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**Monday March 24, 2003**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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Language, Elders and Youth*

**Glenn McLean**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday March 24, 2003**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Irgittuq, 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 Manitoq Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good afternoon. Mr. Premier, Members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 141 – 1(6): Social Work Week March 23-30, 2003**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, Social Work for Social Justice as this theme for National Social Work Week in Nunavut from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we set aside this time each year to recognize the tremendous contributions social workers make to our society. In Nunavut, they work in the communities to help individuals and families with the challenges and difficulties some face in dealing with our quickly changing world.

Mr. Speaker, working in the areas of Mental Health, Wellness, Child Protection, Adoptions, Corrections, Adult and Children Residential Services and Adult Services, social workers in Nunavut work with the communities to build healthy and stable environments in which adults can live and children can grow.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my voice lead the many that will join with me in recognizing March 23 to the 30<sup>th</sup> as Social Work Week here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

**Minister's Statement 142 – 1(6): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and Tuqtarvik**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, members and the visitors in the gallery. I'm am very pleased, along with my colleagues, to announce a number of significant changes to the way that the GN operates and Serves Nunavummiut

(interpretation ends) As members of this assembly and Nunavummiut we often speak as the role of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in Government and the value of the wisdom of those with Inuit knowledge. We want this wisdom to be available to each level, so that over time this government will grow more and more responsive to Inuit ways.

We know that as part of Canada, under laws, rules and a Constitution, there are certain processes and procedures we need to follow. We also know that there are many areas where the Nunavut Government does have control over what we do and how it is done, and in these cases, we would like to see Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit guide our activities.

For four years this government has worked for ways to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into our daily work.

- We are reminded that the Bathurst Mandate states “Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit will provide a context in which we develop an open, responsive and accountable public government.”
- We have initiated the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Task Force - and I will be tabling that report today.
- We have asked for funding for the Elders' council. It was first announced last spring for the year 2002/2003 Budget Address.
- We have conducted consultations with elders in Arviat, Rankin Inlet and Igloolik.
- We have discussed this issue, as a Cabinet, most recently in Coral Harbour. We have asked senior officials in several occasions to identify ways of getting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the Government on a daily basis.

The valuable input we gained from these consultations has now helped form a continuous framework inside the government, to assist and remind us of the main Inuit approaches in all that we do.

- There will be the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, a group of wise and talented people from outside of government who will continue in the path of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Task Force. They will be available and invited to comment regularly on and respond to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit issues within the government.



I will be tabling their terms and references today.

- There will be the Tuqtarvik, made up of people from all GN departments, lead by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth with the role of discussing, supporting, suggesting, commending and evaluating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit issues and initiatives.

I will be tabling the terms and references today.

- There will be a full-time Tuqtarvik, inside each government department, responsible for coordinating, advancing, arranging, promoting and discussing Inuit approaches to work that we do. Each department will be hiring and design the particular work of the Tuqtarvik.

Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will take a coordinating role in supporting the Katimajiit and Tuqtarvik and will, in effect, become the central agency for the advancement of these goals within the government.

These structures are totally new for the Government of Nunavut and unlike any other Canadian Government or any government we know of in the circumpolar world. We plan to work with the new structures, providing ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the roles and resources to determine whether they will need to be changed or expanded in the future.

It is the Government Nunavut's desire to have Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as a continuing and living part of all the work we do. I look forward to receiving nominations for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit from my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statement. Mr. Premier.

### **Minister's Statement 143 – 1(6): Government of Nunavut Video on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to tell members of this assembly that the government of Nunavut has just recently completed a 20 minute video that will provide a better understanding of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

While Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit cannot be placed into a video, this medium does help explain to viewers where Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit comes from, what it means and how it is being used. More importantly it underlines how and why Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is pivotal policy mandate of this government.

(interpretation) We hope that this video will better inform prospective and new government employees, especially those that are not from Nunavut about Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit. The demands to create policies and deliver programs and services that are effective, of high quality and that meet expectations similar in all governments. There is a difference in Nunavut in that the government strives to be reflective of the population it serves.

It is only natural that our system blends the principals of parliamentary democracy with the Inuit values of cooperation, effective use of leadership resources and common accountability.

(interpretation end) This ambitious video project is a result of the partnership among the Departments of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Human Resources and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Our government has also worked closely in the development of this video with Mr. John Amagoalik and Mr. Paul Quassa, the narrator. No one can doubt the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit credentials that these two men bring to this project.

Because this video is of interest to many audiences, we have chosen to expand the distribution to include schools, hamlet offices and trade shows. The video is available in Inuktitut, English and is being translated into Innuinaqtut and French.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I believe this video will help young Nunavummiut who are coming into our government learn more about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and more fully understand how it's applied to our work.

I want to thank everyone involved in this effort and hope you agree that this video provides inspiration for all of us working to ensure that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is the corner stone of our work. I encourage everyone to view the video which is playing today in the lobby of this house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

#### **Minister's Statement 144 – 1(6): World TB Day**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Nunavummiut experience tuberculosis at rates 14 times higher than other Canadians. Although our rates have come down over the past 30 years, they are currently in danger of being on the rise again.

Since 1999, my department has been re-establishing the TB surveillance program that was abandoned in Canada in the mid 1980s. However, Mr. Speaker, we cannot ignore the impact that 15 years without surveillance has had on our territory.

Nunavut reported 39 cases of TB in 2001 and 26 more cases were diagnosed in 2002. Mr. Speaker, my department is working hard to combat this disease. We have filled our

territorial TB consultant positions and have the services of an off-site resource to our program.

The Baffin and the Kitikmeot have been staffed with regional coordinators and we hope to have the position in the Kivalliq filled very soon. Mr. Speaker, one of the things to keep in mind as we battle tuberculosis is the importance of observing the strict regime of medication required to overcome the disease.

In order to improve adherence to the therapy, home and community care workers in all three regions across Nunavut are being given ongoing training in that particular area. Mr. Speaker, please join with me in observing today March the 24<sup>th</sup>, as world TB day in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### **Minister's Statement 145 – 1(6): Education Act**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the honourable thing to do. (interpretation) I rise today to address the recommendation of the standing committee regarding Bill 1. First let me express my deep appreciation to the standing committee for their careful consideration and detailed report. I also want to recognise the many groups and individuals who took the time and the effort to send letters, to make phone calls, do presentations to the standing committee and meet with me personally, especially the DEAs and the Inuit Organizations.

One of the most difficult tasks as a new Government based on language and cultural principals, can undertake is the development of an Education Act. We all know that education is one of the key elements of building, preserving and enhancing our way of life. Because it affects all families, views on education are strong and personal.

Mr. Speaker, the process of developing Bill 1 began in 1999, in the early days of this Government. The complexity of the Education Act made both the consultations and the drafting a difficult process. When I became the Minister of Education in May, 2000, consultations was largely complete, and the Act had already gone through two drafts.

Mr. Speaker, I met with particular interest the comments of the Standing Committee on the need for the Government to take more time to ensure that our education system reflects Inuit culture, priorities, and aspirations. Education is in the midst of a major development process regarding the Language of Instruction, curriculum, and Teacher education. I agree with the Standing Committee that the results of these initiatives should be taken into account in the development of the Education Act.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee has given us an opportunity to do something very different with the related legislation. The original timeline forced us in a particular

direction, but the consultation and the information obtained were invaluable. We now have an opportunity to use that experience in creating a new made-in-Nunavut approach to developing an Education Act, and I commit to doing that.

Mr. Speaker, the work done and knowledge gained has not been in vain. Quite to the contrary, it's heightened our understanding of the real issue, and the need for a truly made-in-Nunavut Education Act for all Nunavummiut. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 479 – 1(6): Swim Patrol Program**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I very much hope to keep my head above water today, because I want to rise to talk about the good work done by Iqaluit residents involved in the Canadian Swim Patrol Program.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Swim Patrol Program is a National Program that provides a head start for young people that want to go for their National Lifeguard Certification.

Mr. Speaker, this program recently started up in Iqaluit within the municipal swimming pool. About a dozen young Iqaluit residents are currently enrolled as students in this program. They range in age from 8 years old to into their teens.

They are learning a number of skills including rescue and first aid training. Mr. Speaker, I have been talking in recent weeks about the importance of recognizing the efforts of role models in our communities.

I believe that the young adults who have helped organize the Canadian Swim Patrol Program classes in Iqaluit are indeed role models. I would like to single out the instructor of the class, Ms. Kim Mekerck for her hard work.

I know that the students in her class are gaining in skills and self-esteem. Mr. Speaker, when we look at our spending needs, recreation programs are often the first on the chopping block.

This is too often seen as a low priority frill that can easily be eliminated. Mr. Speaker, I would submit to you and to the members of this house that nothing is further from the truth. Strong recreation programs build strong communities. They keep our kids out of trouble and on the right track.

In fact, I would suggest that they save us costs in the long run through healthier families and individuals. Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in saluting everyone involved in municipal recreation programs across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause.

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

**Member's Statement 480 – 1(6): Thankful to Government**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were many instances where we experienced hardship in trying to survive on the land.

Today, we are relatively well off. Today, we live in wooden houses with electricity and hot water available from the tap and to top it off, we are no longer required to collect our own water. We have modern communication mediums and able to communicate with our relatives by long distance.

Our children are also being educated within our communities now. Mr. Speaker, there are many things that we should be grateful for having here in Canada and to thank both federal and territorial governments for the Nunavut Territory. On behalf of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, I would like to say thank you to the government.

Mr. Speaker, even though that is the case, the people of Nunavut must work towards self-sufficiency, self-reliance or independence. And Mr. Speaker, it has to be on our own initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Member's Statement 481 – 1(6): Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun Not Recognized**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that since the beginning of this government we have heard a lot of statements made by our Ministers.

There has been good progress to date and again, since the creation of this government we have passed many bills. As a standing committee, we have a special committee that deals with the official languages act.

There was consultation done to date and as you know, the English and French languages are recognized in the constitution but neither the Inuktitut nor the Inuinnaqtun languages are officially recognized to this date.

I am quite concerned that there will be an impact or conflict when our languages are not recognized and whether they will concur or prevail over other pieces of legislation brought forth in Canada. Our language, the Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun language is the

majority language of the whole population and if we are to fight to save our language, we require that this be included in new legislation.

My question is, what kind of barriers will be created in other Bills enacted prior to our enacting the Inuktitut language protection act? The issue of language is very important to the people of Nunavut and it is part of our culture, our lifestyle, and our identity. Our children and grandchildren are quite capable, and competent in speaking the Inuktitut language.

What can we do to preserve our language? If we want to bring out a better life and future for us we must acknowledge and be proud of our culture and our language. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

**Member's Statement 482 – 1(6): Sanikiluaq Arena in Need of Artificial Ice**

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to thank the Special Committee who went to Sanikiluaq for the weekend. They went down to Sanikiluaq as part of the Consultation Tour of the Official Languages Act.

There is one issue that I would like to touch up on while I have to opportunity. It is in regards to the arena. Quite a while ago, I made a statement regarding the opening of our arena that opened in January 13. When I went down there on Saturday, it is no longer being used, because it does not have artificial ice due ice melting from the ceiling, it is creating little bumps on the ice, and the arena was used for approximately eight weeks in the whole year. Hockey is very important to the people of Nunavut, and when I was the Mayor, and Councillor in Sanikiluaq, we heard very good reports of what a crime deterrent it was to have arena opened.

During those eight weeks that the arena was opened, there was less crime, because everyone was at the Arena. Arenas are a very important part of the lives of the youth and the children. I just wanted to inform the House that it is no longer in use after only eight weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Member's Statement 483 – 1(6): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that they should put that Sanikiluaq Arena to a colder community. Mr. Speaker. Our Premier and the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, made comments on Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit, and they mentioned that it was a part of the important role for the Government to implement it.

I am starting to believe that we are not only providing lip service to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, and I am sure that something tangible will come out during the life of this First Assembly.

As I have stated more than once, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit should not be used just as a catch phrase. Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit means, the Inuit culture, the language, the lifestyle, and their identity. When government is dealing with these, use them to remember what Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit means. I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. McLean.

**Member's Statement 484 – 1(6): Conference in Rankin Inlet**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to advise this House that I attended a very important conference this weekend in Rankin Inlet and I would like to thank the community of Rankin Inlet for hosting such a conference and the friendliness and coziness of the meeting that they have extended to everybody, including myself.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Sivummut Conference in my opinion, in being a thirty-year northerner, was one of the best conferences that I have attended in the north to date.

The reason that I think it was important was because they are starting to discuss the Nunavut economy and business. Which to me, I have been very vocal in this House that since the creation of Nunavut, the Government has been tied up with other very important issues that we deal with day to day.

I have got to commend the organizers of this Sivummut Nunavut Conference in dealing with the economy in Nunavut because that is the next stage in the evolution of this Government. It is to go on and stimulate the economy for business and the private sector.

At this point, I would like to thank the Minister Olayuk Akesuk for his great work there and also NTI for being there and Cathy Towtongie. I would also like to thank the Federal Government for being there.

And that is like I said, the first time that I have seen all of the partners together in one roof and really concerned and talking about the economy and where we are going in Nunavut.

I would like to commend everybody out there, the organizers, the government, NTI and the federal government for a change, in attending that conference and really bringing the concerns of Nunavummiut altogether.

And at that point, I do not want to end on a negative note, but I hope and the people at that conference were saying, Glen, make sure that this does not die here. Make sure that this carries on and something is done with this report from this conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

### **Member's Statement 485 – 1(6): Rankin Inlet Conference**

**Hon. Maniok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding my colleague's comment about the Rankin Inlet conference, I would like to thank the residents of Rankin Inlet and the delegates who attended this conference.

They had a very good time and they were treated to a dance, community feast and they had open and plentiful discussions in Rankin Inlet. I would like to thank the same people that my colleague mentioned and this includes the Minister of Sustainable Development especially, along with my younger sister, Cathy Towtongie and the federal government.

This was brought up time and again, that people in the Arts and Crafts industry are having a hard time marketing their products and need better coordination and co-operation, although there is a craft shop in Rankin Inlet that was one of the biggest discussion items.

Mr. Speaker, I expect that something good will come out of this after the minutes are completed. Mr. Speaker, we found out that there is funding out there from different programs that people can apply for funding assistance, but due to the complex application process, a lot of the smaller businesses are incapable of applying for them.

Mr. Speaker, we came to an understanding that a lot of these criteria and application processes for funding programs have to be eased to make it possible for people to tap into this funding. A lot of information does not make to the local people. The hotels had this information, in the small shops. There is a lot of funding available for those programs.

I expect, Mr. Speaker that those people that will compile the meeting minutes of that conference will have a lot of good information. A lot of people are starting to speak out about the fact that they are left to their own devices in the private sector. A lot of issues surrounding small businesses were raised.

There will be very short term issues that have to be dealt with because these communities are asking for this information so that funding can be funnelled into the communities. We need immediate action at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker:** Member Statements. Minister Ng.

**Member's Statement 486 – 1(6): Skidoo Trip to the Cabin**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, across Nunavut, spring is coming, or in the case of Sanikiluaq, as we've heard, it's probably already here.

As the sun gets up, it's stays out longer and the temperature warms up and so does the number of hunting trips, fishing trips and camping trips, rise as many Nunavummiut take advantage of the warmer season.

Mr. Speaker, this passed weekend, my son Trent and I had an opportunity to join Alain Carriere and our colleague Ed Picco and his son Pakak, go out to his cabin out at Lewis Bay, which is approximately a 45 mile return trip.

I'd like to thank Minister Picco for allowing us the opportunity to head out with him. But I also got the opportunity to see Minister Picco's on the land skills. That included getting his Qamutik stuck not once Mr. Speaker, but twice.

>>*Laughter*

But in all fairness to him, I was quite comfortable in traveling with them. I recognise that it's a totally different environment over here with the hills and the rocky and narrow trails in a lot of circumstances that I don't see back in our flatter areas over in the Kitikmeot.

So, with that I would like to thank him once again and also thank Chris Lalonde for allowing me to use his snowmobile and also, getting the opportunity to borrow kamiks from commissioner Irniq. I put them to good use this weekend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ng. Members' Statements. Are there any further member's statements? Minister Picco.

**Member's Statement 487 – 1(6): Congratulations to Fauna Kingdon**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr. Ng for his wonderful member's statement and I just hope that the member for Amittuq doesn't talk about the time about 17 years ago when I was lost at place called Nuqsunngarjuk which is about 8 miles outside of Hall Beach. That's a different story.

Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of talk of the quality of our education system in this House. I would like to update the members on the success of another constituent from Happy Valley who is attending university in Winnipeg.

Fauna Kingdon has been selected as the only, Mr. Speaker, the only recipient of the Royal Bank Native Student Award in the Territories. Mr. Speaker, the award is worth \$16 thousand dollars over four years and will help Fauna in her ongoing university education.

Mr. Speaker, the award is based on academic achievement, as well as volunteer experience and as well as need. Fauna's middle and high school years were all here in Iqaluit and she is one of the many Nunavut students that are attending various secondary and university programs in and outside of Nunavut.

I would ask that you Mr. Speaker, and this house join with me in congratulating Ms. Fauna Kingdon on her educational bursary and wish her the very best in her future studies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Members' Statements. Are there any further member's statements. If not we'll move on. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I have some people here.

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

I've noticed a number of young people sitting in the gallery on both sides of the house. They're young interns working on Parliament Hill with the various MPs from all parties and they are selected from throughout Canada to spend a year working on Parliament Hill to sort of hone their skills and really see what the political world is like in Ottawa.

I'm going to try to get myself through their names now and bare with me. We have the Program Director, Jean Pierre Gadvery, also a professor at the University of Ottawa. Jean Phillippe Beauchau from Quebec City. Gord Kuwess from Kingston, Ontario. Christina Kuwowski from New Westminster, B.C. Dionne Lapperierre from Quebec City. Donna Manderville from Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. Claire MacEntire from St. John's Nfld. And Brock Petawanquat from Alberta. How was that Brock, did I come close? Jane Swan, from Guelf, ON. He grew up in Calgary, Alberta and Jacob Wilson from Toronto, ON. Welcome to the gallery, to the chamber and also to Nunavut.

>>Applause

Item 6. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

#### **Item 6: Oral Question**

##### **Question 475 – 1(6): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Board**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was the last one to put my hand up so thanks anyways.

My question is to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. In his member's statement, I noted the statement regarding Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. He spoke about the issues surrounding IQ. It relates to Inuit abilities and skills and what they did culturally. What did he mean under Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, what specifically are you referring to as being included in this category? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the minister's statement, we will have some information out regarding the criteria you need in order to be on this group.

I will table a document that is in English, Inuktitut and Innuinaqtut about what this elder's council will be and what the terms of reference is for this committee. I will table that in the house and about the kind of knowledge these people that will be on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee will need.

I said earlier, that we're going to call them Tuqtarvik, like a liaison or support group. This is from the different departments of the government who will have representatives on this council. It will compile all the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit programs within government. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand his response. This council that he's proposing, I'm wondering whether the elders that truly have the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, will they be participants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this council will be selecting, I believe taking names in and we'll announce as to who will be on this council. I'm expecting a lot of response for names that would like to be involved in this council. So we'll ensure we review as to who will be the appropriate ones to be on this council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 476 – 1(6): Yearly TB Testing**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I take with great interest today, the Minister's statement on TB in the Nunavut Territory. My question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services that he's really taking a proactive role in trying to combat this deadly disease.

My first question to the Minister today is, I'm not too familiar about what his program is in my community, but do they do yearly testing to find out about TB in Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the present time, I believe there are six communities with ongoing active cases of TB. The member is correct, we do ongoing testing.

For example, in the year 2000, I believe 7% of children from kindergarten to grade 6 here in Iqaluit that were tested actually tested positive for tuberculosis. So, the Member is correct, it is very scary statistics. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to see that the Minister is doing some testing and he mentioned six communities, which is good. There are 26 communities in Nunavut at last count, I think, I could be wrong.

But what is the ongoing yearly plan by the Department of Health and Social Services to test all communities and all people in Nunavut for this deadly disease? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is the direction that the Department is moving in. Tuberculosis is very contagious if it is active tuberculosis.

One of the things that we have seen since the mid 1980's, Mr. Speaker, it is very important to find out that our Federal Government withdrew the testing, mandatory testing for tuberculosis. However, in the south, we have seen tuberculosis actually level off and most cases decline.

In Nunavut, we have actually seen the rates increase and that is why this coordinated approach two years ago, through the auspices of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Speaker, I was able to get secure extra funding in our budget to actually hire dedicated resources to the TB testing program.

And that the Member is correct, as soon as we fill the next position, which is in the Kivalliq, and that is advertised right now, we will begin a very aggressive testing program for Kindergarten to grade 6. That would be the plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a statement, he said that Nunavut experienced tuberculosis at rates 14 times higher than the rest of Canada and how many times do we have to stand up in the Legislative Assembly and say everything, grade 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15% higher and what is the plan and the Minister always has a plan and the Minister always jumps on top of it.

Are we working 14 times harder, in this Department working 14 times harder to prevent this deadly disease and I do not think that he has answered my question in regards to what we are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious issue with tuberculosis and I think we have tried to indicate that not only have we gone out and hired specific, dedicated positions just for one type of disease, in this case tuberculosis. We also have a regional coordinator, we have an on/off-site resource person, that the coordinator here is actually adoptive, we have trained people to be able to pick up some of the incidents of tuberculosis that are active.

And Mr. Speaker, earlier I had said and I want to make sure that it is clarified, we have 6 communities out of 26 in Nunavut that actually sporadic or ongoing cases of tuberculosis. Those communities are being monitored; there are resources in those communities, so, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to you that the Department of Health and Social Services and your Government of Nunavut have been very aggressive in the stance on TB and that is why we actually put the dedicated resources in place.

I want to reiterate again, that it is our Federal Government that withdrew the mandatory testing in the '80s. So, we have actually picked up the slack as a territory and as a Government since 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It does not surprise me that the Federal Government would withdraw funding to Nunavut or not pay for a program for Nunavummiut because we are in the middle of nowhere.

That does not surprise me, I totally agree with the Minister responsible that the Federal Government ignores problems up here, but I think somebody should advise the Federal Government on their odd trip up here that it is a contagious disease, it is deadly and if the rates are 14 times higher here, eventually, the rates are going to move down towards where they are and I am sure that the Minister is making them very aware of that.

But the fact of the matter is, I am actually overwhelmed that the rates are 14 times of a deadly disease in the 50's and 60's that shocked the whole country and I know the Minister is trying with his limited resources.

We know that the health budget, we are trying to keep in control. Getting back to my initial question, is the Minister being proactive in all the communities by trying to find out, or testing people at all age levels, I have to commend him for going to Kindergarten to Grade Six, but there is other people in these communities, the other fifty percent.

Is he going to try to have them tested to see that in fact we are not twenty times higher than the south? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to make it perfectly clear that advanced stages of tuberculosis is a terminal disease, people can die with tuberculosis. If caught at the beginning stages, before it becomes infectious, or contagious, Mr. Speaker, it can be dealt with very quickly, and expediently with proper medication.

Many members in this House, Mr. Speaker, myself, and our families, because of the testing that goes on from K to six, a couple of my children did test positive, that they actually were exposed to tuberculosis.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just in one community. When I say the rates are fourteen times higher, as I said, in 2002, there were 26 cases out of 27 thousand people in Nunavut.

I am not trying to be an alarmist. What we are trying to say, Mr. Speaker, that this is World TB Day, not just in Nunavut, but across the world. Mr. Speaker, your Government has worked effectively and aggressively to put an extra \$350 thousand dollars in the Budget, a year and a half ago, so that we get extra dedicated resources.

I would agree with the Member that improved testing needs to be done. Mr. Speaker, you do not go out and say come in here, everyone in Nunavut can get tested. When people display signs and so on, then there are tests done. If, for example, at the K to 6 levels, children become exposed, there is a better opportunity to check and test children, then the adults and parents if they have come into contact with it they are also tested, like for example, like what happened to my family.

So that is what happens, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his support and again I think that the Government has done an excellent job in the last three years, as a Government, to try to deal with this very serious health concern.

The Member is again correct, that the rates are higher than the south. We are talking about 26 cases in Nunavut, in particular communities. And, Mr. Speaker, by doing the increased surveillance, we are able to get a contagious disease under control. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 477 – 1(6): Concerns and Recommendations – Standing Committee on Bill 1 – Education Act**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member from Baker Lake was able I think was able, I think that his hair would have stood up on his head. Mr. Speaker, while I can, my hair almost stood up too. Mine can.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Speaker, I his Minister's Statement, the Minister had indicated and he noticed with particular interest the Standing Committee's comment to make sure that our education system reflects Inuit cultures priorities and aspirations.

Mr. Speaker, I think that everyone in this House will agree that that is something that we want to see happen. However, Mr. Speaker, there were a number of other concerns raised by the Standing Committee on Bill 1. Can the Minister commit to make sure that all of those concerns will be addressed in the drafting of the next draft of the Education Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister responsible Education, Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Minister's Statements what I was trying to say is that the Standing Committee gave us really good recommendations and we were recommended to look into Bill 1. We consider all the recommendations of the standing committee, not just some of the recommendations but all of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, another concern I have from the Minister's statement, where he indicates that an original timeline forced the Minister's particular directions.

I'd like to ask the Minister what is the next step the department's going to be looking at to come up with another draft and can he commit that time restraints won't be a problem. I think all members would rather take our time and get it right the first time instead of rushing.

So, I'd like to ask the Minister if he could indicate what the next step is that they're planning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our next step in the planning we'll definitely be going back to the drawing board and looking at all the recommendations and taking into account the committees recommendations we want to make sure that all the recommendations related to the act get their due consideration. We will definitely commit

to working with the stakeholders and this House to make sure that we have a carefully laid out schedule that will be known well in advance by the House before we proceed again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate one of the other concerns that was raised by the committee and out there, the lack of what some people felt, the lack of adequate consultation in his process. Can the Minister commit to ensuring that adequate consultations do take place this time around? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will look at the recommendations of the standing committee and we will notify them ahead of time and let them know about the plans before they actually go out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not only referring to the standing committee but by that the stakeholders and the people affected directly by this act, the parents, teachers, District Education Authorities, everyone out there would probably like to know what's going on with this act before it goes out there, before it gets brought forward in this house.

That was something that, personally I don't feel, was adequately done prior to that. But will the Minister ensure that prior to or after any consultations are done, that once a draft bill has been done, that the department do it's due diligence and explain to people what's in the new act and what the changes that they've put in there and why they've made changes and the results of those changes and the effects of those changes on the people involved will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in my Minister's statement, I stated that we learned a great deal from the process.

Yes, we learned a great deal and there was knowledge gained and the knowledge has not been in vain. Yes, with the knowledge that we have gained, I will delegate my officials to deal with all this information and inform the stakeholders and all the other people before going on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.



**Question 478 – 1(6): Polar Bear Survey Project**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Sustainable Development.

I had written correspondence to the Minister responsible in regards to my constituents and the issue of polar bears. In the community of Clyde River, the Hunters and Trappers Organization would like to research the breeding and how polar bears breed. I was wondering if the department is already dealing with that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's evident that we do want to collect all the information using Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in regards to polar bears because the local harvesters are the ones with all that knowledge.

Yes I can look into to see what stage that project is at. So I will take his question as notice, and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Minister has taken the question as notice. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

**Question 479 – 1(6): Setting Polar Bear Quotas**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

Last week, I made a member's statement in regards to the polar bear quota for the high arctic communities. They go polar bear hunting too in that area. The Minister knows that the polar bear sports hunts are beneficial for the community.

My question to the Minister is, how do you derive the figure for commercial tags? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The quota is set according to the surveys that are done by the polar bear biologist and there was a polar bear survey in Lancaster Sound just recently.

The figures we derive for the quotas come from the results of those surveys that were done previously. We also work with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board when we set up the quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When was the last survey done in the high arctic on the population of polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do have correspondence here stating which management zones the polar bears were surveyed. Usually they do polar bear surveys every 10 to 15 years because it's very expensive to do a polar bear survey. I will be able to get the information to the member for the high arctic when the last time they did a survey in Lancaster Sound but if I remember correctly it was done not too long ago because these two American individuals were able to go sports hunting and they were able to bring the hides back to their country. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the good response. According to my knowledge, the Department of Sustainable Development had returned about \$20 thousand dollars for research.

They have returned the funds and that's why I'm asking this question. Every time they do a survey on the number of polar bears and every time they set the number of quota, do they involve the Inuit of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board on these polar bear surveys, but the current agreement that we are working on is a little different than what we have been doing so far.

We are consulting with the communities prior to putting together that agreement and we currently have a team that is going to the communities asking for additional information. We are going to be covering all of the 26 communities and they will be included in the input regarding the agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response. I have a question regarding the agreement, when is it going to be finalized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): We will have it completed this year, as we started touring the communities this winter. Sometimes, because of the weather we have had to

delay some of the community visits, but I would like to assure the Member that this is going to be completed this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Question 480 – 1(6): Working with Health Personnel in the Communities**

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Health and Social Services made a statement about the TB and social work week and it is true when he stated

As I have mentioned many times, the people of Igloolik have been left out when it comes to these types of services. The patients wait approximately two weeks before they can get an appointment and then by the time they finally see the doctor or the nurse, they are then required to go to Iqaluit by medivac to get their medical attention.

Do you work directly with the person up in Igloolik or do you just work out of here on the administration part?

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member has raised some concerns with the issues around the health center in Igloolik. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to speak with Dr. Botha who was in Igloolik last week who was dealing with some of the patients that the Member has talked about.

And also, Mr. Speaker, we had the Director for the Baffin Region for Health and Social Services in Igloolik who met with the Hamlet to try to help facilitate some of the concerns that have been brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You stated that this individual went up to Igloolik, when was this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Botha was in Igloolik last week seeing patients and so on and Mr. Speaker, the concern that the member had raised about the health centre status, we had been down to three nurses as the member had brought up in the house, we went back up to five. The director for the Baffin was in there I think three weeks ago to talk with the hamlet and meet with the staff and see if we could rectify some of the concerns that have come forward in the house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way I see it, the people in Igloolik are in a crisis situation.

This is not the first incident. It's happened on more than one occasion. If they had a proper physical check-up, they wouldn't have to be medivaced out. The reason why I'm saying this is that the people of Igloolik are in a crisis situation is because they could sue the government for negligence. When Dr. Botha was there, what did he do when he was there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have doctors Mr. Speaker who provide service to all of our communities in Nunavut. And each community in Nunavut has a specific doctor that usually services that community.

In this case, the doctor was in Igloolik last week seeing different patients that he had, Mr. Speaker, I can't say with any great authority exactly who patients were he saw, what the conditions were and so on.

There are issues around patient confidentiality with the doctors, what he sees them about and so on. I can say that I know the doctor was in Igloolik last week. I did speak to him this morning at the hospital. He said that he was busy that there were a lot of issues to deal with in Igloolik.

So, I can say he was there and he was working with the patients involved and the referrals that he usually does. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to that, so I see that this was a specialist visit. I'm not talking about the types of illnesses.

The question is, the patients wait for about three or four days before they can see a nurse. Mr. Speaker, my question is how can we provide better services to the people of Igloolik. This doctor who went up there wasn't there to improve the services. My question to the Minister is, did that doctor go up there provide better services or to check up on the quality of services that are provided to the residents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the doctor was on his regular scheduled visit to the community to see patients. Mr. Speaker, that is the reason why he was in Igloolik. The doctor was up there seeing his patients last week. I did speak to him this morning. I asked him how his situation was and so on.

He wasn't up there for a specialist clinic or anything. The concern that the member has with the health centre in Igloolik has been addressed and he is correct. There were some delays in Igloolik because we were down to three nurses. As I've said in this house we have gone back up to five. We did send the executive director in to see what some of these concerns were. He met with the hamlet. Mr. Speaker, if the member has specific concerns or issues dealing with specific cases, he can put that to me in a letter in writing and then I will review it. He did speak to me about another incident this morning and we are reviewing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 481 – 1(6): Funding for Coral Harbour Access Road**

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. First of all for the information of the Minister, every year the roads are upgraded and there is approximately 68 kilometres of this road now. We saw an increase in the number of tourists and sport hunters that went to the communities.

This Access Road is well used by the Elders, and the people who are going out camping for the summer. It has been a great benefit to the people of Coral Harbour. The people of Coral Harbour would like to know if there will be any funding set aside so we can extend the length of Access Road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for asking that question. I have been sitting for quite a while, thank you Mr. Arvaluk.

The roads are extremely important to all the people in Nunavut. I have been told more than once that access road is envied by all the Nunavut communities. There are more and more local governments that are looking for outside sources of funds to extend their access roads.

We have started to hear about more and more local communities that would like to build access roads to fishing areas and camping grounds. Mr. Speaker, with the help of the Federal Government, we got a five year funding agreement for \$6.7 million dollars. It is not going to be used only for the building of access roads; it is going to be used for transportation in the areas of marine, land and air.

I think that we will be able to set aside specific amounts of money for the building of access roads if my budget is approved. We have heard on more than one occasion from Pond Inlet, Hall Beach, Igloolik, and different communities, but this Member has worked extremely hard to extend the access road in Coral Harbour.

What I can promise the Member is that we will work hard to get additional sources of funds, but I cannot promise the Member how much that would be. Mr. Speaker, I know that this has been discussed many times in Arviat. I can say that I will work hard to seek additional funding but I cannot give you the figure at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the last four years what types of infrastructure has made life easier at the community level, and what was the least? At times the Government used a lot of money on projects that do not benefit the community at all. I am not just talking about Coral Harbour now, but we have built access road, we have extended those roads, and because they know that it is a great benefit to the community.

If Public Works and Services are going to be renovating a house this summer, I would like her department to place a priority on the amount of monies that are set aside for extending access roads. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that there are private contractors with heavy equipment be it road maintainers, road builders who have heavy equipment companies, they have been going through a very hard time because there are very few contracts available in the summer. Some have even gone bankrupt. Mr. Speaker, this was felt by the Government of Nunavut and understood.

Regarding the comments that were made in the house, the building of access roads will be a priority within the Department of Community Government & Transportation. We know that there are benefits not only to the elders but also to the tourism sector.

As the people of Nunavut, we have to build access roads because the terrain is being destroyed by four wheelers and other modes of transportation. The building of access roads will be a high priority in my department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for recognising the environmental concerns that you have respecting the tundra, especially with the all-wheel drive, the all terrain vehicles etc. I think Mr. Speaker; your community is facing the same problem.

My question to the Minister is would she be communicating with the Minister of Department of Sustainable Development to develop a kind of combination environmental concerns, tourism, economic development and well-being of the community, all those combinations could very easily be addressed with access roads in a number of

communities that could have cheap access roads for the purpose of environmental, economic and social questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank the member. We've known in Rankin Inlet for instance that the tundra, surrounding the community, because a lack of access roads and due to the rise in population, the tundra is being eroded.

We can see evidence of that for instance in Coral Harbour and other communities. Yes, we have to work together with the Department of Sustainable Development. Perhaps if we move away from picnic tables that have been placed where there are no access roads we should focus more on getting those access roads first before we set up camp sites without roads. We try to get to those destinations without a road. So yes, the Minister of Department of Sustainable Development seems to be agreeing that we will together on that suggestion.

(Interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I will work with the Minister responsible for the Environment to make sure that we are not just putting out picnic tables without roads out there in nowhere land, and try to put the roads first before we build picnic tables for the Park. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

#### **Question 482 – 1(6): Chemical Warfare Effects**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The Minister of Community Government made a statement regarding the Iraq Conflict and ensuring residents that it is something not to worry about.

My question to the Health Minister is that is it possible if the Americans are bombed, that the chemical or biological clouds might be blown this way as the there are contaminants that usually find their way up here? Are there any emergency measures plans in place within the Health Department regarding those concerns? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's question. Mr. Speaker, Chemical, Biological, Radio Nuclear Weapons, CBRN is the acronym that is used. Preparedness is carried on as Minister Thompson said, by all jurisdictions across Canada, including Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct, Nunavut has been made aware of the protocols, as well as the measures to be taken in case of a CBRN attack. Mr. Speaker, our staff has

been working with our Federal counterparts, and indeed, Mr. Speaker, at different Health Minister's Meetings that I have attended, we have actually talked about CBRN, and as well as a world-wide pandemic. Pandemic is a flu that we in the medical profession we believe that will strike world-wide, across Canada and the rest of the world, some time in the next decade or twenty years.

That is based on annual predictions. For example, Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows that in 1917, there was the Spanish Influenza. Mr. Speaker, in that context, the Member is correct; we are being appraised and apprised of that situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health's Minister says that they are prepared. Are there inoculations for this protection? Thank you.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are different plans underway. Over the last couple of years, since 9-11, there is a cliché now in place that the world has changed, and indeed it has changed.

The Department of Health and Social Services, along with Emergency Services, and other Departments, are in the process of looking at vaccinations, and so on. For example, Mr. Speaker, there is a development of an Iqaluit Airport Smallpox Contingency Plan. There are several plans underway within the Government, within the Department of Emergency Measures, as well as the Department of Health and Social Services to deal with a CBRN event.

Mr. Speaker, we joined the federal, provincial, and territorial counterparts in that area, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to make sure that the Member, and the Members of the House, as well as the people of Nunavut, are assured that, indeed in these cases, that if there is a case of CBRN terrorism in Nunavut, then the staff have been issued protocols and so on to follow in that case.

Mr. Speaker, we have not begun to inoculate in Nunavut, for small pox, anthrax or any of these chemical, biological or any other type of instance that we have heard about at this time. I am also not aware of any time frame where we will be doing this. It would be based on national directives as our national government; our Federal Government have the responsibility for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Question 483 – 1(6): Plans for Docking Facility for Baker Lake**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation.

Over the last four years, the community of Baker Lake has been asking the Department of Community Government & Transportation about a new docking facility for our community.

The present facility as we know is really just a lump of dirt in the centre of town. I know it's the only inland community in Nunavut, and when I travel around and I see the luxurious docks that they have in every other community and break waters, I said to myself, a person got killed there a few years ago, in the centre of town when a ship arrived, it's all chaos.

Can the Minister update me on the department's plans to build a new docking facility in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of this through the Member of the Legislative Assembly and through various people in Baker Lake that they need a new docking facility. I've seen it first hand. I used to live in Baker Lake with my husband.

I've already directed my staff to go there this summer and investigate the site where it might be possible to put a new dock and then after that we can see what we can do in terms of funding that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to know the Minister is taking our concerns and the concerns of the community seriously, as usual. Is this a federal jurisdiction or a territorial jurisdiction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not even sure but I will find a way to build a dock there regardless. I'll have to find a way. I'm not sure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 484 – 1(6): Plans for Home Heating Fuel**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products. Last Friday, the Minister had committed to ensuring that the home

heating fuel in all the communities was going to be tested. I want to ask the Minister if he has any plans in place as to when that testing is going to take place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My response was that these communities that received the fuel that we would get the tanks in these communities checked and the levels as well of last year's supply, especially in those two communities of Cape Dorset and Naujaat.

We will find out how much of the supply was left from the year before when the new shipment came in. We've started work on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering if the Minister can indicate, again he's going back to just those two communities, what communities received the home heating fuel from that, I believe it was Texas refinery where that additive was added in there.

Can the Minister indicate which communities in Nunavut received fuel from that shipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Kivalliq communities and Baffin communities received that same fuel shipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated the two eastern regions, the central and the western area of Nunavut. I'll assume that Iqaluit was included in the Baffin Region. Sometimes we get their shipments a little bit differently. Is the Minister committed to, as he had indicated on Friday, checking the fuel in all the communities in those two regions to make sure that we're not going to run into the same problem as they're running into in the communities that have been reported already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to that and I will repeat that the communities that received this fuel through these contractors, I will get staff and officials to check and see what additives we're missing in these.

We'll find out exactly what the levels of shipment were received from the previous year as well as the current year. I don't have the exact preliminary results in front of me of the study. I will also check to see if this same fuel is causing any problems in other communities and we'll find out if this fuel came from the same refinery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister just indicated that the two regions, the Baffin and the Kivalliq got all the same fuel. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could provide us with any plans that the department has of schedule or a time frame in which it plans on checking the fuel in all the communities in those two regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kattuk.

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, we'll find out what was added onto this fuel and find out the exact contents of this fuel and proceed to the other communities.

At this point, we're focussing on the two communities. As I've been saying, this supply, we don't exactly know what is missing from the additives. From then on, we will proceed to ask the contractors to see exactly what the contents of this fuel were.

Now that the weather getting warmer, we're thinking that the problems won't be as much as the winter. But we are looking into the matter and we will deal with it the best way we can and we expect the problems won't be as recurring with the warmer weather coming.. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Are there any further Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu. Ms. Williams.

#### **Question 485 – 1(6): Setting Polar Bear Quotas**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank goodness you looked at your list. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development regarding the number of polar bear quotas set in the communities. In respect to the High Arctic communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord, what is their involvement in the process and what information will you be disseminating as to how the quotas were formulated and when? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The local HTOs in these communities are the signatories to these agreements. They represent the community regarding wildlife issues in the communities. I am sure that they have a good

understanding and familiarity with local community concerns and we will be dealing with the HTOs to deal with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know that they represent the local residents really well. My question was, what undertakings did the Department of Sustainable Development operate, such as have they gone to the communities? Have they met with the HTOs regarding these MOUs? If they have not gone up there, then when are they going up to the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a schedule of the communities that will be toured and I can provide the information to the Member as to which communities have been visited, and whether the three communities she represents will be visited, if they have not been visited already. I will let her know when we plan to visit those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Members will note that Question Period is now over. Moving onto 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. Item 12 Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Akesuk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 097 – 1(6): The First Annual Report of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqagninnut Task Force**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will Table the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Review that was a report from 2002. These are the recommendations from this Working Group on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The recommendations for the council and the terms of reference are within these documents, from the recommendations made to the Government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Working Group that worked on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Group, and it really helped out the Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Tabling of Documents. Minister Akesuk.

**Tabled Document 098 – 1(6): Terms of Reference for Noth the Inuit Qaujimajatuqanit Katimajit and Tuqtarviit**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to Table a Document on the Terms of Reference for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee from Nunavut, and also from the Nunavut Government, *Tuqtarvik*, I know that these individuals are very knowledgeable and they will be very beneficial to the Nunavut Government. The elders will be involved during Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Meetings. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Irgittuq.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Motion 020 – 1(6): Establishment of a Task Force on Suicide Prevention and Community Healing**

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whereas no community in Nunavut has been spared the tragic consequence of suicide and whereas suicide threatens the very future of our communities and our youth, and whereas we can no longer hide behind walls of grief, silence and inaction.

What it is saying is that we can no longer hide behind the walls of grief, silence and being silent even when other people suffer through this experience. And whereas no single individual or organization can end this crisis alone. And whereas every member of the Legislative Assembly bears the responsibility of contributing to the fight against suicide;

And whereas this house wishes to confirm its unwavering determination to support efforts to end Nunavut's suicide crisis. Now, therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baker Lake, that the Government of Nunavut establish a task force on suicide prevention and community healing;

And further, I move that the task force be established no later than May 1, 2003. And furthermore, I move that the task force be charged with responsibility of examining the issue of suicide in Nunavut and make recommendations for real action in the areas of suicide prevention and community healing;

And, I further move that the task force be broadly representative of Nunavut communities, youth, elders, healers, educators, and justice workers. The task force receive all necessary resources and support from the Government of Nunavut;

The task force report to the Minister of Health and Social Services within six months of its establishment and the Minister of Health and Social Services table the task force report in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. To the motion? Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Picco.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 33 – Tobacco Control Act – First Reading**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me just say quickly on the motion that as the Minister of Health and Social Services, I appreciate the motion on the suicide task force.

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove that Bill 33, the Tobacco Control Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried 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 and Minister's Statement 126-1 (6) with Mr. Irqittuq in the chair.

In accordance with the authority provided to me by motion 2-1 (6), Committee of the Whole will stay in session until itself out. Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we'll take a 20 minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:21 p.m. and resumed at 15:50 p.m.

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

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Good afternoon. Welcome. Please try to remain seated during Committee of the Whole. Today in Committee of the Whole we will be dealing with the following items Bill 30, Bill 31, Bill 32 and Minister's Statements 126-1 (6). What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to continue dealing with reviewing Bill 30 for the Department of Health and Social Services and also if we have time, we would like to move on reviewing Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco, if you're ready, you can go to the witness table.

Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the Minister's officials.

Thank you. Mr. Minister, please introduce your officials.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and good afternoon. With me today are on my right Mr. Keith Best, acting Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services and on my left, Mr. Don Maychruk, Director of Corporate Affairs.

Also, with us in the gallery today, we have Mr. Andrew Tagak. He is in charge of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit with the Department of Health and Social Services. Also with us, our senior policy analyst within the department, Ms. Lori Idlout.

With that Mr. Chairman, we are prepared to continue with page 10-5 on the review of the Department of Health and Social Services 2003 business plan.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Directorate. Page 10-5. Are there any comments or questions? We did not complete this page. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Total Operations and Maintenance, \$17 million 61 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Turning the page. 10-8. Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Total Operations and Maintenance. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on page 10-8 and I hope it's on this line item. In regards to my statement yesterday where we were talking about Health and Social Services. I spoke about the recommendations by the Nunavut Social Development Council. They are responsible for Article 32. I was going to ask a question Mr. Chairman, to the Minister, how many recommendations have you implemented to the department from Nunavut Social Development Council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just getting the information right now. Mr. Chairman, there were several issues related to the Health and Social Services from Article 32 that were brought forth.

Some of the work has been done on the recommendations. As we know, Nunavut Social Development Council was under the land claims, set up as a separate entity. Its Headquarters were in Igloolik and then were moved to Iqaluit quickly after the Elections the new leader for NTI, the Nunavut Social Development Council as a distinct and a separate entity was ended and Nunavut Social Development Council no longer became a society.

However, under Article 32, there are concerns that have been now brought forward though the auspices of the new working groups that are in place under the Land Claim, under the Nunavut Social Development Council.

And there are several different ones. Would the Member want me to go through each page and then give a specific overview of what has been done by the Department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for letting me know of what has been happening; I used to be a Chairperson when this was established under the Land Claims. So, thank you for reminding me of what used to happen before. Under the Article 32, it talks about that Government's obligation to be included in Policy making, delivery of programs and how they are delivered.

So, my question to the Minister is, have they been involvement to fulfill their obligation under the Land Claims to make sure that policies and programs and method of delivery are done by Social Services according to the recommendations that were given on a report called "In Our Own Terms?" I hope that is a little bit clearer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know in the Land Claims was signed off in 1993. One of the boards and agencies set up under the Land Claim was the Nunavut Arbitration Board, which has the Mandate to review the total Land Claims.

And having been a founding member of the Nunavut Arbitration Board, I certainly remember, I hope that the different Members would like to, remember Williams, we are on a different and varying Agencies.

As part of the Mandate of the Arbitration Board, as one of the co-founders of that group, was to review the legal implications and the recommendations. So, I can say, with some authority, Mr. Chairman, that the recommendations by Article 32 specifically outlined in the Land Claim have been followed. I will give specific examples for the Member.

One of the issues surrounded that incorporating traditional, social and cultural values as well as practises within the Department of Health and Social Services, for example, the traditional usage of midwifery, which we have actually extended and enhance, as the Members know in Rankin Inlet.

I would suggest to you that we have a long ways to go yet before we can meet some of the obligations under that end of things and that is part of the budget that we are in dealing with right now, Mr. Chairman.

We have also looked at; under the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, the Department of Health and Social Services was the first Department in Government specifically having Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit specialists within the Department.

Mr. Tagak is with us again here today, and he is reviewing the policies, procedures and so on with the Department to make sure that they incorporate Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit. I would also suggest to you, Mr. Chairman, later this month; we are doing a traditional healing workshop.

We are actually having unilingual healers and traditional councillors, well known to the many people in this room, Meeka and Abraham Arnakak, who are delivering not only counselling skills, workshops, something that you have talked about, Mr. Chairman. They are also working in the professional way, in a structured classroom with nurses, with mental health and addiction workers and so on, with the social workers.

So, that again is incorporating some of the policies and recommendations from the Nunavut Social Development Council within the Department of Health and Social Services.

We have looked at setting up the Local Health Committees in communities and helping them with appropriate training so that they can undertake collaborative planning, which is outlined under Article 32. Article 32 is not only a responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services; it's a government-wide responsibility. I think you also want

to talk about using elders as advisors in the Department of Health and Social Services. We've done that too.

I think in quite a few of the recommendations, we've done that and on page 94 it talks about the Nunavut Social Development Council recommending a conference of Inuit elders, Inuit leaders, government health and welfare officials, Inuit and non-Inuit field workers, to be convened and review Inuit traditions in health.

This was the major recommendation to the department from Nunavut Social Development Council and we're moving forward with that workshop and conference in the coming months and we are reviewing legislation to make sure that indeed we have things that are incorporating Inuit Qaujimagatujangit.

So, I think we've done quite a bit but the member is correct that there are some other issues that we need to move forward on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, a different question. Everything is lumped up here, information and research, health promotions to Bathurst Mandate to dental activities and there are some social worker programs in there, lots of health promotion.

The title says "Family and Communities." I'm not sure if this include social services. My question is how much of the \$33 million dollars is for health related and how much of it is for the social services program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, everything that we do at the department is social services, whether it is mental health workers working with a client, that's a form of social work.

Some times we get confused as a department ourselves by looking at what the job title is and is that what you do. For example is it just a social worker doing a social work job. Are nurses are doing social work, our mental health workers, addictions councillors, our community wellness workers, the many people that we have in the field, at various times and given times, they're doing social work.

That's why within the integrated Department of Health and Social Services, it's called Health and Social Services. So specifically to look at one line item in the budget and say this is social services, it's very difficult to do because everything we do is social services. What I could do for the member is break out the number of social workers that you have in Nunavut as a total and say this is what the salaries are and this is their operating budget but that wouldn't be fair or realistic because there is so much that goes on within the department that touches on as part of social services, and each line item whether it's in

healthy children, families and community and so on, through the budget as part of social services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for the explanation from the Minister. That's probably why some of the communities are confused because the department some times is very hard to understand what it is trying to do, except when we're sick and we have to go to the hospital or when someone's child has been apprehended.

Those are two very different things. And I'm sure it could be very quickly divided up. My question is on the next page Mr. Chairman, Suicide Prevention, can the Minister tell us that there is nothing for 2003/2004 and can the Minister explain why that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, \$97 thousand dollars that was indicated was part of our contribution to the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention Program that will be ran here in Iqaluit in May, their annual general meeting and that was our contribution to that meeting. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just the line above that, funding to Nunavut Municipalities provide Alcohol and Drug Treatment Programs. It has not increased. I am just wondering is the problem staying the same? Or do we have more people drinking? It seems like there are many people getting into trouble with the law.

We also know that when people are drinking, they get involved with breaking the law, but there is no increase at all for the Alcohol and Drugs Program. Can the Minister explain that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this is part of the stacked agreement that we have with the Federal Government. It helps to provide some of the Awareness Programs around Alcohol and Drug Programs within communities. That is why it is a constant amount, because they have not increased through stacked agreement with the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the response. My question is there is no increase. Do we have the same problems as we did two years ago? That was

my question, because there was no increase in funding. Is the problem exactly the same as 2002? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the Main Estimates, you will see that the amount for last year was 949, and this year it is 949. That agreement that we have in place does not expire until 2004, next year. At that time it will be re-negotiated.

At that time, the Member is correct; we would be looking for an increase in the amount of money available from the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Healthy Children, Families and Communities. My first question is about Rankin Inlet; they have a Birthing Centre where they have incorporated Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I am not exactly sure what the Facility is like, and the incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit? Can he clarify this for me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have been very proud of the program that has gone on in Rankin Inlet. I want to give out a commendation to Minister Ng, when he was Health Minister in the previous Government of the Northwest Territories. He had the foresight to initiate that program.

What we have done over the last couple of years, Mr. Chairman, is to put more work into the program itself. And now, Mr. Chairman, we believe we are at the point where we can expand the birthing services, through traditional midwife, as the Member has talked about to other communities and that would be the plan to bring these services to other communities.

The Member has brought up many times, Mr. Chairman, about how women have had to go out of their own communities, and so on or down south in some cases because of the lack of a place to have a baby in a good environment.

That is one of the things that we are moving forward on, under Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We are using traditional practises within that. As the Member knows, again we are proceeding with the traditional midwifery program and training within the Territory this upcoming fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, we were born not a Birthing Centre, but in a home, in our own homes. We were born using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

I do not believe that this birthing center that does not incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, but uses contemporary methods. One thing that I would like further information is do you have Inuit midwives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, one of the big questions I have received as the Minister of Health and Social Services is why we have not been able to have more home birth children and local birth of children.

I think the Member has made an excellent point. Twenty years ago, I would suggest to you that a lot of women were healthier. There wasn't so much process foods, that we did not see diabetic populations, maybe there would not be much smoking and so on.

Today, we are seeing lower birth rates in some cases and we want to make sure that when the child is born that indeed that it is done the very best way. One of the things we do know of it is that the infant mortality rate in the 40's and 50's is very high in Nunavut.

And infant mortality rate is still high but it has dropped considerably. They are incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit traditional practises within the birthing center. As the Members know, we have Inuit working there.

One lady in particular has done excellent service for us, an Inuk and she incorporates traditional Inuit practises within that. I have also been, for example, Mr. Chairman, been approached by women here in Iqaluit to look at expanding our traditional practise of midwives with some Elders here in Iqaluit as well as other people.

So, we are progressing by using the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within that framework and by having the deliveries, we are actually incorporating, as the Member has said, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit model.

I would also recommend to the Member for the next time we have an opportunity to be in Rankin Inlet, I think next month or we go to Baker Lake, stop in and you could actually see some of the work that has been there, be able to talk to some of the staff.

But again, we would like to use that model in other places in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are you going to be training the trainees using the traditional Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit methods? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is as part of the process and that is also part of the plan and we would hope to be able to expedite that over the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, they are not using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, traditional birthing methods at the center in Rankin? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they are. As I had indicated earlier, the birthing center right now is fully staffed. There are three midwives and one maternity care worker at the center and a second maternity care worker will be hired out of this budget in the coming week.

So, Mr. Chairman, it is actually taking place and I want to be able to say to you that as of February the 25<sup>th</sup>, there were, I believe, 26 births in the past 6 months in Rankin Inlet from that birthing center, I think that is pretty good.

>> *Applause*

We are hoping to be able to expand that and we are planning right now, Mr. Chairman that about 100 births will be occurring in Rankin Inlet at the birthing center over the coming year.

So, I think, again as a Government, that the Department has done an excellent job in providing something that the Standing Committee and Members have been asking for.

Hopefully we can expand that process and that procedure across Nunavut in different areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do the elders of Rankin Inlet teach the midwife trainees using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the department right now is involved with the Manitoba health as well as Nunavut Arctic College in developing an education curriculum that will lead to the graduation of Inuit midwives, one of the things that the members have talked about, of certifying Inuit using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we're moving forward with that.

I also want to say that the member is correct, that we have been using elders and would like to include the development of a midwifery education curriculum involving elders who have knowledge or experience using traditional birthing practising in this case. So the member is correct again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not trying to argue the point. I just want to see the proper incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, if it's going to be used right across Nunavut. I was taught by an elder on birthing methods. Inuit have a very practical practise of midwifery. Do you know what those methods are Minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know some of the methods and the member knows himself that he may be from one community in one area of Nunavut and they may use and practise one type of natural child birth.

That's not to say that it's same one that they would use in the western arctic or in the Keewatin. So I'm aware of two or three different cases. I'm not a paediatrician. I'm not a doctor or physician. I'm not a gynaecologist. But I would suggest to you Mr. Chairman, that we are aware in the department.

We have Inuit involved in the process. We want to be able to expand it and we are taking the recommendations seriously. That's why we're saying right now, Mr. Chairman, if the member said three years ago that you have 26 births in Rankin Inlet; it would be up to 101, fiscal 12 month period, that's 100 women that don't have to go south, that don't have to leave Arviat or Baker Lake or Rankin Inlet and go Winnipeg or Churchill. I think that's pretty good news.

That's something that wasn't there before your government was in place, Mr. Chairman. So we need to be able to put more Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the process itself. But we are doing that with the midwifery program that we have in place. We're trying to expand. So, I think that's actually pretty good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's a very good project because it's well received by the people of Rankin Inlet but you stated that they're using

the midwifery practises of Manitoba so, I would take it that there are no Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit incorporated into the birthing practises in that centre.

Using these amounts of money are you going to find out the traditional midwifery practises and the taboos so that we can properly use this money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I didn't make myself clear. Mr. Chairman, we are incorporated Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the work and I said Nunavut Silaktusarvik, Nunavut Arctic College is also involved in the curriculum development with the Manitoba Health.

The reason why we're using the Manitoba Health is because there's no other medical unit out of Winnipeg, is our partner in delivering health in the Keewatin Region, as the Baffin is with the Ottawa Health Services Network.

They have some good equipment, they have some good people. There is a Midwifery Program that they have some expertise in. And incorporating the best of both is giving us the opportunity to do that.

I just wanted to make that point clear. The Member is correct again, it is a good program. I want to thank them for being there to support this type program, not just today, but every time that we have an opportunity to discuss this issue in the House; he is one of the guys who really wants to see more Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit incorporated.

That is what we are trying to do. And I hope that we will be able to move forward. We are not moving forward as fast as we would like to but we have, I think a real success here. I want take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to thank the staff at the Birthing Centre in Rankin Inlet for the excellent work that they have done.

Like I said, over the last six months there have been over 26 births there. Those are all mothers, wives, sisters, who have not had to leave their community to have a child. I think that that is really terrific. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we could look at the smaller communities outside of Rankin Inlet, have there been any traditional births in the smaller communities outside of Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, there have been. I would suggest to you that in almost every community in Nunavut, over the last five years we



have had babies that have been born at the Health Centres. For example, in some cases, they have been born at home, where a woman's water has broke, for example, and we were not able to get them to the Health Centre.

In some cases, Mr. Chairman, as you know that in most cases, right now in Nunavut, one month, usually four or five weeks, just before the delivery date, a woman is sent from her community to Iqaluit, for example, or in the Kivalliq, in some cases, they are sent to Winnipeg, or Churchill, and in the west they are sent to Yellowknife, and if there are complications, they are sent to Edmonton.

Sometimes, Mr. Chairman, the baby will not wait, and they have to have those babies in the community. In those cases, I know and I am sure that the Member knows, where the children have been born at homes, and then go to Health Centres. But because of the risk to a child before a woman, would, for example, use midwifery services, they want make sure that it is low risk. For example, we do not have the ability to do a blood transfusion in communities. If the mother lost a lot of blood during labour, then you would be putting the mother in a very difficult position in communities because of the transference of blood products and so on.

We want to make sure that when mothers are delivering, that there is a low risk, not only to the mother, but also the child. That is one of the complications that are in place with having a child outside of a medical situation.

Mr. Chairman, the Traditional Midwifery Program that we are running, right now in Rankin Inlet, is for low risk mothers so that we try to negate and mitigate those types of risks to both the mother and to the child. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am keeping tabs on my time. I would like to ask another question. As the Minister has said earlier, there have been births at homes in the smaller communities outside of Rankin Inlet. I know that in my community there have been healthy live births.

I have another question regarding is it possible to put emergency kits together to the Nursing Stations, for example, blood products etc. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the situation with blood products, the Member makes a good point. Blood products have a very low and short shelf life. Which means you cannot store them for very long. Just touching on it with Mr. Best the storage time is very, you know and because of that, you would always had to be turning the product over and not ensuring that you have enough on hand.

The health centers are prepared and had done an admirable job. As you know, Mr. Chairman, they have most cases in incubators in place, for example, if they had to deliver a child and they had done that in the past.

However that is not the optimum circumstances. The health centers are prepared to have a kit and everything to deliver children in the community, but at the same time, some of the staff may not be as that proficient in child birthing and so on. So, that is the reasons why we want to get the mother out. That has been the practise over the twenty odd years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We use an large amount of money for the Department of Health and Social Services. If we deliver babies in the community home for example, I am not sure how I am going to word it, maybe this way, How do they have blood products here and not for the other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no. The Baffin Regional Hospital does have a small supply of blood products on hand. In most of our communities outside of Iqaluit, there are no blood products available. For example, in the Member's community because of the high turn around time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): As you mentioned earlier, you said that you are going to be looking at other communities using Rankin Inlet, as an example, if we can have blood products for example, then the smaller communities will not have birth centers if it is not going to be feasible. They stay away for a long time and leave their children behind. Have you thought about what we can do to get out of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Mr. Chairman, the birthing center in Rankin Inlet was originally set up and I believe and I stand to be corrected with it, around 1993, Mr. Chairman, your Government, this Minister started the practise and in 2000, three years ago, we opened up the program so that, as the Member has just stated, we could actually do more births in Rankin Inlet, for communities surrounding Rankin Inlet, so, for example, a lady in Arviat or Baker Lake can go to Rankin Inlet and have their child. Again, we think that that is great. No, we are not going to be able to offer that type of service in every community across Nunavut.

However, if you can help a mother, I am sure the Member knows, if you could have the mother not have to leave Repulse Bay and having to go to Winnipeg to have a child that she can be in Rankin Inlet that is a lot better.

If you can help a mother, for example, not have to go from Pelly Bay to Yellowknife or Edmonton that would be a lot better. And if we can help more women in this region, not having to go to Ottawa to have a baby, I think that is what we are trying to do.

And the Member is correct, that not only will it save money, but it is better for the family as well as the spouse and the children and so on. So, we are cognisant of that and that is why this Government moved it three years ago to make sure that we expanded the birthing center to include communities surrounding the Rankin Inlet area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding the health of people, yes that's true, that's an improvement in services but it's also ruins relationships when they have to go away for along time.

It's raises animosity between relationships, especially when young mothers are away for so long. It creates a lot of problems in relationships as well, when they have to go away for so long.

I have heard of cases Tammaatarvik and I frequent there. I think that's something we have to look into more and I'll leave it at that. But, under the same page, on another issue, I would like to ask under travel and transportation, \$1 million 939 thousand dollars, the year before and now \$936 thousand dollars. What is the reason for the reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that was adjusted to reflect travel arrangements for social and the mental health workers for the community for escorts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Grants and contributions, it says it's for suicide prevention, \$97 thousand dollars for the spring conference in May and on this page, in the estimations, for 2003/2004 I don't see the estimates. Where is it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the \$97 thousand dollars was, the member is correct to help fund the Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention Conference that is occurring in May.

That's why it is only a one year line item. It's almost \$100 thousand dollars that we're putting towards that conference. On top of that, as the member knows, the Government of Nunavut is also doing their own suicide prevention workshop before that one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): 2001, 2002, 2003, there were funds of \$97 thousand dollars for suicide prevention on page 10-9, on the bottom part; there is none for this year for 2003/2004 fiscal year. That's the question. Did he allot those funds to another area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the amount is there under 2002/2003 because it was paid out during this fiscal year before March 31, 2003. This year coming up, 2004, which is what the Main Estimates are for, there is no conference, so there are no special funds within our budget of \$97 thousand dollars to pay for.

It's just recording what was expended for this year, and in the case that there are no conference next year that we're going to be putting money into for the Canadian Association of Suicide Prevention Conference. So I hope that helps clarify the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where are you going to fund suicide prevention? Especially, after that motion on the floor today, where are we going to get the funds for that task force? Where can I find other funds being brought up for that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, throughout the budget, under the mental health strategy that we talked about before, we had budgeted \$2.2 million dollars toward that program which is also inclusive of the suicide prevention program.

The Taskforce that was in a Motion today, and I would suggest to you, a very important Taskforce. It depends on how the scope of that Program goes, according to the Motion and I spoke to some of the Ministers about it earlier, if that means travelling around to communities, appointing the members that are talked about in the Motion itself, that Motion came after the budget was put together, so there is not the resources right now

identified specifically for that Taskforce in this budget. There is no line item for that Taskforce in the budget that the Motion talks about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): In the budget, there are no funds set aside. There is probably another explanation for the use of the Suicide Prevention Fund?

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is several million dollars in the budget itself dealing with issues around suicide and suicide itself. For example, the Mental Health Workers, the Training Programs, we are having Seminars, Counselling sessions, through the Mental Health Strategy.

So there is a whole group of dollars available within the budget framework for Suicide Prevention Programs, and Issues. The line item that was there which was for one Conference.

The Motion of today, which was setting up a Suicide Taskforce, that was done after the budget was put together, so that is something that we need to be able to look at what the scope of that Motion entails, as opposed to this Taskforce, itself.

So the Member is correct, throughout the budget of the Department of Health and Social Services, several million dollars to look at issues surrounding and for suicide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are dealing with 10-8? The Contract Services \$15 million, 405 thousand, is this reflected in your Business Plan page 10-20, under the Out of Territory Hospital for \$15 million dollars? Can I get that clarification please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it does not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where is the Contract Services for \$15 million, 405 thousand dollars, indicated in your Business Plan? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are for Residential Care Contracts, Foster Service Payments. Like for example, for Foster parents, groups homes, like the Adult Group Home, that we have here in Iqaluit, the Elders Group Home that you have there in Baker Lake, Arviat, and here in Iqaluit.

The priority here in last year's Main Estimates were insufficient to cover off all those obligations and that is why the revised estimates were adjusted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Maybe the Minister of Finance can answer that. It is extremely difficult. If you are not a member of the Standing Committee, if you are a member of the public for that matter, it is very difficult to find from your Main Estimates into your Business Plan, it does not really clarify anything either what reflects in the budget or the Business Plan. The Business Plan figures differ from the actual estimates, because they are grouped differently.

Let me try the Compensations and Benefits, \$12 million 4, under the same 10-8 Main Estimates, is this reflected in the Business Plan? And is this for nurses and doctors and family doctors and the Healthy Children, Families and Communities, what are all these employees for \$12 million 4 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Maychruk is getting some of the main details of the budget, so I'll give you some examples of the positions that are included under healthy children, families and communities, you're talking about social workers, you're talking about health promotion, CHRs, residential care, you're talking about dental care for example, Mr. Chairman, mental health, you're talking about nutrition anything that involves healthy children, families and communities.

So when you're looking at the budget of Health and Social Services, a social worker, you don't have one category that says social worker. Social worker maybe dealing with mental health issues or corrections, probation, maybe dealing with family issues and so on.

That's one of the difficulties of this department because you're doing a range of services. It's not like; let's say education, where a teacher teaches. So, that's one of the issues. For example, nurses, we have home care nurses, not just nurses in a hospital. We have health care centre nurses not just nurses in an elders' facility.

So there are a lot of different variants for the different cost categories and so on. I hope that helps just explain a little bit better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The clock is ticking away really fast. Do you have some kind of success indicators for those services because I think the school has success indicators for their budget that the children are actually benefiting and learning from the instructions they get from the teachers.

With your program, social services, promotion of health etc., for \$12 million dollars, do you have any idea if the programs are actually working? Are things improving? Do we have less suicides and less illness. Is there some kind of indicator that you use in your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member makes a good point. When you're looking at the analyses of data, under Health and Social Services, you can't do it in a snap shot of one year or two years.

For example, on the health promotion and prevention, the member may say I spend \$8 million dollars in anti-tobacco programs, where's the evidence. You might not see that evidence for several years, until you see a drop in youth smoking and so on. That's one of the indicators.

Under social services, some of the work that's being dealt with, when you see more children not being taken into custody through foster care or something. Would that be an indicator of some of the work happening or would it be an indicator of something else. So, it's more of a non-descript way of looking at how it's done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it's a small amount, we don't mind, it's just that I think some days, some how, we're going to have to have maybe one of these retreats to talk about where we want to go.

It's a big department and we have inherited this from Government of the Northwest Territories. There are some things that may need to be trimmed or done differently, more efficiently maybe, as in government terminology.

This is a whole lot of money and what I worry about is that you have approximately \$700 million dollars, which is capped for the whole Government of Nunavut and every dollar in the budget. It does not matter what kind of Department we have, we have to be accounted for, at least success measures or measurable success will have to be indicated sometime in the future.

We cannot just pay salaries and salaries, salaries without getting anything in return, at least something tangible or something we can see that is happening in terms of improvement, maybe five years from now.

You know, we want to be able to see success of that dollar that is spent from, I mean, we all pay taxes and Nunavummiut pay taxes. It is not free money from the Federal Government, you know, we all pay taxes.

I think we only will want to see, we are going to attract some mining companies and things like that, that we will only want to start mineral accord and that sort of thing. That the money will be used for good reasons, for good use.

And compensation benefits, which are legitimate today, maybe we will have to review maybe to streamline or do things differently that may be more effective than now. That is my concern, Mr. Chairman.

The only thing that is outlined in the other section of the page 10-9, that Mr. Nutarak talked about, grants and contributions for \$3, million 945 thousand. Nothing else is itemized, you know, itemized for shelter programs, alcohol and drug programs and suicide prevention conference, but nothing else is itemized.

Is there anything in the future, I mean we talked about the last three years, that you, Minister, are a good Finance Minister that, although this is a standard acceptable method of putting the Main Estimates, for young Nunavummiut, it really does not make sense.

Their plan and business plan, similarly has adopted itself to be as vague as possible rather than saying, okay, we have 26 communities, average of 4 nurses, this is what it costs us. You know, okay, for how many doctors, 24 doctors or 25 doctors, here is what it costs us.

Something simple that we could help you with in convincing our people in Nunavut Territory, you know, try to live a healthier lifestyle. Try to understand what is in the potato chip? What is in the pop? What is in the alcohol, tobacco or anything that is not healthy?

With this kind of budget process, it is very hard to talk about it. I will have a hard time going home after we approve it, try to explain to people in Coral Harbour or Chester of what is happening, I do not have a breakdown, I do not have explanation of what this good money of \$12 million is used for.

You know, and I need more clarity so that we too, as regular Members, can participate with your staff and promote healthy communities. Some options of the things like you talk about Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, birthing program, along these lines.

Right now, this is mind-boggling and not just mind-boggling, so many things are hidden. Mr. Chairman, my last page, one minute left. Travel and transportation, you had \$1



million,939 thousand last year, you have \$936,000 this year. What caused the reduction of travel? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, on the points that the member has made, there are good points. I don't know if the program review that was ongoing will be able to address some of the issues around programs and services.

The member is correct, a lot of what we're doing right now in the organization came from the Government of the Northwest Territories and we're trying to put our own spin on it, we trying to change it where we can and so on.

We've had some success through the decentralization and so on but it will be interesting to see how the program review shapes up to develop that. On the level of detail in the budget, the level of detail that's available is standard throughout different jurisdictions and indeed most members in this house have a better opportunity to see the budget than any other jurisdiction in the country.

As you know, the members don't get an opportunity in other jurisdictions to sit down with budget briefings and so on. You don't even see the budget until it's entered in your house.

In this situation here in Nunavut, the members actually have a chance to contribute to your budget, see the budget of the department by committee, line by line basically. There are very few surprises in the budget when it comes to floor house.

After saying that, the level of detail that the member is talking about is available. For example, I can look at one of the member's community, Chesterfield Inlet, give the break down on population, and look at the total number of visits to the health centre. Would that be helpful for example, to the member.

For Chesterfield Inlet, I could say for example, there were 2,827 visits in 2000/2001. Last year, there were 4,000, which is an increase of 41 percent. So the member might say, what was happening in constituency last year when you had a 41 percent increase in visits to the health centre.

How is that driving the costs of the community for example. Do you need more staff and so on. I could tell the member that there were 1,393 medical travel trips out of the community. I can say that there were 321 chartered. I can give him the budget for the last two years in the community.

So, that level of detail is available but in most cases, if the Finance Minister could say, that level of detail is using is never present in these types of books and binders. That's the level of detail the member talks about that the health committee for example would see when they ask questions during their committee review and hearings.

Maybe that's something as a house, that we have an opportunity to discuss what's available. I don't know if it would be possible for every department in government to be able to put that level of detail in the budget proposed, given those amounts.

The reductions that the member talked about were adjusted to reflect the travel requirements. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Ms. Williams. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** The last one on that page Mr. Chairman, referring to Mr. Iqaqrialu's question on the supply of blood in the communities. We understand it has a very short shelf life, do you have at least, an inventory of blood types in all the communities where if someone in Clyde River gets hurt and is bleeding like crazy or giving birth and cannot stop the bleeding, there's a blood type B in at house 429 and our telephone number is 979 etc. Do you at least have that inventory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one of the luxuries that we do have in Nunavut is that we have a homogenous blood type because of the population breakdown.

So, that is available to the staff. Actually having blood products or blood supply on hand, we don't have that. We actually import our blood as the member knows usually from Ontario and Quebec at the present time for the Government of Nunavut.

We do have a supply at the hospital here but we don't have it available in individual supplies in communities because of the issues around the storing of blood, the short shelf life, the number of products that you would have and so on. We do have the homogenous group that the member talks about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** So what you're saying is that, if my sister is giving birth, and I have the same blood type, they would not be able to use it, even if we live in the same community because something has to be done with the blood first.

Is there anything that the department is taking as a measure because they cannot store blood but they know that they could get the information to the community, very small community of 1,000 people, say you can come in and give your blood type, if it is acceptable for blood donation if it needs be in case someone gets hurt, or having problems birthing, etc. Do you have that kind of inventory, or are there some measure, or you have to wait until the planes in from you say Quebec to Grise Fiord for emergency purposes. What is your preparedness now? Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member raises some good points. It is my understanding, Mr. Chairman, that because of the storage issues, because of the supply issue, because of the short shelf life of blood products in general, we do not have a stock of blood in every community. That has not changed for twenty years.

There is because of our homogenous population, we know what the blood type of the majority of the population is. There have been instances, for example, Mr. Chairman, as I am aware of, since becoming the Minister of Health, where an emergency supply of blood that was needed, and we had people from a Health Centre from a community, that we able to give blood, because of the homogenous type.

However, every time that you give blood, it has to be checked for HIV, it has to be checked for Hepatitis C, and so on. We do not have the Laboratory to do those tests in Clyde River, or Pond Inlet, and so on. So you need to be very careful of any type of blood that you put into someone.

So those types of tests need to be done. The blood needs to be screened. We are all aware of the bad situation that occurred over the last decade when blood products that were not tested went into people and caused HIV, and Hepatitis C infections. That is one of the things that you really have to be cognizant of, Mr. Chairman, when you are talking about blood products. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you finished? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a quick question under the Grants and Contributions. Mr. Chairman, it has Shelter Programs. I am just wondering if the department provides any funding to the Homeless Shelter under any of the Programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Department of Health and Social Services we have been funding the Homeless Shelter in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that fall under Shelter Programs? Or if it does not mentioned here, it mentions the other kind of shelters, but it does not mention the Homeless Shelter. I am just wondering if that falls under, or if it is somewhere else? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is where it falls under. It falls under people with special needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the Minister know quite well that the shelter is always struggling to stay open and maintain the service that it provides to it's clients. Have the funding level has been increasing over the years to the Homeless Shelter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, they have had an increase since this program had begun. We have not been able to give the type of service that we would have like to in the program itself.

I believe right now, Mr. Chairman, that the Homeless Shelter in Iqaluit, the core funds that it receives is from the Government of Nunavut, they also other funding partners that help deal with the Oqota Shelter. It is under the Illitiit Society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, does the Minister, the department want to ensure that the Shelter has the adequate resources to provide the services that it does provide to the community, in Iqaluit? Mr. Chairman, the Minister pointed out there are the residents, the clients that use the Shelter are not just from Iqaluit. They are from all of the different Baffin communities and beyond that use that facility.

Is the Minister of Health is ensuring that they have the adequate resources to make sure that they can operate and keep the doors open for these clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that is one of the programs that the Illitiit Society has been running in the community as their quota on the homeless shelter. With the advent of the Aqaqtuqsaarvik over the past two months since Christmas, we have actually taken quite a bit of pressure off the Oqota Shelter because they have people now staying in that facility. So, that is actually helping them out too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if the Minister responded, you know, he committed to ensuring that the shelter has the resources it needs to be able

to maintain the level of service that it needs to provide not only to the community, but to the region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you. Yes, we are, Mr. Chairman, within the budget framework of the Department, that it is something that we are trying to continue to work on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, is this page, on the next page a continuation from the page 10-8, page 10-9?

At the top of the page, I have a question on the shelter program, Funding Organizations to accommodate various individuals with special needs such as Women's Shelter and Iqaluit Psychiatric Facility. Is this all geared towards shelter program just for Iqaluit? That is my question. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** No, it is not, Mr. Chairman. For example, we also support, under this budget line item, the Kugluktuk Women's Group Home, the Cambridge Bay Stay Shelter, the Qataijaq Society, Aijitiimuuvik, Inuit Women's Group Home, which is in Cambridge. So, actually, there is a lot of different programs in different communities across Nunavut within this budget item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when the communities, when they apply for shelter, to run Elders facilities or women's shelters, is that the only time they are provided some funding to get these kinds of shelters only after they have requested or do they not need to request? Thank you.

**Chairperson:**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, usually in the case of the Nunavut, societies set up for like, for example, the Women's Shelter and then they would apply to the Government for the money. The Member is correct, it is after they are set up that they apply to the Government for money to operate their program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How about in the smaller communities, have you seen smaller communities requesting to have Elder's facilities or to have women's shelters? Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have seen a demand in communities asking about opportunities for program funding to bring forward women's shelters in different communities.

One of the concerns being raised, Mr. Chairman, is that in communities, we have for example, some people in many cases stay home, but we actually do not have transitional homes and so on for women. So, that is an issue that is being raised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to make a comment.

In the larger communities, of course, there is a need for these kinds of shelters. I'm not against larger communities receiving shelters. What about the smaller communities. They need more support and assistance too. They need the same level of services as the larger centres.

I just wanted to make that point and also to get a commitment to consider these kinds of services in the smaller communities. Just a comment.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Just a comment. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the shelter programs, women's shelter, 2 million 996 thousand dollars, last year it was 2 million 36 thousand dollars. There is an increase in this program.

My question is, on shelters, during times when there is family breakdown and violence, the shelters are used as part of the social services programs. People also come in from other communities. After the family breaks down, and one of the family members who had gone to the women's shelter and after the women has been in the shelter, do you have any reports or statistics on how many women have been happily reunited with their families.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I don't have those statistics with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since there is not that kind of information available, we need to know to ensure that people don't abuse this program.

Perhaps you can do a bit more research on the people who use the shelter and once they've gone through all that process, maybe you should do a review on whether these people who have split up have reunited, without mentioning the names, that way we can look at and be sure that this funding is not abused in this line item. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to go back to the first point, I said I don't have the information with me right here, but I can make some of that information available to the member because we do have some statistics available.

If I can get the information in the next couple of days, that would be okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't mind because this has to be done properly as Nunavummiut.

We are planning to use Inuit knowledge on resolving some of the social issues, so therefore I will just be waiting for that information, even though if it is not right away, I would appreciate getting it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a comment.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Health and Social Services, branch summary, Healthy Children, Families and Communities, total operations and maintenance, who. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under alcohol and drug programs, the funds there have not changed. I'm sure the funding to provide alcohol and drug treatment programs comes under Nunavut municipalities. Perhaps that is where they get their funding from.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to an earlier question, in areas such as this tax agreement with the Federal Government. The contract with the Federal Government expires on 2004 and then we would hope to be able to renegotiate that amount up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since this is a negotiated figure I'm sure this is allotted to all the communities of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that money is there for funding to Nunavut municipalities to provide for the alcohol and drug treatment programs under a stacked agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you. Is that amount allotted evenly to all the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a clarification, that's money that is available in the budget. So, for example, Mr. Chairman, the Iliisaqivik Society in Clyde River, I think has \$50 thousand dollars of that amount of money that they are doing for some of the group work that they're doing in Clyde River that the member is aware. So that's how the project monies work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else. On page 10-8, Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$33 million, 683 thousand dollars. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Would you like to take a ten minute break. We'll take a ten minute break. Please come back when it's 25 past 5.

*>>Committee recessed at 17:12 p.m. and resumed at 17:25 p.m.*

**Chairperson** (interpretation): We can resume the meeting. The Department of Health and Social Services. Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$28 million, 226 thousand. We are on page 10-10. Page 10-10, the Department of Health and Social Services. Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$28 million, 226 thousand. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want further information on the Contract Services, which you see as the only line item here, and I am sure that there is a whole bunch of Contract Services in this same line. What is in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.



**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I will just give a brief overview. The Health Insurance Programs includes the Extended Health Benefits, out of Territory Hospital Reciprocal Billing, as well as the Non-insured Health Benefits for a total of \$28 million, 226 thousand dollars.

It also includes the Health Insurance Programs, such as Hospital Services within Nunavut and other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That does not include Medical Travel, or Medivacs. This is strictly the Hospital on similar care costs. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** That is right, Mr. Chairman, it does not include the travel, it includes the healthcare benefits that we receive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Just for further information. It says that the travel and medical services are not here, and it does not including the Contract Services. \$28 million, 226 thousand is quite a lot. Could you elaborate further on what it covers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Medical Travel costs, we will find those when we get to 10-12 when we get to that point. For this one here, Mr. Chairman, for example, Hospital Services within Nunavut and other jurisdictions, is a major component here, reciprocal dealing with out of Territory Hospitals.

So every time we send a patient from Nunavut to Winnipeg, Churchill, Yellowknife, Ottawa, Montreal, Edmonton, and so on, we get charged for that. We said the other night in the debate here on the budget, that it is over \$1 thousand 6 hundred dollars for a paediatric bed.

On average if we took Mr. Iqaqrialu and he had to stay three nights in Ottawa in Hospital, it would cost us around \$15 hundred dollars a night. That is what they are charging us. It is not free. Every time you send a patient down south, they charge you back.

So those costs are increasing also. When you see our budget increase, for example, we cannot control the costs of sending Mr. Okalik down to Edmonton for five days. If Edmonton wants to charge us \$15 hundred and 80 dollars, and last year they charged us

\$13 thousand, that is the way the reciprocal billing works. Your costs are going to increase.

When we end up sending more patients down south, it costs us more money. That is what is reflected here, Mr. Chairman, in the Line item. I hope that helps explain the question. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is it not possible to build a facility, or provide the services here in Nunavut so that the \$28 million dollars does not go out of the Territory? Is it possible to set up a system up here so that the dollars stay in Nunavut? Instead of using the facilities down south, is it not possible to build those facilities up here to keep the dollars? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, Mr. Chairman, that is what we are doing. That is why we really appreciate the Member's support for putting a new facility in Rankin Inlet, or Cambridge Bay, Mr. Chairman, as well extending the facility here so we can actually put more money back into Nunavut and provide more services here so that people do not have to fly out. So, the answer is, yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Non-insured health benefits is for aboriginal or anyone else that are not working, but with other Inuit who are Green Shield, I think it's called Green Shield Insurance or something like that, is that for dental health only, or is it for general health for those who are working and are insured. What is the definition of non-insured health benefits? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, non-insured health benefits, is a program run by the Federal Government specifically for Inuit or aboriginal Canadians. It's not just unique as the Member knows, for Nunavut, it is also in place, for example, in the Northwest Territories and so on.

Those costs that we are able to bill right now are at 10 million 926 thousand dollars that we are able to bill back to the Federal Government for insured benefits for Inuit, let's say for those hospital costs, although we know and the member knows, it probably costs us 40, 50, 60 million dollars or more.

85 percent of our population is Inuit and we are spending more than what they actually give us. That is part of the negotiations that we are having with the Federal Government right now.

For example, Mr. Chairman, very quickly, in 1999/2000, we had a ceiling of 10 million 287 thousand dollars that we could only bill to. We found out in that year that our actual expenditures were actually 10 million 791 thousand dollars.

We have an agreed ceiling last year of 2001/2002, of 10, 287 again. We actually spent 14 million dollars that we actually tracked to that line item, plus more at the time. So, basically, Mr. Chairman, what is what is included.

What is also put into that is vision care, eye glasses, drugs, medical supplies and equipment, as well as medical transportation costs, some of those are also covered in there. The actual costs of prescription drugs, medical devices that are paid directly by Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, what is the legal responsibility of the Federal Government, then, if they are not going to pay for all the costs of non-insured benefits?

Do they give you some kind of explanation of why they would not pay 100 percent when they are paying 100 percent in southern Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure that we get this right.

The Federal Government, Mr. Chairman, has a program in place, called NIHB for aboriginal Canadians. We maintain as a government, that the Federal Government have a fiduciary responsibility to aboriginal people.

The Federal Government have basically said, since 1974 that is not the case, that they are just managing this program for aboriginal Canadians. We maintain that they do have a responsibility, a fiduciary responsibility.

Basically, Mr. Chairman, the jury is still out on what they do or do not owe. Because it is a Federal Government program, there may be a level in Nunavut and there is less than what is in another jurisdiction.

I'll give you an example, Mr. Chairman, when there was a problem in Davis Inlet, and they had to send 47 kids out for treatment, it was not the Newfoundland government that paid for that. That was the Federal Government.

If I had to send 47 children from Iqaluit out for treatment, I would suggest to you very strongly that it would be the Government of Nunavut that would have to pick up 95 percent of that cost.

That is what is different. So, it is a program delivered by Canada. And because it is their program, there are some arbitrary ways that they develop that program and spend their money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I do not know if this is the budget, is the right time to discuss that, but it has to be discussed some more in detail, especially with the lawyers that have knowledge of history of how the Federal Government responsibility is for health programs for aboriginal people across Canada because there is a proclamation or Indian Act specifically stating that, for the purpose of health programs, any shall be included, it says that. Okay, specifically stated that, I read it.

The aboriginal people in the south are covered 100% by the Federal Government. Correct me if I am wrong, I don't think that the Federal Government, I do not think that the Provincial Government pays that part.

I think it was called the Sprinkle Building, I do not know how to say that in English, but when you try to steal a thousand bucks if you live in Alberta, my Cree friend will, the Alberta Government will bill the Federal Government for that exact amount, down to the last penny.

Tell me, in the legal terms, what is the difference between Alberta and Nunavut when it comes to uninsured payments from the Federal Government. Have you dealt with a lawyer in that one? Thank you..

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I do not think I would be able to give a statement on the situation in Alberta with regards to the First Nations Programs that are on there because I do not think that would be acceptable.

What I can say is two things, first of all, the Federal Government has programs, I know we want to be quick here. When the Federal Government has programs, they have made it very difficult since 1999 for Nunavut to have an uptake on those programs, to get access to it.

I will give you a quick example, Mr. Chairman, FAS/FAE, last year, the Federal Government announced that \$4 million strategy for FAS/FAE. When I, as the Minister of Health and Social Services, tried to access money for Nunavut, I was not able to do it

because the FAS/FAE Program announced by the Federal Government was for on and off reserve.

We do not have reserves in Nunavut, Mr. Chairman, and that is just an example of how the differentiation between first status, no status reserve and off reserves are and how it affects Inuit.

After bringing this to the attention of Jane Stewart who is the Minister for HRDC and a former DIAND Minister, she agreed right away that this is a problem here. And then we were able to change the program funding so that there was actually an access for it.

But then, we have another problem, which was the per capita amount. So, Mr. Chairman, that is basically what we are talking about on the NHB in 1988, Mr. Chairman, if I can use the word hot, the Government of the Northwest Territories of the hot to take over Health and Social Services to the Feds.

And when he signed that lousy agreement in 1988, part of it was for a co-payment of \$250 another example for paying tickets and it never increased, that is right, Minister Ng. It did not look like it either at the time and now, Mr. Chairman, 13 years later, the \$250 co-payment is still in place and our ticket prices increased by 700%.

So, we have met, me and the Premier has met with Anne McClellan and talked about the co-payment and NHB. We have lawyers looked at it through Government, we have had negotiations with Allen Rock and Anne McClellan and we are continuing to do that, Mr. Chairman.

I can say to you that Mr. Best has met recently with Health Canada Officials and I hope to meet with Anne McClellan in the next few weeks, possibly in Yellowknife with the other two Territorial Ministers to discuss the issue around NHB, which is a huge implication for offices of Government and especially for our deficits.

And a good example, Mr. Chairman, instead of spending \$30 million a day on travel, what if the Feds paid an extra 20? And that would take care of the deficit and be \$20 million that I could put into hiring new nurses, more psychiatric facilities and so on. And as well, I appreciate the question from the Member, the Member is correct. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe this is the wrong place to discuss that. It is off the topic here.

Can we, though, along with the government and you as the Minister of Health and Social Services, discuss this, maybe in Baker Lake, or in a roundtable discussion or some kind of retreat and try to come up, at least have the regular members start having a little bit of a draft of complexities of the renegeing by the Federal Government.

I don't know how you phrase it, but there's something wrong, from the Indian Act. Maybe there is something wrong through the land claims agreement too that the Federal Government were going to continue their responsibilities that they held for the wellbeing of Inuit.

Except for specified articles of the land claims, I would like to pursue that some more through some other means. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct, we are on a budget debate and this is probably not the place to discuss that, but it does have budget implications, as explained.

I think, Mr. Chairman, having a lawyer as a premier, who has been in those meetings with me and I was with him when we had the meeting with the three premiers, from the Yukon and Northwest Territories, being the only health minister from the north there, it was quite emotional.

So, Mr. Chairman, if I may, I will ask the premier to address some of the issues around the fiduciary responsibilities of the Federal Government and the issues around health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Premier. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we had discussed this before under the land claims agreement; there is a proviso in the agreement that permits Inuit of Nunavut to benefit as any other aboriginal people in Canada. That includes health and education.

We are trying to utilize that clause and we have been working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and it is on one of the lists that we have to work with on the Clyde River Protocol.

So, we are working on it. We are going to keep working on it until we have the same benefits as any other aboriginal person in the country. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? Health and Social Services, Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$28 million, 226 thousand dollars. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Health Protection. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3 million, 424 thousand dollars. Agreed? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under health protection, it is stated in the explanation, but compensation benefits covers 2 million 148 thousand dollars. The rest for the different line items, for health protection, whether it be different sexually transmitted diseases or TB, there does not seem to be anything else besides those explanations. Can you clarify what this health protection section of the budget is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is a very important part of the department's budget on health and health protection. The services that you see there, I think it is \$3.42 million, includes things like sexually transmitted diseases, STDs, TB that mentioned in the house, a part of that, Mr. Chairman, is also the chief medical health officer as well the assistant medical health officer.

That is your top medical health person in the territory. Every jurisdiction has one. Also, Mr. Chairman, it includes minor capital for testing equipment for environmental health. So, for example, Mr. Chairman, when we had to evacuate the hospital, we didn't have the proper testing device on hand at the time and through this budget we have a small device and also at the same time Mr. Chairman, there are monies there for public health nursing support services and expert positions for doctors support for TB. I hope that clarifies some of the details for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation) Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There must be a lot of staff because there's \$2 million 148 thousand dollars. How much staff is covered under that line item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we're just getting that information for the member. If the member wanted to go to another question, or if we come back to that, we could answer the question later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Do you expect to have that response right soon? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): They're still looking for it. If you have any other questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Materials and supplies, \$575 thousand dollars and there's an increase of up to \$808 thousand dollars for these materials and supplies.

That's probably due to increased costs for compensation and benefits. Whether it is for STDs or TB testing, or environmental causes, and if it's for that reason, he must have quite a few staff in the communities and these are very important information.

I'm just wondering if he's doing the right thing by having so many staff for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the member is correct. There are approximately 26 PYs. It reflects the increased cost of providing vaccines to the territory, to Nunavut. It also includes the new initiatives for TB that we've talked about but it does not include condoms Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 26 staff and looking at the materials and supplies for the health protection branch, is this according to the different regions. Is that why that line item is so much, because it's for the three regions of Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Baffin? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's part of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just under health protection, TB, Hepatitis C, STDs, trichinosis, environmental cases, how much is your department, I think you told me \$344 thousand dollars but is that in fact correct that you've got \$344 thousand dollars earmarked for TB this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as the member has indicated, we have put extra money into extra support for TB and that's for some travel as well as for some extra PYs in the budget. It doesn't include an actual amount right here but it's included in the total amount that's given in the protection amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your Minister's statement today, you said the TB rates are 14 times higher than the national average. What's the bench mark or what's the stat before we finally call something epidemic up here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we follow the World Health Organization and other guidelines that as most jurisdictions when you look at what is an epidemic, it is based on the numbers, the occurrences, the ratio, the median per for populations, and so on. That is how you look at it, if it is an epidemic proportion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you done? Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that issue, TB is a slow epidemic. Like I said, we are at 14 times the National average, and it is not something where you eat something, or you get food poisoning, RSV and pass away, or something like that.

It is just that I find it uncanny. I was just reading an article that the Canadian Government, that the Government of Canada just gave India \$2.14 million dollars for Tuberculosis prevention. Not that I want to take anything away from India, I think that they need all the help they can get, and I have to thank the Federal Government for being so kind to a poor country.

I am trying to emphasize, with your statistics, that is the 14 times higher than the National average, and that is just the sporadic testing. It could be higher, it could be 25 times higher, that is why I am trying to emphasize on you that a need to maybe be a little bit more vigilant in testing to see exactly where we stand on this illness. That is just basically a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else? Health Protection. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3 million, 424 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Opposed? Carried. Treatment Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$69 million, 199 thousand. Agreed? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$25 million for Travel and Transportation. Is that for air travel or other means of travel? It was \$29 million in last year's Estimates, and now a reduction down to \$25 million, 959 thousand. Can you please elaborate as to what that means with the reduction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Chairman, one of the things that we have been discussing over the past couple of years on the submission of Medical Travel. I just gave an indication of the \$250 co-payment.

Part of the reflection here is the negotiations that we are having ongoing with the Federal Government in the reductions of our medical travel, in trying to increase some of the allowable amounts from them. For example, under the dentistry side, we have actually been able to get an increase to some of the amounts available. That is reflected here in the amounts here at the same time.

However, Mr. Chairman, after saying that, we also will have savings that we will be announcing over the next few days, with regards to our Medical Air Contract. We expect to be able to pay several million dollars over five years with the awards for Medical Air Travel that we will be announcing over the next few days on that contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): On page 10-12, there are explanations on the next page, on page 10-13. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$25 million for Air Travel. Can you make an announcement as to which Airline will benefit from this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Sorry I was wrong. 10-13 is separate from 10-13. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, part of the, when we say medical transportation, it also includes, for example, the position travel costs, sending a doctor into Clyde River or a dentist or so on. So, it is also inclusive of that.

No, Mr. Chairman, I am not in the position to announce the successful winners of the Medical Award Contracts yet. I would hope to be able to do that in the next couple of days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you. Materials and Supplies were \$3 million and an increase of up to \$4 million and just below it was 739 thousand, an increase up to \$1 million. There are increases in almost each of the line items and as well contract services. Can you please explain what the increases are for and how they were formulated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are increased to reflect the actual cost, the realistic cost of what was being done and they increased the same, of the health centers as well as the medical and the surgical supply delivery equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you. Contract Services was \$9 million and now they are at \$10 million. Looking at the \$25 million for Travel and Transportation, this \$10 million for Contract Services, what is that for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Contract Services include family physicians, those are doctors we have on a contract, the catering services, that is the food, miscellaneous laboratory services, that is when you get the special blood treatments and have checks and so on. Miscellaneous radiology services, Mr. Chairman, Canadian Blood Services, that is for the Canadian Blood Supply we talked about earlier, facsimile, photocopiers, janitorial and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk. Anything else? Treatment Programs, \$69 million, 199 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Detailed work information on the other pages. Go back to page 10-4, Details of Expenditures, Total Operations and Maintenance, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): 10-13, I have a question, if we are allowed, I would like to ask questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, is that okay with you? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Go ahead with your question, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is regarding the funds from Health Canada. Funding for the Brighter Futures, Building Healthy Communities, Silent Abuse Programs, National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse. \$9 million, 619 thousand, can you please explain that money from the Federal Government as to how it is set up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is some detail there on the information under these detailed work reformed on behalf of third parties. First of all, Mr. Chairman, Brighter Futures under that \$9.6 million, Brighter Futures, that the Member is aware of, that is the money that is given to every community in Nunavut for Brighter Futures and Community Wellness Programs, the Hamlets themselves and the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, there is also \$4.9 million dollars, a huge amount that we've put into the home and community care and that's where we've trained home care workers in every community in Nunavut to deliver home care to our elders.

I know the members are aware of that one. So, we're counting now, for 90 percent. The other large one there that the member was talking about is under solvent abuse programs. That's for dealing with people with solvent abuse, sniffing gas and propane and so on. We have over \$200 thousand dollars in that program.

We also have under the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse program, about \$300 thousand dollars that we've put into specific programs. All together, Mr. Chairman, under all these different programs for the Federal Government, there's about \$9.6 million dollars and those are monies that go right into communities on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk:** That was my last question but I get curious on the distribution on 10-14, under the contract services. What the headquarters contracted out was \$33 million dollars when everybody else is comparatively, quite small.

What do you need for the purposes of contracts? Or \$33 million dollars should have distributed also to different regions. It's not that I really care, it's just that, why is it placed under headquarters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the \$33 million 98 thousand dollars under contract service includes the reciprocal billings that we just talked about earlier and that's because you're dealing with out of territory hospitals and so on. And also under the NIHB, that's under headquarters because that's where it's administered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else. Let's go back to page 10-4. Details of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$151 million, 593 thousand dollars. Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year you were budget \$150 million 983 thousand dollars. So you're happy that \$150 million was enough last year and that you want another \$151 million which is a slight increase, less than a million dollar, or \$151 million, 593 thousand dollars.

So are you happy that last year's budget was sufficient enough for you to budget \$151 million this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well Mr. Chairman, the chairman of the health committee is sitting across from me. I've never been happy with the amounts that are available but we can only work within the context of what's available to us. I have no real comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arvaluk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will rephrase my question. In reality, from last year, \$150 million 983 thousand dollars, was manageable, you didn't need to go under or over that amount so therefore, you need another \$1 million dollars this year to have relatively the same expenditures, relatively the same expenditures from last year with a small increase.

I'm not asking for the Minister's opinion, whether he likes it or not, I'm talking about the potential actual expenditures from last year reflected in this year's budget. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've enjoyed serving the people of Nunavut for the past four years as your Health Minister. I look forward to working with the members in this house in any capacity that the premier puts me in and that includes working with the budget allocations that are given me.

With that Mr. Chairman, I think we can work with the budgets that are foreseen with a realistic business plan that's in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you being removed? Mr. Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me try this one. Working within the budget, so, maybe you will working this year, 2002-2003, will be working within the budget of \$150 million, 983 thousand, with that working within that budget, then for 2003-2004, you will need \$151 million, 593 thousand. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, not at all, Mr. Chairman. I think the \$151 million, 593 thousand is what we estimate will be the expenditures of the Department for this year based on the programs and services that we are trying to deliver. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, thank you. Contract services, \$28 million, 200 thousand dollars and we talked about contract services, I am sorry, I

made a mistake, Mr. Chairman. \$28 million, 200 thousand dollars, there is a reduction from \$33 million dollars down to \$28 million dollars. I would like to get further clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think that was clarified earlier on the amounts that were available and budgeted for and reduction to take in and account the difference, logistics as well as the administrative pressures that were on the budget item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the previous years, we have seen increases in Compensation and Benefits and here there is a reduction, don't we see any problems with this being reduced? Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** No, Mr. Chairman, what we are trying to do is reflect some of the anticipated savings that we have worked out within the Department itself and when you anticipate your expenditures, you base them on previous year's expenditures, but also things that you know is going to occur. So, we know we have been able to negotiate a better price, for example, uptakes from the Federal Government, for the Dentistry Travel. We know that we have got a very good negotiation in place for the airline travel and so on.

So, we believe we are expecting that, as I said earlier in the budgets, but again, we have no control over fuel's cost increase and so on, which they drive up ticket prices. So, it is based on the best information available to it.

We believe that is what the expenditures are. That budget is, that is the very best guesstimate of what the expenditures will be in a given year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just under Travel and Transportation, last year's budget was \$33 million, this year's budget, well, estimate is \$28 million and last year, I was looking at last year's numbers for the Kivalliq. It was over \$13 million and this year, you are budgeting \$10 million, which is a \$3 million dollar reduction. Is there a reason for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson:** Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we looked at the Total Budget Expenditures by category, in this case, it is travel.

We tried to anticipate what we believe are the pressures on the travel budget itself and we are trying to reflect over a period of time, what those savings will be under the contract that we have had out on the RFP.

We know that there are going to be some savings there. Some of the other things that we have done, we also believe, based on the pressures that we faced last year and knowing the best information available to us, that there will be savings presented.

However, you still can control, for example, as the members talked about before, an RSV outbreak in Baker Lake where you may have to medivac 50 kids. You can't control that, so the best estimates that we have to bring forward based on the cost contingencies that are in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you have a reduction of \$3 million dollars in a region, there's a very good reason. Can you assure me as the Minister of Health, that nobody's safety is being compromised? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Yes, I can, Mr. Chairman. It's not a reflection of saying someone can be medivaced or medical travel. What we're saying is, we could have taken the \$3 million dollars and divided it among the three regions.

Overall, when we look at the total budget of the department for the travel amounts, we believe there are some economies of scale there. We know that contract services are in place. We know we're negotiations with the Federal Government on the co-payments and so on.

So we believe we're realistically reflecting what those cost contingencies will be. However, after saying that, I still can't control if there's outbreaks and so on. We've seen costs increase.

After this war for example, will the cost of air travel increase by 40 percent. We believe we're bringing forward realistic amounts based on some of the factors that we know. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that reduction, is that just a number that's plugged in there. Like at the back, the Baffin, \$10 million 800 thousand, the Kivalliq, \$10 million 300 thousand, and the Kitikmeot, \$5.9 million, is that based on any realistic figures because there's a reduction of \$5 million dollars.

Is that in actual fact, the true cost or are you just putting \$28 million dollars in there and it will show up as \$36 million dollars. Is this a true reflection of what you're going to spend this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, Mr. Chairman, there's a combination of the way the department puts together the analysis on the travel expenditures themselves.

So what's reflected there are actual expenditures plus you have the three regions to look at, in differentiation. In this case, Mr. Chairman, some of the travel would be filled out to headquarters.

So, when you do that, you account that as part of the Baffin region because of Iqaluit's headquarters. So that's just to explain how the budget process is done. At the end of the day, you say you're going to spend \$28 million dollars in travel. You may spend \$25, or you might spend \$33.

You try to put together a realistic budget based on the dollars that are available to you, \$151 million dollars, is what's available to us and then you build your budget around what's available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Anything else. Detail of expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$151 million 593 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Do you agree that the Department of Health and Social Services is completed. Good bye. Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that you were on TV that time live in Iqaluit when you were saying tavnauvutiit to me so I appreciate your very kind words. I appreciate working with the members of the committee.

I want to especially thank the members of the health committee that I've had a chance to work with for the last four years. You've been not only an inspiration but you've given us some very good direction. So, with that, Mr. Chairman, I take my leave of the Committee of the Whole for this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move onto Housing Corporation please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Mr. Ng.



**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I stated during the budget address, there's an acute shortage of housing through out our territory and as the principal supplier of housing in the territory, the Government of Nunavut plays the lead role in trying to find innovative solutions that would alleviate the chronic shortage of both privately owned and public housing units.

For fiscal year 2003/2004, Government of Nunavut funding to the Housing Corporation will increase by \$1 million, 309 thousand dollars, from \$76 million, 207 thousand dollars to \$77 thousand dollars 516 thousand dollars.

The increase is made up of an increase of \$1 million, 269 thousand dollars to local Housing Organizations for new public housing construction. An increase of \$140 thousand dollars to the Local Housing Authorities specifically targeted to pension costs. This initiative is in cooperation with the Department of Community Government & Transportation. And a decrease of \$100 thousand dollars for funding for contract services from 2002/2003.

There is a further funding reduction from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation of \$22 thousand dollars. This is a small reduction in funding from the \$58 million dollars per year that the Housing Corporation currently receives. But it is significant in that it marks the start of yearly funding reductions from CMHC.

As all members are aware, a new partnering arrangement with the Federal Government is needed to resolve the problems that will be created by the declining federal funding and the chronic housing shortage that have historically plague our communities.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to report that the implementation of the new public housing rent scale is on track and progressing well. Our Local Housing Authorities have the significant task of reassessing the income of almost \$4 thousand households.

We've also held public consultations in every Nunavut community to explain the changes to the rent scale. Feedback from the public has been very good to date with consistent comments that the rent scale is easy to understand, fair and represents a positive step forward for public housing.

For 2003/2004, the Housing Corporation has projected a full staffing complement. We currently expect the full salary allocation to be used during 2003/2004, with any savings from vacancies used by casual and other temporary personnel measures.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation expects to end the year within it's budget, however, for budgetary purposes only, the travel and contract services lines have been adjusted downward slightly from 2002/2003 levels in order to present a balanced budget. Mr. Chairman, in all the other material respects, the main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, remains unchanged from last year. In closing, I would like to point out that we do not as of yet have a full operating year of experience with the staff housing portfolio.

Once the 2002/2003 fiscal year results are in, the corporation will be able to predict with more certainty, the ongoing Operations and Maintenance of managing this portfolio. Mr. Chairman, we'll be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have regarding the Housing Corporation's main estimates at a future date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you. Chairman of the committee. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As chair, of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, I am please to be able to provide opening comments as we begin to review the 2003/2004 main estimates of the 2003/2004 business plan for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has had the opportunity to meet with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and has carefully reviewed the corporation's main estimates and business plan.

Mr. Chairman, members are encouraged by the corporation's creation of a perpetual training fund for corporation staff, LHO staff and board members. Members remain concerned however, that Inuit employment statistics for the corporation have steadily decreased over the past two years.

The Standing Committee encourages the Corporation to go beyond training for housing maintainers and work creatively with other Government Departments to develop an institute for apprenticeship programs in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the Members are concerned because Local Housing Organizations are struggling to make ends meet within the current funding formula. Once again, the Standing Committee is not wondering whether the Hamlets have been delegated additional responsibilities without adequate resources to fulfill those responsibilities.

Members are concerned that LHOs have trouble retaining staff because they cannot provide the same benefits as the Government of Nunavut. The Standing Committee strongly urges the Government to ensure that Hamlets receive adequate funding to fulfill the housing responsibilities.

As Members are aware, many Hamlets are in deficit situations. A situation made worse by the fact that funding formulas for LHOs has remained unchanged. Mr. Chairman, we all know that Nunavut suffers from an acute housing crisis.

Some communities have various empty housing units whereas those access housing units or staff housing units, Baker Lake being an example. The Standing Committee strongly urges the Corporation to be flexible in its management of the housing stock to ensure that some units do not remain vacant while others are extremely overcrowded.

Mr. Chairman, the report of the Minister's Task Force on housing was tabled almost three years ago. Members noted that the Corporation's business plan continues to move forward on those recommendations. One of those recommendations is to improve housing designs.

Mr. Chairman, Members continue to stress the importance of building designs, there are units that are being built today do not get as consideration to extreme cold or winds that are part of daily life in the Arctic.

A member are aware of situations where people living in units with only one door that freezes shut and causes problems for much of the year. The Standing Committee strongly urges the Corporation to change the housing designs that are currently in use and to ensure that Contractors build units that are designed and situated in a way that takes our weather into account.

Mr. Chairman, Members were pleased to hear the Minister's commitment in the Budget Address to carefully monitor the new rent scale during its first year of implementation. The Committee is looking forward to reviewing the issue with the Minister at the end of the year.

Mr. Chairman, the Budget Address also mentioned the development of a new staff housing rent scale and Members noted that the Corporation intends to continue policy and procedural work in the areas of staff housing.

The Committee has enjoyed a good working relationship with the current Minister in the past, especially with respect to public housing rent scale review and tenant to owner programs and looks forward to meeting with the Minister regarding policy changes as they are formulated.

Members are aware that some Government of Nunavut positions have been posted without housing. This limits the number of qualified applicants that apply for the position.

The Committee is in support of initiatives to increase staff housing in all communities.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my comments on the Main Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Individuals may wish to raise questions or make comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Are you going to be in discussion? Arvaluk.

**Mr. Arvaluk:** I want to take time to read through these again and review it, therefore, I move report to progress.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): There is a Motion on the floor to report progress. All those in favour. Opposed. Carried. Mr. Speaker can go back to the Chamber now.

**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. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 30 and the Main Estimates and would like to report progress. Also, 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's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Alakannuark will second the motion. That was a tough battle but Mr. Alakannuark, you're the seconder. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills.

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Madame Deputy Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Deputy Clerk** (Ms. Tupik) (interpretation):

Orders of the day for March 25, 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

- Bill 33

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

**Speaker:** Thank you, Madame Deputy Clerk. In accordance to the authority provided to me by Motion 2-1(6), this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. That's 10:00 a.m., for extended hours.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:29 p.m.*

