partner with any group that wants to work with us. In April, next month, we'll be doing request for proposals, advertising and requesting submissions from anyone that may be interested in opening up an outpost camp.

Yes, the amount is a bit low, \$120 and I have asked my department to look at perhaps increasing that amount to reflect the true costs of operating a camp. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's good news that there is an RFP coming out in April regarding outpost camps. I hate to say that running an outpost camp is a business but in the actual reality of running an outpost camp it is sort of a micro business.

In order to get bank financing to purchase snow machines, lumber to build cabins, etc, you need capital. He just said to me its \$120 thousand for anybody that wants to start an outpost camp. It's not really a lot for starting an outpost camp.

What contractor's needs or what people need to set these outpost camps up is a letter from the government guaranteeing X number of dollars over a five year life span and then whatever organization whether it's the Hamlet or a development corporation or individuals could take that to the bank to leave leverage capital to start up these outpost camps.

In the RFP, could he consider having that in the terms of reference that individual or organizations will be giving that or consider it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. \$120 thousand is a little high. \$120 per day, per inmate, because it's the current per diem that we pay for outpost camps. We provide additional assistance for snowmobile purchases and outboard motors along with the program so we do that as well.

We're quite open to suggestions as to how much additional support we can provide. Perhaps yes, signing contracts is another route and increasing the amount is amount is another alternative that we're looking at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 458 – 1(6): A Need to Increase Inuinnaqtun Teachers

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this question to the Minister of Education.

Before I ask the question, I understand that in Pond Inlet, they are starting to ask for programs in Inuktitut. I envy those people very much.

In Kugluktuk, they don't have Inuinnaqtun teachers and programs; I would like to see more Inuinnaqtun teachers in my community because there are very few Inuinnaqtun speakers in the Kitikmeot region. I would like to see an increase of Inuinnaqtun teachers on Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with my colleague that the Innuinaqtut teachers need to be increased and the curriculum in Innuinaqtut definitely needs an increase.

So, in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay, there have been discussions about the rate of loss of their language being fastest and we'd like to increase the numbers of their teachers. It has to come from the regions for the commitment of residents there to become teachers, to increase the numbers.

In our business plan, we have an objective for Innuinaqtut and Inuktitut to increase the number of teachers. Thank you.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that response. I am glad like to see a recognition of the need for more Inuinaqtut school teachers. I think it is good you will inform the Kitikmeot Region to increase more Inuinaqtut school teachers in the region. I would like to ask how you will be informing people about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the Nunavut Arctic College, there is a teacher education program and I can urge the directors from the college to visit the Kitikmeot Region. My apologies, we will do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister to consider this as well. If there are further positions, for example in Kugluktuk, those who want to become Inuinaqtut teachers, I would like to see that if the Minister could consider increasing those Inuinaqtut teachers that want teach Inuinaqtut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his community, if the number of people that want to join the teacher education program, if it warrants it, it may be possible.

There have programs, community based in Pangnirtung and Pond Inlet. It follows the number of interested participants in the program. It is possible if the number warrants it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 459 – 1(6): Update on Tammaatikvik Boarding Home and Patients' Concerns

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we've been here, we've rose in the house to ask questions, and my good friend there responds about dealing with different problems about the Igloolik Health Centre, and the Igloolik medical patients' travel, there's been a commitment to look into the matter to improve the situation.

Now I'd like to ask him as to whether they have been dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has worked very hard on behalf and for the people in Igloolik and Hall Beach, so his good efforts, as you know, Mr. Speaker, we just put out a tender in the last two weeks for a new health centre in Igloolik because the member had raised that issue so I think he needs to be commended for that.

The member is correct Mr. Speaker, after question period yesterday I contacted the Tammaatikvik Boarding Home to make sure that there are new rules put in place. They faxed me a copy of them this morning and also to make sure Mr. Speaker, that there are vehicle available.

In the messaging that is provided, if the vehicle is out on another call, for example, it's not able to be at the airport on a late call, then there is actually a direct line at the airport that people could phone the Tammaatikvik for a ride.

And we also Mr. Speaker, in that case of there is an immediate rush, we provide also taxi vouchers so that if a person that went to Tammaatikvik with a cab they would be paid for.

So these are issues that we have put in place directly as a result of the questioning from the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, he mentions that they can provide taxi vouchers. How can they be provided taxi vouchers if there is no people at the airport to meet them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the person is at the airport and if we don't have the driver available, a taxi is called. When a taxi is dropping the person off at Tammaatikvik then the taxi is paid for by Tammaatikvik staff and or issued a taxi voucher. So there is no cost to the patient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm pleased that there has been progress. Because I bring up concerns regarding medical patients and the other issue, what is the situation when there is no room for patients at the boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, we are working on that. I have had the departmental officials contact the college. As most Members here know, we do have the Ukiivik Residence in town, it also has available cafeteria, TV room and beds and so on. Instead of having to board people out, we are trying to see if that is a suitable place to have patients.

At that same time Mr. Speaker, we are reviewing and evaluating the private homes that are available so those are issues that are ongoing and I would hope to be able to report back to the member and to the House in the coming days that we have rectified the situation in regards to the patients, not just from Igloolik but other communities who arrive late and there is no room on the inn.

I should also add Mr. Speaker, we have over 40 rooms at Tammaatikvik, just an indication of how many people are travelling, some of the cost drivers that are there in the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank him for the response and he is actually keeping up with me. The Ukiivik Residence is being considered as an alternative, what problems do you foresee or are those just initial discussions to make an alternate boarding home.

Is he trying to agree with the Ukiivik Residence and the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those are just the initial discussions that are underway. I'm trying to find out and ascertain what we have available on the ground, belonging to the Government of Nunavut that we can provide the very best of accommodations to our hospital patients if and when Tammaatikvik is full.

One of the opportunities that is present right now is the Ukiivik Residence, and if there is an opportunity then that is what we are trying to ascertain.

Again we have the work set out with the College. The residence is under the auspices of the College. And we want to make sure that our good friends and partners at the College are able to help us. If that is not the case then we have to look at other avenues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 460 – 1(6): Tabling of Recommended Rent Scale

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am losing my voice because I have not spoken up for a while. My question is for the Minister of Housing. I am hoping she will respond to my question regarding the Task Force's recommendations, if she can Table them.

The recommendations for January 1, 2003, to recommend changes to the rental scales, I am requesting whether or not she can table them in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will table, maybe if he can clarify exactly which document he is referring to. If it is the actual Task Force recommendations and responses, or is it in respect to the Public Housing rent scale, The new rent scale that is currently being implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recommendations by the Task Force, I would like to see them tabled as well. The recommendations that were to be implemented January 1, 2003, for the rental scale. I would also like to see that tabled in the House. Those are the two that I am asking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Task Force recommendations have been tabled previously, but if he wants me to, we can certainly re-table that. In respect to the new rent scale, yes I would be willing to table that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not remember when they were tabled, but I am just finally taking notice, because I have some concerns.

I would also like to ask the Minister, have you reviewed the rental scale for staff housing, that they do not match the earnings of these people. What are the new changes to this rental scale regarding the income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that I said at least a half a dozen times, if not more, that we are looking at revamping the staff housing scale to bring it more consistent with the public housing rental scale. In particular looking at gearing the rent more towards a percentage of income versus a flat rate.

We are trying to bring our policies more closely together, recognizing that it will have to be done over a course of a certain time period. Obviously, you have a transition period to minimize impact on those that may be impacted as a result of policy changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the implementation, I don't think they're being phased in. They're being implemented right at date, with the implementation of the new rental scale and most of the changes were an increase in rent.

That's the information that I've gotten so far and I'd like to get more information on that. When is the implementation going to be finished? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member probably should clarify which policy he refers to. Sometimes he refers staff housing rental policy and then he refers to the public rent scale policy.

I believe that the Members bringing up issues about the new public rent scales that are coming into effect January 1 where all the decrease is where individuals may have had their rents lowered; came into effect on January 1st.

April 1st is the target dates for those that may be impacted by increases. Having said that Mr. Speaker, the majority of individuals, over 80 percent, I believe it's 80 or 85 percent and I can get the exact numbers of tenants will have their rents lowered as a result of the new rent scale.

There have been issues factored in as a result of recommendations made from his task force that I believe he was a member of the task force on housing in respect of dealing with issues about overcrowding, dealing with issues in respect of housing conditions, issues in respect of family size, issues in respect of income, using net income instead of

gross income, issues in respect of treating elders fairly, students fairly, not trying to disadvantage those trying to gain employment.

All those factors that the task force, and valid issues that the task force brought forward, and as well that was brought up during consultations with all the local housing authorities on three different occasions Mr. Speaker that I recall.

All the local housing authorities across Nunavut were involved, directly in the establishment and the formulation of this new rent scale that's being put into effect. Now, I recognise, there are individuals out there that are going to be impacted adversely and they're going to pay more. There's no doubt about it.

Those higher income families or individuals, as they should Mr. Speaker. Public housing, social housing is geared towards assisting those with lower incomes and treating them fairly.

And that's what we're trying to do by and large for the bulk of our tenants. For those that can afford to enter into their own housing, to pay for their own housing, they should be paying more.

Those individuals or those families that earn more should pay more proportionately to those that can't afford it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 461 – 1(6): Medical Travel Routes – Skyward and Scheduled Flights

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke earlier regarding medical travel for patients especially. I'm not speaking on behalf on non-medical patients but the medical patients have no choice but to travel and they're given the route of where to go to their destination.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, about the contract with Skyward for medical travel. Do they also need to fly through Skyward on scheduled flights? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past few days, we've had some discussions and questions on medical travel. In particular, I've noticed that some of the airlines are again represented here today awaiting indication on the RFP that we put.

Mr. Speaker, we put out an RFP Nunavut-wide to look at the best opportunity for our patients with scheduled travel, as well as medivac travel. Scheduled travel being when patients have to travel on a scheduled flight. Medivac, when we have a medivac of patients.

Mr. Speaker, I would hope to be in the position over the coming couple of days to be able to make an announcement on the scheduled award to different Airlines. I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, at that time, the people of Nunavut will be well served, not only by the logistics, the administrative, and the financial savings, but also by the best possible care given to the patients as asked for by the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that. I also understand that the Minister has awarded a contract for medivacs for Skyward. I am not disputing that. What I was asking was right now today, or yesterday, that do you have a Policy to send patients who are going to medical check up in Winnipeg or Churchill, on the scheduled flight, do they have to fly Skyward, which has no washroom, all the way from Repulse Bay, for example, or Coral Harbour, all the way down to Winnipeg. There are three or four stops.

Where does the patient have the freedom to choose what kind of aircraft they would like to fly on? They do not really care what Airline. What kind of plane? Is there a washroom? As long as they have the washroom and anything else that the Pilots do not have? Do they have that choice today, when they are going on a medical check up? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify, no contract has been awarded as a result of the RFP for scheduled travel in the Kivalliq region. The Member is correct, Mr. Speaker, in the RFP that was put out, that has been evaluated, and that has been reviewed.

One of the major concerns that have been raised by the Members, not only ordinary Members, Mr. Speaker, but by the Ministers representing the Cabinet, has been concerned with patient comfort, and so on. The Member is correct.

We will, Mr. Speaker, in the contract that is coming forward, that will be announced very soon, ascertain, and ensure that washrooms on flights, for example, that may be over one hour, will be available to patients, that a patient would be able to stand up on the plane, where at all feasible.

Some cases we cannot do that. For example, Mr. Speaker, right now the only service to Kimmirut is a Twin Otter. I cannot just suddenly say you can land there. So in certain cases I may not be able to do that, but in ninety-nine percent of the cases we can. And I want the Member to rest assured that the concerns that he is raising will be addressed in the award to be made in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate that very much. I hear that the Minister is saying that the patient will have to be able to stand up in anything that flies over one hour. Is the same true for those flights that are over one hour, are supposed to also supply washrooms? Is the RFP will be reviewed on that basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were two major aspects of the RFP that we had put out; I believe that it was last August on the scheduled medical travel, and medivac travel. On the scheduled travel, in particular, two major issues that we wanted to deal with.

One, Mr. Speaker, was on costs, and second, and more important, Mr. Speaker, was on patient comfort. We have heard the complaints from the Member, and other Members, and from the Members of Cabinet, where patients that were on long flights, that were in duration of over an hour, there were no washroom facilities, there may have been cramped quarters, and so on.

So we move Mr. Speaker, to put an RFP in place, which would guarantee us the best logistic and administrative and financial things the government could in place and; Mr. Special in contracts and in conjunction with that, making sure that patient comfort was number one on that same list – parallel to that.

So Mr. Speaker, yes what I'm saying is on the contracts the wards will be in place over the coming days. What you will see Mr. Speaker is that there will be bathroom facilities on any airline that will be taking our patients to another community or outside of the territory.

So for example Mr. Speaker, from Repulse to Churchill or Winnipeg in a case like that Mr. Speaker, there has to be a facility, a bathroom facility on the airplane. It only makes sense Mr. Speaker, when our patients are travelling, they are ill, they are sick, and they need extra help and Mr. Speaker that's what were trying to do in the RFP and I must say Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, that the airlines have been very conducive to the RFP and indeed to helping us making sure that those issues are put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suppose that after the RFP is being reviewed and selected what ever the airline is selected the public notice will be made.

With that public notice, will you also be notifying the health centres to ensure that RFP, the proposal is filled, the consideration for proposal for example, the height, being able to stand up, having a washroom in a plane etc. will be, the notice will be given to the health

centres to ensure that that consideration is given to the patients on the health centres. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is spending over \$30 million dollars a year right now and increasing on medical travel costs.

And I would suggest to you Mr. Speaker, that the airlines are realize that it's a major portion of some of the airline traffic between communities as well as to southern jurisdictions and destinations and because of those, Mr. Speaker, the airlines have been conducive in working with us.

Mr. Speaker, the member is correct, the health centres and other associated staff will be made aware of the flights or of the schedules and of the airlines that will be commuting and will be offering service to our patients based on the criteria that we've put in place including the costs as well as and more importantly having these facilities on board the plane, a plane that is conducive to our travelling patient clientele. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 462 – 1(6): Rent Scale – Consider Family Size for Homeowners

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation and I tell you its nice to see him speak with such authority and passion and hopefully that carries through with the work being through the Department of Housing as an issue that all Members of this house have been passionate about for the last four years.

Mr. Speaker, in his earlier response he'd indicated that in the revisions to the rent scale, one of the things they took into account was family size and I'd like to ask the Minister if this is something that they're also going to take into account and looking at some of the home ownership programs offered by the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes we are actually reviewing that right now, the criteria, the income levels for assistance because there have been issues brought to my attention in respect to not taking family size into consideration for some corporation programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister indicate when we can expect to see something come forward on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would think in the next couple of months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister commit that those new criteria be in place for the new funding for the next fiscal year so that applications that go through for the whole year go through on the same basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could commit to try to put them into place as quickly as possible if in fact we do put them in place. Obviously I would give the appropriate standing committee the opportunity to review and comment on any proposed changes that we might have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 463 – 1(6): Homeowner Applications This Year

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Housing.

Maybe I should have asked this question earlier on, but in regards to the \$25 thousand down payment that new home owners receive and I think it's \$15 thousand for home owners to purchase existing houses. How many people took advantage of this program this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A considerable amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that because the more people that apply for it the more people get into houses and hopefully those people that are in public housing move into private housing.

Could the Minister let me know exactly how many people purchased new houses with the \$25 thousand and how many people purchased houses with the \$15 thousand down payment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was 25 individuals approved for purchase of existing homes and 9 for new construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My math says 34 housing units. Does he know the numbers outside of Iqaluit, how many people took advantage of it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing Corporation. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information right before me but I can certainly provide it for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When he's compiling that information for me to let me know, could he also let me know or if he could answer me today how much slippage or how much funds haven't been used in the last fiscal year on these programs and where it went? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I'll certainly advise the member but I can tell the member that it would not necessarily have gone anywhere else in that Housing Corporation and the way that it is structured where we have the ability to carry forward unused funding for future years and of course utilize those funds for priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members will note that question period is now over and before we proceed, we will take a 20 minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>House recessed at 15:20 p.m. and resumed at 15:46 p.m.

Speaker: Mr. McLean.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 009 – 1(6): Dental Services

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Ed. Picco.

My first part of the question is:

1. Who is contracted to provide dental services for the Kivalliq region, and, specifically for the community of Baker Lake?
2. What are the Terms of Reference for the contractor providing dental services to the Kivalliq region and specifically to the community of Baker Lake?
3. Do the service provided under this contractor include denturist services?
 - a. If not, how are denturist services provided?
 - b. How many denturist service days are contracted to be provided to the Kivalliq region and specifically to the community of Baker Lake?
4. When contractors are providing dental services in the communities, and, specifically, in Baker Lake, what are the working hours?
5. What is the exact number of dental service days contracted to be provided to each year to each community as specified in the dental services contract for the Kivalliq for the region for the calendar years 2001, 2002 and 2003?
6. On which specific days of the year 2001 were dental services provided in the community of Baker Lake?
7. On which specific days of the year 2002 were dental services provided in the community of Baker Lake?
8. On which specific days of the year 2003 are dental services are scheduled to be provided in the community of Baker Lake?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item. 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 003 - 1(6): Bill 1 – Education Act

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to provide the House with our Committee's Report on the Review of Bill 1 – *Education Act*.

Bill 1 was introduced in the House in March 2002, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Health and Education for review on April 24, 2002. Members of the

Standing Committee were pleased to see Bill 1 brought forward as a first step towards a made-in-Nunavut *Education Act*.

Mr. Speaker, as you will recall, during the November sitting I tabled a Progress Report on the Committee's Review of Bill 1, which summarized the development of education legislation in Nunavut, and described the Committee's consultation process.

Members were pleased that the Committee's interim recommendation for the Government to provide an Inuinnaqtun version of Bill 1 was acted on by the Department of Education where Members were pleased to finally see an Innuinaqtut copy of the Bill this January.

It was noted that this arrived over a year after the Bill was first drafted. The committee wishes to emphasise that in order for Members and the public to be able to give adequate consideration to proposed legislation, it should be provided in the appropriate languages.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Health Education has made every effort to conduct a comprehensive review of Bill 1. By way of motion 3-1 (6) which was carried without opposition in the house, alternate Members of the committee participated as fully voting members in the review process and other Members were able to also take part as non-voting Members from time to time.

Mr. Speaker, recognising the important role that a made in Nunavut Education Act will play in the future of the territory, the standing committee undertook an extensive consultation process in order to solicit the most comprehensive feedback possible.

Given Nunavut's vast size, the standing committee dividing into two teams in order to enable Members to meet with as many Nunavut residents as possible within the allotted time frame for consultation.

In the fall of 2002, committee Members travelled across Nunavut to hold a series of public meetings on Bill 1. Members heard from Nunavut residents from a total of 18 Nunavut communities at public meetings which were attended by over 650 Nunavummiut.

Groups such as Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Association du Francophone de Nunavut, the Federation of Nunavut Teachers' and the Languages Commission of Nunavut appeared as witnesses before the committee and made formal submissions.

The committee reviewed a number of written submissions including submissions from the Federal Commissioner of Official Language, Nunavut's Information and Privacy Commissioner and a number of DEAs.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill has generated a tremendous amount of discussion. The committee continued to receive submissions up to the very last minute including correspondence from the Department of Education itself.

Members were extremely pleased with the level of thought and consideration given to the issues and have carefully deliberated on the input they received. Mr. Speaker, Members of the standing committee are of the view that Bill 1, is an ambitious first attempt of creating a man-made Nunavut Education Act, however, during the review process, a great many concerns were raised.

Committee Members grappled with a number of difficult issues. These included concerns with the process followed to develop Bill 1. Members of many District Education Authority's felt inadequately supported in reviewing drafts of the legislation and those few raised that they did not submit comments and only drafts of the legislation expressed frustration at the lack of follow-up from the Department of Education.

Some Members of the education act working group formed by the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to develop the proposed legislation expressed disappointment that nearly half of the recommendations were changes to the draft, were rejected or greatly weakened.

The standing committee itself were disappointed not to receive copies of submissions and materials used to develop Bill 1 despite repeated requests to the Department of Education.

Concerns that the principals of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit are not adequately incorporated in the Bill. A number of individuals expressed the view that the concept of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not incorporated strongly in enough in the Bill.

Many speakers indicated that the references to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit appear in different sections of the Bill as if it the intention is to squeeze Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into an education system that is based on Qallunaaq culture principals.

Many other felt that the government should have taken the opportunity to draft a new education act founded on a principals of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Some people discussed how expressions of Inuit culture often differ from community to community and from region to region.

In their view, protecting, promoting and supporting Inuit culture and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the education system should reside with the community based bodies such as DEAs.

If the District Education Authority's do not have the decision making powers at the community level then they will be powerless to support and promote Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit where it is most important.

On the other hand, there is recognition that a great deal of work remains to be done to record and document aspects of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit that could be specifically applied to the formal education system.

Some individuals further suggested that definitions of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within education legislation should be specific to education and not referred to broader role views.

Concerns Relating to the Constitutionality of the Bill.

A number of submissions including legal submissions expressed the view that Bill 1, as currently written is unconstitutional in nature. The arguments are based on the rights of French language minority populations as guaranteed under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Some arguments have also brought forward with suspected English language minority rights. The committee understands that a number of amendments have been suggested to address a number of concerns related to the Bill's constitutionality.

However, it is not clear if the Bill is still vulnerable to a court challenge. Concerns that Inuit languages and culture are not sufficiently promoted and supported within the Bill. Many representatives of communities and organizations expressed frustration that Inuit languages are not given equal status to English and French.

Some felt that the Bill treated English as the majority language of Nunavut. They expressed desire to have the education legislation not only commit to recognising Inuit languages as having equal standing as English and French but that Inuit languages be established as the primary language of instruction.

A number of different opinions were expressed with respect to the issue of language instruction which was one of the major themes of discussion during the consultation process.

Some individuals and organizations expressed the opinion that the legislation should establish Inuktitut as the primary language of instruction and should be required from kindergarten expressed the opinion that the legislation should establish Inuktitut as the primary language of instruction and should be required from Kindergarten through Grade 12. In their view, legislating this would ensure that the government would make every effort to meet its goals and objectives with respect to the future working language of Nunavut.

Other individuals voiced caution with respect to legislating full Inuit-language schooling when adequate resources such as Inuit teachers, curriculum and materials are not yet available to meet the demand. Estimates of when sufficient numbers of Inuit teachers, curriculum and materials would be ready to support full Inuit language schooling varied from 5 years to more than 20 years.

Others raised doubts about whether Inuktitut terminology is currently available to allow for the development of Inuktitut language materials for academic courses such as senior high schools civics or chemistry.

Speakers also expressed concerns that important aspects of cultural diversity, such as different dialects, could be lost if the curriculum and materials are developed too hastily and standardized across Nunavut. Views such as this led to suggestions that revised legislation not be brought forward until resources were better developed instead of imposing a radical change in the education system that would be unenforceable for some time.

A number of suggestions offered a compromise approach with bilingual or transitional schooling supported in the legislation. Other suggestions included requiring all Nunavut students to attend Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun language of instruction schools unless they could demonstrate a specified level of competence in Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun, and ensuring that Grade 12 certification would not be issued unless the student could demonstrate a specified level of competence in Inuktitut or Inuinnaqtun.

Concerns that the roles and responsibilities of students, parents, teachers, principals, executive directors, District Education Authorities and the Minister as laid out in the Bill are not reflective of the manner in which people wish their education system to operate.

The proposed means to enforce registration and attendance through fines and prosecution were objected to at almost every consultation opportunity. Many felt that fining parents and taking them to court were approaches foreign to Inuit culture and likely to be unproductive. Many felt that counselling with the assistance of Elders and other community representatives would be a more effective means of achieving the desired results. Issues of discipline in general were felt to be treated in a non-traditional way in the legislation. However, others felt that sections pertaining to fines and prosecutions should remain in the legislation as a “last resort.”

In keeping with the demand for stronger support for Inuit language and culture within the education system, a number of community representatives felt that all teaching staff should be required to attend orientation courses on Inuit culture, language and social issues in Nunavut.

A few suggested that a level of certification or fluency in Inuktitut should be required of all teachers. Others expressed the view that it is a parental responsibility to teach children their language and culture.

Most DEA representatives expressed the concern that Bill 1 severely reduces and restricts their decision-making power. Many representatives indicated that they had originally understood that Bill 1 would result in empowerment at the community level.

They anticipated that there would be more direct contact with the Minister and that there would be a certain amount of flexibility in the manner in which DEAs influenced school programming.

Many stated that they felt that Bill 1 instead goes in the opposite direction by reducing the decision-making power of DEAs, by allowing less flexibility and less involvement in day-to-day activities and more control from regional departmental officials.

Representatives from several District Education Authorities indicated that their involvement in education within their communities would be greatly reduced by the Bill. Many DEA representatives indicated that they were already being left out of decisions which, under the current legislation and regulations, they are entitled to be involved in.

As a result, most DEA representatives indicated that if the Bill should become law, they would not wish to sit on such a powerless entity. The significant amount of power given to the position of Executive Director was a specific concern, especially in circumstances where the Executive Director would have the power to make arbitrary and final decisions.

Concerns that the legislation does not account for the types of programs that Nunavummiut may wish for their children.

A number of suggestions came forward recommending that culture-based school programs should be provided for within the Act. Parents and students alike expressed the need to learn cultural skills within the educational environment, including hunting skills, sewing skills, survival skills, navigational skills, Inuit history and traditional knowledge, Inuit social studies, language and terminology, and traditional medicine. This would further require specific positions for cultural teachers or Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit specialists.

Recognizing that such programs may not always fit in with academic programs, some suggestions included establishing summer culture camps for students.

Many community residents recalled that religious instruction in schools greatly supported their learning of Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun as well as instilling certain values. They felt strongly that this religious teaching should be resumed.

A number of individuals indicated that the education system should not focus on academic subjects alone. Keeping students interested and stimulated was seen as one of the keys to keeping them in school and on the path to further learning.

Shop programs, trades preparation programs and practical skills programs such as small engine repair or driving classes were all brought forward as subjects that should be better supported through the education system.

However, some concerns were raised that if certain groups of students were assigned to non-academic classes then this would not give them access to higher academic opportunities, thereby restricting their opportunities later in life.

Concerns that the proposed legislation does not address the quality of education in Nunavut's schools, a number of speakers expressed the concern that maintaining classes of children based on their age, referred to as inclusive schooling and advancing children through the grades when they may not have attained a certain academic level.

So call social promotion sets children up for failure at a later date. Many preferred the wording in a current act, which refers to peer groups instead of age group. The issue of standards and comparative levels of education were discussed at many of the consultation meetings.

May felt that the level of education attained by students in Nunavut did not equal that of students in other parts of the country. The idea of conducting standardized assessment on students across Nunavut has met with both vocal support and opposition.

Some individuals indicated that they would support such testing if benchmarks are set within the system so that the assessment measured the system itself and did not result in unreasonable judgments on teachers or students for successes or failures.

Many individuals felt that the large class sizes across Nunavut contribute to the difficulties teachers face in not being able to deliver quality programming and for students to access it. For example, the NWT has set a precedent by legislating Pupil-Teacher Ratios within their *Education Act*. Another suggestion was to include setting maximum class sizes.

Currently, it appears that the main criterion for class size is one of physical safety rather than an optimum learning standard.

Conflicting views were heard regarding the number of hours or days of instruction set by legislation. Some felt that DEAs should be allowed more flexibility to accommodate community activities or hunting seasons. Others felt that the same standard should be set across all Nunavut schools.

Many community residents expressed the concern that the Bill provides little commitment or support for social issues that have a great impact on the success or failure of students. Under Bill 1, Individual Education Plans will be required only for those students who find the program too challenging and no longer for those who do not find it challenging enough.

Only one section of the Bill refers to school counsellors. It requires that the Minister make "a reasonable effort" to ensure the position is filled. Many individuals spoke passionately regarding the importance of including stronger commitments to establishing

and filling such positions, and initiating policies and procedures that address some of the more critical social issues faced by youth, such as suicide.

A number of parents noted that the Bill makes little reference to support for children with disabilities. The area of special needs receives little or vague attention within Bill 1 and the legislation allows for education assistants to be hired with no requirements for training. Individuals expressed a strong desire for a greater use of Braille and sign language for those who need it and programs specifically designed for students suffering from Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Effect.

Mr. Speaker, Committee Members would like to acknowledge the considerable thought and contributions that were made by individuals, Members of District Education Authorities, stakeholders and other groups that participated in the review of this Bill. It is very clear that the issue of education is considered one of profound importance for the future of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of its review and in recognition of the many concerns and issues raised during the review process, the Standing Committee on Health and Education does not support the adoption of Bill 1 at this time.

Given the critical role that education plays in the future of Nunavut, Members feel certain that Nunavummiut will understand the need for the Government to take more time to ensure that our education system reflects our culture, priorities and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, the Committee cautions the Government not to try to merely imitate entire education models from other jurisdictions, but to work towards identifying best practices that could be followed within our own made-in-Nunavut education system.

The Committee heard the suggestion a number of times that the Nunavut education system be modelled on the system in Greenland, where an emphasis on Inuit language and culture, for example, has had much support in recent years. While the Committee was very impressed with many aspects of the Greenlandic educational model, it should be noted that Greenland itself is currently in the midst of a major educational reform.

In closing, the Standing Committee on Health and Education is of the view that Bill 1 should be permitted to fall off the order paper. Members acknowledge the efforts made by the Department of Education in tackling this momentous task and suggest that the Department carefully consider the issues raised by the Committee's review, and work to introduce a new statute.

Committee Members are aware that the Department of Education has extensive and ongoing work in the areas of Curriculum Development, Language of Instruction and the Inuit Teacher Employment Strategy. Members are of the view that the results of these initiatives should be taken into account in the development of the new education legislation.

Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be tabling a package of materials that the Committee considered during its review of specific and problematic sections of Bill 1. Members sincerely hope that the Department will find these materials useful and informative as it goes back to the drafting table.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to move that the report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do Members agree the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the house pursuant to rule 91(3)a. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: The report is adopted as read. Item 12. Report of committees on the review of bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 088 – 1(6): Written Submissions on Bill 1 Received by Standing Committee

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to table today written submissions received by the standing committee during its review of Bill 1.

In addition to submissions from organizations and stakeholders, I am pleased to let Members know that a number of students took the time to put their views on paper and these are included in the submissions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 089 – 1(6): January 28 Letter to Hon. Ed. Picco – Martha Talirug Centre

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document on a letter that was sent to Honourable Ed Picco, January 28, regarding minor renovations to the Martha Taleruk Centre in Baker Lake. It's over crowded now and it needs minor renovations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

Tabled Document 090 – 1(6): Inter-Branch Transfer

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the follow documents. Schedule of Inter-Branch Transfers over \$250 thousand dollars for the year ending March 31, 2002. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 091 – 1(6): January 29 Letter Regarding Eye Glass Repair

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document a letter dated January 9, 2003, regarding eye glass repair. People in the community of Baker Lake have to wait up to six months to get their eye glasses repaired or replaced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 092 – 1(6): Job Ad – Child and Outreach Youth Worker

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a job act, a Government of Nunavut employment opportunity for Child and Outreach Youth Outreach worker that closed November 8, 2002. The community of Baker Lake is still wondering when this position is going to be filled because it's one of these positions that's very badly needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 093 – 1(6): January 8 Letter to Hon. Manitok Thompson – New Docking Facility

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a letter January 8, 2003 to the Honourable Manitok Thompson regarding the Baker Lake, numerous requests over the last four years for a new docking facility in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 094 – 1(6): Health and Social Services Medivac Contract

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document from Jim Young, Jim the mayor of Coral Harbour regarding Health and Social Services medivac contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

**Tabled Document 095 – 1(6): January 28 Letter from Hamlet of Baker Lake –
Jonah Amitnaaq Building**

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a letter from the hamlet of Baker Lake dated January 8, 2003, to Mr. Premier Okalik regarding the old Jonah Amitnaaq School and the letter regarding not tearing it down and using it as another training centre in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 096 – 1(6): PPD Positions to Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is my final document to be tabled to the Honourable Paul Okalik regarding the move of the Petroleum Products Division to Baker Lake and how the hamlet applauds the premier's efforts in creating job opportunities in a have not community.

Also, in the document, it says that there's 20 empty staff housing units there and a surplus of office space that's been empty for the last four years and currently we have a surplus of people in Baker Lake looking employment opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills**Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3 – 2002/2003 – First Reading****Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2 – 2002/2003 – First Reading**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 31, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2002/2003 and Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002/2003, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried, and Bill 31 and 32 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3 – 2002/2003 – Second Reading**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 31, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 2002/2003, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this Bill is to seek legislative approval for an additional amount of \$7 million 842 thousand dollars for capital requirements of Government of Nunavut departments for fiscal year 2002/2003. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. The motion is in order to the principal of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 31 has had second reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Bill 32 – Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2 – 2002/2003 – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 2, 2002/2003 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to seek legislative approval for an additional amount of \$15 million 565 thousand dollars for the Operations and Maintenance requirements of Government of Nunavut departments for fiscal year 2002/2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. The motion is in order to the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 32 has had second reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 30, Bill 31, Bill 32, Minister's Statement 126-1 (6) with Mr. Puqignak in the chair. In accordance to the authority provided to me by motion 2-1 (6), Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (Translation): We can begin with Committee of the Whole. We started with the opening remarks yesterday. Bill 30, Ministers' Statement 126-1(6), Bill 31, and Bill 32. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (Translation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee would like to start with Bill 30, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and if we have time, we want to continue with the review of the Department of Health Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation) Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Okalik, would you like to bring your Officials to the Witness Table?

Do Members agree that the officials join the Minister? Sergeant-at-Arms.

Yesterday I know that I asked the Minister for his names of his officials but can you please introduce them to us again.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I have my Deputy Minister Ann Crawford and I have Mr. David Immaroitok. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Before we proceed, I would like to remind the Members of the following.

The Minister already did his opening remarks yesterday and just to continue on with where we left off yesterday.

We'll be in general comments for the Members and we have 10 minutes to speak. On general comments, in regards to the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, the Members have 10 minutes to speak and it is in the discretion of the Chairperson, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. I will allow the other Members that have spoken already to speak. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to get right into one issue that's been on my agenda from April 1 till now and that's the subject of decentralization.

Four years ago, I know I had an opinion of decentralization and my opinion hasn't changed. The only part of my opinion that has changed is I have to commend the department and the Minister responsible for decentralization for probably pulling off one of the largest movement of people into have not communities in the history of this territory or the old territory.

I want to commend the Minister and his staff, all of them, from his deputy down, from the start. I know there are a lot of misgivings about decentralization and the misgivings were probably more among the buracreecy then they were in the people of Nunavut and your department. I'm glad that your department showed strong, strong, leadership in decentralization and today I'll be the first one to admit that he's done a great job and that's hard for me to say because you know my feelings sometimes.

But you've done a great job and I commend you again on it. I know for one, that I didn't think it could ever happen but when I walk through the Government office in Baker Lake today, I see all the Inuit people that are working there and the face and commitment that the government has given them and training to actually realize their dreams of working in their home community and not having to leave to gain suitable employment.

There is still a lot of people in my community that move to Rankin Inlet to Iqaluit to Ottawa, to Winnipeg to gain employment because that's a fact of life. It's almost like the rest of Canada now when it comes to looking for a job in Nunavut.

You go to where the jobs are and that's happened but on the other hand there is 40 or 50 people there that's been able to acquire employment in their own community and it makes them happier.

We all know the results of people leaving their community and going some place else, it puts a lot of stress on their parents and grand parents and things like that.

So, that's what I have to say about decentralization and I want to applaud it a bit more is that somebody said to me in April of 1999, you know the question was, the cost of decentralization. What about the cost of decentralization.

I think it was Whit Fraser, when he was up here covering the Nunavut inaugural meeting. He said to me, you Glenn, the question that people are not asking is what's not the cost of decentralization.

If we hadn't of moved jobs in the communities like Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, Igloolik, Baker Lake, Arviat, we talk about the statistics and what's happening in our communities with suicides and drug abuse and alcohol abuse, and every other kind of abuse. If we hadn't of moved those jobs in, would they have been higher and worse.

If you look at a statistic today, by your own department, and it really jumped out on me the last time I had your statistics people in a standing committee for a briefing, we still have in the ten decentralized communities, we still have, and I'm talking about the ten of them, the highest unemployment rates.

I have 600 kids going to school in Baker Lake. Decentralization is 80 percent done and I've been saying this for four years, it's done. Decentralization is done. Where are we going to find jobs for 600 people in my community over the next ten years, 700 jobs in Arviat. 800 jobs in Rankin Inlet.

The fact of the matter is decentralization is done. Now we have to get on with the real serious issue of finding employment in not only the decentralized communities but the non-decentralized communities, like Hall Beach, Clyde River, Chesterfield Inlet, Whale Cove, Arctic Bay, and Resolute Bay. I can go on here and get them all, but I'm sorry, I don't know them all.

But I'm just saying great, it's done, it's over and I don't want to second guess anything but now that I look back at it, I'm thinking I'm actually amazed at how much has happened in the last four years, with regards to decentralization and the amount of training that's happened with it.

We can do better but I think at this point, in anybody's political career, and I'm talking about my community, I think the government has done a good job in trying to put resources into the community.

I urge you in the future to not be selfish when it comes to looking at opportunities in every community in Nunavut and trying to create a future for our children that we always say our children are our future.

That's my opening comments and I'd like to thank the Minister again for his decentralization plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. I have Ms. Williams next.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to also make a brief comment in regards to the Minister's opening remarks yesterday. The one that he mentioned about the economic strategy conference in Rankin Inlet.

I forgot some of the comments that he made yesterday during his opening remarks Mr. Chairman, but one of the things that stand out that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs have decreased in their funding in the amount of about \$595 thousand.

Even though that is that way, it's a lot bigger; their operating money is a lot bigger than some departments such as the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I feel that the amount of money that they will be using as compared to the Department of EIA is a lot bigger than the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's budget.

The premier stated to us that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth budget would be increasing in the near future. So during question period, I will be asking the premier as to what the government has done in increasing the budget for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, even though Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. It seems that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, it seems like they have a bigger budget than the Culture,

Language, Elders and Youth Department. During Question Period, I will be asking the Minister on those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to see the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Witness Table today.

Like my fellow Member from Baker Lake, I really do not have anything to be thankful for. Towards the end of the decentralization process, and in regards to the planning of the decentralization by the department, they have stated that they are in the final stages of decentralization, and the question that I have always asked is about the communities that are non-decentralized and the kinds of jobs that they are going to receiving from the Government of Nunavut.

For example, in Hall Beach, we have to try to find something or some economy for those non-decentralized communities, not just for Hall Beach, but for other communities, as well, in Nunavut.

Whenever someone talks about the non-decentralized communities, I think about the things that the Government could do to provide jobs for those communities that are not decentralized.

Whenever there is going to be doing an election some people seem to be campaigning to say that they will be making changes to the Government's priorities and programs, but once they get elected, then it does not go through.

We have to be able to tell our constituents that this is what our priorities are and follow through with it once we get elected. In regards to a particular community of Igloolik, if decentralization is going to continue, then it would be good for that community.

Most of the communities, or all of the communities should be benefiting from the communities such as Mining, and other economic development initiatives. In my communities of Hall Beach and Igloolik, I think that the Government already know that there has been a diamond find near my community, and they have to continue to do some strategic planning to make sure that those communities have adequate runways so that the Mining Companies can have an easier way of going in and out of those communities.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for allowing me to make my comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different ways of saying thank you such as when you receive food or when you are appreciative so I would like to say thank you to you Mr. Chairman.

Just a short comment Mr. Chairman in regards to decentralization and I feel that it has to continue but for some communities that are smaller in Nunavut, they are not getting enough employment support by the departments such as Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay.

Repulse Bay is in the Kivalliq Region and it seems like the government is not concentrating on those smaller communities.

I try very hard to try to get economic development for that community and my community of Kugaaruk but it seems like the government has just left them to have nothing. I know that the government is doing something about it but it's been very slow and it seems as though one community has more than the other.

To me, it's very hard to represent those communities that do not have many employment opportunities and also in regards to Wager Bay, there is going to be an agreement in place for the park in Wager Bay and that would probably bring up the economy a little bit for the community of Repulse Bay.

Those are the types of things that we would like for the communities to take advantage of and for the communities that are not non-decentralized to get employment from those things that I talked about because a lot of people do now have much of a future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Next on my list is Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short comment. I'm glad there is decentralization that the department is doing because a lot of these communities have decentralized positions and I'm glad to see that. There should be a lot of Inuit getting jobs from decentralization. I'm glad that the department is doing it for us, although it's a slow process but some of these communities require decentralization.

(interpretation ends) I have one issue in decentralization that you have been doing for the last several years is to coordinate with the Department of Human Resources to provide training to the decentralized community employees, I just want to say that, you know, to make sure this still happens so we have more beneficiaries or the constituents in that community, resident of that community are having in the first hand opportunity to work for the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation) A lot of young people in the communities I think that the Department of Health was decentralized to Kugluktuk. Some of these people should work in that department that was decentralized. A lot of these positions are taken over from somewhere else, rather than the communities. Why is that?

Some of these people from outside of the community get these jobs rather than the people that live in that community. I think that if we had some training programs for these

people that the department has decentralized, I think that it could create jobs for that community.

I know that the Department of Health was decentralized to my community and a lot of the people from Kugluktuk do not get the benefit, but other people from outside of the community receive jobs. A lot of these people with University degrees get those positions rather than the people from that community.

Once you have trained these people, they should be able to get into those positions in that Government Departments. A lot of people ask questions like that person's job; I could do that job just as well as that person that got it that came from outside of the community.

I would like to see the department to try and look into that because a lot of these young people need jobs in those decentralized communities. And if they can be given training opportunities to get those jobs, or even over to Senior Management, or higher positions. I think that if they had those training on the job for these people, I think that a lot of these young people can get these opportunities just as much as the other person that was brought over from outside of the community.

I think because I would like to see some of those people be given opportunities to be trained and get into those positions rather than getting people from elsewhere other than that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyok. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is the Department that we are dealing with at this point. Try to keep your comments within ten minutes. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. And we are here to work together. I also had needs and if there are no funds for it, I still have needs. I would like to comment that the decentralized communities have adequate resources now, but the non-decentralized communities have fallen way behind now that the decentralized communities have benefited from the program.

During the decentralization process there was some hurdles in the process and although with decentralization some of those positions were lost from the communities that they were moved from. There were some tough decisions to make for sure in the process.

The decentralization has made a lot of people happy, and have also hurt a lot of people along the way. It creates a lot of uneasy feelings amongst the communities because we're all trying to fight for adequate resources and we don't realize sometimes we hurt feelings during the process but it's very apparent.

While representing all of Nunavut, we're working towards the betterment of all of Nunavut. With that said, the non-decentralized communities, I have some requests for my community of Clyde River, I would like a university set up in my community, a carpentry trades shop in Qikiqtarjuaq and a university set up in one of our other communities. I

would like a heavy equipment operator course offered in Clyde River where there's always an abundance of snow to train with.

I have a lot of requests for my community with the future in mind although the decentralization process is almost finished and within five years, it will be done. We need to give more consideration to the non-decentralized communities as to what opportunities we can set up for Nunavummiut.

We need more economic opportunities in the smaller communities. Some of the economic opportunities in Nunavut that we can set up will allow us to be more self-reliant by working on these economic opportunities.

These are my goals in the future for my community and I will work hard according to the wishes of my constituents. I'm sure it will be possible by working together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This department is set up like Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and it can have a lot of authority over other departments. It's not like a department like education or health because there are always going to be sick people and we're always going to need education.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, if they don't work hard, they won't achieve their goals. That's the similarities with those two departments.

As a new government, I welcome the idea of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to be the department to push those communities for instance, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth or Sustainable Development, or Nunavut to work together and have open dialogue to work for the wishes of Nunavummiut. We haven't seen Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs as a department that would restrict other departments in their goals. We see it as a department that would encourage to work hard for the betterment of all Nunavummiut.

For instance, yes we're grateful for the department. They have contacts with Ottawa, the Federal Government, but I think they have more room for improvement in terms of getting more funding but I commend the premier for acquiring more funding for health in the amount of \$60 million dollars.

That's where the progress is. In the trades area, whether they go down south for caribou or polar bear trades, there are a lot of economic opportunities in our natural resources and there haven't been any improvements to date.

The Government of the Northwest Territories programs are still continuing for your caribou commercial harvesting, polar bear sport hunting and those are still the same

programs that the Government of the Northwest Territories set up and there hasn't yet been some new programs set up within Nunavut, but we've heard that there is a 5 to 6 thousand quota for caribou that can be used for commercial type, but we haven't seen any new initiatives for economic development.

I expected the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs would be the head lobbyist for the government and strategise, say with the Federal Government or the Yukon Government as to where we can have discussions regarding tourism or other things.

But it was apparent that his department was restricting that opportunity. It became very apparent because we are very sparsely populated in Nunavut and we read and hear different things in Nunavut about what is going on.

And I always thought, looking at this business plan, we've seen one for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Yes they're saying that they're committed to moving forward not after three years but immediately.

It's expensive and we don't have the adequate funds. We know \$10 million 495 for this year's budget is for this year. Is that adequate. If we want to spend this money properly, this \$10 million dollars can be used, although it's not for education or health and social services or the Department of Sustainable Development, we do know that many of these things are beyond our control.

For instance, the commissioner, yes we need those types of things. There are other things in there such as the responsibilities for communication, policy development, there's a lot of room in there for improvement. I wanted to see it more effective in 2003/2004.

I'd like to see a better vision for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. For instance, ensuring that the departments are meeting their mandates and I'd like to see how Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has the authority to ensure the mandates are being met and ensuring the relationship between the Federal Government and provinces or Greenland, are being looked into properly as to how the communities can benefit from the programs from government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): At this point I have no one else on my list. Would you like to go line by line now for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs? Page 2-5. Is that the wish of the committee?

Page 2-5 in Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Agreed? Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1 million, 536 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. 2-6. Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Communications Policy and Planning.

Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1 million, 681 thousand dollars. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's part of my general comments regarding the Communications Division and Policy and Planning.

There is \$1.6 million dollars in the budget. Can I get clarification as to what it is? Is it for communications, or is this for the cabinet? There are two things in there.

There is cabinet for executive and intergovernmental affairs. Which one is it pointed more towards? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are two, one for policy and planning and the other one, is the communication. There are two categories in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that for both executive and intergovernmental affairs? For both two divisions?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else? Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Communications, Policy and Planning. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1 million, 681 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. 2-7. Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Evaluation and Statistical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$885 thousand dollars. Agreed? Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, from what I know, I may be wrong, but the Evaluation and Statistical Services, is that according to legal responsibilities or is it because they are needed by the Federal Government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the evaluation statistical services are responsible for the development and provision of accurate and independent data. As you may remember this past week, they compiled information from

Greenland and Alaska, they had a meeting as to how they can try and prevent suicide. They also looked different ways on how to deal with different situations.

We found this to be a very important branch. We looked at different ways of doing things in different ways and these will always be beneficial for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Government employees we want to do things right so we look at different avenues, for instance revenue reports. We as a Committee, we travel to different places to find out other situations in other regions of Canada.

There are a lot of different things that we still need to find out. There is almost close to \$1 million dollars in there. I do not want them to undermine studies to programs, because education or research, I do not think that we should take money away from the most important programs in Nunavut.

A lot of people already know that data, but as the Government we want to do study upon study, and \$885 thousand dollars is a lot of money. Other departments also have evaluation services, for instance, analysts in different departments.

What I am trying to say here is that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is the lead department. I want them to be aware that not only to use up their budgets on studies, for instance, on Program Review trying to find out ways to cost save within Government.

I think that it is more important that these studies which are undertaken not to undermine the importance of resolving the problem. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we are always looking at our operations and this Division of Evaluation and Statistics includes all communities. They do population counts, household surveys, but whether they have adequate housing, this information is what we use to determine what we need and what financial needs there are.

There information we use in our planning and there has been a Program Review in our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Thank you. 2-7. Branch Summary for the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Evaluation and Statistical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$885 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. 2-8. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$1million, 186 thousand. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Intergovernmental Affairs has quite a responsibility in looking at the Summary. This travel and transportation is quite a lot. Is it just for travelling to the communities?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the largest amount, my Deputy Minister to my left has staff who are responsible for travel and transportation.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, I was very proud of the premier in Clyde River. There was a Clyde River challenge that has to do with NNI and sometimes various organizations that are unhappy with health services and I think that the Department of Sustainable Development can probably deal with this.

But, on the issue of economic development for non-decentralized communities, we have noticed that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, we don't know how fast Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is getting with their mandate but the protocol that was set for the government for these three organizations on the agreement, so how can we find out to make sure that we are spending the services that we set out at the Bathurst Mandate whether they're being used for the programs set out before. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Clyde River Protocol that was signed at the time is going to be finished within four years. We do look at that protocol to see where we stand and we make recommendations to see where improvements need to be made in the protocol set out in Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Would you consider expanding your possibility of reviewing the protocol, not necessarily on the NNI policy only, but on economic development, health issues that are a concern to all Nunavummiut, including organizations like Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and other parties that have an interest in the well being of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The protocol is a document for both parties and I'll take that as advice and present it to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to see if they are willing and we could put it on.

We have reviewed other things other than NNI. We have placed Federal Government programs on that as well. That list changes each time, depending on the circumstances on a given period.

Sometimes, we complete a project and we want to move onto other subjects. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else. 2-8, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Branch Summary, total Operations and Maintenance, 1 million 186 thousand dollars. Agreed. Any nays.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Carried. Page 2-9, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Branch Summary, Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$762 thousand dollars. Agreed. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is on the summary. It talks about circumpolar region governments with government policies and positions towards aboriginal peoples.

I apologize that I haven't talked to the premier about this but I had talked to someone who had worked for him in the past and there was a group that came from our community going on to Cape Dorset, in the 1940s, there was people who had been abducted and taken to Russia during the World War. They were suspected they had been abducted by Russians.

I'm wondering if this department can do something about these Arctic Council related issues. Is there any funding relating to issues such as this. I know I can probably ask the appropriate department but my question is, does your department deal with these issues?

In our community there are families of those people who had been abducted and who should not have been taken to Russia. They're really eager to see where they are and they want to go see them and find out where they are.

So, I'm wondering if your department can be responsible for getting funding for that.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqittuq. 2-9 and 2-10 are the same department so you're question is right there on the Inuit Circumpolar Conferencing. Premier Okalik, if you want to respond.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can get our staff to look into this. We have staff who work with the Arctic Council and different governments in other circumpolar countries and regions and we have been working with circumpolar indigenous groups, so I can direct our staff work with them.

But I can't say for sure, we can locate those people that you're talking about, but we can get our staff to do something about it.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering if that could be covered in this department or division. About the compensation and benefits. \$543 thousand dollars had a decrease by about over \$3 thousand so, these compensation and benefits are for aboriginal and circumpolar affairs. So, on these divisions, are they separate and do they have aboriginal employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have five employees and they are here.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are in your department, so they work for the aboriginal and circumpolar affairs division?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Their job descriptions vary. Some deal with Arctic Council related issues and circumpolar governmental issues. They also relate to the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right, because you stated that the left and right were in the same division, I'd like clarification on the wording of this Inuit Circumpolar Conference. What is this Inuit Circumpolar Conference? He's reading out the Inuktitut terminology.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an organization that has a meeting every five years and there are Inuit from the circumpolar region and they have offices, with a secretary here in Iqaluit. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, is the president of Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

Last year they had a conference in Kuujjuaq. They are an organization that represent Inuit from the circumpolar regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like clarification on another question.

These are actual Inuit who sit on this Inuit Circumpolar Conference or do they have Qallunaat on this Inuit Circumpolar Conference as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if you're going to be a member of this Inuit Circumpolar Conference, you have to be a member of Inuit organizations.

Although these organizations have different staff of Qallunaat and others, they are Inuit representatives from Alaska, Greenland, Russia and Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm on the same page. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. I asked earlier in this session, during question period, if the premier could create an independent commission to investigate the extent of damage caused by the Federal Government through the RCMP in eradicating Canadian Inuit dogs. These were hunting dogs in the past. And he was going to find out as to where the Qikiqtani Inuit Association is on this.

Can he give me an update as to the status of the Qikiqtani Inuit Association work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that, Mr. Chairman. What we're doing is we're looking into this and what we are doing too is we are talking with the Department of Justice to see how we can support their wishes.

We will be writing a letter to Qikiqtani Inuit Association to see how we can work together on this but we have not done anything thus far. We are, however, doing some planning on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This effect is also in Kivalliq, Coral Harbour, Igloolik, and other places, Chesterfield Inlet. Would he consider contacting other organizations like KIA also to see if there was also similar eradication of dogs there during that same period.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can make that commitment and contact them and see what they are doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Is that it? Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. I have no more names on my list. Total Operations and Maintenance, under 2-9. \$761 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. Decentralization Secretariat Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$567 thousand. Agreed? Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Decentralization Secretariat, the Government is decentralizing to some communities, and they already agreed which communities were going to be decentralized. They had to bring in staff where they keep on decentralizing positions? Or as soon as they reach the limit, would that be it? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We want to be able to complete it this year. We would also like to fill all the positions, and that would be the end of it and we would concentrate on other things. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There must be staff at the Decentralization Division. How many positions do you have that work strictly for decentralization? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time there is five positions.

Chairperson (interpretation): Decentralization Secretariat. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$567 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Branch Summary Nunavut Cabinet, 2-12. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3 million, 694 thousand. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just got a couple of questions on the Nunavut Cabinet. It is just for my information only. The Premier's Office includes salaries and operational expenses for the Premier, the Principal Secretary; office includes salaries and operational expenses for the seven Ministers and the support staff.

That is quite a large amount of money, \$3 million, 694 thousand dollars a year. Currently, what type of benefits do Cabinet Ministers get while living in Iqaluit in regards to housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is one time assistance for relocation that I am aware of. That is to offset the costs that they incur when relocating themselves from their home constituency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Okalik. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if an MLA from Baker Lake becomes a Cabinet Minister, and move to Iqaluit with his family. How much of a benefit would that MLA get for housing? Would he get anything? To rent a house because housing rents here are around \$3 or 4 thousand a month. So how much would an MLA get when he became a cabinet minister if he moved here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chair. Yes, the cost would be covered for a minister relocating to Iqaluit. So it would cover the cost of a house but you would also cover your own costs in your own community for your own house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anything else Mr. McLean?

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you already live in Iqaluit like Mr. Picco and yourself do you get any kinds of benefits? Anything?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: No. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am getting the answers from the people that I shouldn't be getting them from. Mr. Premier. I am sure that Ed gets everything that he

deserves. My next question is how much does a Minister get for travel a year? What is the ministers travel budget for each minister in a year? Does it vary or is there a set rate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Okalik

Hon. Paul Okalik: It is a set rate but each minister has different responsibilities and has more travel than some so sometimes the ministerial budgets are shuffled to compensate for more travel for some ministers and less for others. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like all those none answers that I am getting it's really given me the wealth of information that I am asking for here this afternoon.

And maybe I will have to fill an access to information to find out how much a Minister gets to travel each year, what a Minister gets for housing benefits for a year, and relocation.

We all know what MLAs get because it's published in the paper every year. And people make great delight telling us what we make. But on the cabinet side it seems to be a secret and I am sure you have reasons why.

I am not asking for anything out of the ordinary here. There's \$3.6 almost \$3.7 million dollars here. I am just trying to ask a question. I am not trying to offend any of the Ministers over there. I hope I am not offending any of them but I would just like to know. That's about all I got on this issue Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike each Minister is set at \$45 thousand a year for travel. But like I said, some ministers have to travel more than others. So we adjust the budget between the ministerial budgets on occasion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the question that I would like to ask the Premier and he can give it to me later if he doesn't have it now. Mr. Picco seems to travel the most of any minister because he tells me that he goes to a lot of conferences around Canada.

When he has time could he let me know what the health ministers travel budget was for last year because I would really like to know? Because he is doing such a great job in Health and I really support the minister of Health. Because if I think of the last 4 year he has done an excellent job and I hope he continues to stay there until the end of this term.

But I would really like to know what is the travel budget is for a year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: There are other Ministers that travel. Minister Akesuk probably has the most extensive travel because of the many ministerial conferences that he has to attend. So each minister varies and that is how we allocate our budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Branch Summary. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance 2-12, \$3 million, 694 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. Branch summary. Commissioner of 2-13. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$185 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. 2-14 is information. Going back to 2-4. Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. 2-4. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one more question for the minister responsible.

I heard that deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers get performance bonuses on a yearly basis and I'm sure that they're paid through their departmental budgets but I think I'm correct in saying that here, his department sets what each deputy minister, assistant deputy minister makes in bonuses a year.

Can you give me a rough idea what we paid out in bonuses to deputy minister and assistant deputy minister last year. A lump sum like I don't need each deputy minister and ADM but generally how much we paid out in bonuses last year to various deputy ministers and assistant deputy ministers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I could get back to the member with the figures. I don't have them with me right now.

Yes, I reviewed them with my secretary along with an evaluation of each deputy and assistance deputy minister. So, I'll get back to the member with the figures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that issue, you do evaluations I think on a yearly basis on deputy ministers.

I know it's a tough subject but when you do an evaluation and you find that a deputy minister or assistant deputy minister hasn't lived up to or hasn't performed in the way that whoever evaluates them, figures out, what happens to them? Do they get a pay decrease or what happens to them? Are they given another chance or are they given warnings or stuff like that? What happens to them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Depending on each situation. Usually they don't get much a bonus if they're not living up to my expectations. And we provide them with goals to accomplish for each year and we evaluate those accomplishments at year end and we make the decisions and work with the minister involved on how they feel that they're deputies have performed since last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before we agree to the, maybe this has nothing to do with what we're discussing right now but I just don't know which minister I would ask this to.

It has to do with the minister's salaries. Is there a policy or a guideline in place for the salaries of the ministers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we do is we have a rule or policy in place for the salary payment to each minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no more names. We'll get back to page 2-4. Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10 million, 495 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Does the committee agree that we have completed the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister and his officials for appearing before the committee. Can we take about a twenty minute break and when we get back we will deal with the Department of Health and Social Services opening remarks. I would like to thank the Minister. Does he have any last comments?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I would like to say thank you to the Members for their comments and the questions. Please keep me in line. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

>> *Committee recessed at 18:01 p.m. and resumed at 18:25 p.m.*

Chairperson (interpretation): We have a quorum. I would like to proceed with the Department of Health and Social Services. Minister you have opening remarks?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do have some opening remarks and I would like to begin with my opening remarks if that's okay with the committee. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the committee agree that he starts with his opening remarks. Agreed? Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present the 2003/2004 main estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services to the committee.

Before I begin, I would like to introduce Members of my staff who are with to today.

In the gallery you see Dr. Keith Best, Acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services as well as Don Maychruk who is the Director of Corporate services and throughout the next couple of day various staff members will join us.

The Department of Health and Social Services has the largest budget of all departments of the Government of Nunavut and that's including capital. My department manages these funds to provide a wide range services and programs to promote, protect and enhance the health and social well-being of all Nunavummiut. As well, we are making progress in our efforts to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) at all levels of service delivery and design.

The total departmental budget for 2003/2004 is \$207.4 million. Mr. Chairman, this includes \$151.6 million for operations and maintenance.

>> *Applause*

It also includes \$46.3 million for capital funding for three new health facilities and yes Mr. Chairman, \$9.5 million for other capital projects.

>>*Applause*

The department continues to face, tank you, Mr. Chairman., the department continues to face major funding issues. In February 2003, Mr. Chairman, the Financial Management Board, the FMB approved a \$10 million supplementary appropriation for this current 2002/03 fiscal year. Mr. Chairman, we maintain this increase is related to a historical shortfall in the main estimates allocation for the department and Mr. Chairman, it is important to note that this does not represent any funding for new programs.

Furthermore, Mr. Chairman, I have identified some of the following as key causes for the departmental fiscal shortfall:

- The continued need to hire agency nurses to ensure safe staffing levels in communities which will reach a projected cost of \$4.5 million dollars for 2002/03;
- The on-going challenges of recruiting and retaining long-term physicians for the territory;
- An increase in the number of children placed in care in Nunavut;
- An increase in the number of children and adults placed in specialized care in southern facilities;
- An increase of admissions to shelters and Elders' facilities, which translate into increased funding requests from these agencies to accommodate the additional operating costs
- An increase in the number of patient visits to health centres over the pat year;
- An increase in the number of patients requiring treatment of outside of their home community, which has resulted in the increased expenditures for both scheduled medical travel and medivacs;
- Also, Mr. Chairman, an increase in the number of patients travelling out of their communities for hospital and need more costly procedures;

A further implication to the longer lengths of stay at hospitals is that over the past year we have seen a significant, Mr. Chairman, a significant increase in the cost of an in-patient bed day in all Canadian hospitals. Within the reciprocal billing arrangement, Nunavut is obligated to pay the newly revised rates. What that means Mr. Chairman, for children a child to stay at the paediatric hospital, over night for example, in eastern Ontario which would be Ottawa, it cost us from \$1,675.00 per day and it's now increased to \$1,760 per day.

When we have patients in Ottawa or the patient costs here in Edmonton or Winnipeg or where ever those hospitals of course charge those costs back to us. It's not done for free. It's about \$1,675.00 right now.

I am providing each of you a copy of a table which shows increases in both medivac and scheduled medical travel over the past four years.

However, the department has undertaken strategies which the committee and the Members here have asked for to offset some of these uncontrollable cost drivers in our system. For example, the recent negotiations with medivac providers and the new contracts for scheduled medical travel, which should be completed shortly, should help to compensate for the increased frequency of all the medical travel.

For this coming fiscal year, the Financial Management Board has approved an additional 1 million dollars to carry out new initiatives and enhance program delivery for 2003/2004.

Mr. Chairman, with these resources, our department will target the development of a maternity care worker program, additional funding for these workers, and in 2003/2004, the development of these three additional birthing centres in Nunavut.

Part of the 1 million dollars will also be earmarked for our nursing retention strategy and the development of an outreach detoxification service with minimal residential component, and the creation of a decentralized medical travel office.

The department will continue the implementation of the mental health and addictions strategy by expanding the services of outreach programs with an increase emphasis on suicide prevention.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is committed to the needs of individuals and our communities. We will continue to provide funding for our committees of council and we will increase our efforts to seek the wisdom and advice of elders to ensure that our services and programs are culturally relevant.

As mentioned, the department continues to face many challenges with nursing recruitment and retention. In addition to our continue financial support to Nunavut Arctic College for the nursing program, we will continue to examine incentive options for nurses who come to Nunavut and stay for extended periods of time.

We continue to implement Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program in all communities across Nunavut. This upcoming fiscal year, Nunavut will receive federal funding in the amount of 4.9 million dollars to provide basic home and community care services that are comprehensive, culturally sensitive, accessible and effective to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, we've already talked a little bit about our capital, I won't go into that. I'll continue on with my own readings.

As Members are aware, the efforts of our premier and his fellow premiers from the Northwest Territories and the Yukon when I was with them at the meetings in Ottawa,

has resulted in the Federal Government recognising the unique problems the cost of providing health and social services in our three territories.

As Minister of Health and Social Services, I am optimistic that the Federal Government in it's negotiations and discussions with the territories will demonstrate it's understanding of our needs.

This will mean we will move close to being able to provide comparable programs and services to all Nunavummiut that southern Canadians take for granted.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate having this opportunity in addressing the Committee of the Whole and I now look forward to your questions and comments as we review the department's estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Very interesting opening remarks. Do you have your witnesses with you? Does the committee agree that he invite his witnesses?

Sergeant-at-Arms would you escort the minister and his witnesses to the table.

Thank you. Welcome. Minister if you can introduce your witnesses and if you can introduce them to us because we need to know who they are. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me today, on my left is the Director of Corporate Services, Financial Direction and all around financial controller Mr. Don Maychruk.

On my immediate right is Mr. Keith Best who is the acting deputy minister for the Department of Health and Social Services and also in the gallery is the policy analyst for the Department of Health and Social Services Laura Idlout. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Any opening comments from the standing committee. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Health and Education has reviewed the budget estimates and business plan of the Department of Health and Social Services for the 2003/2004 fiscal year and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The Standing Committee notes that the overall budget for Health and Social Services for the 2003/2004 fiscal year represents 25% or 1 out of every 4 dollars of the total proposed government spending.

Even though the department has received \$610 thousand dollars more in operations and maintenance funding then in the revised estimates for 2002/2003.

Members recognize that this does not represent a substantial increase in base funding. According to the budget speech, supplementary appropriation being brought forward during this session will include \$10 million dollars to fund on-going programs in the Department of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Chairman, with such supplementary appropriations being brought forward on a regular basis to cover departmental deficits, the Committee has grave concerns that the base funding for Department of Health and Social Services remains critically low.

Members support the Minister and the Premier in their efforts to identify federal funding which will address needs specific to the North and look forward to clarification on the details of the recently-announced territorial health care fund.

Mr. Chair, the Committee was pleased to finally see more detail in the Department's Business Plan on the services to be provided at the three new regional health facilities. Again, Operations and Maintenance costs for these facilities will obviously require additional funding which must be accommodated in future allocations for this Department.

Committee Members were pleased with the Department's plan to focus on developing midwifery services at the community level. This initiative has been supported by the Committee for some time now.

Members are pleased to note the support for students in the Nunavut Nursing Program in the proposed budget and encourage the Minister to continue to work towards accessing additional sponsorship for individuals participating in this program.

The Standing Committee is aware that the costs associated with medical travel make up a significant portion of the Department's budget. Members would be interested in learning of any cost savings that have been realized or anticipated as a result of the revised medical travel policy or last year's KPMG study on medical evacuations. Members also look forward to hearing further detail on the plans for the decentralized medical travel office and its operations.

Committee Members will be seeking clarification on the status of other decentralized positions within the department, such as the Headquarters positions that were based in Kugluktuk.

Members recall from the February 2002 Evaluation Report on the Government's decentralization process that the 14 departmental headquarters positions in Kugluktuk have remained mostly vacant since the fall of 2000. The report recommended that these functions be reassessed. Members look forward to hearing an update on this reassessment.

Mr. Chairman, in recent days, Members of this House have discussed some of the very serious social and mental health issues that face Nunavut. In particular, youth suicide can be considered a crisis.

The Committee notes from the Business Plan that the Department's primary method of implementing the Addictions and Mental Health Strategy is to hire a number of specialized personnel.

Members are concerned that there is not more of a focus on addressing mental health issues, family violence issues, and other related issues at the community level. Members feel that the involvement and empowerment of community Members is the key to reaching the objectives of healthy communities and self-reliance, rather than reliance on imported professionals or services.

Members have noted a number of Requests for Proposals for the operation of the various group homes across Nunavut. Members would like further clarification on the status of these RFPs as well as an update on the development of outreach detoxification services.

The Committee notes that the amount allocated for local Committees of Council has not increased from the revised estimates of 2002-2003. Members had anticipated a review of the funding allocations based on needs identified in each community, rather than just on community size.

Mr. Chairman, a priority for this Government and all Members of this House has been to make the case to our federal partners that funding based on rigid per capita formulas simply does not work for Nunavut. The Premiers of the three northern territories recently advanced this position in their negotiations with Ottawa.

Mr. Chairman, the same is true at home. When the territorial government funds programs here, we must fund communities based on their actual needs, and not simply allocate resources based solely on the size of the community's population.

The Committee further notes that a Request For Proposals on training for Committee of Council Members was issued some time ago and look forward to an update on the status of that initiative.

Lastly, Mister Chairman, Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Education look forward to reviewing legislation and program planning related to the Government of Nunavut's Tobacco Reduction Strategy.

While the benefits and savings to health care as a result of this strategy will only be fully realized in future years, Members recognize that the investment must be made now.

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

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. At this point we'll have general comments but I'd like Members to note according to rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak and according to rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a member may

speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I move we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor and the motion is not debatable. To the motion. Agreed. Opposed.

I would like to thank Minister Picco. Thank you Minister Picco, Mr. Best and Maychruk. Thank you, for coming.

You may ascertain the Speaker.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

Speaker: Returning to Orders of the Day . Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee has been considering Bill 30 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is the Motion on the Floor. Is there a seconder for the Motion? Is there a seconder for the Motion? Mr. Alakannuark you are the winner today. The Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The Motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Madame Deputy Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Deputy Clerk (interpretation): Orders of the day for Friday, March 21, 2003,

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

10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 30
 - Bill 31
 - Bill 32
 - Minister's Statement 126 - 1(6)
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 22
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Madam Deputy Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Friday, March 21st, at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:58 p.m.*

