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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday May 1, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (Hon. Kevin O'Brien): I would like to ask Mr. Nutarak to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good morning Members, I trust that everyone had a good weekend. Last week was a busy week and hopefully by the end of this week we will finish the business of the house and the budget. Moving to the Orders of the Day. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 388 - 1(3): Rankin Inlet Snowmobile Races

Hon. Manito Thompson (interpretation): Good morning and thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Saturday and Sunday I was in Rankin Inlet and I would like to talk about the snowmobile races that were held there. We had fifty-two participants in the snowmobile races and Mr. Speaker there were participants from many different communities.

There were approximately twenty from Rankin Inlet, there was also Willie Arualaak and Jimmy Mesiralak from part of my riding of Whale Cove. There was one person from Manitoba and there were participants from your riding of Arviat Mr. Speaker. Also my little brother, Gabriel Bruce came from Coral Harbour, there was Noel Kaludjak and several others from Chesterfield Inlet.

In total there were fifty-two participants and the top prize went to Jim Tiuriak from Churchill and second was my nephew Neco Towtongie and the third place winner was Ross Tatty, who also participated in the Iqaluit/Kimmirut race and the fourth place went to Joe Savikatak from Arviat.

I would like to thank Bobby Foster who was the main co-ordinator and Neco Towtongie and others who worked very well together. Once again I would like to thank everyone who participated in these events. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 389 - 1(3): Gjoa Haven Easter Search

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the Easter holidays community games were held in Gjoa Haven including a women's dog team race held on April 26.

There was a severe white-out during the race and three of the participants got off track and were lost in the bad weather. One of them was found shortly but it took quite a while to find the other racers.

One woman was found when she started walking home. The other two were found the next day after a long night where many Gjoa Haven Residents spent a restless evening worried about the lost racers.

On behalf of all Gjoa Haven residents, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the searchers who found them in good condition. I would have to say that I think most of the other racers did not get a good nights sleep because they were all worried about the 2 ladies.

All search and rescue workers be recognised because they worked hard to find people in our cold climate.

There will be a feast and part of that feast will be dedicated to the two women that were found in good condition and for the searchers who looked for them. The people of Gjoa Haven are thankful that these racers were found safe and sound. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu

Member's Statement 390 - 1(3): Deferral of Quluq School Expansion

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to talk about the situation of Quluq School in Clyde River and this government's decision to defer the expansion and repairs that were planned. I have received letters from the Hamlet and the Community Education Council that say it is going to be a major problem if the school is not worked on this year.

Because we live in a very harsh climate, the school is going to get more deteriorated and probably will become a safety issue for the students and the staff in the school. Once that happens we are going to end up spending more money for the school renovations.

Because of this I think it is going to become a safety issue and the parents of the students may pull their kids out of school if conditions deteriorate in the upcoming winter. It is becoming an emergency issue and we would like to see this rectified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Member's Statement 391 - 1(3): Appreciation to Assembly

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I am pleased to rise today to make what will be my last member's statement for our spring session. Mr. Speaker it has been exactly one year and one month since I stood up with my fellow members and swore an oath of office and the oath of allegiance. The past year has been a challenging but rewarding one for my family and me.

I would like to express my thanks to Premier Paul Okalik and all my former cabinet colleagues for their support during the time I was Minister for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. I know from experience that there are issues that come before the cabinet table that are often complex and lack easy answers. The decisions taken are often difficult ones.

I am pleased that I have an opportunity to contribute to the strengthening of this department which plays such a central and vital role in the direction we want to head as a new government. Mr. Speaker, I would also thank all the members for their support for letting me be in cabinet and for their support when I made the difficult decision to step down as minister.

Mr. Speaker my honourable colleague from Hudson Bay is in the unique position of having sat as a regular member, a minister and a couple of brief days as our speaker. For me I have experience of answering questions from members on this side of the house. I know what it is like to be in a position where perhaps you don't have all the answers and can't give out much information as perhaps you would like.

But this experience has taught me a few things and I know it will make my questioning effective. Mr. Speaker I made a choice to sit as a regular member so I could take more opportunities in raising the concerns of constituents and the community. I am already enjoying the view from this new seat.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker I want to wish all my colleagues a safe and rewarding summer. For me I will have an opportunity to spend time in Kugluktuk listening to the concerns of my

constituents and taking action. I look forward to returning to the house in a few months time and I look forward to working with all the members in the spirit of making consensus and good decisions for all communities and all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 392 - 1(3): Commissioner for Oaths

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Good morning Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice a concern that is especially held by the smaller communities. It is regarding the positions of commissioner of oaths which is important for certifying contracts and affidavits that are required from time to time. We have been looking at how we can work on this issue and we have been working with the RCMP towards making the system work better. This afternoon during oral questions I will be asking questions to the Minister of Justice on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements, Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 393 - 1(3): Pangnirtung Fishing Derby

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Friday there was a fishing derby held in Pangnirtung. This is an annual fishing derby held in the spring.

There were 500 to 600 participants in the fishing derby that was held during this weekend. I would like to thank the Hamlet and the recreation committee for coordinating the derby.

Adamie Veevee got fifty-six fish and he won a snowmobile. In second place Susan Aningmiuk got 51 fish and she won eight hundred dollars. Third, Panuilie Nowdluk got 37 fish and got three hundred dollars.

For the children, the first was Jazz Koluktuk who caught twenty-six fish and won a "Mini Z" snowmobile. Joshua Kakee got nine fish and he got a 50 dollar prize. Imopah Alivaktuk got eight fish and got a 25 dollar prize.

Also, when we weighed in the fish for the children Janice Kugluktuk with a 4 pound fish and won a bicycle. Pauli Meetuk who was in second got 25 dollars and for third prize Pauloosie Nowdluk got 25 dollars. Martin Nakashuk got 25 dollars also.

For the skinniest fish, first prize went to Samson Arnaqaq with a 125 dollar prize. Second prize, Lissie Qaqasiq got duffle and fur. Taukie Karpik won third prize and got a food hamper.

For the smallest fish, first prize went to Lucy Kooniloosie with a fish of 3 inches and she got 200 dollars. Adamie Veevee got one hundred dollars and a jacket. For third prize Oleepika Kanayuk got 75 dollars and an ice chisel.

For the smallest fish amongst the children Christopher Nowyuk won 75 dollars, Joshua Kakee 50 dollars and Martha Nakashook got 25 dollars.

I would like to thank Parks Canada for providing tea, coffee and snacks to the participants. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Are you finished with members' statements. . .

Speaker: Last call for Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, I would like to go back to Item 2 on the agenda.

Speaker: The member is seeking consent to go back to Item 2, agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 129 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq State of Emergency

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today to inform the Members of the Legislative Assembly that as a result of the destruction of the power plant in Sanikiluaq and as Minister responsible for Civil Emergencies, I am using the responsibilities established under Section 11 of the Civil Emergency Measures Act, to declare a state of emergency in the community of Sanikiluaq.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker this will allow us to expedite the handling of this community emergency and to implement in full the measures provided by the Civil Emergency Measures Act to restore power to the community.

An emergency 125 kilowatt generator will be in place sometime later today. This generator will provide limited temporary service to the community. At this time Mr. Speaker, the health centre has a back-up generator and is able to provide emergency care.

The Department of Health and Social Services is sending in additional medical staff this afternoon to ensure the well-being of community residents. If required, I will also be requesting military aid from the Civil Authority under the act to assist in the transportation of a larger stand-by generator which has the capacity to provide power to

the entire community. This generator will be in place within the next few days and will operate until a permanent generator is built.

(interpretation) I want to assure the members of the legislative assembly and the residents of Sanikiluaq that we are working closely with NTPC to restore full power to the community as quickly as possible. I will keep the legislature informed of events as they develop. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Minister. Returning to the Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 553 - 1(3): Qikiqtarjuaq Co-op

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the question is to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Since last year and up to today I have worked with the minister in regards to Qikiqtarjuaq's Co-op request for assistance. How much progress has the minister made in regards to funding a new co-op store for Qikitarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sustainable Development has worked on the member's concern through Arctic Co-operatives. We have been looking at where the funding might come from and as to how much the funding will be.

A possible source of funding has been found for the Co-op for Qikitarjuaq and we will be completing the review on it and I will let the member know as soon as I get the documentation done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 554 - 1(3): Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker as for my member's statement, my question will be directed to the Minister of Justice. Mr. Speaker there are some people who do read and understand some of the documents that we have to fill out which need signatures from a commissioner of oaths or notary public. There are people that are capable of reading and some stay in town for health reasons but they are capable of holding these positions.

(interpretation)The question I have is, does the minister have in place a plan where commissioners of oath and notary public can be increased in my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The JPs are capable of signing those documents if they need to be signed. I would like to respond to the member by saying that I will look into how many of these positions are in place and I will gather up the names and give them to the members. I will also get some information to the members of the hamlet councils. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. We are a new government and the Inuit have not had to have people to sign papers for them I became a commissioner of oaths by asking questions and I just wondered where the public could go to become a commissioner of oaths or notary public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure you can go through the department of justice but I am not really sure exactly which route the public can take to become commissioner of oaths or notary public. Perhaps if they could go through the hamlet and then the hamlet would be able to contact the department of justice to become a notary public or commissioner of oaths. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 555 - 1(3): Homeownership Programs

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. On Friday, she had indicated to the members that MDAP or the EDAP programs that are available for home ownership. I would like to ask the minister if the Housing Corporation is currently has any type of home ownership program in place right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my budget as I indicated, there is 1 million dollars that we are going to be using for the home ownership programs. That is the only program that we are looking at in this new budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Minister. Supplementary Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I know that and I fully realise there is 1 million dollars allocated for home ownership but in any allocation there is usually a program and a way of divvying out and distributing those funds. I am asking the minister is there a

program or criteria in place for the allocation of that 1 million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated we are working on how we are going to spend this million dollars to home owners. I had to wait for my budget to be approved in order for us to start working on something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Supplementary Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo : Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is unfortunate to wait until a budget is passed for programs to be developed. That is something new that I am learning I guess. I would like to ask the minister when does she plan to have the program made available to the public. I know these types of programs, home ownership programs, applicants would have gone through their final screening and second interview by now.

If somebody wants to buy and build their home they are looking at sea lift deadlines. So, I think something like this is of an urgent nature and I would ask the minister when she will be making details of this program available to the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said I will be making an announcement in the very near future and that is as soon as possible. As soon as we can work on something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Final supplementary Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker I was wondering if the Minister would be a little more specific as to when or how long has the department been looking at the programs. They started a month ago. Do you expect within the next month or two weeks. If Mr. Speaker, if something is not announced soon the boat will literally be missed for many individuals that may want to take advantage of this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that my staff are experienced in shipping materials and stuff. So 1 million dollars according to the budget does not go far. We will make as effective as possible. It may be just for putting money into the hands of people who would like to buy homes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 556 - 1(3): Delivery of Arena Material

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation in regards to Kimmirut's arena. The announcement talked about design and that they have ordered the material or parts of the equipment by the ship. Is there going to be a delay in the arrival of the arena materials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We expect that the arena material should be coming into Kimmirut during the fall. But if that is not going to be the case, I will keep the Member informed. But as of now we expect the materials to be shipped this year and the construction will start as soon as the material supplies come in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know there are quite a few designs for arenas such as the design for Sanikiluaq, Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq and I am sure that the design is similar to some of the arena designs for smaller communities. I was wondering if the Minister could tell me if these same designs are not being used in all the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologise. I am thinking along the same line that we could build the same model of arenas in all the communities. Perhaps the reason why we do not use the same design is that there are different construction workers from companies and we try to get the lowest bid. I think that is one of the reasons why the design is different.

It is evident if the communities would like to get the same arena design. The blue prints are completed but one of the problems that we experienced is that the communities vary from each other, like the foundation is different from one community to another. I can tell the member that we expect to have all the plans completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 557 - 1(3): Budgeting Policies

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is probably most appropriate to the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask the Minister in budget development process, if he could explain a little bit how that happens to departments.

Through that whole process, do they develop a policy and pick up how much they need, or do they just put numbers out and say this is what we need without having any policies or programs in place for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for this particular budget development process all departments brought forward programs that they wanted to have financed for the up coming budget that we are reviewing now. As I have indicated in the past there was a significant amount of requests, quite frankly there was probably from my recollection, about 80 million dollars worth of requests that were over and above for what our fiscal resources allow.

So what happened was that the Financial Management Board over the course about 3 to 4 working days spread all over a couple of weeks, reviewed each of the submissions that were brought forward by the departments. They tried to determine the priorities and approved different submissions after an extensive review and debate on each of those submissions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that description on how that is reviewed. In the review take on his last answer, every item in the departmental budget that comes forward, it sounds like it is scrutinised quite thoroughly.

In doing that review of the departmental budget are there descriptions of what and how those funds are going to be distributed so that the department defend their numbers to FMB, this is how we are going to spend, this type of thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes that is the case. Each Minister has to bring forward their own submissions on behalf of their departments and speak to those submissions and they are quite detailed submissions. Also of course the presentation from the Ministers one each of those submissions. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, then one would venture that to get any program or any funding out, there should be a good explanation and some criteria for the dollars to go along with the dollar allocation. It should be, from what I heard from the Minister a description of the program and how it is going to be distributed and everything else like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated the additional submissions for incremental program dollars, whether they are in the operations & maintenance side or the capital side that each Minister brought forward, yes.

In respect of on-going programs as it would have been part of the 1999-2000 budget that were being renewed as part of the overall budget development process. In other words the money, the dollars that would have been expected to be carried on. There was not obviously significant review or details surrounding that because they were on-going programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Final Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So then if the Minister is correct, they are saying any on-going programs would I just assume, that they would carry on as is. Only new programs would have been brought to the attention of FMBS for a cabinet decision. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, generally yes Mr. Speaker, except if there were changes expected from on-going programs. That would have to go back to either cabinet if there are policy changes or the financial management board if there was a result in financial changes to those programs. Thank you.

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

Question 558 - 1(3): Nunavut Power Corporation

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of the Power Corporation. Since we are now working toward a stand alone Power Corporation in Nunavut I was wondering if the Minister could tell me what position in you are in today in the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Members know the transition agreement that was signed approximately one year ago between the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and the Office of the Interim Commissioner which was grandfathered into Nunavut. Under that option we set up our own Power Corporation as the Member knows.

In the line item in the budget of the Premier and Executive there is some money in there for staffing and bringing it up to capacity for the Nunavut Power Corporation. So in this role today Mr. Speaker, I am the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation that is why I asked the question because I do not know all the information. I would like to supplement my question. In Clyde River the increase of utility rates, I was wondering is where your position is at with that one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation for Nunavut. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my position and the Government Nunavut has not changed on the new power plant and the new power rates in Clyde River. It is the same as it was last year. It is the same as it was six months ago. The same as it was in February when the Member asked me that question. It is the same today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the rate will increase from 30 to 40 percent. We have seen it documented. So this has not changed. Can you tell me this has not changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over a year ago now I went to Clyde River with the member. We met with the Mayor and the Council of the Clyde River Hamlet with some senior officials with the Power Corporation to discuss the rate. The Power Corporation estimates that the new plant put in and based on the community's rates now we have in place. The rate the power rate in Clyde River would increase between 35 and 40 percent. That is our best guess.

After saying that Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times now in this House to the people of Clyde River and to the Member that we as a the Nunavut Government and Nunavut Power Corporation realise a 40 percent increase in the rates in Clyde River are not acceptable.

We maintain that same stand. Before any rate increases in Clyde River there is an opportunity through the Nunavut Utilities Board where the community of Clyde River would be an intervenor. They would have intervenor status. We would pay for them.

There are several mechanisms to go through before there is any rate increase. Mr. Speaker, we know 40 percent increase in Clyde River is not acceptable and we will do what we can as a Government as I stated before, to negate that type of increase. I hope that answer gives some level of comfort to the member and I thank him for his question and his interest on behalf of the people of Clyde River. For the 17th or 18 time that he asked me this question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 559 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq Power Plant Fire

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Community Government & Transportation. We heard about the state of emergency in Sanikiluaq due to the destruction of the power plant. How is that going to affect the Nunavut Governments budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a contingency plan where we set aside some money for emergencies. If we are going to have to build a new power plant than we will get the money from the insurance and very possibly we might use Nunavut Government's money. But it will be reimbursed and we will probably spend about 100 thousand to construct a new plant. The majority of the dollars used will be paid for by insurance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again to the same issue in regards to the sudden destruction of any power plant. I was going to direct this question to the Member for Sanikiluaq. I wanted to know what the population is in Sanikiluaq. With the increased population you have to keep up with the power demand. My question is what is the total population in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, because the previous financial questions involve more than one department and not actually directly the Government of Nunavut I would like to respond to the members supplementary question.

My understanding is there are approximately six hundred people in Sanikiluaq. Just on his earlier question on whose is paying for what. The Power Corporation is a crown corporation. It is not a government department or agency. They have insurance coverage.

In respect to actual cost of the Power Corporation in some of their insurers they would pick up some of those costs. There maybe some additional costs to the Government of Nunavut in assisting in getting the community up and running during the temporary period until the power corporation fully re-establishes permanent power in the community of Sanikiluaq.

In that particular instance, the Government of Nunavut obviously would pay all costs that are required to help the community. But there is also the possibility of some Federal assistance through the Federal disaster program which the Minister of Community Government & Transportation would work with his counterpart at the Federal level and

through his officials help off set some of Government of Nunavut costs in that situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I directed my question to the Minister of Community Government & Transportation and the Minister of Finance. So I will ask my question to the Minister of Finance in regards to insurance. How long does it take to get your insurance money. Does it take 6 months or a year. How long does it take. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it depends a lot on case by case bases and specific circumstances surrounding the claim. Obviously the bigger the claim the larger the period required to recuperate or replace whatever the facility is that may have been lost. So it is based a lot on progress in replacing the insured asset. So it defers to what the size and magnitude of each project where there may be insurance coverage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 560 - 1(3): Education Funding for Clyde River

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I have asked this question numerous times. This is probably the last time that I am going to be asking this question to the Minister of Education. It is in regards to the 1 million, 500 thousand dollars that was slated for Clyde River. I would like to know from the Minister whether this 1 million, 500 thousand have been deleted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No it is not. It was approved during this session and it is still there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 561 - 1(3): NNI Registration Deadline

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Public Works. How long does it take for businesses or small businesses if they are going to be trying to build office space, for example what is the timeline for the department of public works to respond to those businesses or small businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Public Works.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Which letters are you referring to. The forms or could you clarify your question because I did not quite understand you in Inuktitut. But I understood the timeline. Would the Member clarify what types of correspondence or letters that he is asking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that she will respond to me in writing. Those businesses are registered under the BIP. They have to be registered under NNI now. Does that mean that they will not be eligible to apply for contracts or to try for contracts if they are not registered.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whether they are awarded a contract or not, we follow the policies. I do not know which contracts are going to be awarded to a business or small business. For those who were registered under the BIP, I do not know who will be awarded the contract or not.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those businesses or small businesses those that were registered under BIP were given forms to be registered under NNI. The deadline was for April 27 and they got their forms on April 25. The forms were in her office for a whole month. Why is it that you waited so long when there is contracts that have be awarded out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Madam Minister.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was supposed to have been brought out in March. We had short deadlines and our Premier wanted to get it passed as soon as possible. We discussed the NNI when we were in Rankin Inlet and possibly what held us back was because it took a long time to get approved.

In regards to your comments saying that the forms were in my office for a month. I will find out why that was the case and see if your comments are true. Since you are the only one that has raised this I will speak to my staff and find out what the situation was and I will respond to you in writing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question, if the forms are not sent here as soon as possible then they will not be registered in the NNI. I just wondered whether the contractors would be able to be considered for a contract if they are not registered.

I just wondered if the contracts comes out and then the shipment made will the individual that bid on the contract be considered even though their forms have not been approved. I just wondered whether the individuals that sent out those papers to her department would be considered even if they were late. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The officials that deal with contracts deal with the individuals that are bidding certain contracts and they go by the policy and rules. I am not exactly sure what is happening at this time and I will be meeting with my officials and reply to the Member in person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 562 - 1(3): Evaluation of Nunavut Education System

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Uqaqti my question today is to the Minister of Education. The Government of Nunavut has been in place exactly one year, one month as I heard it from my Honourable colleagues from Kugluktuk. Does the Minister have any plans to do a comprehensive evaluation of the education system in Nunavut. To find out to see if it meets the needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I stated in several occasions that all of the education programs are under review. Some of them are going faster than others. The curriculum development for example, 10 year plan and the capital 20 year plan. The other programs that we carry out for example cultural inclusion program whether it is relevant approached or it has been bandaged type of a program.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Supplementary Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be eagerly awaiting that report. In his evaluation of programs and services and other options that are being presented to his department that they are looking at, will they be studying kindergarten to grade 12 programs and seeing that they are effective within the schools. Is there somebody going to see that programs are being evaluated that they are being taught properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Two questions there. Mr. Minister.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the first part is already being looked at quite well through our consultation process with the Education Act. We have sent out the second draft of the Education Act, there have been very good suggestions coming out of that one. Although it doesn't really relate to the Education Act, the

comments as to how we can improve our education system, the delivery, the administration and the quality and the standards that should be used in the schools.

The other part is more ongoing and on a smaller scale, that is what programs are we delivering that can be done better if they are done differently. So those two are the components. However, if we have been charged to do a comprehensive review then we will have to look at that because that will require special funding to do it. But right now we have been doing most of our in-house review, especially the reviews from the previous government respecting education, and we have asked ourselves as professionals as to if most of them are relevant for Nunavut or if they should be looked at more comprehensively. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. We're getting there. My final supplementary on this one is that the reason I am asking is because we probably have an 85% drop out rate in Nunavut at this time, give or take 5%. Usually when students get into grade 10, 11, 12 they're writing the Alberta curriculum exams and a lot of them fall off because a lot of them don't have the basic skills in English, math and sciences to pass these tests. That's where our drop out rate starts to increase.

Can the minister commit to finding out if the programs from kindergarten to grade 9 are effective enough to give the students the skills so when they get in to grades 10, 11, 12 they can pass these tests and receive their graduation diplomas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very good question. I have asked that question and many parents have asked that question. Yes, we will look at all the aspects of educational programs from kindergarten to grade 12, with a goal to improve not only the quality of the education but the graduation rates.

I think the member is very well aware that the success of these students not only relies on the educational process as an institution in the school, but also the society. How the society deals with the importance of education. So we have been having a very intensive discussion with our staff members and the DEAs about how we can have the attitude of the society to change its' views on the importance of education. I am very happy that this government is taking education as a priority and it certainly will be sending a message to the parents and look at our own programs as to how we can make anything successful.

One of the things that we have found out so far is that you have to have the parents participate themselves with their own creative element, upgrading programs, at least to appreciate the need for a good education. So this is one of the first steps. The second step that we'll also be looking at is how do we make our delivery programs in the schools with our curriculum and materials so that it excites students rather than boring them.

So those are a number of ideas that have been discussed with the professional consultants, with the citizens themselves and with the teachers and parents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 563 – 1(3): Budget Process Cycle

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. I was reviewing my Hansard from previous weeks and if the minister remembers me asking about the capital budget delivery cycle. I reviewed his answer at the time and he said yes he would look at doing it in the fall and then everything else went basically that we did and it's not worth it to do.

I would just like to ask the minister if he plans on doing an analysis at looking at having a capital delivery cycle having the budget developed for the fall and will he be providing that information to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated in response to the honourable member's questions, it was taken into consideration and as I said, I didn't think it would be doable or as doable. I guess the practicality of having two budget sessions was a consideration as I said. In the past the GNWT tried it and it was proven to be, although you do approve your capital earlier and don't have to have timelines imposed upon us like we have in this current session. It wasn't that beneficial with that one exception.

I guess having said that, we anticipated that we would get the whole Main Estimates, capital and so on, earlier to the Assembly in the next budget cycle and that's the avenue that we are pursuing for the next budget cycle. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can understand if at least in the past it was done on a trial basis by the GNWT, Mr. Speaker, and guess it didn't seem to be feasible. Mr. Speaker, I think we all understand the diversity that the previous GNWT government had, where it had communities that didn't have road access, year around access, and communities that were on the road system. So I could see where that could cause some problems there with that type of a system.

However, here in Nunavut, every single community that we have isn't accessible by road and requires sealift. I am just wondering if in that light I think it is a little bit different circumstances than those faced by the GNWT. If the minister would consider taking a look at that possibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes we would be willing to take a look at it but, as members know, right now we are trying to put together a draft five year planning document for members and Nunavummiut across the territories so we can have a better indication of what we want to try and do from a capital perspective. So it would be a matter of trying to tie that work in at the same time and I can certainly take a look at it and report back to the committees on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing that. In regards to the five year capital plan that the minister indicated. I believe that he said earlier that he plans on having that plan ready for this fall. I am just wondering if that is something that members will be able to review and also be able to take back to the communities for a consultation on. I guess my concern and it is through history, which showed that these five-year capital plans were always developed but not always followed.

Some people I believe said here in the House that they had something on the five-year capital plan for more than five years now. So I guess that's where some of the concern would be and I think by doing that cycle earlier in the fall it may help eliminate some of that problem. So I do again ask that it be something that we seriously as a government look at doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated again, in respect to the draft five-year capital plan, members will have an opportunity to review it. That's the whole basis of trying to develop one. I go back to saying I guess, that we are concerned about having things put into the five-year capital plan because there are expectations once you have put something on paper. That's the concern and the issue surrounding the development of a realistic and deliverable five-year capital plan that our government wants to undertake.

Once we see it on paper then we want to be able to commit to delivering that within the term of our government. That's why we want to take care to make sure that it's done in a positive manner, in a realistic manner so that there aren't failed expectations of people having something in that five year draft capital plan. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 564 – 1(3): Status of New Social Housing

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Public Works. We all understand I think it was last summer that the communities understood that the 26 communities would be receiving 100 public housing

units. I am sure that the construction of these 100 units will require contractors. Since your department is responsible for awarding contracts, are you now working towards getting the contractors at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. We are in the process of working on the contracts. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have stated before, during the committee of the whole sessions, there are contractors in our communities at the local level. It is evident that these local contractors will not be able to put in a bid, but there are two communities, Uqsuqtuq and Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven and I am sure that they will be putting in their bids because they have worked on contracts in the past.

Sometimes we do get contractors from outside the community. If possible I would like to see our local contractors at the community level being awarded those contracts to build those units. I was wondering if your department could focus on the local contractors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy which was passed in this House, we will follow those criteria, but at this point we are now working on those. I myself as the Minister responsible for Public Works, I cannot encourage the staff to give contracts to specific companies. It is against my policies and I cannot interfere with the awarding of the contracts. But I do understand your concern, that the local contractors, we should all work together to hire them and I am sure that the Members of the Legislature are aware of this.

We would like to contract local companies and I am sure that the Members of the Legislature would like to see the local contractors being awarded the contracts. That's why we came out with the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti policy, so as to enhance the private contractors at the community level. I am sure that the local contractors will develop through the Nunavummi Nangminiaqtunik Ikajuuti but Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you who will be awarded contracts. But as we speak they are working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Supplementary.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the minister for being very sensitive and clear with her responses. I am sure, as I have stated before, the two communities that I represent, the local contractors will try to put in a bid.

However, if there were any problems, for example if they were not registered at the BIP level they should be told if they are not eligible to put in a bid on a contract. Therefore, I would like you to inform the local contractors why they would not be able to put in a bid for contracts.

I would like a document that states that and explains that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The businesspeople if they are not awarded a contract they are given the reasons. I am sure that I will consult with the member if his local companies are not awarded a contract. I do not even know if those local companies that he is talking about have put in a bid. I never know who puts in a bid or not. According to the Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti policy, those criteria are used.

It is my responsibility to make sure the departments are following the Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti policy, I will inform the member, and I am sure my staff will inform communities as to who was awarded a contract and who was not. I know, Mr. Speaker, that we want to be sensitive to the communities and we want to develop the local companies. In the new policy it states that we have to develop and train the local contractors. Under Article 24 we have to use this article under the land claims agreement to help develop Nunavut companies and we are still working on that now.

Mr. Speaker, I know that you want me to rush but unintentionally I talk so fast that the interpreters cannot keep up with me. So today I am trying to speak slower so that the interpreters can keep up with me. So I will inform you and consult with you. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Question period is over. Returning to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 16: Motions**Motion 25 – 1(3): Official Emblems**

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is the practice throughout Canada for provinces and territories to select official symbols and emblems that reflect the uniqueness and character of each jurisdiction and its peoples;

AND WHEREAS the Full Caucus of this Legislative Assembly agreed last year at its Baker Lake Retreat to seek input from the Nunavut public in the selection of official symbols of Nunavut to accompany the Flag and Coat of Arms;

AND WHEREAS the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly conducted an Official Symbols Campaign last year;

AND WHEREAS 249 suggestions for official symbols were submitted by residents of Nunavut and considered by the elected Members of this Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, that the Purple Saxifrage (*Saxifraga oppositifolia*) be adopted as the Floral Emblem of Nunavut.

AND FURTHERMORE, that this House recommend that a new *Floral Emblem Act* for Nunavut be introduced by the Government at the next Session of the Legislative Assembly.

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Canadian Inuit Dog (*Canis familiaris borealis*) be adopted as the Official Animal of Nunavut.

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus mutus*) be adopted as the Official Bird of Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak to the motion. I would also like to thank the Honourable Manitok Thompson for seconding the motion.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honour for me to speak today to this motion to designate new official symbols of Nunavut to accompany our Flag and Coat of Arms.

I am also very pleased that these are being announced in the early Spring, when the colours of our land begin to return.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly know, our Flag and Coat of Arms were unveiled on April 1, 1999. Since then, there has been significant public interest -- both from within Canada and abroad -- as to what are other official symbols of our new territory.

Prior to the creation of Nunavut, the *Floral Emblem Act* of the NWT was not duplicated for Nunavut, leaving us free to designate a flower of our choice to represent Nunavut. And to date, no animals or birds have been officially designated.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, over 249 suggestions were received from Nunavut residents as to what would be appropriate symbols for Nunavut. A wide variety of birds, flowers and animals were nominated from people across the Territory.

Mr. Speaker, all Members of the Legislative Assembly participated in discussing what official symbols should be designated at this time. As you know, Mr. Speaker, legislatures across Canada designate new symbols for their jurisdiction from time to time. I am certain that during the years to come, additional symbols will be designated by this House.

Mr. Speaker, the Purple Saxifrage is one of the three species of wild flowers depicted in Nunavut's Coat of Arms. This beautiful flower begins to bloom in June. Its hardiness, usefulness and ability to grow successfully in extreme climates makes it a fitting symbol for Nunavut.

In the past, the saxifrage was used for tea, giving sustenance and comfort to families and communities.

Mr. Speaker, there are many variants in English for the name of the Canadian Inuit Dog. In Inuktitut, we know it as the *qimmiq*. The Inuit Dog has been essential to the survival of the Inuit for as long as there have been people inhabiting this land. The *qimmiq*, the Inuit Dog is as much a part of the lives of Nunavummiut today as it was for our ancestors.

Mr. Speaker, the Rock Ptarmigan is the most boreal of the ptarmigan family. Its range extends from the Baffin to the Kitikmeot; from the Belcher Islands to the High Arctic. It is a bird for all of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for permitting me to speak to the motion. I am confident that these official symbols we are designating today will be seen in the eyes of all Canadians as appropriate and unique reflections of our home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. To the motion, a question has been called. All those in favour. Against. Motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Motion 26 – 1(3): Members' Obligations

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, swore our Oaths of Allegiance and Office in the Spring of last year;

AND WHEREAS we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, wish to renew our commitment to upholding the trust and confidence of the people of Nunavut;

AND WHEREAS we, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, wish to renew our commitment to working on behalf of the people of Nunavut according to the values and principles that have shaped our culture and heritage;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut do publicly commit themselves to upholding a code of Members' Obligations;

AND FURTHER, that this code of Members' Obligations be displayed in a public place in this Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: The motion is in order, to the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Contraire. Motion is passed.

>>Applause.

Speaker: Item 16. Motions, in reference to these motions, there will be signing ceremony tomorrow, and we will provide more details later in the day. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 16. Motions, Mr. Haviyok.

Motion 27 – 1(3): Review of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Haviyok (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the membership of the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges has been reconstituted by way of motion in this House;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut has been conducting its proceedings during its first year of existence under the Rules that were provisionally adopted on April 1, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly desires to ensure that its proceedings are conducted in a manner that respects *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, while being consistent with established principles of Canadian parliamentary democracy;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges undertake a comprehensive review of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and any related matters, and that the Standing Committee report back to the House at its next Session.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Havioyak. The motion is in order, to the motion, a question has been asked, all those in favour, contrary, motion is carried.

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. Bill 13 and Tabled Documents 41-1(3), 61-1(3), 93-1(3), 95-1(3), 96-1(3) and 97-1(3).

According to the authority vested in me by Motion 3-1(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out with Mr. Puqiqnak as Chairperson. Before commencement of the Committee of the Whole we will break for lunch and ask members to prepare to come back to the chambers by 1:15 p.m. Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 1.19 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (interpretation): The committee will come to order. We have before us Bill 13 and Tabled Documents 41-1(3), 61-1(3), 93-1(3), 95-1(3), 96-1(3) and 97-1(3). On Friday, we were under Finance and Administration. What is the wish of the Committee. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Regular Caucus met and we want start with the Department of Finance and Administration with the Minister at the witness table.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister would you like to bring in your staff to the witness table. Today being Monday I would like to take the opportunity to welcome the Members back to the House. We will deal with the Department of Finance and Administration. Welcome Mr. Minister and your staff. We are under general comments and questions to the Department of Finance and Administration. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under general comments I will want to get some clarification on the Department of Finance. Whenever they do the budget for the year, I want to know exactly how they go about dealing with planning the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Did you get the question Mr. Minister. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First Mr. Chairman if I may introduce my witnesses here with me. To my right is Mr. Bob Vardy the Deputy Minister and to my left Mr. Victor Tootoo my Assistant Deputy Minister, both are from Finance and Administration.

To answer to the Honourable Member's question, what happens is the Department puts together for the Financial Management Board, a fiscal outlook on what to expect to generate and receive revenues. Then we at the same time, review what each department's requests are for funding from the past year and for the current year and try to put together based on those revenues and expected revenues and expected expenditures. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I am sorry I did not ask you to introduce your staff first. Thank you, Mr. Minister for introducing your staff. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for the information. If there is no request from the communities and one of my communities has hardly anything allocated to it, I think there is about 25 thousand dollars for one of my communities. If there is no request from any other communities in Nunavut, you do not even put it in the budget. You do not even plan it in the budget for a community or something for the community to spend. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as I indicated each department of the Government is responsible for putting forward their needs for their department. Part of those needs would be what they feel is required throughout the communities of Nunavut, address the programs and responsibilities within the department.

The Department of Finance and Administration co-ordinates all the compilation or compiling of that information in developing the budget that comes before the House. Therefore, if there is a situation during the course of the year where there is an extraordinary need out there in the community then that can be taken into consideration either during the course of the year or the future years planning for budgetary requirements. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes the budget that is prepared has been changed with the course of the year say for instance to be used for something else that came up. I will just use this as an example, there was a budget for 400 thousand for the design of a building. Perhaps that 400 thousand was not enough for the design of the building. When ever the budget that has been prepared is going to change

how come the regular members do not get informed of a change that is going to occur. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, sometimes as Member know we bring Supplementary Appropriations to the House after the budget is set. That is to reflect any changes that are required. If money that is approved in the Assembly for specific projects are requested to move to other projects for whatever reasons, that is where it would come back to the House. All members would be able to see what is being proposed and be part of the decision making process, have input into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the budget preparation, when we became elected as MLAs we figured that the Department of Education had the funding for my community would have gone ahead. Now it has been deferred because it has not had a design put in. We were not informed why that was during this session. On April 11 there was a change made and it did not seem to come from the ministers. I just wondered whether the Financial Management Board has the authority to defer an item that was to go ahead. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, normally no we would not defer anything. There might be circumstances surrounding specific projects for whatever reason they could not be delivered in the current year. It is really up to the Minister responsible for that to try to follow up and deal with an issue. If it requires financial changes whether if it is additional money or whether it be moving dollars within the department then that particular Minister have to come back to the Financial Management Board for that approval. As I indicated earlier it would be part of the Supplementary Appropriation process, which would come back to the House after that Financial Management Board decision. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister Ng. Mr. Iqaqrialu do you have any further comments or questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How can you inform us right away because in this example we were not informed right away and it gets frustrating when we do not get information right away because that what happened after you made your decision. They by-passed me. I was wondering if your department is going to be doing the same thing, the same process in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as I indicated our Department of Finance and Administration is co-ordinating for all of the government. I would suggest that certainly from that perspective that we could advise the minister. I am sure most of them take that into consideration of trying to update members as expediently as possible if there are any significant changes to programs that are planned for their communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Comments or questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I know the department is co-ordinating the budget development for all the departments. Is there any mechanism or something in place for evaluating what is brought forward by the departments just to ensure that everything is in place. I will ask that first in the budget development process and get a response before I move on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman we do have an analytical section within the Department of Finance and Administration. It does analyse specific submissions that come from different departments. I guess in trying to perceive where the Member is going with his questioning because it was brought up in the House about departmental programs that were brought forward.

I know that the Department of Finance and Administration in developing the first budget and quite frankly the second budget that was before us of the Nunavut Government have had I would say, some involvement but not an extensive involvement in analysing the programs that we assumed first of all from the GNWT and programs that were brought forward again for funding for this current year. It was for new submissions for new programs versus existing ones. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate the Minister for trying to I guess, speculate as to trying to get at with the. What I guess was trying not so much that type of look at things. But I know one of the words that we heard by many of the departments during this past year has been capacity, the lack of capacity and that being the reason why we are not getting stuff in this timely manner as we would have liked.

I looked at some of the budgets that are presented, some of them have it right down to the dollar. The same numbers that were there last year. There are some ways to telling if some departments were having problems or not, and trying to identify and assist those department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Would you like to respond Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for his question. Yes, it was apparent I think, trying to meet some of the timelines that the FMBS tried to set out in trying to develop the budget for this current fiscal year. It became quite apparent that some departments were not on an even keel given there was different stages of recruitment for the financing or corporate staffing. In some departments quite frankly, needed additional assistance and finance and administration staff did give additional assistance to those departments that required it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman another question in light of the fact there has been tremendous demand and effort put on the under staff public service that we have in just getting the work done. I am wondering under the GNWT there was a role that the department played in the way of monitoring and evaluating government departments to ensure that they are following procedures that are set out by the government, the financial administration act. I wondering if that is something I do not see and I do not believe I saw that function appear in the work chart anywhere. I am wondering if they plan to still pursue that or is that going to be a function that is no longer necessary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is a function that is required and we have had it. What we are doing is outlined in the current organizational structure. There is a section for corporate controls in there, that is where this type of service in assistance will be provided. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman is that going to be a function at the regional or district, local level. Is that going to be a headquarter function. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it is at the headquarters level. However, there are close consultations in the works with the three regional superintendents in the regions. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a headquarter function I guess the role of those people is more of an external. Are they going to be doing reviews on just headquarters or will they be going to the regional offices throughout the regional government offices throughout Nunavut and conducting those reviews or will it just be something that is done at a headquarters level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman although it is based at headquarters it does have the responsibilities and the resources that is to assist the outside of headquarters within the regions. In fact it is not available and we do contract out accounting companies with specific work that is required. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an area that I am familiar with. I think it is an important function played by the government. I know a lot of the concerns or issues that usually come to the members of this House's attention or where people the policies and programs of the government were not being followed by the department. So I think this an important thing that we keep track of. I know that there is the audit bureau is also a function under there.

It is more of an internal mechanism that will help. Again as I said earlier departments do not have the capacity. Most of the public service out there is going crazy just trying to keep their desks clear and they do not always have free opportunities. Many staff are out there doing more than one job. Therefore, I think again it is an important function that we need to follow. Going on to completely something different, I guess if no one has any questions.

I know based on past experience that the department's do provide quarterly variance reports. I am wondering if those variance reports are something our government plans on making available to the public or to the Members on a quarterly bases to see we are not caught off guard at the end of the year with either a huge surplus or deficit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman yes, the plan is to do a quarterly variance reports and make them available to the public at large and to members at large, to anybody that is interested. I would just want to note that it is all relative I guess on perception but if you look at percentages of the surplus that we anticipate is roughly 5 percent of total government expenditures. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Going back into something else. I was reading the paper the other day and it talked about the Public Service Alliance of Canada is about going broke over the pay equity issue. I was wondering how that has any bearing as far as how it is going to affect us as a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know we are continuing to work with the GNWT as a partner in this pay equity that has been on-going. I do not think there is anything new to report in the perspective of there was approximately I think it was 80 percent individual offers to individual employees that have been taken up in signing off on what GNWT proposes settlements to the pay equity dispute and for the remaining 20 percent or so continues to be a process that is on-going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just know another issue that has been on-going for over a year now. The members have raised concerns of the division of assets and liabilities. I was wondering if the Minister can provide us with an up date on where things at with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Mr. Vardy to answer that. Thank you.

Mr. Vardy: Mr. Chairman the work on the division of assets and liability with the GNWT is just about complete. The analysis will show that there is a net gain to Nunavut from that exercise. Most of the benefits are in the form of non-liquid assets. It is receivables from sales of petroleum products to a large extent the Power Corporation. There is a large quantity of petroleum products that are in the storage tanks throughout the Territory. There are some other assets in the form of public buildings. That is quite small. So we will have a positive balance but on the cash side the other assets will result us having to make a payment to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman if I could apologise to Mr. Vardy, could he repeat that last part of the question. I did not quite get his answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I will allow you to state the last part again.

Mr. Vardy: What I indicated is the total value of assets will exceed the value of liabilities throughout that process but the large part of the assets are in the form of non cash assets. It is to a large extent petroleum products and receivables from Power Corporation for petroleum products that are purchased by the Government of Nunavut. It is quite likely we will have to make a cash payment to the Government of the Northwest Territories to settle the account.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any idea that cash settlement will be or a rough ballpark figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Mr. Chairman the value of the settlement could be in the 25-35 million dollar range.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering that is a lot of money. Or a lot of fuel. I am just wondering where those funds would come from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Mr. Chairman the funds would come from the consolidated revenue fund of the Government of Nunavut but it would not be reflected in the surplus or deficit in any given year. It will affect the balance sheet but not operating or the capital surplus or deficit.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it just affects the opening. I guess the bottom line the money has to come from somewhere. If it is not going to affect our operating and capital budget where is the money going to actually come from.

Chairperson: Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It's like the Health Board deficits or any other factor that will effect the finances of Nunavut that is not part of the budget within a given time period. We have a cash surplus right now. The net financial position of the government at any given point in time can be different from the expenditures within a given time frame. We have a fairly substantial cash surplus right now because of timing of payments.

For example of lot of the transfers from the Government of Canada are front end loaded. If we weren't in a cash surplus position we would be forced to borrow those funds but we don't see in the foreseeable future any need for borrowing on the part of the Government of Nunavut.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess then the money that we have to pay is going to come out of the funding that we get from the formula funding agreement with

the Federal Government. I don't know if that 25 or 35 million dollars whatever it turns out to be will have at some point in the future a negative impact on the budgets that we develop. Because if we only get so much money then that money has to come from somewhere.

If that's where the money is coming from then I could see that money that is coming from the Federal Government, how will that effect our budgets and is it something that will be done all at once or spread out over a number of years. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Deputy Minister Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated at the beginning of the questioning on this issue, we have assets that will more than offset the amount of cash that we will have to spend. Some of those, there are probably an equal amount, roughly 30 million or so in receivables from the Power Corporation on Bills for Petroleum Products that we have already made that will eventually come into our coffers.

There is also the value of all the Petroleum Products that was sitting in the storage tanks at that point in time. So the net impact on the Treasury won't be the value of the cheque that will have to be written to the Government of the Northwest Territories. It should over time be more than offset by the value of those other assets as the benefits flow into the Government of Nunavut.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Deputy Minister. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My question, we are negotiating with the Nunavut Employees' Union. How much more is it going to take. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we can't really say right now because there is not collective agreement in principle that has to go out to the employees for ratification and to the Financial Management Board for final approval. They are still in the collective bargaining stages of trying to finalize a new collective agreement. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. I don't have any other names on my list. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. My first question is, as the Finance Department you talk with the Federal Government and you lobby the Federal Government to supplement funds for the Nunavut Government. Is that the case. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have responsibility for the formula financing agreement which is the main source of funding for the Government of Nunavut. From that perspective at the official level, there are always ongoing discussions. Each department, each minister of our government also has relationships with their federal counterparts in whatever areas and usually there are opportunities to receive federal funds on programs that will help the Government of Nunavut in delivering programs and services for our constituents. Depending on what is available at the federal level. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for your response. I have another question. The Federal Government has made reductions to the money that is coming in to us every year. Why is that. Is it because their financial resources are being depleted every year. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in fact the revenues from the Government of Canada have been, for this year compared to last year, have actually gone up. As I indicated before to the honourable member, there is a financial, formula financing agreement in place between us and the Government of Canada for a five year period. So from that perspective, the funding is fairly secure for that five-year period. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, another area that I would like to ask the minister is in regards to the P3 projects that are going on out there. I am just wondering if you could provide us with a status report on the ones that are, where they are at right now. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. For the reimbursement for the three birthright corporations, Sakku, Qikiqtaaluk and the Kitikmeot Corporation, we have now received the signed reimbursement agreements and have them back to the development corporations. So they can now undertake the work for the planning work that had to be provided as a part of those reimbursement agreements. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I assume the minister is talking about the three regional hospitals that are being worked on. I was just wondering about the nursing station in Arviat as well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, for the Arviat Health Centre and I thank the member for reminding me, they are anticipating that the actual construction will resume again on May 8, which is a week away. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering if the department has any other plans for any other such projects in the works that they are looking at or may be looking at in the near future. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the only other one that came over in the package from the GNWT where there had been some work, was the Arctic College facility for Cambridge Bay. What has happened with that is that the Department of Education with our department and Public Works is putting together a Request for Proposal for interested companies, of which the possibility of P3 financing could be one of the options to be reviewed. So that was the only other potential P3 project that we have on the table right now. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering, we talked about the Arctic College residences, I believe that in the past there was in the capital plan some additional student accommodations in the previous budget for Iqaluit. I am just wondering if that is being looked at as well. I know Iqaluit is going and there are more and more courses being offered at the college and the residences I know right now for example, there are a number of students having to stay in some of the older accommodations in town here that aren't specifically for students.

I was just wondering if that project is being looked at as well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I forgot to mention that. When the whole issue about what to do with the Arctic College requirements in the Kitikmeot campus came up for discussion there was also the issue about the Keewatin and the Baffin on exactly what might be required for additional residences or to upgrade the existing residences. So also there is a part of that overall decision in the same departments I had mentioned earlier, the Department of Education on behalf of Nunavut Arctic College, Public Works and Finance and Administration, were to put together some, again, what the needs are.

To get it to the point of asking for requests for proposals, to see what could be undertaken for those two other campuses. At the time we had not identified whether a P3 financing arrangement was going to be one of those options or not. It is not at that stage yet, right now it is just to identify what the needs are and to see where to proceed from there.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am just wondering if there are any criteria used or analysis done looking at these projects. I know that we have very limited resources that we have to work with and more and more of these types of projects that we take on also uses up our future dollars and furthers limits the resources that we have available to us in the future.

Are there are any criteria looking at, we know we would like to have this but it is just something that over in the Department of Education is doing a twenty year plan. These types of things may have to wait their turn and come up where they fall within that twenty-year plan, if it's an education facility or not or whether it would go and move ahead sooner as a P3 project. So I am wondering if there is any criteria for deciding on that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there would be from the perspective of all these decisions having to come back for Financial Management Board review. But also I guess from the perspective of there seems to be a move from the public accounting leaders in respect to trying to change the way public accounting, government accounting for assets, for long-term assets. In the past governments have been required to charge all the expenditures in the year in which they outlay the expenditure, the cash. That's why the capital plans come forward in the Legislature.

But the move is to allow, to change the guidelines to allow governments to amortise their capital investments over the life expectancy of those assets, similar to what private enterprise has available to them right now from that depreciation aspect. So that's one major change that is making its' way through the public accounting sector right now that could have an impact, or will have an impact on the government accounting procedures and government expenditures in the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I guess hearing that it would make it all the more critical that we do have some type of criteria or standard to roughly choose to go ahead on that matter. If we are going to be allowed to a lot more easily get into these types of arrangements, we could look at one project for example, that could have an impact on the government probably long after we are gone.

If we get into too many of these, we really have to be cautious in this area. We are basically mortgaging our future. We are spending dollars with some of these arrangements that go over the life span of the building, which is over 25 or 30 years. Then we are spending money that 25 or 30 years from now that the government of the day and our children won't have to deal with. So I guess I would really want to see some type of criteria developed that would say whether it is worthwhile for us to do that in entering these types of agreements, prior to any of these agreements being approved like that. Because it could have a huge impact on the future governments of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there is a quite detailed analysis of this Mr. Chairman, alternative form of financing I understand. One of the key criteria, the emphasis on value for money, because I recognize that there are long term implications and ongoing operating costs as a factor as well with the capital construction costs. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. On these management agreements or P3 projects, has the department set up or developed a set of policies or procedures that govern the management of these yet or not. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I have indicated in the past we do have draft policies and procedures that haven't been formally adopted yet. Unfortunately because of other issues and other priorities it hasn't got to the cabinet or Financial Management Board decision level yet. But we expect to have that done in shortly after we are finished with our budget session. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, will the standing committee or the regular members be able to have any input on those prior to them being approved. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would say that at the first available opportunity I would provide those policies and procedures to the standing committee. Right now I can't commit to having it to them before the Financial Management Board, or before cabinet has had a chance to review it. They would certainly have to review it in advance so it can go to one of the standing committees. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know it would probably have to come to us in a draft form for the committee to review. I guess once it is all said and done and the policy is completed and they are set up and approved, is that something that would be, that the government would make public as well. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. I do not have any more names. First, we will deal with the capital estimates. We do not have any capital estimates. We will go to the Main Estimates. Page 3 – 4, the Main Estimates, under directorate.

I think everybody has the Main Estimates, operations and maintenance for 2000/2001. Department of Finance and Administration, branch summary, directorate. Operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, 867 thousand. We are under the main estimates, 2000/2001, operations and maintenance. Page 3 – 4. Total operations and maintenance, I will begin from the beginning.

Department of Finance and Administration, branch summary, directorate, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 867 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I note under the directorate, and just to get this clarified, is last year there was 87 thousand dollars in contract services and it is down 50 thousand dollars this year. I am just wondering if that is services that were contracted back to the GNWT or where they were is that something that we are doing now. I am just wondering why there is that difference of 50 thousand.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no generally there has just been a decrease in the requests for contract services. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as well there is also a big increase in the computer hardware and software. Is that, again I know that I talked about it before, new programs and stuff like that or is that just new computers for that area. It wasn't staffed before they didn't have the equipment and now they are planning to get staff in there that they need more equipment or what. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. No, Mr. Chairman, generally it is just a 14 thousand dollar increase for that budget item. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was going to ask a question in regards to the computers. Perhaps when we reach that item I will ask my question at that time. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I did not hear a question. We are on page 3 – 4. Total operations and maintenance, 867 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question under contract services. Are there any services contracted back to the GNWT and would they show up through here in directorate or are they somewhere else in the budget. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, no, all the finance and administrative functions that were contracted to the GNWT, as of April 1, we assumed responsibility, we resumed responsibility for those services that we had contracted out. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We will go on to total operations and maintenance, 867 thousand. Are you agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 867 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going on to the next page, 3 – 5. Finance and Administration, branch summary, fiscal policy and expenditure management, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In this area again, looking at the details provided to the standing committee, there is a substantial increase in travel and transportation. Why is there such as an increase. Has the function changed or has something been re-allocated. What is the big difference. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The travel and transportation is primarily as a result of any additional requirements needed because of the capital budgeting. The

development of the capital budget, sorry the 5-year draft of the capital plan. That is why we have had some provisions in case there was some inquiries in that area. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would just note that the contract services were dropped by almost 500 thousand dollars. Were those services that we had contracted back to the GNWT or was that something else. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the bulk of the decrease here is really a transfer within departments because of the P3 planning, funding of approximately 500 thousand dollars was moved over to corporate services from this section. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would just ask the question there, two lines down on the other expenses it goes from 1.1 million dollars to 20 thousand. Is that the same type of thing. Something has been re-allocated to a different location in the budget. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes the member is correct there was 1 million dollars of this moved to the Business Development Corporation for start-up funding that was under this section in prior years. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to total operations and maintenance, 1 million 687 thousand dollars. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Here it states the Canadian and Nunavut tax policies and the administration of tax collection processes. So, this one is for taking taxes out of Nunavut. Is that what it is. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. He is correct in that this is the section where those responsibilities come under the jurisdiction of the department.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Last year we expended 3 million dollars and the previous 2 million 976 thousand. It has gone down by quite a bit.

Perhaps it is because of the Federal Government and Nunavut government splitting the tax collections. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, this isn't the actual tax revenue this is just the administration of the people who are responsible for the policy surrounding tax collection and tax administration. The member refers to some changes that were in response to some earlier questions by Mr. Tootoo. I had indicated that 1 million dollars had gone out of this section for the business credit corporation start-up, a half million dollars that had gone out of this section for P3 administration and that had gone over to corporate services. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Minister. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 687 thousand. Total expenditures, 1 million 687 thousand. Page 3-6 Finance and Administration, branch summary, corporate services, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 397 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it is here again, an area for contract services. Are those services that we contract out or what are those contract services comprised of. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the contract services here are primarily the work required under the P3 policy development and work for ongoing issues surrounding the P3 projects. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I note here there is also a line for purchased services. What types of services would they include. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. There are several objects under purchased services that could be anything from freight, delivery and courier charges, telecommunications, postal services, storage, insurance services, banking services, conference and meetings services and advertising. Those are the general areas under purchased services. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It seems like the funding could be used for staff housing. Do you also use that for staff housing also. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: No, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Well let me read the note here. It states that under P3, that collective bargaining, staff housing as well as public private partnerships. Why did you say no when it is included in there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is the corporate support that shows us being involved in having fellow policies in that area. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. P3, I don't understand what P3 is. Could you elaborate that P3 to me. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. P3 is an acronym that we use for public, private partnerships. It is an alternate form of financing where the private sector primarily provides the bulk of financing for a project. Some of the risk is associated with the government assuming some of the lease and operations for the facility, and some of the risks are assumed by the private sector in that facility. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman and thank you minister for the clarification. The Nunavut Nunavummi Nangminiqatunik Ikajuuti policy, and I know that the Inuit companies will be working very hard, so will the private Inuit companies be included in P3. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. All the government policies and procedures apply to these contracts but as it stands now the three regional health facilities and the proposed ownership is with the Inuit birthright development corporations. That was an arrangement that was agreed upon by the GNWT that we have adopted as the Nunavut Government. For the Arviat facility that is a private development corporation, the Arviat Development Corporation, the owner is the main proponent for that facility. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of questions. It is interesting because it measures staff housing and the minister had indicated that some of his staff are working in this area of policy development. I think, as he is quite aware because it is something that I have been asking about for over a year, something that falls under this department to develop or is it something that falls under the Housing Corporation to develop. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as you know Public Works has the lead on this and there is Human Resources involved and the Housing Corporation. Public works and Finance and Administration are all involved and that is where this corporate services and the Finance and Administration staff are involved. Obviously there are financial implications surrounding this policy. We are part of a group, I believe that the Department of Public Works is taking the lead with the development of the staff housing policy.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is good to hear that a team is working on this hopefully we will see something soon as a team effort. Mr. Chairman one last question, this is the area that is responsible for the collective bargaining. I was just wondering what the state is as far as the Nunavut Employees Union and as far as bargaining goes. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. As you know my other capacity as Minister of Human Resources, the other departments that are involved in this are Finance and Admin., Corporate Services, obviously again because of the financial implications government wide. But as it stands now as members know the Northern Employees Union had to postpone the last set of negotiations and we are just waiting to hear back and confirm future dates to resume collective bargaining. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. A very brief question then. Do you have a finance committee that reviews the whole financial aspects of the Nunavut Government. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is the Financial Management Board. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): We are on page 3-6. Total operations and maintenance, 1 million 397 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures 1 million 397 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turning the page over 3-7, finance and administration, branch summary. Information management and technology, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance 7 million 974 thousand dollars. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman in this area if we take a look at the mains from last year which is almost 4 million dollars and this year it had gone up to just over 7 million dollars. In the way of contract services could the . . . sorry . . . heaven forbid that I should do that.

>>*Laughter*

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am just getting comfortable over here. Last year's mains had just under 4 million dollars in services and this year it is up over 7.2 million dollars and could the minister explain the increase. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. As members may recall we also had some supplementary appropriations during the course of this year specifically for technology because we recognize that it was an area that wasn't fully funded as well as it should have been. We are trying to make that adjustment this year. But we have to recognize that there is a lot of work activities that are planned to be put in place and if you would allow me to list them out Mr. Chairman.

There is the income support system with the department of education. There is the student financial system with education. The offender's information system with justice. The public trustee system again with justice and there are several smaller systems as well that are being developed with justice. A docket management system and a jury system. With public works there is an inventory system and electrical device system and there are also others that are being anticipated like the students records system, an apprenticeship system, courts information system, maintenance enforcement system. Personal property registry system. Health insurance management system, petroleum products distribution system. Games and recreational licensing system.

So there are a lot of initiatives and given that we don't think that we can do them all, then we will have to prioritise which ones are needed and which ones are doable. Those are the things that have to be taken into consideration. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, I realize there was a large amount of supplementary done last year for that, I think it is over a million dollar increase over last year. A supplemental final amount from last year. These programs are developed on behalf of the departments, do not the other departments have to contribute while you are doing this work on behalf of other departments. Would there be any recoveries. Don't the other departments have to show if there would be IT stuff in their areas.

Or should it be just the department of finance should be the only area that has IT expenditures for program development. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Government of Nunavut has chosen to centralise the Informatics, or the information technology development, I think with the exception of health that has some telehealth capital dollars that were allocated. The bulk of the system development rests with Finance and Administration. It will go through a screening process, an ongoing approval process through the Financial Management and Services Board the further along they get in this system development. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The minister had listed off quite a number of different projects that they are working on. On these ones are there any of them with existing programs in place. Or are we looking at replacing them with new ones or are we just trying to develop new ones where none were in place before. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. A lot of the system development is or has been ongoing work and it is near completion. It was a lot of the programs or the systems development was identified in the OIC days and carried forward with the Government of Nunavut and so we are seeing the end of the completion of a lot of those systems and a lot of development of those systems. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Were there any systems in place in the GNWT that could have been carried over to use. I know that it was mentioned in the Rankin

session, one system that was basically scrapped was the Peoplesoft one. That was 3.5 million dollars basically down the drain. I am just looking at where we are over 7 million dollars, which is a lot of money to spend on information technology and I am just wondering if existing programs were in place then they could be carried over instead of developing new ones. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand that there may have been limited systems but they were limited. Many the GNWT programs were not Y2K compatible. Even the GNWT themselves are under a lot of pressure as far as the systems development go. We think that in the long term it will be beneficial obviously to have many these systems in place. There is an ongoing expense for that development and we can see though that it would tail off at one point and we wouldn't have to be coming back for the development funding of the information technology. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I was wondering at what point it is up 1 million dollars. If the trend keeps going like that then it is going to be an amount that we can't afford at some point. So it is good to hear and I look forward to the day when it does start petering down and that number is actually going down. Another area in there is that on the permanent salaries, 115 thousand.

How many people are hired in this area as permanent employees of the government as opposed to contract employees that work with these programs from the south. I just was wondering if there is a comparison of numbers. How many consultants as opposed to the number of permanent positions that we have located in Nunavut on this. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman there are four PY's approved in our main estimates and just if I may to go back to Mr. Tootoo's and my comments in regards to future needs and that. I think that it is also important to recognize even though some of the program development costs stabilise or should stabilise over time, at the same time that some of the operating costs, because your systems will be up and running, may tend to increase as a result of having this system on line.

This is not within the Department of Finance but a government perspective as an issue that people have to be aware of. Overall, I think it is not just the government Nunavut that is investing in information technology and replacements and establishment and development of systems.

All governments and all corporations quite frankly across, not just our country but across the world these days you have to have systems to make yourself more efficient otherwise you stay with the manual type of system and it is found not to be as efficient as technology across the world. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his opening remarks and I am just again wondering, I asked how many consultants we have working with the systems development as opposed to permanent employees. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In the Department of Finance right now we have two employees in the information management and technology area. We have a project office in Ottawa as well. That was set-up under the OIC, that project office has half a dozen or so people working there on a contract basis. Some of those positions we will be replacing as we recruit positions in Iqaluit.

There are also many other consultants that are working on IT development through the competitive bidding process, and we have a budget there of 6 or 7 million dollars this year and last year. It is very difficult to identify how many consultants are involved in those various projects but there are lots. As well there are many consultants working with the IT operations division in the Department of Public Works. There is a technology transfer arrangement there where it will be passed on to local employees as they are recruited.

I would add that the use of consultants in IT is not unusual. It is impossible in a small jurisdiction to build up capacity to develop all those very technical computer systems. It is no different here than in the Atlantic Provinces or Ontario. We will have more resources in house but it takes time to build. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is more just a comment. I think that it is quite clear that at any given time that this area is very technical. Depending on the system, I understand in Yellowknife they use that Peoplesoft system and for example there is a whole team of, I don't know there is 10 or 20 people that were there just to run the system. All of those people were from the south. I think as a government we should look at trying to find ways and systems, and develop the systems that we can have, you know we are not a huge government, it is a very small jurisdiction, and we don't need Cadillacs.

It is not a super complex organization that we need running and the sooner we can make it functional the better. I think it will also allow us sooner rather than later to be able to build that capacity locally. To be able to run and administer, because again I think the

more people we have hired and working here in Nunavut is better than hiring consultants from the south. I am sure it is much more expensive to hire a consultant on an ongoing basis like that than it would be to have someone here permanently to do that. So I think that is something that should be kept in mind on the development of these systems. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, I would agree with the member on his comments. I think what is also important to note is because of the fact of the decentralized structure of our government and the fact that we rely totally on satellite links for our information technology systems, there are no land links involved, that increases the need for advanced technology and some of the costs as a result of those factors. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Last year there was 9 million 940 last year but now it is 2000/2001 and there is going to be 11 million spent. If you re-look at the page under 3 – 5, under 2000/2001 and under 1999, we used 1 million 199 in 99/2000 main estimates, but now it is 1 million 367 thousand in 2000/2001. And if we go to 3 – 6, there is 1 million 13 in the main estimates but now for 2000/2001 it is 1 million 102 thousand under compensation and benefits. Under 3 – 7, the amount under the main estimates it is only 415 thousand although under the revised estimates it was 433 thousand.

We know that the staff compensation salaries and wages will be increasing but I just wanted to find out exactly the numbers that I have stated why this is like that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In respect to the decreases for the Information Management and Technology salaries, the reason on 3 – 7 is that we anticipate not spending as much money for those requirements Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, I can understand it when Mr. Tootoo was asking the question but under Information Management and Technology, who do we have as employees that deal with information management and technology. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Mr. Chairman, in the information and technology division, we have a Chief Informatics Officer that is working here in Iqaluit. Also a finance officer support position. There are managers of information technology and senior systems analyst positions that are filled on a contract basis in our Ottawa project office. As I mentioned earlier it is our intention to move those positions to Iqaluit and we are classifying the positions and they will be advertised for filling in our operations here.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is good news for the employees to come to the headquarters but because the government is new that is probably the way it is right now but I would like to get further information. The people that are employed in Ottawa, I just wondered whether these information management people in Ottawa are they working for finance.

Chairperson: Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The positions are in Ottawa right now. The people filling those positions were consultants that were hired by the Office of the Interim Commissioner about two years ago and a lot of those people have a lot of experience with the particular systems that we are developing for the Government of Nunavut.

Also because the other consultants that we have that won through a competitive bidding process, the jobs for systems development, a lot of the testing is done at that office, so we have considered the benefits and the advantages or disadvantages of keeping that office open for a period. Right now from our vantage point it makes sense to keep that office there. If we were to move the positions right now to Iqaluit without going through the competition process, we know that the consultants involved wouldn't be interested in moving here on a full time basis.

So it's a gradual process if we make the transfer. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. At least the response was very good. Thank you for responding to my question. This 415 thousand dollars is going directly to Ottawa. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Mr. Chairman, a part of it will go to Ottawa. As I indicated earlier, the Chief Informatics Officer and one other support person is working in Iqaluit but at this stage our intention is to fill two or three other positions over the coming year. Most of that will be spent in Iqaluit, certainly this year.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to our Main Estimates. Page 3 – 7, total operations and maintenance, 7 million 974 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 7 million 974 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going to 3 – 8. Finance and Administration, branch summary, comptrollership and regional financial services, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 18 million 842 thousand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on this area, we see an increase of over 1 million dollars in compensation and benefits. I am just wondering if that's due to an increase in PYs or I am just wondering why there is such a large increase in there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Mr. Chairman, the increase is due to the addition of five additional payroll positions. We took over the responsibilities of payroll from the Health Boards. Also the employee benefits associated with the employees of the same three boards.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Also for that whole area under grants and contributions or other expenses. There's over 6 million in fees and payments. I am just wondering what those are comprised of, or what those payments are there. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The 2.4 million dollars of the fees and payments for that area is in investments and risk management. That's our insurance premiums. There is another 3.8 million of that 6.2 million dollars in pay and benefits. Six hundred thousand of that is for dental benefits, 700 thousand of that is for Workers' Compensation Board benefits and 2.5 million of that is for medical travel. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think. Took my headset off too early I think. Under the medical travel I would guess that's compensating employees that are eligible based on the collective agreement based on certain benefits for medical travel. Is that

something that is recoverable from the health board. I know when the Department of Health was up and that big deficit was there, a large part of it was due to medical travel.

So I was just wondering if this is something that would be included in there on top of that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: The 2.5 million is for medical travel for Government of Nunavut employees. This amount, the costs incurred by the Health Boards for medical travel for Government of Nunavut employees last year was Billed back to the Department of Finance. So it did not contribute to the deficits in the Health Boards. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I see in this area too also the Corporate Control area that the minister indicated earlier. I am just wondering, he had indicated that was a headquarters function in the detailed information that we have been provided it shows 400 thousand dollars in pay and benefits for permanent salaries. I am just wondering how many people are hired or how many PYs there are in that division and if they are all in the headquarters office. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you Mr. Chairman. There are five positions in our Corporate Controls Division. We had the Director position filled on an acting basis and that person recently resigned his position with the Government of Nunavut. We have advertised to fill that position and it will be done within the next, perhaps the next month.

We have some other people in our department that have been filling in responsibilities within that division but we will be filling the senior auditor positions over the following weeks. So to answer the question there are five persons that will be within that division.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would just ask where those positions are going to be located. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: All five positions, Mr. Chairman, will be located in Iqaluit. As Minister Ng mentioned previously we are working closely with the regional financial services superintendents, particularly in the Keewatin and the Kitikmeot and the regional superintendent for the Baffin region position right now is vacant.

Chairperson: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know, again based on the past, those functions were previously at the regional level. I am just wondering whether you have any plans of looking at, you know you look here there is 175 thousand dollars for travel for five people. I don't imagine it will take too long for those people to eat up that amount of travel and transportation in travelling around to do their job and conduct reviews in the regional government offices and headquarters. Maybe just what exactly, will the function be similar to that, that was previously done in the GNWT.

Where they travel around, previously there was a person in each region that did those audits and reviews within that region. I am just wondering if that type of thing is going to be established in the new set up. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It's my impression that the responsibilities and roles of those individuals will be the same as those in the previous GNWT positions. I would mention again that we will be using regional staff to the maximum extent possible and we have already started this process with some of the investigations that have gone on in the regions to date.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just wondering if this division will at all work with the evaluation and statistical services division under Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs whose function I believe is more of a formal audit function as opposed to a program auditor function or review that this areas would look at. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Mr. Chairman, it would be our intention to work with the Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs when they build the capacity in that department. Our audit is more of a financial audit that is necessary to ensure that proper financial controls are in place in all parts of the Government of Nunavut operation. I think you referred to the Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs audit responsibilities, it's a broader program audit responsibility.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Vardy. Going to our main estimates. Page 3 – 7. Sorry, 3 – 8. Controllership and regional financial services, Department of Finance and Administration, branch summary, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 18 million 842 thousand. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. First I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, because I have quite a few questions. I was wondering if we could

take a short break. Mr. Chairman, my first question is if we could take a short break. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

>>*Committee recessed at 3.14 and resumed at 3.30 p.m.*

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like further clarification. Maintains processes necessary for appropriate reporting to the Legislative Assembly whose responsibility is under Finance and Administration. Is that under the appropriate department. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman it is in the Government accounting side of the department under this branch. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says here and the public. It that for the whole of Nunavut and does it mean that you have to do your financial reporting to the Legislative Assembly and to the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is the public account for the Government expenditures over the course of a fiscal year. That is where the reference is in this description of the branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Going back to 3-8. Operations & maintenance. Total operations & maintenance, 18 million 842 thousand dollars. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 18 million 842 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Controllership and regional financial services. Branch summary. For information only. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. In regards to power subsidy for domestic commercial users. Does the minister foresee continuing this subsidy. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I am happy Bob did not answer that one. Another question is in regards to the power subsidy to small business. I think they get a subsidy or a rebate back for small businesses under a million. Does the minister know how much that costs us a year. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I do not have that rate here Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. I will leave the Power Corp alone right now. Just on the Workers' Compensation Board can the minister give me a very brief update on where we stand right now with the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you. With respect to the question that I asked in February if he is going to initiate any kind of study on whether we are going to stay together or operating as a separate Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman we still plan on proceeding with a Nunavut wide consultation with the stakeholders on that. But we have not unfortunately developed or finalised any terms of reference for a request for proposals to have somebody undertake that work. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page 3-9. Information item. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the commercial power subsidy. I understood the response. My question is who is eligible for power subsidies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman residential private homeowners are eligible for subsidies to the first 700 kilowatt hours. I think it is based on

Yellowknife rates and commercial businesses with sales less than 1 million dollars are eligible for a percentage of their power requirements as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understood his answer. My next question is that it does not apply to public housing?

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the power subsidy I understand the minister just explained basically the guidelines for it. I know for example Iqaluit businesses and the residences are booming and there is a lot of growth here. I anticipate that to be the case as well over the next few years and for the decentralised communities. Will that effect the subsidy. If it is done on a per business or per person basis. Then one would assume that there should be a substantial increase in what is required there for it. I am just wondering how it is determined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as it stands now it is basically held over at last years level. If there are additional needs because of forced growth in this area then it will be considered and brought back if required for Supplementary Appropriation. Right now quite frankly we have not had a chance to analyse the existing program. It has been a carry over, as you know from the GNWT, and we have continued with the subsidy program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess the minister is aware that on a number of occasions I asked the about the subsidies that are provided by the government and he indicated that he is going to be providing us with that information. I am just wondering how or if it has been looked at. They have not had a chance to review it. Would they look at how consistent it is with some other subsidies that are out there. I know for example if this happens to be, say it works out to a percentage, is it 15 percent subsidy or something else, say 50 percent. Looking at having some type of more a consistent system throughout Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member brings up a good point. When we finalise the listing of all the subsidies available then all those factors will have to be taken into consideration as we try to rationalise the provision of subsidies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the other question. I know in Kimmirut we talked about power rates in the way the system is set up right now like at assessing the rate. I know the public utilities board does that. But under the current system the cost to a community for the production of power to the community is incurred by that community. Mr. Iqaqrialu has been talking about looking at the possibility of the impact of that system without any intervention. A 40 percent increase in costs. Would that have any affect on this subsidy or would the subsidy remain the same in the event where there were increased costs to a community. The increase costs would not be covered at all by the subsidy. The subsidy would not change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if the public utilities board were to authorise an increase in power rates for any community additional revenues would result from those rate increases, and obviously our subsidy amount and levels would proportionately be increased because we subsidise based on the Yellowknife rate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are 3-7. Or 3-9. Information item. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. *..audio unavailable...*

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you have him repeat his question please.

Chairperson (interpretation): I am sorry the interpreter did not get the question. Mr. Iqaqrialu could you rephrase your question.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you give us an address or a number where we can inquire about getting these power subsidies. I hope that is clear.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You can contact through your local Power Corporation office in the community but it is automatically applied for residential properties. It is automatically applied against the customer's Bill. We pay that directly through the Power Corporation on a monthly basis. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Page 3-9. Information item. 3-10. Liquor Commission revolving fund. Information item. Page 3-10. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the liquor commission revolving fund. They are responsible for issuing all types of liquor permits and for enforcement, 423 thousand. Under the income there is a total income of 4 million, 618 thousand dollars. It is quite a big jump from 2 million, 771 thousand. What is the reasoning behind this.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the 1999-2000 revised estimates were numbers that were supplied to us by the GNWT and we use those figures. Of course there is no historical tracking of that, so the 2000-2001 Main Estimates are a more accurate reflection based on a good portion of the current year's or the past year's operations. So that should be more reflective of actual revenues and expenditures. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems that we are going to be getting some revenue but then again there is the alcohol and drug committees that do not seem to be provided any funding. Are they going to be given contributions for operations & maintenance and what is that income going to be used for. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a revolving fund explicit to the operating costs and for the sales of liquor products themselves. The member's question about alcohol and drug committees and any work they undertake is a Health and Social Services Department funding issue. Historically the funding comes from those areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community alcohol and drug committees do a lot of preventative work, especially in my community. They are very useful in my community but they are not provided any funding. If they are funded under Health and Social Services it creates a problem. Maybe you should consider providing funds for the community alcohol and drug committees because they do a lot of very useful work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the member brings up a good point. As I indicated that type of funding program needs would be more adequately addressed from the Department of Health and Social Services budgets. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes some government departments do not know the important work the committees do in the communities. Perhaps just to let the communities know that there is some funding from Health and Social Services that can be provided to the committees. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member.

Chairperson (interpretation): 3-10. Information item. Finance and Administration. Liquor Commission revolving fund. Information item. Finance and Administration. Distribution of budget. Information item. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a difference in funding for Baffin, Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. The Baffin region only has 980 thousand as opposed to Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. The Kivalliq is more and the Kitikmeot is more than the Baffin. Why is this.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for the Baffin regional financial service's operations being smaller is that the decentralisation to Igloolik has not taken place yet. So most of the regional staff in Iqaluit are former regional staff of the GNWT in the Baffin region. They applied for the jobs of headquarters operations in finance. We have started to staff the Baffin office but it will not be built up to staff for the next year in Igloolik. That is the main reason we have not reached the full size of our operations in our budget estimates. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Baffin region there is 980 thousand dollars for 2000-2001. Perhaps in the next three years I just wondered whether it would be the same amount as Kivalliq and Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Baffin regional office will have 17 persons compared to 16 in the Kivalliq and 14 in the Kitikmeot. So the Baffin regional office will be the biggest of the three regional offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am getting confused. Perhaps your answers are correct but what I am trying to get at is that I just wondered if the Kivalliq staff is using more operations & maintenance because they make more wages. What is the case.

Chairperson: Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why there is more compensation and benefits in the Kivalliq region is because that operation is fully staffed whereas the Baffin operation is not yet fully staffed. And it will not be until 2001-2002. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vardy. Do not forget we have to think about the smaller communities. So when the smaller communities have more money in their budget we would be happy about that. This is just information from the members that usually want to have more funding for the smaller communities than the larger communities. We should be happy with the amount of money at this time. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe earlier this session I was asking the minister responsible, I do not know whether it was finance or human resources, I asked in regards to the surplus that we had from last year. At the time I was inquiring about it, it was indicated many those funds were as a result of not having the government fully staffed. I believe at the time I asked the minister when they are budgeting for this year whether they were going to budget under the presumption they were going to be fully staffed. I believe at the time he indicated that the way that they were going to be developing a budget was as if they were fully staffed. I am just wondering, this 769 thousand dollars, how many staff is that for. I was under the impression that the budgets were being developed as if all the offices were going to be fully staffed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did our budget under the assumption that there would be 10 positions filled for the Baffin region of the 17. We do not know yet what it will achieve. It will depend on the response to our job competitions and also linked with decentralisation plans of the Department and the Government. Right now finance is slated to move to Igloolik in the summer of 2001 for regional operations for Baffin. So the outcome we will have to see as we get later in the year. But our budget and the budget for all departments I guess, assume that there will be a number of vacancies that will exist in the department. As exists in government departments in every jurisdiction. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Main Estimates and we have the Main Estimates and the Capital Supplementary Estimates. It has departments listed such as the Department of Public Works under substantiation sheets. The last item that was discussed in the Main Estimates and in here they are totally different.

I am not sure which one is the most recent one. Under the Main Estimates under Department of Justice. There is also the book that we have. They do not seem to be typed the same. I am not sure if these things are newer than the other ones. Some of the regional office's money is the same but some of them are not quite the same. Which ones are we using. Under Baffin region it is 769 thousand and under the other one it has 561 thousand dollars. Mr. Chairman, have the main estimates been revised or how come there is a total difference. I just want to find out what is happening. One is 769 for Kivalliq and the other one is 977 which is totally different.

Chairperson (interpretation): Just to let the members know, these are totally different things we are doing, we are doing the main estimates today for Finance and Administration. We are dealing with the 2000/2001 Main Estimates. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): I am just trying to ask the minister because he is at the witness table for us to find out from him.

Chairperson: Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, we have both the Main Estimates and the Capital Estimates books. We are now on page 3 – 11 I believe which is the distribution of budget, Finance and Administration. If the member is referring to the Baffin region, there is compensation and benefits of 769 thousand and also other expenses in Baffin of 221 thousand for a total operations and maintenance of 990 thousand. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Yes, thank you for that clarification and for the response of the minister.

Chairperson (interpretation): Getting back to the main estimates 3 – 11. We are not on the other items we are on the main estimates for 2000/2001 distribution of budget. Information item, page 3 – 11. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just showed the minister that these are the same things that we are looking at and the other ones are the same but there is a little difference in the distribution of budget for Baffin and for Kitikmeot. Which one do we believe. Is it the main estimates or in another place it is a totally different figure. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Yes we realize what you are trying to get at but we are not doing the other information right now we are under the main estimates at this time, so everybody should follow the main estimates. We are under 3 – 11 information item. Getting back to 3 – 3. Detail of expenditures, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 30 million, 767 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 30 million 767 thousand. I am sorry I made a mistake. Total expenditures, 30 million 767 thousand. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you agree that the Department of Finance and Administration is complete.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Tabled Document 95 – 1(3), are you agreed that this is completed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Department of Finance and Administration. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. If we are complete with Finance and Administration, the minister also deals with Human Resources. We have also stated that we would like to go to Human Resources.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. First I would like to thank the minister and his staff for the Department of Finance and Administration, Mr. Vardy and Mr. Tootoo. Thank you very much for coming down to give us this information. Mr. Minister do you have opening remarks on Human Resources. You may proceed with your opening remarks, Minister Ng.

Department of Human Resources: Minister's Opening Remarks

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee of the whole today. I am pleased to present the 2000/2001 Main Estimates for the Department of Human Resources.

It is the mission of the Department of Human Resources, through the guiding principles of the Bathurst Mandate to direct, advise and support excellence in the management of the public service. To achieve this goal will require the necessary resources to advise, assist and support all departments so that we can attract, hire and retain employees.

The proposed budget for the department is 17.77 million dollars. The operations and maintenance budget is divided into the following branches: Directorate, Assistant Deputy Minister, Labour Relations, Training and Development, Job Evaluation, Staffing and Decentralization.

The Department of Human Resources has no capital funding in its' budget. The 2000/2001 budget for the department includes 967 thousand dollars for the Directorate, 2.08 million for the Assistant Deputy Minister's Office, 7.49 million for the Staffing branch, 2.63 million for the Training and Development Division, 706 thousand for the Job Evaluation and Organizational Design branch, 892 thousand for the Labour Relations Division and 3 million dollars in support of our government's decentralization plans.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to highlight a number of spending items within the department for the new fiscal year. The largest component of the budget is relocations at about 8.5 million dollars. One point four million dollars is in support of the Inuit Employment Plan, 3 million dollars in support of decentralization and 164 thousand dollars due to the creation of two new positions in the directorate. A Removal Co-ordinator and a Policy Analyst.

In carrying out these programs and services we currently have 37 positions filled, out of our staff complement of 49 positions. To date 49% of the current staff are Inuit. Mr. Chairman, this concludes the formal part of my presentation. We would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the budget after the committee's report. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. You may go to the witness table with your officials and we will deal with general comments. Mr. Akasuk.

2000-2001 Main Estimates for the Department of Human Resources

Mr. Akasuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be able to make some opening remarks as we begin the debate on the 2000-2001 Main Estimates for the Department of Human Resources.

Over the past year, the Standing Committee has had an opportunity to meet with the Minister on a number of occasions. I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the issues of concern that we have had as a Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee notes that increased resources have been put towards training and development in support of the Inuit Employment Plan. Over the coming year, we look forward to reviewing the department's reports on results achieved in this area.

With respect to language training, the Standing Committee recognizes that the Department has been providing language training programs to staff. The Standing Committee looks forward to a discussion on how the Department is planning to make

Inuktitut/Innuinaqtun the working languages of the Nunavut government, as stated in its Business Plan.

The Standing Committee has noted the 3 million allocation in the Department's budget for staff removals to decentralized communities. The Standing Committee is concerned that co-ordination between the various GN bodies with decentralization responsibilities takes place in an efficient manner over the coming year. We are also concerned with the speed of progress being made with respect to advertising new positions in decentralized communities, and how many positions are being filled by residents of decentralized communities.

The Standing Committee is aware that both this Department and the Department of Public Works have responsibilities with respect to staff housing. Members of the Committee look forward to reviewing the government's new staff housing policy.

Mr. Chairman, these are some of the general areas of concern that we have had as a standing committee. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk, the Chairman for the Standing Committee. We are under general questions and comments for the Department of Human Resources. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just as the cabinet members have been replying to our questions during question period, they have been stating that the government does not have capacity. When do you expect to have capacity.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Before you respond, I also forgot and I apologize, to ask Minister Ng to introduce your officials.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. To my right is Joe Kunuk, the Deputy Minister. To my left is Sol Modesto the Manager of Corporate Services and we also have available if required, Denise Doyle with the Staffing Division and David Jenner with the Decentralization Secretariat.

Just to answer the member's question. I think we all recognize that our staff are putting in a lot of effort in trying to perform their functions and sometimes going over and above the call of duty in trying to carry out those same functions, and they should be recognized for that. As I have said in the past, it's a hard question to respond to from the perspective of, we try to answer inquiries from members in this House, from members of the public, from organizations that require information. I think we recognize that we are not at 100% or 90% capacity. We are roughly at 75% overall as a government.

But work continues to be carried out, it is just probably not carried out in as timely a fashion in being able to respond immediately or as quickly as a lot of us would like when it comes to responding to initiatives or questions from members of the House. But the job is being done. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it has been approximately a year since the Nunavut Government was established. I have realized that ADMs and the DMs, the turnover has been quite high. I am sure it costs quite a bit of money with the high turnover of these DMs and ADMs.

How do you expect it to be in the future, do you expect to have high turnover of these positions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I think the turnover rate is not just unique to the Government of Nunavut but probably due to the fact that there are some additional stresses and requirements and demands in place on our employees. I don't know if it is abnormally high.

I couldn't speak to that right now. But I think in the long term, obviously we want to try to create a stable environment. As stable as possible a work force and an environment for our work force to ensure that they can be productive and at the same time be able to perform their functions without being overly stressed. Also to be able to provide programs and services that all of us need and our constituents need. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. I apologize again, for not welcoming you. Welcome to you while you are up at the witness table. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. I just have a couple of general comments that don't need answers. I just went through an instance with one of my constituents. In my community there was a casual job advertised. There were a couple of applicants and there was a southern applicant that had quite a few years of experience applied for the position and another lady that graduated from high school but worked in the school over the year as a tutor-counsellor, coached the kids at the school and things like that.

One of the Hamlet Councillors was involved in the application and interview process and he thought there was a bias towards hiring the person from the south with the experience that hasn't lived in the community. As for the local girl that graduated from the school there and worked in the school for years applying on a temporary position the interviewer was saying well, you don't have enough experience to do this job. It's a casual job. So the Hamlet Councillor said well how are we supposed to get our young people today experience to apply for full time jobs if we are not giving them a chance to apply for part time or casual jobs.

So he finally went out and the young woman was hired and she is very happy and it will probably work out good for her to start a career in the Nunavut Government. But getting back, it seems that old policy seems to have been inherited from the GNWT where

sometimes we look at, not in all cases, but we look at the person with the best experience no matter where they are from or who they are, over local applicants. I don't think that was the mandate of the Nunavut Government to start with that they would probably give other local, Inuit people chances on positions and an opportunity to gain employment.

I sometimes wonder if we are going to try to do that with Human Resources. I was just involved in a direct appointment of one of my constituents into a position in Rankin Inlet and it took four to five months to get him in there. We talk about capacity in the government and sometimes the capacity of this government is to hinder any kind of movement into positions because of the bureaucracy that we are creating already. I sometimes shudder to think that we are going to be up to capacity and how long it is going to take to hire somebody in certain positions.

So is there any movement, there's going to be a one time flurry with decentralization that we are going to have to hire four to five hundred employees to get the government up to speed. There are going to be direct appointments because I think it is politically correct today in the Nunavut Government. Political appointments to my knowledge today and I haven't had much to do with them other than one, is that they have to go through all of cabinet. This to me seems absurd because why should seven or six cabinet ministers have a say on a constituent being hired that is qualified for a position.

Would the minister consider giving the Minister of Human Resources, or the cabinet, or whoever does the direct appointments, consider just giving the minister the power and authorization to do a direct appointment rather than having to sit around with five or six cabinet ministers at once to okay or rubberstamp it. Because we all know that after this session there is going to be a flurry of hiring in several communities and every one of the ministers is going to be off doing things because we kept you here too long. I keep hearing that, but it may be impossible to get you all together for a couple of days to look at direct appointments.

Would you as Minister responsible give the authority and power to the individual ministers to do direct appointments. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as it stands now because of the Public Service Act there is a requirement to go to cabinet for direct appointments, but that is not to say that we couldn't work around that and allow individual ministers to have that responsibility for direct appointments. It is a valid point and I think that we will take it into consideration. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister. Mr. Ng, an additional comment.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just on Mr. McLean's earlier comment on job competitions and qualifications and that. Like I have said in the past, the Government of Nunavut is trying to, or has started to implement a competency based evaluation

system where there are more behavioural descriptive interviews, I guess is the terminology. That quite frankly, is a change from the way that the GNWT used to have hiring processes which were more qualification based to what we see right now is more competency based. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivautaq. My final comment on that is that, yes competency based, you hit the nail right on the head. In some instances we look at a bunch of paper and the people and the inexperience of the people doing the interviews at the time. Because of capacity, they have a tendency to look at the paper and ignore the true value of the person that has lived in a community all their lives and knows the individuals when they are dealing with them on a daily basis.

Rather than transplanting somebody in that doesn't have a clue about that community, to interact with the community and important roles in the community in regards to things that people have to deal with in their day to day lives. We still miss the boat on that one, we talk about Inuit Qaujimagatujangit and that's a perfect example of it.

What are we doing to integrate it into the community in your department in regards to hiring staff into a community. Because years ago, the government up here used to have what we called the program where southern transplants come into the community and they were given an orientation and it sometimes took a week in regards to how to deal with the community. Because culture shock is still a thing. Sure people down south see Nunavut and they see the flag and they see how it is up here and as we all know there is a commercial on TV right now that I am Canadian.

Still the south has a stereotypical view of us up here that we live in igloos and we eat blubber and we have dog teams. So is your department looking at some sort of orientation for southern transplants in the communities to orient them on what it is really like to live up here. Because most times I still see it myself that these southern transplants, they haven't got a clue about the culture and how to deal with people in communities. Is there any kind of orientation that you are looking at giving our southern based employees so that the culture shock isn't as hard on them as it should be.

And yes, I am Canadian. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In fact, Mr. Chairman, just as of last week we did start employee orientation programs. We have a staff orientation sessions right now and we are developing and are going to deliver training for managers on staff orientation and also develop and implement departmental staff orientation programs. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): My question has already been answered. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, any general comments. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a very high unemployment rate in the Nunavut area. There is a lot of people working but when they do apply. Many the people do not apply for job opportunities because they know they do not have the experience or the qualifications. What are you going to do about providing training for the unemployed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. I am not the Speaker so call me the Chairperson. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman there will be a focus in the training and development opportunities by actually having staff travel to the communities to identify and recruit individuals. Particularly in the area of decentralisation and I know Human Resources is working with the Decentralisation Secretariat in that regard. In further to that the Inuit unemployment plan that is being developed is being finalised. It has many initiatives that we are hoping to boost up the Inuit employment and the Inuit participation levels in the civil service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Any further questions or comments. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivauta. On the bi-lingual bonuses in the Nunavut Government. I know that Inuit teachers get a bilingual bonus. Do other employees get the bonus also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a position that is designated as requiring bilingual usage in carrying out their functions as other duties. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivauta. Does the Minister know how much that bilingual bonus is a year. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is 12 hundred dollars a year Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Any further comments Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Yes. You sure are rewarded being bilingual in this country. So anyhow I think that is a pittance. But that is just my humble opinion. Twelve hundred dollars a year for being bilingual. Yes I will Mr. Picco, maybe we could include you in the bonus too because you are almost there.

But my next question is in regards to the Ministers. It sort of fits in the Minister Forum on the economy. We are going to look at the economy. I guess a vibrant economy is based on how many people are working and what their qualifications are and things like that. I know this is a tall order. But sometimes and I said this before. We regurgitate people in the civil service.

We train, train them and I know for a fact excluding the people in this room that there are people out there that have been trained for 20 years. And they do not seem to go higher in the civil service. But they are always to get the recognition and stuff like that. We all know we have a very large and young population out there that we are trying to get through the education system and get them graduated and get them into the civil service.

Are there any plans for non-government training program to help younger people acquire the skills other than what Arctic College is offering. It is somewhat limited. Is there any kind of training there. Are you going to be identifying training outside of the government and come in to the government and train in and advance you in the system. Thank you. Taima. That is all my questions today.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Student employment, summer placement program for the departments. Generally all Government of Nunavut departments that is what the member is referring to. Bringing in the people in to have that job experience. I am sure if that is where the member is getting at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Maybe I will be a bit more direct. Being coming from a decentralised community. What the prospect is 30-40 whatever eventually filters in there and know that the government is trying to train as many people and hire as many people in the communities to fill these positions because it makes sense. It is probably going save the government money in the long run not having to move southern based people in and out.

It is just that you have a community that is looking at 40-50 jobs. I know a lot of them are going to need quite a bit of education. But there is also going to be the entry levels and middle management. And it is the people in the community that are working at the Northern Stores, the Health Centres and the Co-ops, the schools and various other organisations. With the right amount of training could probably could get into one of these government jobs. But that is what I am getting to moving from point A to get them into point B.

In the long run, like Mr. Picco's great phrase that what you put it front end and you get it out the back in regards to training people. It is a good quote and I will have to remember that. Is there any kind of plan there to try to get people at the local level trained that are not in the government to get into these positions. Thank you. Taima.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: The bulk of the training opportunities would be with Nunavut Arctic College and some of the programs that they have run successfully in the past. I think basic office procedures and general upgrading. Education does have on the job training initiatives. Sustainable Development from their employment initiatives. There are different parts of government programs that are available and the employers could access over and above Government of Nunavut specific initiatives and funds. Thank you.

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

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Itsivauta. My final question I hope. That is basically what I wanted to hear. Will your department make sure that the people in place that are doing the hiring and supervising will have a degree of sympathy towards that person that may move into a job that they might not be a 100 percent up to par and give them a break.

I have heard in government offices that for years that you get the supervisor saying you are not qualified enough for this job. The person leave discouraged and then we hire a southern transplant. And of course the world is filled with qualified people. So can you that for the decentralised communities and saying it is going to take a while to get everybody up to speed. Sometimes we have it is there.

There is a preconception well you do not have the qualification that you are not good for this job. And there are subtleties put on employees not to stay. And I have seen it for 30 years just because you do not have the BA or BED or MA or something like that from your paper you can not do some data processing. You can not do an entry level position. So will you commit to this House that give them a break and lets take our time and training them. Eventually it will come around. That is all I have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will commit to that because that is the goal and long term intent of the government is to try to maximise as I indicted earlier is participation from our constituents at large. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Inuit Qaujimagatugangit is being implemented into the government departments. I am not exactly sure how the

Human Resources department could will be using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit because we have not been using training material from Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. How is it going to be implemented in the Human Resources department. I would like to get clarification on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Kunuk.

Mr. Kunuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, when we looked at this with the committee on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. There was a meeting in Apex and what they wanted to do is encourage applicants that are applying for government jobs.

After the meeting in Apex we invited some elders to help us with the programs we could start with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we talked about behavioural job descriptions. The staff that we have right now are not all Inuit and we wanted them to understand Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

We have meetings with the committee Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit to teach our present staff that are not Inuit about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We have heard numerous times that the staff that we have take training either in southern Canada or the Arctic College here in the North. What we have thought about is to for the staff to be taught Inuit ways of doing things when they are non-aboriginal staff. That is the type of thing that we have thought about. The people that do interviews to hire staff to work with Government of Nunavut are the ones we would like to train in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Those are some of the things that we are doing right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kunuk. Mr. Barnabas. No. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like Mr. McLean was asking Minister about bilingual bonus and how much that bilingual bonus is. Is there any Inuktitut training to the non-Inuit staff and who does the teaching. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Nutarak. Mr. Ng or Mr. Kunuk. Go ahead Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have run workshops and consultations with the Culture, Language, Elders & Youth and the department of Human Resources had a contracted individuals to carry out Inuktitut training in the past and will continue to do so. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like you mention when you have Inuktitut language training did you give them certificates.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, we do Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): The ones that receive their certificates I guess you have them listed. The staff is listed. I would like to be able to get the information of those people that have received certificates. The reason why I am asking this is probably better in the near future. I am wondering I have heard there are some people that took the language training and that had to be assisted by Inuit speaking individuals. That is why I wanted to get the list of all the people that receive certificates so far. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes Mr. Chairman. Yes we can provide the list. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. Any more comments or questions. Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, it is part of a question that was asked about the bilingual bonus and the staff receiving 12 hundred dollars.

I just wondered because there is many Inuit people working for the Government of Nunavut it would be very good if you can review it again. Review the people that receive the bilingual bonus, I am not saying that. But if there was a job opening I would prefer the individual to speak two languages to be hired. Because it will be the language of the government. The Inuktitut language. I just want to make sure I would like the bilingual person to be hired first before the unilingual person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Generally in our job competition that being able to speak Inuktitut is a definite asset part of performing the duties of the different jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Ng. General comments or questions. I asking one of my colleagues could take the chairmanship. Mr. Akasuk.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It gets pretty confusing when you are asking questions. When that happens. I want the people in the gallery to be a little bit quiet. First I want to make a few comments. Since I have seen and experienced in my

community that the students that are graduating from grade 12 and there are quite a few students that are graduating from my community although we have graduated students still they do not have any jobs to go to after they graduate. I am sure these graduates have been applying for staff because they are not certified or qualified for the position. They are not able to get the job. I would like to get a clarification on that. If you have experience that because there might be some students that who have graduated and they applied for a job. And once they do not have the qualifications you do not hire them. That is what I would like clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as indicated in the past earlier questions. That behaviour descriptive interviewing is part of the process now. So it based on what the individual is able to do and I guess in following up also of the questions Mr. McLean brought up about the other opportunities in government and people that have entry level positions and how to encourage that and stimulate that through other departments. And bring them into the civil service as one opportunity and developing them for the positions that they are in and further their positions after that. Additional training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to point out further whether the applicant is an Inuk or non-Inuk as long they reside in Nunavut. And I would like to treat all the people of Nunavut should be treated equally because whether if they are non-native they could learn Inuktitut. An Inuk person can learn a lot from the European style. So I would like to see anybody to be treated equally in Nunavut. For that reason Inuktitut training. Have you considered if you could come up with Inuktitut facility where they do just Inuktitut training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman as I indicated earlier we have, in conjunction with Culture, Language, Elders & Youth run Inuktitut courses but we have not considered a permanent type of arrangement yet but that would be something certainly Nunavut Arctic College would work within their mandate to consider something along those lines. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we keep stating the elders are dying off at a rapid rate. Who have all the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit perhaps once that generation is gone and for those of us quite stuck in between two generations will be the only people left. I also like to see Inuit language preserved and culture preserved. I am urging your department to consider these. Or consider a community where you can build

a facility for Inuit studies or use an existing facility at the adult education facility. So I was wondering if you can do that in regards to the language training. Thank you.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Point of Order.

Chairperson: Mr. Arvaluk.

Point of Order

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Point of order, we are totally lost here. We are dealing with Human Resources budget, or so I thought. The member is completely off track so could you get him back on track please.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, if we are going to be talking about education during this phase lets keep it to the subject of training the staff. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are under general comments. We still have not gone into detail yet. So that is why I stated those. And thank you for the comments. I will use myself as an example. I can not read English. But I am be able to be a leader. I am sure some of my colleagues are in the same situation. Although they can not speak English they are very capable leaders and even non-Inuktitut speaking people are leaders too then why do we have to ask for bilingual people. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the Member brings up some legitimate concerns. I think I would probably be more appropriately asked during the Culture, Language, Elders & Youth budget debate. Given the significant involvement with that department for any kind of training initiatives relative to Inuktitut culturally sensitive training. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I apologise for jumping to other topics. But since your department is the Human Resources Department. Even if I am an Inuktitut speaking person and when I am no longer a Member of the Legislative Assembly can I become as Executive Assistant to one of the Minister. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: That would depend on the Minister of the time. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu. Do you have any further comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further comments. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): We will go to detail. We need a quorum especially when we will voting on details. So we have no quorum at this time. If you would like to wait here or would you like to take a 5 minute break. We will wait for the rest of the Members to come into the House. Once we get a quorum we will start again. Mr. Iqaqrialu could come back to the chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk for being up here. Capital, there is no capital. We will go on to main estimates. Page 4-4. We are on the main estimates. Department of Human Resources, branch summary, directorate. Operations and maintenance total, 967 thousand. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It states here that the government's initiatives related to Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, developing and controlling budgets and developing policy and procedures and providing support to the minister's office. Which one is going to be for that 714 thousand or 253 thousand dollars which one is going towards that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, all of it. This is all within the directorate that has responsibilities over the areas the member pointed out. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Page 4-4. Operations and maintenance, 967 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 967 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going to 4-5. Staffing, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 7 million 491 thousand. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want to get further clarification. Under other expenses last year for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001, I think there was 1.3 million dollars. It went up by 3 million dollars. Could the minister clarify why it went up. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is primarily due to the removal and recruitment budget for the health boards that was assumed by the Department of Human Resources. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Under staffing it states here the branch is responsible for policy development, procedures and guidelines concerning the recruitment and selection process within the government. So do we use this funding for the selection and hiring of the staff. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, Mr Chairperson, we do. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sorry is it going to be used for interviewing the potential applicants. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes it is.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, total operations and maintenance. Page 4-5, 7 million 491 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures 7 million 491 thousand dollars.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 4-6. Assistant Deputy Minister. Operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 76 thousand. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Since we started the budget session I have seen some issues, although we now have one Nunavut Territory in here it states community operations Qikiqtaaluk, Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot. We stated we will not be using the regional levels in Nunavut and funding is going to be allocated to the three regions and it does not state which region is going to get how much on this page. So I would like the minister to clarify that to me. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the distribution of the budget is shown on 4-11 at the end of every department. We have incorporated into the departments instead of into branch by branch to make it simpler. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Could you tell me where the details are by giving me the page numbers. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, 4-11 as I believe I indicated, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Okay, thank you. We're on page 4-6. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million and 76 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 2 million 76 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 4-7, training and development, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 2 million 638 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 2 million 638 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Page 4-8. Job evaluations and organizational design, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 706 thousand. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. What kind of an organization are we talking about here. I would like that question answered please. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: We are talking about the designs of government departments Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Whose departments and what organizations. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Departments of the government. Thank you.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Over here it also states that it does not include the teachers here or the evaluation of all positions of the Nunavut Government except teaching positions. Why.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: That is within the Department of Education Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I understand that and also in the numbers we have 1999/2000 and then 1999/2000. We seem to be talking about the same things here. But, under one 1999/2000 it says 196 thousand and under the same heading of 1999/2000 it says 165 thousand but they seem to be talking about the same years except the numbers are different. Could you clarify that.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: That's because it was revised over the course of the year, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, 706 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures 706 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Turning to page 4-9. Labour relations, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 892 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures 892 thousand. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The branch takes the lead role in negotiating collective agreements and defining governments needs and priorities. Is that what the money is for. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This branch is to provide support for those functions for dealing with all labour relations. It is with collective bargaining or internally for staff problems and issues. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page 4-9. Total expenditures, 892 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Page 4-10. Decentralization, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 3 million dollars. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. So this money is used for decentralization. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Is that the case Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. What about the smaller communities, is there any money set aside for the smaller communities that are not going to get decentralized positions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. No, Mr. Chairman not under this category. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. So this money is going for both the decentralised communities and the communities that aren't going to get any decentralised positions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes Mr. Chairman this is for staffing up the decentralised communities. For removal in, for severance pay for those who might have decentralised positions but choose not to relocate. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Total operations and maintenance, 3 million dollars.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total expenditures, 3 million dollars.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Distribution of budget, information item. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Again we have numbers that are segregated into separate regions. Are we going to see numbers that are for the whole of Nunavut instead of putting them in regions. I would like to see Nunavut wide numbers because it creates a conflict among the members when we have to fight as the Baffin, Kivalliq, and the Kitikmeot. But, anyway here there is 200 thousand, 200 thousand and 219 thousand under other expenses, and 11 million dollars 926 for headquarters. Why are the numbers like that. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. That is primarily due to the fact that the removal budget is at headquarters level. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Also I have a question regarding the compensation and benefits 428, 419 and 410 and 3 million 968 thousand for the headquarters. Could you clarify those numbers Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Because Mr. Chairman the three regional ones are the staffing levels at the regional offices and the headquarters is the headquarters staffing. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Because the numbers might be too small for the regions, is that why there is a huge increase in the quarters. Other expenses includes 11 million dollars. Does that mean there has been an adjustment this year following the numbers that came out in the previous years. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. It is because as I had indicated earlier there are other expenses for instance primarily all the removal dollars, the decentralisation dollars are all there under other expenses. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Page 4-11. Total operations and maintenance. Information item. We are on page 11. Information item. We will then go back to 4-3. Human resources program summary. Detail of expenditures, operations and maintenance. Total operations and maintenance, 17 million 770 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Total capital, total expenditures, 17 million dollars and 770 thousand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you agree that the Department of Human Resources is complete.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng and your officials, Deputy Minister Joe Kunuk and Corporate Services Manager, Sol Modesto. Thank you.

Members, the status of tabled document 96-1(3) is complete. Are you agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Like I mentioned before 96-1(3) is complete, agreed. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The committee agreed that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will be the next item to discuss the main estimates. Perhaps after the presentation to the committee of the whole by the Premier there will be a report by the committee.

Chairperson (interpretation): Department of Intergovernmental Affairs, Mr. Premier.

Department of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs: Premier's Opening Remarks

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Good afternoon.

I am pleased to be presenting for your review the 2000/2001 budget for the department of the executive and intergovernmental affairs. Approval of this budget will allow us to continue to work on many individuals and to begin new initiatives which is consistent with our 5 year government mandate as outlined in the Bathurst Mandate.

You will recall from our business plan that the Department of the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has several aspects as part of its mission:

- to provide advice and administrative support to cabinet and the Nunavut Government;
- to ensure that the NLCA and Nunavut's relationship with other governments in Canada and the circumpolar world support common goals;
- to compile and communicate information for today and the future; and
- to audit and evaluate government programs and data.

The department has also been sponsoring through planning and implementation, government initiatives identified in the Bathurst Mandate, including: the Decentralisation Secretariat and Maligarnit Qimirrujiit. Other new initiatives include support for the Nunavut Power Corporation through the establishment of a steering body, the Nunavut Power Corporation Implementation Secretariat.

In essence, the role of the Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is to build consensus, seek political direction, communicate that direction, collect, analyse and provide information to the government and to the public and to provide co-ordination and leadership for the public service. It is important to note that the department has no capital expenditures in this new budget.

In response to the implementation of several key governmental initiatives the budget for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has increased by 3.6 million dollars to total of 11.3 million dollars.

- 1) Over seventy percent of the budget increase is directly related to the creation of the Nunavut Power Corporation Implementation Secretariat, 2.6 million dollars, that is designated to create an independent Nunavut Power Corporation. Our government has taken a huge step forward in establishing an independent power corporation and these funds will support the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation and his team in designing and implementing a plan to ensure that electrical energy is supplied and delivered in Nunavut by NPC on April 1, 2001.
- 2) The budget of the Decentralization Secretariat in Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is for salaries, 5 PY's and O&M. The Decentralization Secretariat's budget is higher this year only because it covers a full twelve months instead of the 7 month period covered by last year's budget.

The Decentralization Secretariat has made significant progress in a short time frame and I will outline some of this progress:

- Comprehensive costing analyses have been completed and this was the basis for the total recommended budget for this fiscal year of 5.2 million dollars,
- Of this total budget 2.2 million dollars was allocated to Public Works for departmental relocation and the purchase of furnishings and systems. Human Resources will receive 3 million dollars to fund personnel related expenses such as training and development, staffing and relocation expenses,
- The departments identified for decentralization over the next three years are currently preparing customised implementation plans,
- A communication strategy is in process. The Mayors of the communities impacted by decentralization, Nunavut Arctic College, DIOs have received information on new positions to assist them in identifying potential training programs.

In addition to the above progress, this year's operational budget will allow the Decentralisation Secretariat to pursue the following objectives:

- The Co-ordination of the overall decentralization objective, approximately one-third of which will be implemented this year,
- To work closely with the Department of Human Resources, Arctic College and a number of other agencies to promote and assist in the development of effective training plans, to ensure that training opportunities are maximized at the community level, and
- To produce an information newsletter, which is in the planning stage and will go to the communities earlier this year.

3) The funding for the Directorate of Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs has increased due mainly to two important initiatives:

- First, Maligarnit Qimirrujiit will now be funded for an entire year.
 - Part of creating Nunavut was to make our laws relevant to Nunavummiut and that is why Maligarnit Qimirrujiit law reform was established in November 1999; it's mandate is to review the laws of Nunavut through community consultation, ensure that laws are consistent with values and needs of Nunavut.
 - This effort will require a great deal of work on the part of the members of Maligarnit Qimirrujiit as they have begun their community consultation to review some of the Acts.
- Secondly, the Directorate provides me with support on my Public Utilities Board portfolio. It is responsible for the regulation of energy utilities in Nunavut and through a special arrangement with the GNWT, functions as a joint board regulating both the east and the west until April 1, 2001. As part of the same effort that led to creating the Nunavut Power Corporation and Maligarnit Qimirrujiit, we will be undertaking a review of the Public Utilities Board.

4) The Intergovernmental Affairs branch budget has increased slightly due to a transfer of grants and contribution funding from the Directorate branch.

- The Intergovernmental Affairs branch is establishing a permanent relationship within Canada and abroad.
- Nunavut participates as an equal partner with all provinces in Canada when meeting with the Government of Canada. Each of our departments must participate effectively in these meetings and it is a major role for Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs to assist and co-ordinate this process.
- Our obligations to implement the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement requires a very close working relationship with NTI and the Clyde River Protocol was developed specifically for this reason. Our collective achievements to date include the recent development and implementation of the Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti policy.

5) Audit, Evaluation and Statistics funding increased to primarily address funding inadequacies from the previous fiscal year. This funding shortage would have led to problems in staffing positions required to perform specialized duties.

- This year will see the implementation of a Nunavut Household Survey conducted every two years starting in the fall of 2000.
- This branch has recently developed the first Nunavut Labour Force Survey and the latest population projections for Nunavut. Future work and partnerships with Statistics Canada and Statistics Greenland will ensure that adequate data is gathered to support government decision making.

Even encompassing all of the new initiatives undertaken by my department, the budget has seen a marked decrease:

1. The operations and maintenance budget across Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs was reduced by 4%.
2. The Nunavut Cabinet's budget which includes the Premier and seven Ministers has decreased by approximately 9%.
3. The Communications, Policy and Planning branch, responsible for the management and co-ordination of Cabinet operations saw its budget decrease as funding for the Leadership Forum was transferred to Community Government & Transportation and as the branch reassigned one of its positions to the Decentralization Secretariat in support of this Government's decentralization initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, these are the highlights of the Executive & Intergovernmental Affairs budget for 2000/2001. I would be pleased to answer any questions or address the comments of my fellow colleagues and their concerns. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Okalik. Mr. Akesuk, Chairperson's opening comments.

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

I am pleased to be able to make some opening remarks as we begin the debate on the 2000-2001 Main Estimates for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Over the past year, the Standing Committee has had an opportunity to meet with the Premier on a number of occasions. I would like to take a moment to highlight some of the issues of concern that we have had as a Standing Committee.

(interpretation ends) The first of these is decentralization. The Standing Committee recognizes the central role that the Decentralization Secretariat plays in ensuring government-wide co-ordination of decentralization initiatives. The Standing Committee reiterates its call that the Secretariat continue to provide timely and frequent information to communities on the status of decentralization initiatives, so as to help ensure that communities feel an integral part of the decentralization process as a whole.

With respect to the establishment of the Nunavut Power Corporation, the Standing Committee recognizes the need for solid interdepartmental co-operation in ensuring a smooth establishment of the NPC, given the various players with roles and responsibilities. Members will likely be seeking further detail on the 2000-2001 allocation of the Secretariat's \$2.6 million budget.

The Law Review Commission (*Maligarnit Qimirrujiit*) is another body that has government-wide responsibilities and is funded through the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' budget. The Standing Committee looks forward to reviewing the work of the Commission over the coming year, as it fulfils its 2-year mandate.

Communications is another area that falls under the jurisdiction of the Department. Members of the Standing Committee remain concerned that smaller communities are fully involved and informed of major government initiatives. Effective communication and consultation is an important part of the Government's mandate, and Members take a strong interest in how this is carried out.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee has taken note of the department's role in providing government-wide services as audit, evaluation and statistics. Members of the Standing Committee will likely seek further details on upcoming initiatives in these areas.

Finally, it is expected that the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut will present her first annual report during the next Session of the Legislative Assembly. The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has the lead responsibility for ensuring government-wide compliance with the provisions of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Members of the Standing Committee take an interest in progress made in this area.

Mr. Chairman, these are some of the general areas of concern that we have had as a standing committee. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Chairperson of the Standing Committee. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We will have to have a committee meeting this evening. We have agreed that we would like to report progress right after the opening statements. I move that we report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favour. Agreed. Sergeant-At-Arms if you would ask the Speaker to return please.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Puqignak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 13 and tabled documents 41 – 1(3), 61 – 1(3), 93 – 1(3), 95 – 1(3), 96 – 1(3) and 97 – 1(3) and would like to report that tabled document 95 – 1(3) and 96 – 1(3) are concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder. Mr. Premier. I believe that is the Premier's first opportunity to second this motion so, I am glad that we have given him an opportunity to do so. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Contrary. The motion is carried.

Item 21. First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Apologies, nobody picked that up. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of regular caucus this evening at half past six.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday, May 2nd

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

10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 13
 - Tabled Document 41 - 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 61 - 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 93 - 1(3)
 - Tabled Document 97 - 1(3)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Just before we close for the day I think the members will join me in wishing all the good people in Sanikiluaq speedy repairs to their power supply. I am sure Mr. Picco and Mr. Anawak are doing as much as they can to make sure there is not too much discomfort realized.

According to the authority vested in me by Motion 3 - 1(3), this House stands adjourned until Tuesday May 2, at 10.00 a.m.

Sergeant-At-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 5.45 p.m.*

