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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Kevin O'Brien

(Arviat) Chair of Caucus

Glenn McLean (Baker Lake)

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Peter Kattuk (Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo (Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco (Iqaluit East)

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Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West) Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Donald Havioyak (Kugluktuk) *Minister of Culture,* Language, Elders and Youth

Hon. James Arvaluk (Nanulik) Minister of Education

Uriash Puqiqnak (Nattilik) Deputy Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (Pangnirtung) Minister of Sustainable **Development**

Hon. Jack Anawak

(Rankin Inlet North) Minister of Justice; *Minister of Community* Government, Housing and **Transportation**

Hon. Manitok Thompson

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove) Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services

Olayuk Akesuk (South Baffin)

Jobie Nutarak

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Table of Contents

Prayer	775
Ministers' Statements	775
Members Statements	777
Returns to Oral Questions	783
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	784
Oral Questions	785
Petitions	796
Tabling of Documents	796
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	796
Report of the Committee of the Whole	814
Third Reading of Bills	816
Assent to Bills	816

DAILY REFERENCES

Normalina Invest 2, 1000	15
Thursday June 3, 1999 77	5

B.

А.

MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

31 - 1 (2): Gjoa Haven Gathering (Okalik)	775
32 - 1 (2): Congratulations to Graduates (Arvaluk)	776
33 - 1 (2): Ms. Nancy Hyland (Arvaluk)	776

С.

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

91 - 1 (2): Appreciation to Gjoa Haven (Puqiqnak)
92 - 1 (2): Thanks to Gjoa Haven (Alakannuark)
93 - 1 (2): Mineral Accord (O'Brien)
94 - 1 (2): Caucus Meeting in Baker Lake (McLean)
95 - 1 (2): Nanisivik Mine Commitment's (Kattuk)
96 - 1 (2): Lessons Learned during First Sittings (Tootoo)
97 - 1 (2): Appreciation to Members and Colleagues (Kilabuk) 780
98 - 1 (2): First Wedding Anniversary (Akesuk)
99 - 1 (2): Plans after Session (Thompson)
100 - 1 (2): Appreciation to Family and Iqaluit (Arvaluk)
101 - 1 (2): Thank all for Support (Havioyak)
102 - 1 (2): Appreciation for Support during the Session (Anawak)
103 - 1 (2): Thanks to Wife and Family (Iqaqrialu)

D.

RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

9 - 1 (2) -Question 49 - 1 (2):GN Units on the Road to Apex (Ng)	83
10 - 1 (2) -Question 28 - 1 (2):Airport Heavy Equipment Training Progra (Anawak)	

Page

11 - 1	(2) -Question (Thompson)		U				
12 - 1 (2)) -Question 82 -	1 (2): GN	Buyback Poli	cy (Thompson)		784
13 - 1 (2) -Question 113 -	1 (2): Cle	anup of Old S	ites (Anawak).		•••••	784

E.

ORAL QUESTIONS

189 - 1 (2): Status of Whales Stuck in Sea Ice (Nutarak)
190 - 1 (2): Training Programs for Nanisivik Workers (Irqittuq)
191 - 1 (2): Travel Assistance for Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (Puqiqnak) 786
192 - 1 (2): Grants to Radio Societies (Nutarak)
193 - 1(2): Licensing for Watercraft (Tootoo)
194 - 1 (2): Mineral Accord (O'Brien)
195 - 1 (2): Status on Doctor for Igloolik (Irqittuq)
196 - 1 (2): Gravel Pads Rather than Piles (Iqaqrialu)
197 - 1 (2): Doctor's Placement (Nutarak)
198 - 1 (2): Status on Water Reservoir Pipeline (Akesuk)
199 - 1 (2): Staff Housing Allocation (Tootoo)
200 - 1 (2): National Child Benefit (O'Brien)
201 - 1 (2): Transfer of Federal Assets to Municipality (McLean)
202 - 1 (2):Bank Services in Small Communities (Puqiqnak)

F.

PETITIONS

9 - 1 (2):Support for Ublivik (Anawak)	796
10 – 1 (2): Support for Ublivik (Anawak)	796
11 – 1 (2): Support for Ublivik (Anawak)	796

TABLED DOCUMENTS

18 - 1 (2):Federal Committee on Fisheries Report	
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H.

COMMITTEE MOTIONS

39 – 1 (2): Materials to be Provided in English and Inuktitut (Akesuk)	800
40 – 1 (2): Mid Year Progress Report (Akesuk)	800
41 – 1 (2): Incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (Akesuk)	800
42 – 1 (2): Secure Needed Resources from Federal Government (Akesuk)	801
43 – 1 (2): Consult Standing Committee on Appointments to Boards Agencies (Akesuk)	

I.

BILLS

Bill 1	Appropriation Act 1999/2000	
	Third Reading	816
	Assent	817
Bill 2	Boards of Management Dissolution Act	
	Third Reading	816
	Assent	817
Bill 3	Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act	
	Third Reading	816
	Assent	817

Iqaluit, Nunavut Thursday June 3, 1999

Members Present

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

Item 1: Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, would you please say the opening prayer.

>>Prayer

Speaker (Mr. Barnabas) (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. We need to have some photos taken today before we leave. Ministers' Statements, Mr. Okalik

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Ministers' Statement 31 - 1 (2): Gjoa Haven Gathering

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Speaker I rise today to thank the people of Gjoa Haven for their wonderful hospitality yesterday. As you are aware, I had the honour of travelling to Gjoa Haven with Mr. Puqiqnak, Mr. Alakannuark, and Ministers Thompson, and Picco to attend the Kitikmeot Leaders Forum.

I am pleased to inform this house, Mr. Speaker that the meeting was very productive. Elected MLA's and Cabinet Ministers sat down and discussed issues of concern with elected mayors, councillors, and representatives from Inuit organizations. The Mayors were able to inform us of their concerns and we were able to provide an update on our direction.

In Gjoa Haven, we had frank discussion on a number of different issues. My colleague, the Minister of Health and Social Services was able to provide the Kitikmeot Leaders with an update on the plans for the dissolution of the Health and Social Services Boards. My colleague, Minister Thompson, discussed the Gjoa Haven gas issue. As a team we discussed capital plans with some of the mayors.

Mr. Speaker, we may not have agreed on every issue, but I think that the discussions themselves are what are important. This government is committed to decentralization not only in terms of jobs, but also in terms of governance. Mr. Speaker I would like to commit to the people of Nunavut that we as a government will continue to work closely

with Hamlet Councils and Regular MLA's to ensure that the needs of Nunavummiut are met.

Mr. Speaker, I have the utmost confidence in our leadership in Nunavut. Our visit to Gjoa Haven showed me that once the Boards of Education and Health and Social Services are dissolved, I know that we will have a productive relationship with our partners in the communities and that the people of Nunavut will be served well by that partnership.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the people of Gjoa Haven for their wonderful hospitality.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Ministers' Statements, Mr. Arvaluk.

Ministers' Statement 32 - 1 (2): Congratulations to Graduates

Hon. James Arvaluk: Mr. Speaker, I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all the Nunavut graduates of 1999. Their hard work and determination has taken them this far and will lead them into the future. This group are the first graduates in our new territory of Nunavut. They are also the last to graduate in this millennium.

Just as great hope and possibilities extend before us in Nunavut, we hold great hope for these young people. As the geese are in flight again across our vast land, I hope that they will take time to consider their new flight plans and new directions. I also encourage them to take advantage of further training opportunities. However, like the geese who always return, I look forward to each one of these graduates eventually taking their places as leaders and builders of Nunavut.

Thank you Mr. Speaker

>>> Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ministers Statements, Mr. Arvaluk.

Ministers' Statement 33 - 1 (2): Ms. Nancy Hyland

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations on an educational milestone soon to be achieved by one of Nunavut's senior public servants. On June 12, 1999, Ms. Nancy Hyland, the Director of Adult Education will attend graduation ceremonies at the University in Chicago, Illinois. Ms. Hyland will be awarded the degree of Doctorate in Adult Education.

Mr. Speaker, there are several milestones and points of congratulation here. Firstly, this makes the very first time in very new history of our territory that one of our public servants has graduated with a Ph.D. Secondly, the Department of Education in its mission statement celebrates the notion of life long learning for all of Nunavut. And here we have a senior public servant that is actually living the life of life long learning!

Mr. Speaker, the last point of celebration here is that this accomplishment should act as a beacon for all of us in Nunavut, at all ages, to continually strive to better our education and to be the very best that we can be.

Mr. Speaker, would you and the Honourable members please join me in offering congratulations to Ms. Nancy Hyland, Ph.D.

Thank you Mr. Speaker

>>> Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ministers Statements. Members Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members Statements

Members Statement 91 - 1 (2): Appreciation to Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I stand before you today. I would like to congratulate on behalf of the Kitikmeot the Nunavut government being able to tell you today about their progress in Gjoa Haven and having been able to meet with the leaders of the Kitikmeot and with the MLA's. I would like to thank and congratulate the residents of Gjoa Haven for their hospitality.

They were able to meet the MLA's at the airport when they were coming and welcome them. The Premier was able to go to Gjoa Haven with us and I appreciate the Minister of Social Services, Ed Picco and the Minister of Public Works, Thompson and the officials of the government and the staff going to Gjoa Haven, my constituency. I would like to express my gratitude and I would like to say thank you to my community for welcoming the elected officials.

I appreciate that they were able to have good hospitality. They had ceremonies for the officials. We were able to have official ceremonies for the nursing station. This went very well. We had our elder Kudlik, and youth, probably around nine years of age were able to perform drum dances. Before the health centre was open, which is one of the newest ones in the Nunavut Region, even though it is one of the newest ones.... Supplementary.

Speaker (interpretation): Your time is up. You can ask for unanimous consent.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am asking for unanimous consent.

Speaker: Mr. Puqiqnak is asking for unanimous consent. Any opposition. Mr. Puqiqnak you can go ahead.

Mr. Puqiqnak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. This health centre is a new one and we just officially opened it yesterday. Even though it is a new health centre, even before it was officially opened there was a birth already taking place in the centre. The baby is doing very well. I am very proud of the staff who helped with the delivery. We have a new member to our Gjoa Haven community. I would also like to mention that Michael Amittuq, our Mayor welcomed us and he was able to shake our hands and welcome us. We appreciated the leaders who were able to come to our community and I thank you very much to our Premier and the Ministers.

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

Members' Statement 92 - 1 (2): Thanks to Gjoa Haven

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would also like to recognize the trip we had to Gjoa Haven. I would like to thank the Ministers and my colleagues, the MLA's for taking the trip with us. It was very exciting and we had good hospitality. We were able to meet with the general public.

They welcomed us very well. I had not had the chance to meet with some of the people there and I was able to meet with them and that was appreciated. The Ministers were able to discuss some issues frankly with the residents of our communities and I really appreciated that, when they met with the Kitikmeot leaders. I would like to continue, if that is all right with you.

Speaker (interpretation): Just go ahead

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. The second thing that I would like to mention is that I have not had a chance to visit Repulse Bay yet. I will be eventually visiting the community and I will let them know. I have not been able to go to Repulse Bay and I would like to assure them that I will be visiting them very soon. I would like to thank them as well. Sometimes I am just going over my community when I am travelling.

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

Members' Statement 93 - 1 (2): Mineral Accord

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Nunavut, in particular the Keewatin region, has some of the richest mineral deposits in Canada. But unfortunately, with the prices of gold at a low the exploration and mine activity has decreased for the time being. Mr. Speaker, while the market is in this soft stage I strongly support suggest that the government of Nunavut should be advancing a mineral accord with DIAND and the Federal Government.

There are many benefits to such an accord, such as the royalties. This would greatly assist this government with its future capital projects. Let's not let this opportunity slip away from us as it did in the former government. Mr. Speaker let's not allow the multi-million dollars in royalties slip away from our grasp that Nunavut needs so badly. Thank you.

>>> Applause

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

Members' Statement 94 - 1 (2): Caucus Meeting in Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Today I would like to take the time to say that the community of Baker Lake is very excited about the arrival of the MLA's. They are excited about giving dancing lessons to all. I have taken the liberty of arranging dancing partners for all the MLA's. Your dance partners are eagerly awaiting your arrival.

Bannock is being baked and caribou is being boiled for a community feast, so bring your own seal and walrus. The community has challenged all of us to a ball hockey game. I told them that we would win by at least ten points. The fishing derby will be in full swing so bring your hooks. Mr. Picco, the community is eagerly awaiting you to hear about your tooth charming stories.

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

Members' Statement 95 - 1 (2): Nanisivik Mine Commitments

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Speaker I stand before you to talk about the issue of the Nanisivik Mines in 1973, perhaps even before that. In 1973, The mining company did a consultation process with the communities saying that they would provide employment to the communities if they opened up the mines.

But it has been a number of years that the mining company has been doing exploration and even people from Arctic Bay have not done any training programs whatsoever in the mines. There are some students in the Baffin Region who are seeking employment and there is nothing available for them. I would like to state that for a number of years the mining company has not abided by it's promise to provide employment for Northerners. Mr. Speaker, I will be having oral questions later on today.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statement, Mr. Tootoo.

Members' Statement 96 - 1 (2): Lessons Learned during First Sittings

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak this morning at possibly our last sitting of the spring session. Our next session will take place in the fall. Perhaps, just perhaps, some members will not be unhappy that they won't have to hear me speak in this house for a while.

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Over the course of the 17 days of this sitting I believe that we have all learned a great deal together, I certainly have Mr. Speaker. I would especially like to acknowledge our two Deputy Chairs of the Committee of the Whole, the member from Amittuq who took no time at all in learning how to speed up the members like myself.

The procedures of the assembly are still new to a lot of us but I believe that those of us who are new to the assembly, Ministers and regular members are rapidly becoming comfortable in our roles.

I would like to commend my honourable colleagues for the way in which they have adapted so impressively to their new roles as members of this Legislative Assembly. While we should feel a sense of accomplishment in having passed Nunavut's first budget and major pieces of legislation we have been candid over the past two weeks in expressing some of our frustrations.

Mr. Speaker, the real measure of our performance is not always to be found in the way that members might skilfully extract information out of Ministers during oral questions or in the way that Ministers might artfully dodge an uncomfortable question. It is to be found in what our constituents say to us.

From talking with my constituents I know that they are paying attention to the coverage that this house receives. The degree to which open, honest, dialogue and debate takes place around this table reflects on us all. I look forward to working with all my colleagues throughout the summer and to talking with my constituents as we prepare for our next sitting in the fall and the hard work that lays ahead for all of us. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>> Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements, Mr. Kilabuk.

Members' Statement 97 - 1 (2): Appreciation to Members and Colleagues

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have been here for the whole duration of this session without ever going home so I am very pleased to be able to go home shortly. I would also like to thank the people from my community that I represent for being patient.

I have felt their patience. I am very appreciative of that. I will be seeing my friends shortly, and I am looking forward to it and I am always eager to see them here in Iqaluit. But I would also like to say to the member of Baker Lake that I am planning to go to Pangnirtung to pick up some fish and seal meat. Thank you.

>>> Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements, Mr. Akesuk

Members' Statements 98 - 1 (2): First Wedding Anniversary

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a comment on my riding. Although I enjoyed this session very much, although when Mr. Tootoo was not asking questions he was talking to me. So I would like to say to my riding that my first anniversary is tomorrow. I am very appreciative and thankful to my wife for always supporting me.

>>> Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk: Members' Statements, Ms. Thompson.

Members' Statement 99 - 1 (2): Plans after Session

Ms Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would also like to extend my appreciation. When we went to Gjoa Haven we had a very good flight. Sometimes when we have to travel long distances you tend to worry. The flight there and the return was very good and we felt the prayers that were said for us.

I would also like to say thank you again. I would like to say that my brother's son Louis Bruce, who is the oldest son, will be having a wedding tomorrow and I will not be able to attend the wedding tomorrow. I must go back to Rankin Inlet because my husband is working too much trying to prepare our house. To my nephew, Dino and his fiancée, I wish them a happy wedding day. Thank you.

>>> Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Members' Statement, Mr. Arvaluk

Members' Statement 100 - 1 (2): Appreciation to Family and Iqaluit

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, I would also like to extend my appreciation to my wife for taking care of our family and the community. I know that the wives and the husbands are very good. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the community of Igaluit

for their hospitality, every time we see them out on the streets. Thank you.

>>> Applause

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Members statements, Mr. Havioyak

Members' Statement 101 - 1 (2): Thank all for Support

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank all my colleagues here. It is very difficult for me because I am new but I am getting a lot of support. I am very happy that you are able to help me on issues. You were always there for me. I appreciate it very much. I would also like to say thank you to the people of Iqaluit because I am now living here with my wife and my grandchild. We are very happy here and I am quite comfortable here in Iqaluit. Thank you to the people of Iqaluit.

>> Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak: Members' Statement, Mr. Anawak

Members' Statement 102 - 1 (2): Appreciation for Support during the Session

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. At this time of the season the seal pups are starting to come out and they are urging us to come out and hunt for them in Repulse Bay. But I would like to state to my riding of Rankin Inlet since we are at the infant stage of Nunavut legislation there quite a few issues to deal with and we are rather busy.

My colleague from Rankin Inlet had stated that she has to take care of the house and prepare to move out. I would also like to thank my wife too for doing all the work at home. Although we would like to be there for the communities, due to the business of the house we have to work with these issues and work on these platforms.

>> Applause

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Members' Statements, Mr. Iqaqrialu

Members' Statement 103 - 1 (2): Thanks to Wife and Family

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Since this is our first session we tend to get sweaty. During the second session I did not sweat as much. I would also like to say that the women are very capable and that they take care of their children all by themselves.

I am very proud to say that they are very capable and I am very appreciative of my wife for taking care of my family. Though she was here for a few weeks she had to get back because some of our children were missing her. I am very proud of my wife for having to take care of the kids all by herself. Thank you very much.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' Statements. Return to oral questions, Mr. Ng.

Item 4: Return to Oral Questions

Return 9 - 1 (2) - Question 49 - 1 (2): GN Units on the Road to Apex

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am responding to a question raised by Mr. Tootoo regarding the allocation and availability of GN units on top of the hill on the road to Apex.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform members that there are a total of 52 units, which have been completed and are ready for occupancy under the rental guarantee plan. Of the 52 GN units, 32 are URBCO units and 20 are NCC units.

Of the 32 URBCO units, five or six are currently occupied, and of the 20 NCC units, currently all but three are occupied.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform members that a committee consisting of PWTTS/HR/F&A are currently allocating these headquarters' GN units.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Return 10 - 1 (2) - Question 28 - 1 (2): Airport Heavy Equipment Training Program

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by the member from Sanikiluaq regarding the airport heavy equipment training program.

I have now had an opportunity to review the concern raised and I am pleased to confirm this training program will continue in Sanikiluaq this summer. The Department of Community Government, Housing & Transportation is putting together a new training plan to ensure well-maintained airports in Nunavut.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Returns to Oral Questions, Ms. Thompson.

Return 11 - 1 (2) - Question - 1 (2): Connecting Communities to the Network

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. O'Brien asked on May 13th regarding a draft timetable for connecting the communities to the network.

The timetable for connecting all communities is still in development. Only regional centres are connected including Iqaluit. Arviat and Kugluktuk will be connected in summer 99 and the remaining communities in the year 2000-2001. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I have another return to oral question.

Return 12 - 1 (2) - Question 82 - 1 (2): GN Buyback Policy

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Asked by Mr. McLean on May 25, 1999 regarding whether the GN has a buyback policy.

The Government of Nunavut presently does not have a buyback policy. A buyback policy existed with the former GNWT, but the Government of Nunavut never adopted this. A committee consisting of Human Resources, Public Works and Finance is preparing a draft of a new housing policy and buyback is under consideration.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Return 13 - 1 (2) - Question 113 - 1 (2): Cleanup of Old Sites

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a return to oral question 113 - 1 (2) regarding clean up of old sites.

The Department of Sustainable Development is responsible for co-ordinating all environmental issues in Nunavut including the clean up of old sites. Municipalities should contact the department of Sustainable Development with their concerns.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize three individuals. Tracy Lee from the jewellery program, an instructor. David Collin Nunavut Arctic College and Dr. Nancy Highland. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I would like to recognize the individuals that are always here during the sitting. I think he likes listening to meetings, our previous Liberal MP, Peter Ittinuar. Item 6, Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 189 - 1 (2): Status of Whales Stuck in Sea Ice

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is in regards to some narwhals that were stuck near Grise Fiord, I was wondering if the government is doing anything about this. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Kilabuk, Minister of Sustainable Development.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We are presently looking into the matter. There are narwhals that were stuck near Grise Fiord and the wildlife officers are presently trying to free them. On May 27th the hunters located the narwhals that were stuck due to the ice and they requested funding to fund the saving of the narwhals.

From the community there were four bodies that were given reports. They were about 20 – 40 metres from the community. Another one was 700 meters away from the community. There were approximately 9 dead narwhals, and some were eaten previously by polar bears.

There were about 9 polar bears that were sighted near the stuck narwhals. They were approximately away from the floe edge. There were 17 narwhals attacked by the polar bears and as they were injured the hunters wanted killed them as they felt sorry for them.

The meat was distributed to the surrounding communities for the people to eat so the meat was not wasted. They had to save the narwhals fearing that the polar bears would attack them again. There have been four breathing holes fixed by the hunters and currently the funds that we provided will be used to open up more breathing spaces so the narwhals will be able to survive.

The community Hunters and Trappers Association was carrying out this work as well as the wildlife officer who is monitoring and acting as the information officer for the project, Sigluk Akeeagok. Also from my department they are using our equipment and also we are providing 4 thousand dollars through the NWMB so that the money will be used to pay the hunters for their work and for our equipment.

Also yesterday there was 1 thousand dollars donated and the money will be used to monitor the trapped whales. This was agreed to and they will be requesting further assistance as the need arises.

Also Mr. Speaker, the HTO and the hunters have been working very hard to save the whales and we are very proud of them for the efforts that they are making. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 190 - 1 (2): Training Programs for Nanisivik Workers

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I gave notice that I was going to ask questions. I would like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development if you have any plans to initiate a training program for Nanisivik and recognition for the individuals that have worked in Nanisivik for a while. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Minister responsible for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I can't answer the question at this time. I will take the question as notice and look into the agreement that was made before the mine opened. I will look into the matter and take the question as notice.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Taken as notice. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 191 - 1 (2): Travel Assistance for Inuit Broadcasting Corporation

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question, I am not sure which Minister I should be directing it to. I think it should be directed to the Minister of communications.

My question is that in my community the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation are headquartered out of Taloyoak, and I am proud that they have a branch over there. But my question is that there are five communities in the Kitikmeot region and IBC work in Taloyoak and they are responsible for all of the five communities.

We have requested that they attend our community and take footage of our community and we want to see them covering the whole region, because their work is very important, but their travel budgets are limited. How are they being funded for these kinds of projects.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister responsible for Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. IBC is funded through federal government programs, I am not responsible for that company I think there is some confusion about what my department is responsible for. We are mostly looking after things like computers and telephones for the government departments.

So, the question the Minister is asking is more to do with a private corporation and I think that they're the only people who can answer his question. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral question, Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand now. So Nunavut government is not involved whatsoever with IBC. We can't do anything about what a corporation does.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister responsible for Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We can give support as a government and if a community feels neglected by a private company, we can give them a letter of support specifically.

What I am saying is that as the Minister of Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services we are not an agency that funds these organizations and those programs are through the federal government. However we can provide a letter of support to say that they should be attending the communities that the member was talking about. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister for answering my question. For that reason the IBC I think that we should be providing support to them because they are providing an important duty in the north in the area of communications.

Personally if they are going through financial hardships, I think we need to give them a letter of support from us and I we are going to be promoting Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the Inuit culture, then we have to support organizations such as IBC. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister responsible for Public Works, Telecommunications & Technical Services, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think that the department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, his department is more responsible for programs such as IBC. IBC are headquartered in Iqaluit. Perhaps if the member wanted to meet with members of IBC he can arrange that outside of this meeting because this is completely outside of my portfolio. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Last question Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation I don't have a specific question, or knowledge of where I

should be directing my question, but I have been given some information about where I can go. I thank you for the response. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 192 - 1 (2): Grants to Radio Societies

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This will be directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth regarding the grants provided to the radio societies.

They are given to the Hamlet Councils, is there a requirement as to which community should be getting how much. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yes, I realize that should be the communities whether they have community radios or not. I think when we are doing our language and for young people, if they can get some letter of support to, because they need funding to do radio programming in their communities and right now we are working on that at this time.

I have also seen that maybe policies should be in place, I think we can support these radio societies but we have a limit of 6 thousand dollars and if the communities want to support this, maybe I have answered your question.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 193 - 1(2): Licensing for Watercraft

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for transportation. Over the last couple of days I have heard news reports on a new regulation required for licensing people operating boats or water craft.

I am just wondering Mr. Speaker, if the Minister has been made aware of this new legislation and how it will effect the residents of Nunavut.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I have unfortunately not been updated on the information that the member just provided. I would also like to make a brief comment on the need for safety in boats.

Every year we have people who go through a tragedy because of inadequate safety measures on a boat. We would like to ensure that, while not inconveniencing the people

who go out hunting in boats, we want to make sure that they comply with some of the basic necessities for safety in a boat, such as personal flotation devices.

I will take that question as notice and respond to the member at the earliest opportunity. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 194 - 1 (2): Mineral Accord

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Speaker I had mentioned earlier in my members' statement the need for a mineral accord and I would like to ask the Minister if he could speak briefly to this issue and tell the members if there is any activity right now on behalf of the government in working toward an accord. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien, Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes we plan on aggressively pursuing some form of an agreement with the federal government. In fact the Premier announced that in conjunction with our northern territorial partners, who are supporting us in this initiative, it is one of the things with which we could possibly go forward in unison.

Having said that, we recognize the importance of it and are planning on trying to pursue it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister provide the members with any kind of a timetable as to the sequence of meetings or even the timing as to when they plan to get down to serious discussions with the federal government on this serious issue. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can say that it is high on the priority list, right now our focus has been on trying to complete our budget and the main estimates to give us some flexibility to move on with other initiatives.

That is one of the things that we plan on developing a strategy to move forward. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would it be fair to say that prior to the end of the fiscal year we may have some sound and concrete information on the plans that the Minister is referring to.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien, Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would say most definitely. I would anticipate that within 30 to 60 days we could develop some form of strategy and try to figure out our position to the federal government within 60 to 90 days and certainly start some of the preliminary negotiations and set the tone for some future negotiations, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 195 - 1 (2): Status on Doctor for Igloolik

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I heard on the news, and this morning I didn't hear any more information about the Health Boards. I think their executive was going to meet about the new doctor that was supposed to move to Igloolik.

I wonder if the Minister of Health would be able to respond to exactly what is happening with the relocation of the doctor to Igloolik. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Minister responsible for Health & Social Services, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member knows I just returned late last night from Gjoa Haven. What has happened is that the CEO for the Baffin Regional Health & Social Services Board was to have been in Igloolik yesterday to meet with the Mayor and the Council on the discussions and the decisions surrounding the doctor that was going to move to Igloolik.

I have not been updated this morning on that information, so hopefully, before two o'clock, this afternoon I will have some information to share and pass on to the member. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 196 - 1 (2): Gravel Pads Rather than Piles

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. This is directed to the Minister of Community Government, Housing & Transportation. Ever since the gravel pads were stopped and all the building foundations are now built on piles, I think the houses depreciate much quicker than they used to.

I would like to see gravel pads being built where the houses are being built. I wonder if that is going to be put back in place. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu, Minister responsible for Community Government, Housing & Transportation. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. At the time we had gravel pads, when houses were first being built in the north and when I was living in Repulse Bay at the time, we wanted to know exactly what was happening.

I don't know why now that the government and all the communities are using piles now, maybe it is cheaper, but I think I need to survey all the Hamlet Councils to find out what their preference is.

Yes, we will be asking the communities what their preferences are for building pads, whether they should be using gravel pads or piles. We'll look into that and I am sure that all the members are concerned about that. I will get back to you on that.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 197 - 1 (2): Doctor's Placement

Mr. Nutarak: (interpretation): The doctor that we have been discussing, that was supposed to go to Igloolik, would that doctor be responsible for more than one community or just that one where she's moving to.

Speaker: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. I would just like to remind everyone that when you are asking your question please identify the Minister. Minister for Health and Social Services Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker there was a plan that the doctor, if the doctor went to Igloolik the doctor would be able to cover off logistically Hall Beach and indeed there might have been an arrangement to cover off Arctic Bay and also Nanisivik that's also my understanding. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions, Mr. Nutarak

Mr. Nutarak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Now if that doctor would be located in that community how is the logistics or air travel going to be, moving between the communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister of health Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker the member makes a good point, I guess the concern from the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services has been the

difficulty of covering off more communities if the doctor is placed in Igloolik, that's what they've explained to me with the decision in maybe not to move the doctor to Igloolik.

That's basically all I can say on it there indeed seems to be the concern that if the doctor was put in Igloolik would you have the maximum number of communities the doctor would be able to service from that community. Would it be more conducive to put the doctor to another community to cover off more communities, so that's exactly what the question is and what's happening. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions, Mr. Akesuk.

Question 198 - 1 (2): Status on Water Reservoir Pipeline

Mr. Akesuk: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'm not sure how, but to the department of PWTTS, regarding the question I'd asked previously about the pipeline to our water reservoir. I wonder if that was looked at since I ask that question to Ms. Thompson. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister of Public Works, Ms. Thompson

Hon. Manitok Thompson: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker maybe you should be calling us "government servants". I was going to give my officials, I made them aware of the concern that the member raised earlier, but they have not updated me as to the status of that. I will take the question as notice.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo

Question 199 - 1 (2): Staff Housing Allocation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker regarding the response to my question for the Minister responsible for Human Resources. I'd like to ask the Minister, in light of that response, I'm pleased with these units now available on the road to Apex.

Mr. Speaker I'd like to ask the Minister as he indicated in his response that these are headquarters units. Mr. Speaker are they for employees that are yet to be hired and come in or will employee's who may currently be residing in inadequate housing, would they have an opportunity to also be allocated one of these units. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Human Resources Mr. Ng

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker right now as it stands they are headquarters designated units and will be for a headquarters staff. Like I indicated to the Honourable member, the whole staff housing policy is under review right now and we're going to bring some consistency to the whole process. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker will existing headquarters staff who may not be in adequate staff housing be eligible for one of these units, if it is more adequate for them. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Human Resources Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I guess I don't know the frequency of staff applying for units that become available when they're already in government of Nunavut staff housing, but I guess I would have to go back to saying it would be based on specific needs. If they need a new unit for specific reasons then certainly that would be one of the factors in the assessment made by the allocation committee. Thank you

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien

Question 200 - 1 (2): National Child Benefit

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I raised a concern of the high cost of food in Nunavut, especially for people on social assistance.

Mr. Speaker I wonder if the Minister could speak briefly about the National Child Benefit and the impact this will have on low income families. Thank you

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal, provincial and territorial governments have joined together to provide a co-ordinated approach to reducing the level of child poverty in Canada.

The initiative that the member is talking about is called a National Children's Benefit. About 3 weeks ago when I was in Quebec City, I attended a meeting of the social services Ministers where we announced that phase 2 of the National Child Benefit will be in 2 equal instalments to the people of Canada.

425 million in July of 1999 and indeed again in July 1st 2000 another 425 million. Now this benefit provides direct income assistance payments to low income families with children.

The benefit amount is based on previous tax returns and the number of children in the family. This indeed, Mr. Speaker is good news for Nunavut in that we're looking at about 860 thousand that will be provided to low income families in Nunavut as a result of Nunavut sharing in the National Child Benefit. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker would the Minister tell the members how and when this funding will be distributed to the people of Nunavut. Thank you

Speaker: Thank you O'Brien. Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as I indicated this is based on the tax return for the previous year and we're hoping to flow this money very soon and indeed if it's not already happening it will be happening very soon on the low income families checks. Indeed Mr. Speaker we should point out this program is the same as the one that was used in the Northwest Territories when they looked at a healthy child initiative.

What we would like to do is, using the extra money in this fund, myself as a Minister I'd like to direct the money towards the subsidies to day-care, something that has been spoken about in this house over the last several weeks. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral questions, Mr. O'Brien

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker just a point of clarification. Is all of this funding coming from the federal government or a portion coming from the Nunavut government. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker this money is coming directly from the federal government. Thank you

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral question Mr. McLean

Question 201 - 1 (2): Transfer of Federal Assets to Municipality

Mr. McLean: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question today is to the Minister for Community Government, Housing & Transportation. Currently the Municipality of Baker Lake is just taking over the CARS operation in Baker Lake and these employee's are going to be Hamlet of Baker Lake employees. There happens to be 4 staff houses now that are federal government inventories and they should be vacant shortly, plus 2 pick up trucks.

My question to the Minister, is it possible for these staff houses and trucks to be transferred over to the municipality. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister responsible for Community Government, Housing & Transportation, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I don't know but I would suspect that this would be a common sense thing to do that so I will, right after this session ends, find out what the case is and talk to the federal department and see what we can do to ensure the benefits of turning over the responsibility to Baker Lake. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral questions, Mr. Puqiqnak

Question 202 - 1 (2): Bank Services in Small Communities

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is to Minister of Finance and Administration. I'd like to return to the issue of the smaller communities having to be serviced by the banks. Is there any possibilities that could improve the services for the smaller communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister of finance Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I believe I committed to try to find out a couple of things for the honourable member when he raised this question not that long ago in respect of the government of Nunavut banking proposal, exactly what was specific in there for a smaller communities.

Secondly, in respect to the proposal that the Arctic co-operatives had put forward for credit unions. So those are 2 outstanding issue that I quite frankly haven't received the information for yet so I'll check right after to see what exactly is the status of that. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral question, Mr. Puqiqnak

Mr. Puqiqnak: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker again thank you to the Minister of Finance and I think the smaller communities would definitely benefit from these services and when you're trying to start a business of your own, those banking services are too far from the smaller communities.

When the Minister is trying to help the smaller communities in the banking services, perhaps the officials of the banks can consult and visit the communities who wish to start small businesses of some sort, because we need the services. Perhaps the officials of the banks should visit the communities more often and try to get these services going. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister of Finance Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would agree with the member and I'll pass that on to our bankers right now what that concern is and what possibilities there may be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Back to the orders of the day. Item 7, Written Questions. Item 8, Returns to Written Questions. Item 9, Returns to Opening Address. Item 10, Petitions. Mr. Anawak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 9 - 1 (2):Support for Ublivik Petition 10 - 1 (2): Support for Ublivik Petition 11 - 1 (2): Support for Ublivik

Hon. Jack Anawak: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have three petitions here. There are 50 names from Rankin Inlet and Coral Harbour who are in support of Gloria Penner and Ublivik. The second is from Arviat, Coral Harbour and from Rankin Inlet signed by 70 people.

The last one there's 614 names from Repulse Bay, and Rankin Inlet, Baker Lake, Whale Cove, Arviat and Coral Harbour.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Petitions, item 11 reports of standing committee, item 12 first reading of bills, item 13 tabling of documents, Mr. Kilabuk

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 18 - 1 (2): Federal Committee on Fisheries Report

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document, a report from the federal government addressing fisheries and this was produced on December 8, 1998. The document is being reviewed right now by the department of sustainable development and I'll respond to it at a later time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Tabling of documents, item 14 notices of motion, item 15 notices of motions first reading of bills, item 16 motions, item 17 first reading of bills, item 18 second reading of bills, item 19 consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, bills 1, 2, 3 and committee reports 1-1 (2), 2-1 (2), 3-1 (2), 4-1 (2) with Mr. Puqiqnak as the Chairperson

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

Chairperson (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): : Thank you it's almost lunch time at this time we will go for lunch and resume at 1:30. See you later.

>>Committee recessed at 12:00 and resumed at 1:30 pm

Chairperson (interpretation): Lets start again. We will now ask the Premier to present the budget for his department. Mr. Okalik

Budget Presentation 1999/2000 for The Department of Executive

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Iksivautuq, today we are considering the budget of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIA). The total budget for the department is \$7.734M.

EIA is one of the smallest departments. It has no capital funds, and one grant or contribution. It has a total of 51 employees:

- 14 employees work as Executive Assistants or Executive Secretaries to the 7 Ministers. 4 employees work in the Office of the Premier. They are the Executive Secretary, the
 - Executive Assistant, the Press Secretary and the Principal Secretary.
- 1 employee works as the Executive Secretary to the Commissioner of Nunavut.

These 19 people are all considered to be political appointments. They are hired directly by the individual Ministers, the Premier or the Commissioner, and work directly for them.

The head of this Department has two titles. She is the Deputy Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and she is the Secretary to Cabinet. 5 people work in the Directorate to support these functions. They are the Deputy Minister, one Cabinet Registrar, one Finance Manager, one Office Manager and one Interpreter/Translator. They organize and manage the work and the finances of the Department.

8 people work in the Policy function. They include the Assistant Deputy Minister, one Director, three Policy Advisors, two Trainees and one support staff. They provide centralized policy development for all departments and generally analyze policy recommendations coming to Cabinet.

4 people work in Communications. Their job is to communicate government initiatives to the public, to deal with questions and issues from others and to look after protocol with visitors.

7 people work in statistics and evaluations. They collect the numbers and information the government needs to understand and plan what is needed in Nunavut. They include auditors to check money and how it is spent, and program specialists to assess how programs are operating.

8 people work in Intergovernmental Affairs. 3 of these people work in our Ottawa office. They support elected officials and departments when they go to Ottawa. They attend meetings for the Government of Nunavut and save us money when we don't need to pay airfares. 5 people work in Iqaluit. They assist in our relationships with other governments, at First Ministers Conferences, and with our relationship with NTI and our obligations as a government under the Land Claim. They are responsible for monitoring our agreements with the GNWT. There is a \$100,000 budget the Commissioner's office that will cover the costs of staff and basic O&M expenses. Office accommodation expenses are captured in the PWTTS budget and other Commissioner's costs will be paid directly by the Government of Canada.

The budget for the Nunavut Cabinet includes Minister's salaries, offices, and support staff. Each Minister is also provided a budget to cover Ministerial travel and other expenses.

With the help of the Department of Finance and Administration, these budget numbers were put together despite the fact that we had nothing to compare with but the GNWT's historical numbers. Like other department's, we are using common O&M assumptions, which may change in next year's budget process. For example, each trip in Nunavut is costed at \$3,000 per trip; training per staff person is estimated at \$1,000 per employee; and telephone costs are estimated at \$2,000 per employee.

The point is, these numbers are the best estimates for this year, but our estimates next year will be even better as we will have something to compare to.

On the political side, 19 of 19 positions are filled, as each Minister's office is fully supported. On the Cabinet and Department side 17 of 32 positions are filled which is 53%. Inuit employees represent 47% of the Iqaluit positions.

Iksivautuq, I will now conclude by stating that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has made a lot of progress in meeting its broad mandate. The budget appropriation requested in the main estimates will enable the Department to meet its objectives in 99/2000.

Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Premier Okalik. I would like to welcome your staff members who are with you at the staff table. Mr. Akesuk, will make the comments on behalf of the Standing Committee.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have no questions but Mr. Tootoo will be making the opening comments from the Standing Committee. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Tootoo you can go ahead with your opening comments.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services Report on the Review of Draft Departmental Business Plans and Preliminary Information on the 1999/2000 Main Estimates

Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Premier Okalik appeared before the Committee on the afternoon of April 29. The main estimates summary provided to the Committee indicated total 1999-2000 expenditures of \$7,734,000 dollars.

The Committee recognizes the unique nature of the Department. As opposed to a line department, which delivers services directly to the public, EIA is the Government's lead central agency in providing support to Cabinet, policy co-ordination and amplification of political direction.

The Committee has the following general comments and recommendations.

Premier's Travel and Relations with Other Jurisdictions

The Committee was pleased to receive a briefing on the Premier's recent trip to Ontario. The Committee was also pleased to learn of the Premier's efforts to save public money wherever possible during official travel.

The Committee expressed its view that Nunavut can learn from the experiences of other jurisdictions where indigenous peoples have achieved the means of guiding their destiny. Such issues as community justice, corrections and liquor distribution were suggested as being especially worthy of comparison.

With respect to federal-Nunavut relations, the Committee was supportive of the Premier's efforts to identify additional resources wherever possible, during discussions with federal Ministers. While recognizing the challenges in this area, the Committee encourages the Premier to make every effort to ensure that Nunavut's voice is heard clearly in appropriate intergovernmental forums.

The Premier was asked to update the Committee with respect to the situation concerning disputed islands in Hudson Bay. He advised the Committee that the Department was fully aware of the issue, and that efforts were underway to secure sufficient resources to defend Nunavut's interests in any court action.

The Premier advised the Committee that, as a result of an agreement between the federal government, the GNWT and the OIC, the Government of Nunavut is responsible for any deficit incurred by the OIC prior to 1 April 1999. The Committee shared the Premier's dissatisfaction with this situation, and is supportive of any efforts that can be made to resolve it.

Appointments to Boards and Agencies

During discussions with the Committee, the Premier stated his desire for an open approach to the issue. He stressed the need for more women to be appointed to such Nunavut bodies. The Committee emphasized its view that the appointments process should involve Regular Members of the Assembly.

Relations Between Cabinet and Regular Members

The Committee noted in its review of the draft business plan that the Department has responsibility for ensuring "clear and effective dialogue between Cabinet and MLA's." The Committee emphasized its desire to play an active, involved role in the decision-making process.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my opening remarks, I would like to turn it back over to Mr. Akesuk for some motions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Committee Motion 39 – 1 (2): Materials to be Provided in English and Inuktitut

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends).

I move that the Committee recommend that the government work to ensure that all materials provided by members be provided in both Inuktitut and English. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): To the motion. Since there are no comments, those in favour of the motion. Motion is carried. Thank you. Go ahead, you may continue if you have other motions, Mr. Akesuk.

Committee Motion 40 – 1 (2): Mid Year Progress Report

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I move that this committee recommends that the department provide a mid-year progress to the Standing Committee for review in October of this year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Moved by the committee. Those in favour. Motion is carried. Thank you, you may continue.

Committee Motion 41 – 1 (2): Incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I move that this committee recommends that the government make development of a strategy to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the governments' decision making process a priority. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Those in favour. Thank you. The motion is carried. You may continue Mr. Akesuk.

Committee Motion 42 – 1 (2): Secure Needed Resources from Federal Government

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I move that this committee recommends that the Premier and the Minister of Finance continue to make every effort to secure needed resources from the Federal Government and that the Premier continue to work in co-operation with other northern jurisdictions to ensure that Nunavut gets a fair share of resource revenues. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor, those in favour of the motion. The motion is carried. Thank you, Mr. Akesuk.

Committee Motion 43 – 1 (2): Consult Standing Committee on Appointments to Boards and Agencies

Mr. Akesuk: Last one. Mr. Chairman,

I move that this committee recommends that the government consult with appropriate Standing Committees when filling appointments to Boards and Agencies. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. There is a motion on the floor, those in favour. The motion is carried. Thank you. General comments to the department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. The floor is now open for general comments.

Are there any general comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just kind of a comment and a question. In a number of the reports that the Committee has heard over the past couple of weeks, there have been a lot of referral back to statistical information.

It is a vital function, Mr. Chairman, because that is how all the funding basically is applied throughout Nunavut and to Nunavut from the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering if the department has someone in that capacity, and are they looking at a plan to update the statistics to reflect the current and most up to date numbers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. ...someone as Chief Statistician and that's being worked on now. That and the numbers for operations, and as well our expenditures.

So we have a numbers person on our payroll now. We have also been attending meetings with Statistics Canada, getting their assistance with statistics in our new Territory. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Premier Okalik. I don't have anybody who would like to make general comments. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just a brief comment or inquiry regarding the power corporation. We don't seem to have a clear cut understanding as to where it fits into the overall picture.

I know Mr. Picco, the Minister of Health & Social Services is somewhat responsible, but on the other hand he indicates that he doesn't have a lot of authority or clout as to how it works or as to how we are going to share this undertaking for the next two years.

I understand that in discussions last week that it may be tied in as a part of your department, Intergovernmental Affairs. I wonder if you could speak to this so we could get an understanding as to where it fits in the overall picture and what authority or linkage we have with the power corp in Hay River. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you. I am not the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board but I will refer the question to Laura Gauthier, who has been involved for some time on the NTPC file. Okay, if you don't mind.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Premier, Ms. Gauthier.

Ms. Gauthier: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In response to Mr. O'Brien's question. Certainly in support of the Minister responsible for the power corporation Mr. Picco, we from the Executive have been playing very much of a support role for Mr. Picco, as the second Minister responsible for the power corporation.

His roles and responsibilities in respect of the transition agreement, which has been a document that is allowing for us to look at a continued power corporation for the next two years. We can certainly make that available to the members, we could make a copy of that.

There is also legislation that has been grandfathered and it will support that ongoing relation for the power corporation for the two territories. On sort of the officials front

with respect to the general operations and the exchange between the two governments there is certainly dialogue between the Minister responsible for the power corporation in Nunavut as well as in the western Arctic.

As a sort of sub-body of that is the corporate relations group. They're involved at the officials level to look at specific issues for the delivery of power inside of Nunavut.

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

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know that you have indicated that Mr. Picco is the lead Minister. My question would be, what actual authority does this government have in reference to the operations and maintenance of this particular utility. Is it not a fact that it is pretty much run, controlled and operated by the authorities in Hay River.

Basically we are deferring to the GNWT and their...leave it at that.

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

Ms. Gauthier: Thank you Mr. Chairman. With respect to the transition agreement between the NWT and Nunavut. There are, as part of the negotiation process leading up to that transition agreement, there was an understanding that the operations of the power corporation would remain sort of the status quo.

They have a Board that is appointed to deliver and run the operations of the power corporation, so in essence, yes it is the Board that is going to be responsible for ensuring the status quo operations of the power corp. Where there are specific or major initiatives they'll consult with the Minister responsible on various issues and the transition agreement very much spells out what some of those areas of consultation and comanagement would be.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Gauthier. I am sorry if I mispronounce your name. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I recently saw some correspondence from the Hay River office, the President of the Utility there to Mary King of Arviat, regarding some concerns they had.

I don't believe that the Hamlet itself is overly pleased with the response they received, I know I wasn't when I read it. It seemed very direct and abrupt, to be kind about it. In a situation like this, what recourse do we have as a government, your department or Mr. Picco's to deal with difficulties or differences we may have in the running of the power corporation.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Premier Okalik.
Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am somewhat uncomfortable here as the Minister is right there, responsible for NTPC and I am responsible for a different part of the process, but what governs right now is the transition agreement. It is in effect.

So, other than that I can't really respond, as it is not my responsibility I haven't kept track of it, so I would feel more comfortable if perhaps, Mr. Picco, the Minister responsible for the department, for that file, would be responding to it. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Mr. O'Brien perhaps you could have a meeting or ask questions of the Minister regarding NTPC, don't forget we are limited to ten minutes on one subject. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will be brief in my following comments. I did ask questions of the Minister in the last week and felt that there wasn't a lot of information that I received and there seemed to be some inference that the Ministers' department didn't have control over this particular utility. I felt that maybe the control and the authority, the responsibility lay rather in your department. That was why I was forwarding questions to yourself.

I can wait and speak in more detail during the regular session. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I don't think this is a question. I don't think it can be directly responded to, but if you wish you may respond, Mr. Okalik. I am sorry I don't have anybody who wishes to speak to the opening remarks. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my question is to the Premier. The Deputy Minister and your Assistant Deputy Ministers are usually Inuit, well the Assistants are usually Inuit. I am not criticizing your Deputy Ministers, but your Inuit staff seem to be Assistant Deputy Ministers.

Do you have a training program whereby the Assistant Deputy Ministers will be given the opportunity to train and get their qualification as Deputy Ministers. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier today we have designated 1 thousand dollars per staff member, so our staff who want to take advantage of further training can do so.

We are not sure however what kind of training plan we are going to be implementing, but we want to have Inuit staff members in all departments and our goal is to train Inuit as much as possible. We also need to have fully qualified staff members and we have to keep that in mind, but our goal is to have more Inuit as staff members, but must look at their qualifications as well. **Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. I don't think you clarified too much about this 1 thousand dollars. Maybe you could give us a more detailed explanation about what this 1 thousand dollars is for. Clarify for us please. Thank you.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, when I was making my presentation I think this was included for all staff, that there is 1 thousand dollars set aside for each employee for this coming year. If they wish to take courses or get further training for the coming year. I hope this clarifies it Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just one more question Mr. Chairman, back on May 14th I asked the Premier for some clarification in regards to the memorandum of understanding that the government is working on with Nunavut Tunngavik.

Mr. Chairman, at that time the Premier indicated that he did not want to hold up the process as a result of waiting for it to go back to the Standing Committee. Mr. Chairman, I would just like to ask the Premier if he could commit to just providing correspondence, updates to the Standing Committee just so that they are aware of what is transpiring, and that they could by way of correspondence provide input back to the Premier without any undue delays. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. From what I have been advised we have a very rough draft from NTI so far. It requires a considerable amount of work to work out the details and our first priority has been the sitting and we just received the draft just a few days ago. We haven't had time to review it in detail so I don't know when we can conclude, but we don't want to provide very, very rough drafts to the members, it's at a preliminary stage, but we continue to talk to NTI. Okay.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I could understand about having to send over every draft to the Standing Committee but as things progress and the department feels that they have something close to a final draft if they could provide a copy to the Standing Committee to review by correspondence, or even with myself, I am in town here, just to review it. If that could be a possibility, Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Chairman, I can make staff available to committee members on the progress of our discussions with NTI at this time. Okay?

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Premier for his offer to have his staff provide a briefing, I think that would be great, not right now but once you feel you're close to finalizing it, maybe at that time, unless you want to provide briefings for possible suggestions or input from any of the members of the committee, I am sure that we would welcome that as well.

But a briefing of some kind prior to the finalization of the agreement would be greatly appreciated. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo. If you want to respond to that Mr. Premier you may do so. I don't think it is a question but you may respond if you wish. Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The residents of Nunavut and looking at the future I know that the population is going to grow. It is going to get more expensive to service the people of Nunavut. The funding that we receive from the federal government, 580 million and 620 million which we have received is not going to be enough in the future, if the funds from the federal government do not change.

I was wondering if this funding has criteria. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the agreement is for two or three years but according to the increase of population we have already appointed a statistician in our office and some of it has been contracted back to the GNWT.

Also Statistics Canada will be assisting us. We will do the surveys as the population grows and we will have to utilize the statistics again, in order to get more funding from the Federal Government in the future.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Do I understand that the 620 million and the 580 million will only be used for three years and that agreement is for only three years. Do I understand that correctly. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, thank you. The agreement is for five years but we can reopen it again after three years is over. Some of the funds include population growth. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the clarification, but at this point 99/2000 fiscal year, the funding we have for this fiscal year is already not adequate or enough.

I was wondering if you department will be seeking additional new funds if we don't have enough. I wish your department would go look for more funds. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Premier, Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I apologize, it is only after two years not three years that we can reopen this agreement. We will continue to seek additional funds from wherever we can find them. As we have stated already that we will be receiving royalties from the mining companies and we would like to start the royalties and also we can generate income through fisheries, so we will be pushing towards self-sufficiency in Nunavut.

We will be open to all these options, whether it be housing, the Housing Minister is already meeting with the Federal Government officials to attempt to obtain additional funds. So we are looking in all aspects of how and where we can find additional funding. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. For your appropriate answer, I don't know what this is going to mean, but Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and the Nunavut Government. Since the Nunavut Government has been established, I don't know what the role of to be of NTI. Is NTI still going to be established to carry out the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

As we have heard, we will be receiving royalties from the mining companies and NTI will also be receiving royalties from them. With all these things in mind I think we need to have a clear understanding with that entity as to how the working relationship is going to be. We have to set the working relationship because both NTI and the GN represent the Nunavut residents.

Does the NTI have the same jurisdiction as the Nunavut Government. I would like to get all of this cleared up. So my question is what is happening with that situation.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. As I have stated earlier, we are now in the process of negotiating, or we are working together to sign an MOU with NTI as to how our relationship is going to be.

As GN we represent all of Nunavut residents not just the beneficiaries of Nunavut. We represent the public of Nunavut but NTI represents solely the beneficiaries of the Land Claims Agreement. We have to abide by the Agreements, especially the wildlife article and Article 23, to hire more Inuit and to work on contracts as per Article 24.

We will have to abide by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement even though we are Nunavut Government. At this time I cannot tell you what kind of working relationship there is going to be in the future. Along with the entities that have been established under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, we do have to appoint members to the Boards and Agencies, and NTI also appoints members to the various Boards and Agencies that are created under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Thank you Mr. Chairman. Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. I think that this is self explanatory now. I don't have any more names on my list. Are the members ready to go to the main estimates line by line. Page 2 - 4 Directorate. If you can find that page, operations & maintenance total 921 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Capital, total capital nil. Total expenditures 921 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going to 2-5, communications policy and planning. Operations & maintenance total 1 million 598 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total capital zero. Total expenditures 1 million 598 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): On the next page, 2- 6, evaluation and statistical services. Operations & maintenance total 474 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total capital zero. Total expenditures, 474 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 2 - 7, intergovernmental affairs. Operations & maintenance total 712 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total capital nil. Total expenditures, 712 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 2 – 8 Commissioner of Nunavut. Operations & maintenance total 100 thousand. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to the Commissioner of Nunavut, what does it really mean, I would like to get clarification on that. I don't understand that, perhaps the Commissioner requires an office too and staff. Could you clarify that please. Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, even though this figure seems to be small, we had agreed with the Federal Government, since the Commissioner has been appointed by the Federal Government, this is just in case she requires a house, the Federal Government would pay for that and we would be able to pay for a secretary.

But the Federal Government is responsible for paying her salary and the secretary we will pay for with the assistance of the Federal Government.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Premier. Mr. Iqaqrialu do you have any further questions. Going back to 2 - 8, operations & maintenance 100 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Capital, total nil. Total expenditures 100 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 2 - 9. Nunavut Cabinet. Operations & maintenance total 3 million 929 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total capital, nil. Total expenditures, 3 million 929 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 2 - 10, detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. Information item. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a question in regards to the Nunavut Final Agreement. It seems that this is the first time that the Nunavut

Legislative Assembly is having it's session and here it is saying Nunavut Final Agreement. Could you clarify that for me. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It should say Nunavut Land Claims Final Agreement. As a government we have to abide by the Nunavut Final Agreement, and we received 2.5 million dollars for this and we expect it to get a little bit higher but at this time we are in the process of negotiating with them to perhaps, for employment for Inuit and also for wildlife management issues.

Everything in there is in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Since we have to abide by the Agreement, the Federal Government gives us money for implementing the Nunavut Final Agreement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I understand your clarification, but the translation I think require amending. It needs to be more clear, because I don't want this to be our last session.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, the translation is a literal translation of English. It should talk about the Nunavut Final Agreement. Which NTI, GN and the Federal Government are responsible for. This agreement was ratified in 1993 and we will get funds to implement it.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier, we shall continue. Page 2 - 11, Details of Grants and contributions. Information item. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going back to 2 - 3, detail of expenditures, operations & maintenance total 7 million 734 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Where are you Mr. Chairman, I thought you were on page 2 - 11, and I had a question on that page. It talks about the Official Languages Commissioner and the same amount on 2 - 11. Perhaps there is a mistranslation, could you clarify that for me. Is it okay to go back to 2 - 11.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): 2 – 11, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The first one is for leadership forums. This goes along that line and is allotted to the communities. We will be giving this to the department of Community Government, Housing & Transportation because this is geared more towards the communities to prepare and plan for meetings.

Second one. Circumpolar Conference. The GNWT was also allotting some funds to the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to give them support. It is mainly for the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. Are you clear now.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. The English and the Inuktitut aren't the same even though they are on the same page. The Inuktitut version is totally different. As I have stated the Inuktitut version is Mr. Havioyak's department. The heading on page 2 - 11 in syllabics states that it is for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and they both have 1 million dollars.

I think that the Inuktitut has a wrong page in there and perhaps if they were the same, do we get 2 million dollars? I would like to get clarification on this because the English and the Inuktitut aren't the same.

Perhaps to get good direction we will take a short break so that we will get clarity on this. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): The English and the syllabics are totally different, 1.1 million dollars and English is 240 thousand. We have to rectify this situation now by perhaps taking a short break, because the English and the Inuktitut don't correlate.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will take a ten minute break to correct this.

>>Committee Recessed at 2.38 pm

>>Committee Resumed at 2.58 pm

Chairperson (interpretation): These are informational items, the translations were corrected. These are just informational items. Under 2 - 11, details of grants and contributions. Are you in agreement. Under 2 - 3, detail of expenditures, total operations & maintenance, 7 million 734 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Getting back to the correction that needed to be changed earlier, is that a different number now or is it just the same as the English.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Premier, can you clarify.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, the English version was 240 thousand and 7 million 734 thousand is corrected, the Inuktitut is corrected but the English version remains the same. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for making that clear. Let's go back to total operations & maintenance 7 million 734 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Capital, none. Total expenditures 7 million 734 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you accept them as they are. The department is done, so I thank Mr. Premier and his staff for coming to this meeting.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairperson, I thank you also as well as the members and the cabinet.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): We are moving at a very fast pace this afternoon. We still have to cover the bills, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters, Bill 1 - 1999/2000 Appropriation Act will be our next item.

Would you like to deal with this now or take a break. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I would like to continue with the items.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu has moved to resume the items, do you agree. Okay now I am asking the finance minister if you have any statements or opening remarks to make on Bill 1 – Appropriation Act. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: No , Mr. Chairperson I am very prepared to go clause by clause. Thank you.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Before we move on to Bill 1, would you like to have our lawyer to join us. Agreed. Please join us at the table. First of all I would like to ask if

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there are any comments to the Bill. It seems like no one wants to make comments so we will go clause by clause.

Bill 1 – Appropriation Act:

Clause 1, agreed? Agreed.

Clause 2, agreed? Agreed.

Clause 3, agreed? Agreed.

Clause 4, agreed? Agreed.

Clause 5, agreed? Agreed.

...(interpretation unavailable)...

...545 million 579 thousand.

Mr. Premier, the interpreters need copies. Just to let you know.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Can you repeat.

Chairperson (interpretation): I would just like to inform you that the interpreters don't have copies of the documents and they are getting behind and confused.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Premier, we will be giving them copies. Okay let's go back to item:

Part 1, vote 1 – operations & maintenance – 545 million 79 thousand. Agreed? Agreed.

Part 2, vote 2 – capital appropriations – 55 million 28 thousand. Agreed? Agreed.

Total Appropriations – 600 million 107 thousand. Agreed? Agreed.

Do you accept this bill as a whole.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): You agree. Does the committee agree that bill 1 is ready for third reading. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): The bill will be read for the third time. The bill is ready for third reading.

The bill 1 is accepted as a whole and 2 and 3 have been dealt with by the present Legislative Assembly and has been read. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Right now we have no further items to cover.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Would you like to report progress. Mr. Tootoo, do you have comments to make.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, are you looking for a motion to report progress? If so then I will so move. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): The MLA from Iqaluit moves to report progress, do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Before I go ahead with the motion I would like to thank, Mr. Iqaqrialu, do you have any comments to make. I would like to thank the MLA beside me . I apologize but I would like to thank our legal counsel for advising us.

Before I move back to my seat I would like to thank all of you, all of the members for your great work.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering bill 1 and committee reports 1, 2, 3 and 4 and would like to report that

committee reports 1, 2, 3 and 4 are concluded and that bill 1 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. There is a motion on the floor. Mr. Nutarak seconds the motion. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. The motion is carried.

(interpretation ends)

Before we proceed I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, the interpreters, the technical staff who have been working hard to ensure that everything proceeded smoothly on our behalf.

(interpretation)

I would also like to thank the pages who have been serving us diligently. The are students at the Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit. I will attempt to say their names:

(interpretation ends)

Fiona Kingdon, Mora McKinnon, Andrew Morrison, Jessica Pierce, Lucassie Peter, Anna Stenton.

I would also like to express a special appreciation for our Sergeant At Arms, Mr. Simon Nattaq.

>>Applause

Back to the Orders of the Day, Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if this is the appropriate time, but if I don't do it now then it won't get done. It seems like everyone around here has been recognized for something. At this point in time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize you.

You have come a long way from the first day when, I believe it was Mr. Anawak that dragged you up to the podium. I think the members really appreciate your effort. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 1 - Appropriation Act 1999/2000

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 1 – Appropriation Act 99/2000 be read for the third time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the motion.

A Member: Question.

Speaker: Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills, Mr. Picco.

Bill 2 - Boards of Management Dissolution Act

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 2 – Boards of Management Dissolution Act, be read for the Third Time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. There is a motion on the floor, is there a question. All those in favour. Opposed. Motion is carried. Third reading of bills. Mr. Arvaluk.

Bill 3 - Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin North, that bill 3 Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act be read for the third time. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. There is a motion on the floor. Are there any questions. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is carried. Third reading of bills.

Thank you, I have just been informed that the Commissioner of Nunavut is now prepared to enter the chamber, assent to bills and prorogue the Second Session.

Assent to Bills

Commissioner Maksagak: Please be seated. Assent to Bills 1, 2 and 3. Prorogation of the Second Session, First Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker, Premier Mr. Okalik, and Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly. As you conclude the business of the Second Session of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of Nunavut I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

Bill 1 – Appropriation Act, 1999-2000

Bill 2 – Boards of Management Dissolution Act

Bill 3 – Divisional Education Councils Dissolution Act

As Commissioner of Nunavut, I hereby prorogue the Second Session of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, I wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Please be seated. (interpretation) Our session has been prorogued.

Sergeant At Arms: Order.