

# Budget Address 2000



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## **INTRODUCTION**

Today I have the honour of tabling the Government of Nunavut's second Budget.

As we enter our second year it is appropriate to comment on what we already have achieved.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's first year has been a success. We have made good progress in building our new territory. We have established a functioning government. We have begun to shape our programs and services in a manner that better meets the needs and aspirations of Nunavummiut, while operating within our means.

Mr. Speaker, while we all have a right to be proud, our challenges remain great.

## **OUR CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES**

Nunavut faces many unique geographic, social and economic challenges.

We are the largest geographic jurisdiction in Canada and we have the smallest population. Our communities are widely disbursed, and in many instances have inadequate infrastructure, including housing.

Our population is very young by Canadian standards and is growing at more than twice the national rate. This has placed pressure on government to deliver needed programs and services – particularly in the health and social sectors.

Our graduation rates are improving, but they are still well below the Canadian average. We need to help our young adults attain a level of formal education that will help them succeed.

We must address these challenges in a well thought out and meaningful manner.

If we are to effectively address the priorities of our people we will have to continue to find ways to do things better and be more resourceful. We realize that expectations remain high, and we are committed to meeting those expectations. But we must keep in mind that meaningful change requires understanding and time.

In our first budget, the primary focus was to ensure a smooth transition in governing Nunavut, especially the delivery of programs and services for our people.

We committed to creating healthier communities, families, and individuals. We outlined our intention to work towards making Nunavut

more self-reliant within Canada. We also recognized the importance of streamlining administrative functions, acting in a fiscally responsible manner, and being more accountable to our people.

Mr. Speaker, this government has initiated measures in support of all of these commitments. Furthermore, these commitments continue to play a significant role in shaping our approach to governing the territory.

Over this past year we have worked hard to identify and understand priorities shared by the people of Nunavut.

Last Fall, we released The Bathurst Mandate, which presented this government's vision for Nunavut. This document was the result of a series of meetings involving Cabinet and all Members of the Legislative Assembly, including a meeting of our Full Caucus in Baker Lake. There are four major themes contained in this mandate: healthy communities, simplicity and unity, self-reliance and continuing learning.

In keeping with our consensus building approach, we undertook an ambitious pre-budget consultation exercise. The goal of this exercise was to formally seek public input in the setting of budget priorities.

All Members of the Legislative Assembly participated in this exercise, which included public meetings in our 25 incorporated communities. The more than 900 people that attended these meetings shared their knowledge and opinions about setting budget priorities. These priorities are summarized in the Pre-Budget Consultations Report to be tabled today.

Housing, health care and education were identified as being important areas for the government to concentrate policy and spending initiatives. Other high priorities that were brought forward during these consultations included: capital and hamlet funding, as well as programs supporting elders and youth, cultural initiatives, and economic development.

This exercise gave us valuable insight into the needs, aspirations and priorities of Nunavummiut, and provided clear direction for the development of this and future budgets.

Mr. Speaker, before presenting our fiscal plan and budgetary initiatives, I will outline our economic prospects and fiscal performance.

## **ECONOMIC PROSPECTS**

The Canadian economy enjoyed strong growth in 1999, and this growth is expected to continue in the coming year. We expect that Nunavut's economy will be positively affected by these conditions.

Business opportunities within Nunavut will continue to increase. We expect our tourism and service sectors to do well. Export opportunities are expected to increase, particularly for fish and meat products, as well as for our arts and crafts.

The development of the Nunavut economy will remain largely dependent on the strength of our own initiatives, the self-reliance of our people, and our success in managing our natural resources.

We recognize that government represents the largest single sector in our economy. We have seen the impact of the creation of new government in many of our communities. Our challenge is to ensure that the economic benefits of this activity reach as many people in Nunavut as possible.

Similarly, some Nunavut communities are experiencing a construction boom that will continue in the short to medium-term. But we need to encourage other sources of economic activity.

Although we have seen a large number of jobs created over the last decade, the level of unemployment across the territory remains high due to our rapidly growing population and workforce. We must ensure that the new jobs being created in our economy are accessible by Nunavummiut. Decentralization and our investments in education and training will enhance employment prospects.

We must ensure that our people can depend on the land for their livelihoods in the future. This will require that we continue to support and strengthen traditional economic activities, such as harvesting. It means that we continue to be innovative in the use of our natural resources by taking the best of our traditional knowledge and merging it with new techniques.

Our tourism industry is strongly linked to our natural environment. We expect this industry to make an increasing contribution to our economy. The development of our parks and community-based tourism products will expand opportunities for employment.

Nunavut is widely recognized for its mineral resource potential. The development of a mine, such as the proposed Meliadine West gold property near Rankin Inlet, could employ as many as 300 people and generate annual sales of \$120 million. Similar opportunities for mineral development exist across the territory.

To capitalize on potential mineral developments, we will need to assist our residents in identifying and developing opportunities associated with this industry. We must develop the capacity, through training and education, to assist our people in obtaining mining jobs. The Departments of Sustainable Development and Education have been examining these issues and will soon release a discussion paper on 'Preparing for Mining Development'.

Our natural resources extend to the waters around us. We must invest in our fisheries, an industry that now employs approximately 250 people. The Department of Sustainable Development has redirected resources to support our fisheries industry, and this year we expect to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans on fisheries development in Nunavut.

Innovative uses of our natural resources must occur in community-based industries such as the arts and crafts. More than 3,000 people in Nunavut depend on this industry for some portion of their livelihood. Arts and crafts continue to be one of our most important exports. We see continued growth in our arts economy, including the performing arts, film production and cultural tourism.

Our economic prospects will continue to expand. But we will have to work diligently to ensure that Nunavummiut benefit from these increasing opportunities, and that we manage our natural resources wisely.

## **FISCAL PERFORMANCE**

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's first budget, tabled in May 1999, was a balanced budget. We forecasted revenues of \$610 million, operating expenditures of \$545 million and capital expenditures of \$55 million. We set aside a contingency reserve of \$10 million to cover unforeseen expenditure needs.

In our mid-year Budget Update we projected that the government would have a surplus of \$12 million for the 1999-2000 fiscal year. This surplus was the result of a \$1.7 million increase in forecasted revenues and a projected \$10.3 million saving in departmental expenditures.

Our projected revenue forecast for the year ending March 31, 2000, has increased by an additional \$7.5 million over mid-year and \$9.2 million over our budget projections. This increase is largely due to growth in federal transfers resulting from Canada's strong economy and population growth in the territory.

On the expenditure side, departmental spending projections are \$14.6 million below mid-year and \$24.9 million below budget allocations. Also, an additional \$17.1 million in funding was provided to our three health boards. This was comprised of \$8.2 million that was reallocated within the Department of Health and Social Services' approved budget, as well

as \$8.9 million from the savings of other departments. This latter amount was used to pay off the combined deficits of the three boards accumulated prior to April 1, 1999.

A large part of these expenditure savings are of a one-time nature, attributed to the fact that we have not reached our full staffing capacity. As we will be increasing our staffing levels over the coming year, it is unlikely that we will see similar salary savings in the future.

For the 1999-2000, fiscal year we now anticipate a surplus of \$34.1 million. Our first Public Accounts, which are to be released this Fall, will present government's actual revenues and expenditures for 1999-2000. As in all jurisdictions in Canada, our net fiscal position cannot be determined until the consolidated financial statements contained in our Public Accounts are finalized.

Mr. Speaker, our departments have operated this year with many unfilled positions, which has placed a heavy burden on many of our employees. Our programs and services have been delivered as a result of their extra time and effort. Our employees should be commended for a job well done.

In January, I announced a 15 percent increase in the Northern Allowance Benefits paid to all GN employees. This change will take effect for the members of the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, Hay Plan and Excluded employees on April 1, 2000. For members of the Nunavut Employees Union this increase will take effect once a new contract is ratified. As well, work is underway to review equity between communities that could result in additional Northern Allowance Benefits paid to employees in some communities.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to once again congratulate the executive and membership of the FNT, which strongly endorsed the new collective bargaining agreement. This 3-year agreement will provide stability and the opportunity to plan and deliver quality education programs to Nunavut students.

## **FISCAL OUTLOOK AND PLAN**

Mr. Speaker, I will now present our fiscal plans for Nunavut's second year of operation.

Nunavut's revenues are projected to be \$638.7 million in the 2000-2001 fiscal year. This represents a 4.7 percent increase in revenues over last year's budget forecast. This increase is due in large measure to the continued strength of the Canadian economy, which directly affects federal formula financing transfers to Nunavut. It also reflects the one-time increase to the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) announced in the last federal budget.

All provinces and territories rely on federal transfers, even the wealthiest. Our reliance, at about 90 percent of our total revenues, is the highest of any jurisdiction in Canada. Our income taxes, consumption taxes, payroll taxes, and other own-source revenues, including an insurance recovery associated with the loss of the high school in Cambridge Bay, account for the remaining 10 percent of our total revenues.

Mr. Speaker, the budget plan I present today will utilize approximately \$15.3 million of the \$34.1 million surplus anticipated from our first year of operation. To accommodate additional expenditure requirements, we have set aside a contingency reserve of \$10 million. A second reserve of \$5 million has been established to cover the increased cost of Northern Allowance Benefits. This amount will be allocated to departments once a collective agreement is reached with the Nunavut Employees Union.

In light of the growth in revenues and the projected surplus from 1999-2000, planned expenditures for 2000-2001 will be increased to \$654 million. This represents an increase of 7.2 percent over the planned expenditure allocations in our first budget. We will be allocating in excess of \$572 million for operations and maintenance, as well as, more than \$66 million for capital projects. This budget provides funding of over \$14 million for one-time initiatives, not part of our long-term expenditure base.

While there are no tax changes in this budget, we fully supported the income tax changes in the recent federal budget. Since the federal government administers our income taxes, the rate reductions will lower the territorial as well as federal tax burden on Nunavummiut. The increases to child tax benefits will help many of our families.

In order to reduce our dependency on transfers we need to increase economic opportunities, which in turn would strengthen our tax base. Also, we must reduce the cost of providing government services. Changes of this nature cannot be accomplished overnight.

Mr. Speaker, it is critical that the federal transfers we receive are sufficient to help us overcome a number of significant challenges until we become more self-reliant.

The single most important transfer that Nunavut receives is the territorial formula financing grant. This transfer accounts for approximately 80 percent of our revenues. The agreement that sets out how this transfer is calculated was signed prior to the establishment of Nunavut. The term of the initial Canada-Nunavut Formula Financing Agreement was for a two-year period. It is set to expire on March 31, 2001.

In relation to this, the Government of Canada has put all major transfers to provinces and territories on a common five-year track. This means that we have an opportunity to enter into a new agreement for an additional three-year period. Nunavut intends to sign a new agreement with the federal government to ensure that this significant source of revenue is ongoing.

Nunavut's infrastructure and socio-economic needs are significantly different from any jurisdiction in Canada. In this regard, we have been seeking a commitment from the federal government to undertake a review of Nunavut's fiscal requirements. We will set out our position in a discussion paper which will be released in the coming weeks.

In order to become more self-reliant we need not only financial assistance, but we also must assume authority and responsibilities over our resources. As part of our long-term plan, we are pursuing a devolution agreement with the Government of Canada to take on the responsibility of managing our subsurface resources.

Nunavut would assume the powers to develop, manage and regulate the natural resource base in our territory, and powers to administer and control public lands. It would give us powers to levy and collect resource royalties and other revenues from natural resources. These are powers we need.

In January, the federal Minister of DIAND, the Honourable Robert Nault, indicated in a speech to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories that a comprehensive and inclusive approach was needed to developing governance structures, to sharing resources, and to building and managing the Northern economy and environment.

In Nunavut we accept this challenge.

We will continue to work cooperatively with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the federal government to produce a positive outcome for Nunavut. In a recent letter to me, Mr. Paul Quassa, the President of NTI, reaffirmed the organization's commitment to work productively with both levels of government on this important matter. The fact that we have a land claim agreement in place should help facilitate a successful outcome.

We need the additional authority and responsibility to help ensure our economic development and to enhance our opportunities to move towards increased self-reliance.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to reaching an agreement on devolution with the federal government within our mandate. We are now in the process of preparing a discussion paper that will lay out options and approaches to arriving at such an agreement. Also, with the combination of a strong national economy and much improved federal fiscal position, the environment should be right for a positive response from the Government of Canada to addressing Nunavut's expenditure needs.

## **SPENDING PLANS AND PRIORITIES**

Mr. Speaker, in the coming fiscal year the Government of Nunavut has allocated \$639 million for funding programs, services, and capital projects across the territory, in addition to our \$15 million reserves.

The Departments of Health and Social Services and Education, along with the Nunavut Housing Corporation, will account for approximately 50 percent of the Government of Nunavut's total allocated spending. This spending is consistent with The Bathurst Mandate and the priorities identified through the pre-budget consultations.

For the 2000-2001 fiscal year, we will be investing over \$66 million in capital projects throughout the territory. This represents an increase of 20 percent from 1999-2000. Nearly 60 percent of our capital budget will be used to fund projects of the Departments of Health and Social Services, Education and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. When the Departments of Public Works and Community Government and Transportation are included, this figure increases to over 90 percent of the total.

Mr. Speaker, in last year's budget we committed to the development of a Five-Year Capital Plan. We have worked hard at developing a sound and balanced capital plan for Nunavut. In developing such a plan we must continuously recognize that our needs are great and that our resources will only permit us to do so much each year. The longer planning horizon will ensure a balanced approach to addressing the capital needs of all communities. We will have to be resourceful, creative and practical in our capital planning efforts.

Public-Private Partnering, or P3, is an example of a resourceful approach to addressing our capital needs. The P3 process represents a viable financing vehicle for major infrastructure projects. Last Spring, the GN successfully negotiated with the Arviat Development Corporation the first P3 project in Nunavut. This agreement will see the construction of a new health facility for Arviat. The new health facility in Arviat is being constructed as a P3 project.—The Government of Nunavut is continuing to work towards using this innovative funding approach to construct health

centers in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit. In the future other capital projects may be suitable P3 candidates.

It is our intention to present a preliminary Five-year Capital Plan to the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly this fall. This will provide MLAs an opportunity to have greater input into the plan before the 2001-2002 Capital Estimates are tabled.

I will now highlight some of the departmental spending initiatives for the 2000-2001 fiscal year.

### **Health and Social Services**

The Department of Health and Social Services will have a total budget of \$120.2 million, including over \$115.9 million allocated for operations and maintenance, as well as \$4.3 million for capital projects.

Over \$46 million will be provided for medical treatment, and nearly \$24 million to promote healthy children, families and communities. In addition, over \$28 million has been allocated for health insurance programs. Included in the department's capital plan is \$1 million for telehealth.

Over the past year we have made a number of important decisions and critical investments relating to the provision of health care programs and services in Nunavut.

Last Fall the first students in the Nunavut Nursing Program began their training. A second group of students will begin training this coming September. With this program we are making an investment in our youth, addressing staffing issues, and developing our capacity to train health professionals. Ongoing funding has been provided for this program, which was given supplementary funding last year from our contingency reserve.

We must compete with other jurisdictions to attract qualified health professionals. To retain and recruit nursing staff we have reclassified certain health care positions and initiated a program to provide length of service bonuses and a bonus at initial hiring. These initiatives are similar to measures introduced in other jurisdictions.

Effective April 1 this year, the Department of Health and Social Services will directly assume the responsibilities of Nunavut's three health boards.

By concentrating on core health responsibilities we will be able to provide more efficient and effective health care to the people of Nunavut. Several administrative and operational expenditure responsibilities previously covered by health board budgets will be transferred to central government departments. These include payroll and employee benefits, staffing and relocation functions, as well as the maintenance of hospitals and other health buildings, including heating and utility costs.

The Department of Health and Social Services has been allowed to retain in excess of \$5 million of the funding previously allocated to boards for these functions. The department will redirect these funds to address a number of fundamental health and social services needs of the people of Nunavut.

A core issue for the people of Nunavut is the health of our communities. If we are to make communities healthier, we will need to address mental health issues, including sexual abuse, family violence, and other anti-social behaviors that affect both the individual and others.

The most extreme example of mental health disorder is suicide. We will increase resources for suicide prevention and intervention training, as well as bereavement support for individuals and communities.

Mr. Speaker, tobacco use in Nunavut is at an epidemic level. It is one of the main causes of death among Nunavummiut – 78 percent of our young people between the ages of 15 to 24 are smokers. The government will commit resources to reverse the trend in tobacco use and to ensure that fewer youth start smoking.

We will examine the development of a comprehensive dental program focused specifically on pre-schoolers. Such a program would improve the dental health of our children.

Mr. Speaker, with the creation of Nunavut, we have an opportunity to address many of our health challenges. The solutions to our problems will be found in a combination of our traditional knowledge, good management, and modern techniques. Under the direction of the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Ed Picco, the initiatives outlined above will begin the process of creating healthier communities and improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Nunavut.

## **Education**

The Department of Education will continue to have the largest departmental budget at \$150.4 million, including \$135.1 million for operations and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, as with the Department of Health and Social Services, the coming fiscal year will bring significant changes for the Department of Education. Nunavut's three Divisional Educational Councils will be integrated into the department on July 1. The Department of Education is estimating that dissolving the education councils will generate savings of up to \$500,000 in 2000-2001 and up to \$1 million in 2001-2002, in salaries and per diems, which will be reinvested in education programs and services.

For the 2000-2001 fiscal year we will be investing additional resources in a number of critical areas of our education system. Funding of \$400,000 has been provided for additional Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun curriculum

development. This initiative will help preserve and promote the Inuit language and culture.

I am pleased to announce that we will be providing funds to increase the number of teaching positions across the territory. The department will be investing an additional \$ 1.2 million for this purpose this year.

We will be making significant capital investments in our education system. A total of \$15.3 million has been allocated for capital projects for next year. The department will be overseeing work on a total of 15 new and ongoing capital projects.

In August of 1998 fire destroyed the Kiillinik High School and Community Library in Cambridge Bay. Construction of the new facility will begin this summer with completion expected in the following year. This budget allocates \$7.9 million for this project.

The department will be initiating a number of new capital projects. Included in this budget's allocation is \$615,000 to begin the replacement of the Jonah Amitnaaq School in Baker Lake. Funding also has been provided for planning school additions in Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay and Whale Cove. In Pond Inlet, we are initiating the renovation of the elementary school and examining high school gym expansion options, with \$1 million allocated for the first year of this project. Over \$1.5 million has been budgeted for an addition to the Quluaq School in Clyde River, and \$1.8 million for an addition to the Kugaardjuq School in Pelly Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education has initiated a 20-year capital planning process that is designed to enhance the quality of our educational facilities across Nunavut.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Education, the Honourable James Arvaluk, will lead the development of a plan for a minor capital program for schools to begin this fall. Through this program we will carry out much needed improvements to many schools across the territory. Funding for this program will come from the accumulated surpluses of the three education councils upon the assumption of their duties by the Department of Education. The exact value of the program will be determined this fall when board audits are completed. The full amount of the surpluses, Mr. Speaker, will be reinvested in education. This is another significant investment in Nunavut's school system.

We have reached an agreement with the Government of Canada for the construction of a French language school in Iqaluit. The Government of Nunavut will contribute \$200,000 to this project in the coming year.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College is in the final stage of developing a new five-year strategic plan. Once approved by the College Board of Governors this Spring, the plan will guide the college in its development and program delivery over the coming years. We will provide ongoing support for the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, which was given

ongoing funding from our contingency reserve last year. This initiative, which is a part of implementing the human resource plan that supports the goals of Article 23 of the Land Claims Agreement, will provide the skills and leadership needed for a sound education system. In addition, we will be undertaking a review of the student accommodation needs for the three main campuses of Arctic College.

In addition to the initiatives outlined above, the department will reinvest over \$1.5 million to improve the service delivery and the management of the Income Support Program. As well, the department has budgeted over \$20 million for adult learning and post secondary education, and over \$80 million for early childhood education and school services.

## **Housing**

Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut have told us that addressing housing needs must be one of this government's priorities.

This past summer, the Minister Responsible for Housing, the Honourable Manitok Thompson, established a task force to examine and make recommendations on housing in Nunavut. Minister Thompson will lead our efforts in addressing housing issues across the territory.

The Government of Nunavut will build 100 new public housing units this fiscal year. The Nunavut Housing Corporation will soon call tenders for the construction of these units, which should be ready for occupancy in early 2001. The corporation also has received additional funding to operate approximately 40 public housing units that will be leased from the private market.

We realise that the demand for social housing far exceeds these increases, but this is a start. We are committed to addressing our housing shortage in a meaningful, ongoing and efficient manner.

Mr. Speaker, at \$19 million the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been allocated a capital budget larger than any government department for fiscal 2000-2001. In total, funding of over \$54 million has been allocated for the corporation.

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is now a stand-alone entity with a mandate to provide public housing programs. The creation of this stand-alone corporation to develop and oversee the provision of housing programs will ensure that this critical issue receives the attention it is due.

We realize public housing units are desperately needed in all of our communities. This is why we have made this our number one capital priority. These 100 new homes will be the first public housing units constructed in Nunavut since 1993.

In addition, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be increasing funding to local housing organizations by over \$1 million to offset increased costs, and will continue to deliver programs for homeowners.

## **Justice**

For 2000-2001, the Department of Justice will have a total budget of \$37.1 million. The department's budget allocates over \$36.5 million to operations and maintenance, as well as \$600,000 for capital projects.

The department administers a number of programs, including corrections, community justice, and legal registries. It is responsible for administration of the Nunavut Court of Justice, for funding and support to the Legal Services Board, and managing the contract for policing in the territory. We will provide funding of nearly \$14 million for the RCMP contract.

In this coming year, we will hire probation officer supervisors in each region. This will begin to relieve some of the workload on community social workers that currently fill this role so they can concentrate more on community wellness plans. We will provide \$450,000 for this program.

The department provides a full range of legal services to the Government of Nunavut. The department is continuing its initiative to provide legislation in Inuktitut, and will be creating new positions for two legal translator positions this year, at a cost of \$150,000.

The capital program includes \$310,000 for maintenance of the Baffin Correctional Center, and \$100,000 for correction camps.

## **Culture, Language, Elders and Youth**

Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut identified many of the responsibilities of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth as priorities for government. The Minister of this department, the Honourable Donald Haviyok will lead our government's efforts in promoting, protecting, and preserving the traditional Inuit culture, languages and heritage.

The budget for the department has been set at \$7.6 million, an increase of more than 20 percent over last year's budget.

The department has been allocated \$1 million for capital projects, which consists of \$500,000 for contributions to youth centers throughout Nunavut and \$500,000 for heritage centers.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will provide \$300,000 for elders and youth programs, as well as \$100,000 for persons with disabilities, to help improve access to government programs and services. Over \$2.3 million in grants and contributions will be provided, including \$250,000 for the Status of Women Council, \$702,000 for traditional language promotion and protection, and \$716,000 for cultural and heritage programs.

## **Sustainable Development**

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year the Minister of Sustainable Development, the Honourable Peter Kilabuk, delivered a 'Statement on the Nunavut Economy'. This statement committed our government to developing our economy in a manner that recognizes our dependence on our land and resources, and that draws on the abilities of our people. Minister Kilabuk and his department will build on this commitment in the coming year through key investments.

This year the department will invest over \$13 million in grants and contributions in support of our harvesters, community economic planning, and partnerships such as the Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Agreement, Nunavut Tourism, and the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association.

The department is undertaking a complete review of the Wildlife Act to develop new Nunavut-based legislation. Coinciding with this process, the department will increase training and development for wildlife officers in communities.

In addition, we will invest in developing the capacity of our people to take advantage of economic opportunities. We will spend \$175,000 on strengthening the capacities of our community-based economic development officers; \$100,000 for emerging fisheries and sealing initiatives; \$175,000 for community job creation; and \$155,000 for preparing Nunavummiut for opportunities in mining education and training.

The department will spend \$2.7 million on capital projects in support of the development of our tourism industry, and in support of the wildlife service. In total, the Department of Sustainable Development has been allocated funding of over \$33 million for the coming fiscal year.

## **Community Government and Transportation**

The Department of Community Government and Transportation will manage a budget of over \$78 million, including \$15.5 million for capital projects. Mr. Speaker, this capital budget is the largest of any department, and is second only to the Nunavut Housing Corporation on a government-wide basis. This allocation reflects the importance we attribute to investing in our communities and their infrastructure. The department will provide over \$31 million in grants and contributions, including \$19 million for the Municipal Operating Assistance Program.

In recognition of the demand for change identified in The Bathurst Mandate, the Honourable Jack Anawak will initiate separate reviews of municipal financing and municipal legislation. A total of \$250,000 has been allocated for these initiatives. Furthermore, the department will spend \$300,000 to complete the outstanding survey and mapping obligations to fulfil requirements of the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement.

The Community Government Branch of the department will spend over \$5.4 million on buildings and works. This amount includes \$1.1 million for water supply improvements in Grise Fiord, \$900,000 for design and start of construction of a new arena for Kimmirut, and \$800,000 for the construction of a sewage lagoon in Pangnirtung. This branch also will provide funding of \$300,000 for expansion of the water reservoir in Coral Harbour, \$500,000 for utilidor hookup assistance and cost-shared paving of roads in Iqaluit, and as well as \$250,000 for the water supply system in Kugluktuk.

This branch will make capital contributions to communities of nearly \$6.9 million, including \$3.3 million to complete the new sewage treatment facility in Iqaluit, and \$700,000 to complete the Nuvuk residential subdivision in Rankin Inlet.

The Transportation Branch will spend over \$2.5 million on buildings and works. This amount includes \$900,000 for airport development and a new air terminal building for Clyde River, \$300,000 for airport improvements in Cambridge Bay, \$300,000 for runway improvements in Resolute Bay, and \$200,000 for design work for a new airport terminal building in Pond Inlet.

## **Public Works**

The Department of Public Works has been allocated a total budget of \$87.5 million, of that amount \$79.8 million is for operations and maintenance, with \$7.7 million for capital projects.

The budget for the department has increased by \$14.7 million over the 1999-2000 allocation. This increase is primarily due to the GN assuming responsibility for the leasing, operations and maintenance costs of the new office buildings and residential units constructed by the Nunavut Construction Corporation in eleven of our communities. The completion of these facilities is an important part of our decentralization plans to provide employment and other economic benefits throughout the territory. Also in support of our decentralization efforts, the department will spend \$2.2 million for the purchase of furniture, leasehold improvements, and the installation of equipment.

The department will assume responsibility for the operations and maintenance of buildings formerly managed by health boards, including utility costs. This budget allocates over \$2.5 million for this purpose.

Public Works is responsible for the operation and maintenance of computer systems and networks supporting government departments. A budget of \$10.1 million has been provided for this requirement.

Through its Petroleum Products Division, the department will be making significant investments in community infrastructure. It will spend \$7.7 million on maintenance and enhancement of bulk fuel storage facilities in communities across the territory. This includes \$1.6 million for Cape

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Dorset, \$1.9 million for Kugluktuk, \$360,000 for Hall Beach, nearly \$1 million for Sanikiluaq, \$320,000 for Taloyoak, and for Baker Lake, \$1.9 million.

### **Human Resources**

The Department of Human Resources has been allocated a total budget of \$17.8 million, which represents an increase of \$6.4 million over 1999-2000. This increase reflects the significant responsibilities assumed by Human Resources from other departments, including most of the responsibilities for the staffing and the removal costs of the former health board employees. Human Resources will receive additional funding of \$3.0 million to cover the costs of staff removals to decentralized communities.

The department will be provided over \$1 million in support of the Inuit Employment Program. Our goal is to develop a training plan that will produce long-term benefits. The department also will be overseeing the GN Summer Student Employment Program; \$350,000 has been allocated for this initiative. This program will complement the summer employment programs by other departments, as well as an external summer employment program that we are currently developing.

### **Finance and Administration**

The Department of Finance and Administration has been allocated a total budget of \$30.7 million, which represents an increase of \$3.2 million over 1999-2000.

This increase is largely the result of additional funding for development of computer systems. We have allocated \$8 million for the completion of student financial assistance and income support systems, and for other computer systems required by government departments. Funding for new systems will be approved on a priority basis. Also, Finance and Administration will assume responsibility for the administration of payroll and employee benefits from the health boards.

The department will continue the electrical power subsidy to ensure that all Nunavut residents continue to have access to reasonable utility rates. The cost of this very worthwhile subsidy will be \$3.8 million next year.

The Department of Finance and Administration is in the process of finalizing the division of assets and liabilities with the Government of the Northwest Territories. As a result of division, the GN should receive a net distribution of assets valued in excess of \$15 million, including accounts receivable and inventories of petroleum products. As well, the Nunavut Housing Corporation will receive equity in capital assets of over \$70 million.

## Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

A priority area consistently identified by the people of Nunavut is decentralization. The Honourable Paul Okalik, Premier, has established in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs a secretariat to co-ordinate our decentralization efforts. Based on the work done by this secretariat, we have allocated \$5.2 million for the upcoming year for decentralization. As outlined earlier, \$3.0 million will be spent by Human Resources, with the remaining \$2.2 million being allocated to Public Works. Our plan is the full implementation of decentralization over three years. This will see decentralized communities benefiting from employment and economic opportunities.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will administer a number of government initiatives, ~~including the Nunavut Law Review Commission and the Nunavut Public Utilities Board including the Nunavut Public Utilities Board and the Nunavut Law Review Commission.~~ The mandate of this commission will be to review the current laws to ensure that they reflect the values and needs of the residents of Nunavut. The opinion and participation of elders will be given special consideration during this review.-

Funding of \$2.6 million has been allocated to the department in support of the establishment of the Nunavut Power Corporation. The Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, the Honourable Ed Picco, will oversee the start-up of a Nunavut-based utility.

The total budget for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has increased from \$7.7 million in 1999-2000 to \$11.3 million for the coming year. This increase covers the cost of establishing the Nunavut Power Corporation, the Nunavut Law Review Commission and the Nunavut Public Utilities Board

Mr. Speaker, Premier Okalik has successfully established partnerships between Nunavut and other jurisdictions. A Memorandum of Intent with Greenland will encourage closer ties with our neighbour to the East. A Northern Leaders' Co-operation Accord with the Northwest Territories and Yukon will result in collaboration on issues of mutual interest. A Memorandum of Understanding with Manitoba that will benefit both jurisdictions. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has signed the Clyde River Protocol with NTI to formalize our working relationship with that organization. All of these partnerships will prove to be invaluable as Nunavut moves forward.

## **CONCLUSION**

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's first year has been a success.

We have made good progress in building our new territory. In our first year of operation we have maintained and enhanced programs and services, while being fiscally responsible.

We have worked hard to identify and understand the needs, aspirations and priorities of Nunavummiut. This effort has provided us with clear direction. We will continue to work at improving our programs and services to better address the needs of our people.

We have put more resources into education, housing and health care.

We are supporting our culture, heritage and traditional economic activities, while preparing our people for the new millennium.

We are implementing our decentralization plan.

Our economy is developing and growing. As well, we have much untapped natural resource potential. We will continue our efforts to ensure that our people benefit from this potential. We will manage our natural resources wisely. We will become more self-reliant.

We must build on this momentum. By continuing to invest in our greatest resources - our people and our land - we can ensure Nunavut's prosperity.

With this budget Mr. Speaker, we will continue moving forward and building on the success of our first year.

**APPENDIX A**  
**SUMMARY TABLES**

**Table 1: Summary of Fiscal Position**

	2000-2001 Main Estimates (\$000)	1999-2000 Revised Estimates (\$000)	1999-2000 Main Estimates (\$000)
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>638,683</b>	<b>619,294</b>	<b>610,107</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Operations and Maintenance Expenditures	(572,855)	(560,189)	(545,079)
Capital	(66,171)	(59,007)	(55,028)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>(639,026)</b>	<b>(619,196)</b>	<b>(600,107)</b>
<b>UNADJUSTED SURPLUS (Deficit)</b>	<b>(343)</b>	98	10,000
<b>Estimated Supplementary Requirements</b>			
Contingency Reserve	(10,000)	-	(10,000)
Northern Allowance	(5,000)	-	-
Prior Year Capital Projects Carried Over	(5,000)	-	-
<b>Estimated Appropriation Lapses</b>			
Operations and Maintenance Expenditures	-	28,000	-
Capital Projects	5,000	6,000	-
<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(15,343)</b>	34,098	-
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) - at Beginning of the Year	34,098	-	-
<b>ACCUMULATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT) - AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>18,755</b>	<b>34,098</b>	<b>-</b>

Table 2: Revenues, Recoveries and Transfer Payments

	2000-2001 Main Estimates (\$000)	1999-2000 Revised Estimates (\$000)	1999-2000 Main Estimates (\$000)
<b>FEDERAL TRANSFERS</b>			
Formula Financing Arrangement	531,000	522,900	498,900
Other Federal Transfers	51,010	50,710	53,700
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL TRANSFERS</b>	<b>582,010</b>	<b>573,610</b>	<b>552,600</b>
<b>OWN SOURCE REVENUES</b>			
Personal Income Tax	11,880	10,930	16,000
Corporate Income Tax	1,780	1,591	2,700
Fuel Tax	3,110	2,860	3,600
Property Tax and School Levies	3,000	3,000	3,000
Tobacco Tax	7,542	7,542	6,100
Payroll Tax	3,890	3,540	3,900
Insurance Taxes	300	300	300
Liquor Commission Net Revenues	1,577	1,327	1,900
Power Corporation Dividend	3,900	3,900	3,800
Rental Recovery - Staff Housing	6,200	6,200	6,200
Other Revenues	13,494	4,494	10,007
<b>TOTAL OWN SOURCE REVENUES</b>	<b>56,673</b>	<b>45,684</b>	<b>57,507</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>638,683</b>	<b>619,294</b>	<b>610,107</b>

**Table 3: Summary of Operations and Maintenance Expenditures**

	<b>2000-2001 Main Estimates (\$000)</b>	<b>1999-2000 Revised Estimates (\$000)</b>	<b>1999-2000 Main Estimates (\$000)</b>
Legislative Assembly	9,676	9,717	9,749
Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs	11,297	8,526	7,734
Finance and Administration	30,767	30,054	27,548
Human Resources	17,770	11,303	11,357
Justice	36,537	37,198	36,998
Public Works	79,787	66,979	67,132
Community Government and Transportation	63,023	63,778	64,044
Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	6,604	6,262	6,262
Education	135,149	134,586	132,331
Health and Social Services	115,932	127,289	117,427
Sustainable Development	31,135	31,254	31,254
Nunavut Housing Corporation	35,178	33,243	33,243
<b>Total Operations and Maintenance</b>	<b>572,855</b>	<b>560,189</b>	<b>545,079</b>

Table 4: Summary of Capital Expenditures

	2000-2001 Main Estimates (\$000)	1999-2000 Revised Estimates (\$000)	1999-2000 Main Estimates (\$000)
Legislative Assembly	-	3,434	3,402
Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs	-	-	-
Finance and Administration	-	250	-
Human Resources	-	-	-
Justice	600	533	313
Public Works	7,700	5,769	5,769
Community Government and Transportation	15,546	17,394	16,704
Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	1,000	-	-
Education	15,325	9,258	6,471
Health and Social Services	4,300	2,188	2,188
Sustainable Development	2,700	1,121	1,121
Nunavut Housing Corporation	19,000	19,060	19,060
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>66,171</b>	<b>59,007</b>	<b>55,028</b>

**Table 5: Summary of Total Expenditures**

	<b>2000-2001 Main Estimates (\$000)</b>	<b>1999-2000 Revised Estimates (\$000)</b>	<b>1999-2000 Main Estimates (\$000)</b>
Legislative Assembly	9,676	13,151	13,151
Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs	11,297	8,526	7,734
Finance and Administration	30,767	30,304	27,548
Human Resources	17,770	11,303	11,357
Justice	37,137	37,731	37,311
Public Works	87,487	72,748	72,901
Community Government and Transportation	78,569	81,172	80,748
Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	7,604	6,262	6,262
Education	150,474	143,844	138,802
Health and Social Services	120,232	129,477	119,615
Sustainable Development	33,835	32,375	32,375
Nunavut Housing Corporation	54,178	52,303	52,303
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>639,026</b>	<b>619,196</b>	<b>600,107</b>

**Table 6: Distribution of Budget - Operations and Maintenance Expenditures**

	Headquarters (\$000)	Baffin (\$000)	Kivalliq (\$000)	Kitikmeot (\$000)
Legislative Assembly	9,676	-	-	-
Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs	11,297	-	-	-
Finance and Administration	27,558	990	1,177	1,042
Human Resources	15,894	629	619	628
Justice	30,183	5,656	375	323
Public Works	46,596	13,150	11,902	8,139
Community Government and Transportation	17,667	22,638	12,914	9,804
Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	1,493	2,443	885	1,782
Education	102,174	18,004	8,654	6,317
Health and Social Services	41,469	35,633	26,480	12,350
Sustainable Development	19,390	3,957	4,127	3,661
Nunavut Housing Corporation	3,122	15,202	8,861	7,993
<b>Total Operations and Maintenance</b>	<b>326,519</b>	<b>118,302</b>	<b>75,994</b>	<b>52,039</b>

**Table 7: Distribution of Budget - Capital Expenditures**

	Headquarters	Baffin	Kivalliq	Kitikmeot
	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$000)
Legislative Assembly	-	-	-	-
Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs	-	-	-	-
Finance and Administration	-	-	-	-
Human Resources	-	-	-	-
Justice	190	410	-	-
Public Works	-	3,211	2,085	2,404
Community Government and Transportation	50	11,775	2,634	1,087
Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	1,000	-	-	-
Education	200	3,232	1,090	10,803
Health and Social Services	1,100	2,054	686	460
Sustainable Development	885	1,035	400	380
Nunavut Housing Corporation	620	9,500	5,100	3,780
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>31,217</b>	<b>11,995</b>	<b>18,914</b>

Table 8: Distribution of Budget - Total Expenditures

	Headquarters (\$000)	Baffin (\$000)	Kivalliq (\$000)	Kitikmeot (\$000)
Legislative Assembly	9,676	-	-	-
Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs	11,297	-	-	-
Finance and Administration	27,558	990	1,177	1,042
Human Resources	15,894	629	619	628
Justice	30,373	6,066	375	323
Public Works	46,596	16,361	13,987	10,543
Community Government and Transportation	17,717	34,413	15,548	10,891
Culture, Language, Elders and Youth	2,493	2,443	885	1,782
Education	102,374	21,236	9,744	17,120
Health and Social Services	42,569	37,687	27,166	12,810
Sustainable Development	20,275	4,992	4,527	4,041
Nunavut Housing Corporation	3,742	24,702	13,961	11,773
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>330,564</b>	<b>149,519</b>	<b>87,989</b>	<b>70,953</b>

## **Appendix B**

### **Summary of Pre-Budget Consultation Report**

#### **Introduction**

This is a summary of the most ambitious and inclusive Pre-Budget consultations ever undertaken by any jurisdiction in Canada. The consultations by the Government of Nunavut (GN) were held during November and December 1999. These consultations involved public meetings that were held in all 25 incorporated communities in Nunavut

This summary presents the issues that were raised during the consultations and a general prioritization of them. The comprehensive report, including detailed information on all the issues raised as well as profiles of the views of individual community, is available for distribution.

Generally, the process went smoothly and was well received. A large volume of data was collected from people throughout Nunavut. The key objective of the consultation process was public input and, given the number of issues raised and substantial level of public involvement, it would seem to have been achieved.

#### **Approach**

The consultations were conducted by all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and were supported by staff from the Departments of:

- Finance and Administration,
- Executive and Intergovernmental affairs,
- Community Government and Transportation, and
- Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

The Department of Finance and Administration was responsible for the overall coordination of the process as well as for recording, compiling, organizing, and presenting all the information obtained from the consultations.

A substantial number of opinions were obtained through this process. These opinions have been classified into 22 separate categories below. For the purposes of this summary only, the prioritization of these categories is based on the number of communities in which a category was mentioned, not the number of times it was mentioned.

## **Summary of Findings**

Given the significant volume of raw data obtained throughout this process, there were several options available for the portrayal of the information. The information is presented in an objective manner as much as possible.

Individual issues were classified in several general categories as follows:

- Housing,
- Health and Social,
- Education,
- Capital Priorities and Funding,
- Hamlet Funding,
- Elders and Youth,
- Economic Development,
- Traditional/Cultural Concerns,
- Communications,
- Hunters, Hunting and Trapping,
- Training and Development,
- Employment,
- Transportation,
- Justice,
- Northern Allowance/Merchandise Costs,
- Water and Sewer,
- Accountability and Responsibility,
- Recreation,
- Office Space,
- Policies and Procedures,
- Weather Related, and
- Women

Categories are placed in descending order. Those that were mentioned in the most communities are at the top of the list, while categories that were mentioned in the least number of communities at the bottom of the list.

There was no single issue that stood out as the most important issue. Two of the above categories, Housing and Health and Social, were raised in 24 of the 25 communities visited, while the Education category was raised in 23 of the communities. This would imply that these three categories are very high priorities to the people of Nunavut.

Under the category of Housing, a number of separate issues were mentioned. They include:

- shortage of public housing,
- shortage of housing stock in general,

- the age of the housing stock in certain communities and the need for modernization and improvement,
- overcrowding,
- bigger houses required,
- rent scale needs to be reviewed, and
- more homeownership programs required.

Under the Health and Social category the following comments were made:

- more nurses required,
- more programs for disabled persons,
- high suicide rate needs to be addressed,
- income support too low,
- substance abuse programs required,
- wellness workshops required, and
- concern about how communities will be affected by dissolving the Regional Health Boards.

Filling out the three most mentioned categories is the Education category. Some of the concerns mentioned were:

- new schools required,
- schools overcrowded,
- more Inuktitut teaching,
- addressing the dropout rate,
- cultural and traditional programs in the classroom,
- including courses on the Nunavut Land Claim, and
- teacher-student ratio too high.

Issues in the Capital Priorities and Funding category were raised in 19 of the 25 communities visited. While the comments in this category pertained largely to the level of capital funding for individual communities as well as the capital “wish list” of each community, other specific issues were raised. They include the following:

- assistance required in developing capital plans,
- community infrastructure needs to be assessed for adequacy,
- capital funding for a museum required,
- capital dollars should be allocated for environmental clean up where required, and
- concern about the cost to hamlets of NTPC infrastructure.

Hamlet Funding was another category in which issues were mentioned quite widely throughout Nunavut, with 18 communities bringing forth issues in this category. Most

communities expressed concern that the level of funding provided to them was inadequate, while specific issues in this category include:

- formula for funding hamlets needs to be reviewed,
- block funding should be considered,
- support from government other than funding is required,
- multi-year funding should be considered,
- per capita funding unfair to smaller communities,
- lack of understanding of the formula,
- assistance from government departments required to access other funding sources, and
- devolution of programs should be accompanied by adequate resources.

Issues pertaining to the Elders and Youth category were mentioned in 17 communities. While the Traditional/Cultural category and the Hunters, Hunting and Trapping category were mentioned in 15 and 14 communities respectively.

The Elders and Youth category included such issues as:

- elders should be involved in teaching traditional skills,
- specific funding for elders and youth needs to be included in the budget,
- elders and youth should be working together in order to pass on traditional knowledge,
- more and better facilities and programs are required for elders and youth,
- elders should be involved in the Justice system, and
- youth need alternatives other than substance abuse which can cause suicide.

Some of the issues included in the Traditional/Cultural category were:

- Inuktitut should be more prevalent, IQ should be incorporated in the government,
- land and survival skills need to be taught,
- sewing should be taught,
- traditional ways need to be written down and recorded for the future generations,
- NSDC and the government should work closely together,
- artifacts need to be preserved,
- very little allocation of budget to this area, and
- support required for training in traditional ways.

A common concern in the Hunters, Hunting and Trapping category was the level of funding for the HTA's. Some of the other issues in this category include:

- individual hunters need more support,
- quota system needs to be reviewed,
- gun control legislation not appropriate for Nunavut and should be reviewed,

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- food processing plants should be built for hunters to sell catch to,
- the fur industry needs to be stimulated,
- hunters should be able to sell meat, and
- fishermen should have more funding.

The Communications category was another category where issues were raised in 14 communities. Some of the issues raised that fell into this category include:

- communicating is too expensive,
- internet access for smaller communities needs to be improved,
- the government is not communicating well to the communities,
- local radio stations should have more funding,
- better access to government information is required, and
- hamlets should be used more to provide information.

In the Training and Development and Employment categories, issues were raised in 13 communities. Some of the issues in the Training and Development category that were raised include:

- a trade school is required for Nunavut,
- more support for training,
- training for the rapid technological change we have undergone in such a short time is required,
- training is required for carvers to teach other carvers,
- heavy equipment training is required,
- more vocational training required,
- Inuit should be trained for senior managers in the government, and
- people on income support should be trained.

The Employment category included such issues as:

- fishing industry would create more jobs,
- not enough jobs,
- current employment programs are not working,
- more non-Inuit are working than Inuit,
- mining should be encouraged,
- more Inuit should be employed in the government,
- minimum wage should be increased, and
- the smaller communities don't have enough government jobs.

The final two categories that will be discussed in detail in this summary are the Transportation and Justice categories. They were mentioned in 12 and 10 communities

respectively. A general comment that was raised in the Transportation category was that the cost of transportation is too high. Some of the other issues raised include:

- building a road between Manitoba and the Kivalliq region,
- Arctic Airports training centre should be more used,
- runway extensions required,
- government subsidies for commercial travel, and
- better regular scheduled service required.

The Justice category contain such comments as:

- bi-lingual (English and Inuktitut) forms required,
- elders should be involved in the Justice system,
- look at traditional justice,
- community input into the Justice system,
- a new jail should be built, and
- integrate IQ to change the Justice system.

Other categories that were mentioned during the process include: Northern Allowance, Merchandise Costs, Water and Sewer, Accountability and Responsibility, Recreation, Office Space, Policies and Procedures, Weather Related, Women, and Other Concerns.