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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Amittuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday October 20, 2000

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: I would like to ask Mr. Iqittuq to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (Mr. O'Brien): Good morning. Moving on to item 2. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 138 – 1(3): Community Tour – August 2000

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer I had the opportunity to visit a number of communities across Nunavut to meet with the residents who live there and listen to their expectations and concerns.

During the week of August 14, I was fortunate to visit Kugaaruk, Taloyoak and Grise Fiord. I was also to visit Qikiqtarjuaq but regrettably weather prevented me from doing so, but I would like to visit them some time in the future.

So, I would like to commit that in the coming months I will visit the residents of Qikiqtarjuaq. While in the communities I visited the Hamlet Councils and toured the communities, but most importantly I spent time with elders and listened to them about what they think we should be doing here in the Nunavut Government.

(interpretation ends) While in Grise Fiord I had the pleasure to join in the wedding celebration of Lena and Tommy Kalluk. While in Taloyoak I was able to go hunting with residents for caribou. Fortunately I was successful on the trip and was able to provide fresh caribou meat as a wedding gift to the couple.

(interpretation) During the tour I saw first hand both the potential and the need for economic development in the fields of tourism, harvesting and marketing.

(interpretation ends) We intend to work with the Department of Sustainable Development to include non-decentralized communities in the future of Nunavut. They must not be forgotten as other communities reap the benefits of jobs and economic opportunities that come with decentralization. This government must and will do more to assist these communities. We have the tools to assist their development and we have already begun to see this as a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Ministers' statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 139 – 1(3): Nunavut Power Corporation Implementation Update

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you know the Nunavut Power Corporation will begin operations on April 1, 2001. Today it is my pleasure to share with this Assembly some of the progress that we have made in setting up the Nunavut Power Corporation.

Over the summer I appointed and met with the first Board of Directors of NPC. They are Mr. Simon Merkosak of Pond Inlet, Mr. David Simailak of Baker Lake, Ms. Elisapee Sheutiapik of Iqaluit, Mr. Dennis Lyall of Taloyoak and Mr. Rick Blennerhassett the President of the NPC.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to join the first NPC Board meeting in September in Baker Lake. At that meeting the NPC Board of Directors approved a 2001/2002 NPC budget of 49.7 million dollars for operations and a capital budget of 7 million dollars.

I am also pleased to tell you that Nunavut is experiencing a higher than expected customer growth rate. Therefore, although NPC is effected by increased fuel prices like everyone else, our increased revenue projections for 2001/2002 will allow the NPC to absorb the additional cost of fuel without any impact on the charge to customers.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Blennerhassett and I have enjoyed the support and assistance of Mayor Jacob Ikinilik and the Hamlet Council and of course, Mr. McLean, to successfully set up our NPC head office in Baker Lake. It is now equipped and functioning in its new building.

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely pleased with the progress of our comprehensive training program underway in Baker Lake. As Mr. McLean mentioned in his member's statement on October 18, 15 trainees are now one month into the courses that will prepare them to assume head office positions ranging from Human Resources, Pay and Benefits, Purchasing, Accounts Payable and Billings.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Nunavut Power Corporation's approach to staffing the Baker Lake head office demonstrates a deep commitment to the principles of

decentralization in Nunavut and I want to commend NPC President, Mr. Rick Blennerhassett and Mr. Peter Scott, the Director of the Nunavut Power Corporation Implementation Secretariat, for their swift action on this important initiative.

Mr. Speaker, finally, I want to take a moment to recognize the vision and fierce dedication of Laura Gauthier to the development and the implementation of our Nunavut Power Corporation. Tragically Mr. Speaker, Laura passed away this summer. Much of what we have accomplished and what we will accomplish is because of her work and dedication. We are deeply grateful to her. She is deeply missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Minister's Statement 140– 1(3): Asuilaak - The Living Dictionary

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with great pleasure that I announce the launch of Asuilaak. Finally. It's here. The Living Dictionary.

(interpretation ends) In response to cultural needs for language preservation and promotion, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth have funded a unique project headed by Multilingual E-Data Solutions - Multedata.

As its interactive database invites users to discuss and make additions to word definitions, the Living Dictionary gives recognition to the celebration of Inuktitut diversity and language. It is a powerful tool for interpreters, translators, educators, Government of Nunavut staff and others interested in the active use of Inuktitut.

(interpretation) The user interface is displayed in three languages, Inuktitut, English and French and is accessibly in Roman Orthography and Syllabics.

(interpretation ends) The technological design of Asuilaak is a reflection of the evolving culture that surrounds an evolving language. It is keeping pace with the speed of the world's technological advancements. The Living Dictionary brings words and phrases used by our elders alive for our youth.

(interpretation) Asuilaak respects the words of our past, shares the words of today and recognizes the words of change we will speak tomorrow.

(interpretation ends) At this time I would like to invite Members of the Legislative Assembly to the Legislative Library from 4 pm to 5 pm for online demonstrations of the Living Dictionary. Together we will witness the power of communications sharing Inuktitut on the world wide web. www.livingdictionary.com will be a site dedicated to sharing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Ministers' statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 141 – 1(3): RCMP Drug Detection Dog

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the Legislative Assembly of a new program put into place by RCMP V Division here in Iqaluit. We have authorized the Commanding Officer to establish a drug detection dog position for Nunavut.

The commanding officer has selected an experienced officer who already resides in Iqaluit to take the drug detection dog handlers' course. The dog has been selected by experts in the field and is also undergoing training. We anticipate that the handler and the dog will be ready to begin their duties early in the new year.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important initiative in Nunavut. We are all aware of the easy access to drugs in Iqaluit and even in our smaller communities. We are also painfully aware of the terrible costs to individual Nunavummiut, their families and communities as the direct result of illegal drugs.

We must address the problem in a variety of ways. A drug detection dog is a strategy that has proved to be effective elsewhere and that the RCMP believe will also help in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) The duties of the handler Mr. Speaker, and the dog will involve drug detection 50% of the time, but I want to stress that the other 50% of their time will be spent doing educational presentations in schools and to concerned groups across Nunavut. These presentations will address all aspects of drug abuse and its prevention. These educational and preventative roles are extremely important. We must ensure that our children are made aware of the dangers of drug use and the ways in which they can avoid getting involved with drugs.

We believe that a specially trained police officer will be effective in this regard, especially as he will be accompanied by the dog. From the perspective of children in school, the dog will provide an added element of interest that will make the presentations more effective.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is a very important initiative being taken by the RCMP. It is critical that we educate Nunavummiut and work with them on preventative measures. This applies especially to our children.

Mr. Speaker, I feel especially confident that the drug detection dog will meet the highest standards and will carry out his duties in an exemplary manner.

I know that Mr. Speaker, because the dog's name is JACK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Ministers' statements. Ministers' statements. Item 3. Members' statements. Members' statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 443 – 1(3): Qallunaat Qaujimajatuqangit

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Uqaqti, I stand here today, and as today is Friday, and my colleague Mr. McLean, please don't think that I'm singling you out, I would like to say something that I find very funny.

I have many friends, it doesn't matter where they're from and yesterday I had the occasion and noticed that one of my colleagues had hair that turned white, and I asked him where the white hair came from and he told me that it came from Qallunaat Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter & applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 444 - 1(3): National Co-op Week & Credit Union Day

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the week of Oct. 15 to the 21st, as National Co-op Week. This week the co-operatives across Canada celebrate their contribution to Canadian society.

A co-operative system was established in the north just over 40 years ago, and Mr. Speaker I believe the Koomiut Co-op in Kugaaruk was the first legally incorporated co-operative then in the NWT.

Co-operatives have continued to contribute to the growth and development of many of our northern communities. There are currently 25 active co-operatives throughout Nunavut serving the commercial needs of the people.

Local staff have received business experience and training through these co-ops and over 12 million dollars annually Mr. Speaker, has been paid out in wages. Co-operative play a significant role in our northern economy from selling merchandise, building stores, and hotels through marketing arts and crafts, as well as being involved in investment and other ventures.

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong supporter of the co-operative movement and I encourage local efforts to establish and operate co-operatives in all communities across Nunavut. The co-operative system shares many of the basic principles that we know are key for the successful northern society, the principles of self help, self responsibility, and the spirit of co-operation. Co-operatives offer a really good example of northern community

empowerment by giving local consumers a role and voice in the business to provide them with services and supplies.

There are almost 10 thousand co-op members in Nunavut, representing roughly 38 % of our population. Nunavut co-op members have attended annual meetings, have voiced their ideas on how things were done, they served as directors and been employed as managers and staff. Mr. Speaker, coinciding with the celebration of National co-op week was the celebration of National Credit Union day yesterday, on the third Thursday of October, I look forward to the day that we will see an opening of a Credit Union type financial institution in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, I ask members to join me in recognizing National Co-op Week and National Credit Union day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Member's statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 445 – 1(3): Help for Stranded Inuit Hunters

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all we have something in front us that looks very nice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate the people of Gjoa Haven, my constituents. This past summer on September 4, there were some hunters stranded due to gale force winds. There were 11 of them and the winds went up to 80 kilometres an hour.

They had a 24 foot boat with a 115-horse power motor but the winds flipped the boat upside down due to the strong winds. No one was able to make contact with them and they were running out of food. No aircraft were able to supply with them with food because of the wind and the tides. When it is windy it is very difficult because it is an island they have to travel a great distance.

Mr. Speaker, therefore the people of Gjoa Haven started raising some funds to help the stranded people. They came up with about 2 thousand dollars so that the searchers could charter a plane to bring in supplies and they were able to get their supplies. The people of Gjoa Haven tried their best to help the hunters and for that, I wish to express my gratitude and congratulate them on their efforts to raise money.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit pulled together and helped each other even though they might not have adequate money personally, they tried to help any way they could. We are supposed to help our fellow Inuit. I hope that this kind of kindness will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 446 – 1(3): Traditional Songs by Elders Available on CD

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. In 1998, Martha Talerook was very concerned that the traditional music of Baker Lake would be lost when the older generations passed away. Martha Talerook, Sally Webster, Jean Simailik, Winnie Owingayak discussed what they could do to preserve the music. It was decided to meet with interested elders and suggest to them that they produce a CD of their music. Twenty-eight elders met and they were very excited about the idea.

Sally Webster and Winnie Owingayak organized practice sessions over a 2 month period. When they were ready a professional recording company came to Baker Lake and recorded their songs. From this recording session enough music was taped to produce both CDs that can be purchased at the Inuit Heritage Centre in Baker Lake.

Sally and Winnie interviewed each elder about their song, when they wrote it, what the meaning was, etc. From this, a report was produced which is in the research centre at the Inuit Heritage Centre in Baker Lake.

Mr. Speaker, profits from the sale of the CDs are shared between the elders who were involved with the project. This also shows that elders can be resourceful and profit motivated and this project is an excellent example of preserving a traditional culture and oral history. And on that note Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues from Clyde River and Cape Dorset will play these tapes instead of that rock and roll headache music that they have blaring all the time on the first floor. It is like having two noisy teenagers in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Laughter, applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Members' statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 447 – 1(3): Passing of Mr. Taparti

Honourable Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though elders pass away it is very nice to see projects such as these, especially when they produce something. They passed on their knowledge to us when we were growing up as teenagers.

I would like to congratulate my friend Taparti who passed away in Rankin Inlet. I believe he first started working at the mine when they had a mine there and then he went to Yellowknife to Lynn Lake to work in the mines there. He would bring his family. Then he returned to Rankin Inlet and he was working on different things. For example, he worked for the Hamlet as a by-law officer.

He did a lot of volunteer work in the community especially counselling on suicide prevention. There is a book on suicide prevention and he is quoted in there too. Taparti went through hard times because he lost two sons who committed suicide. They both committed suicide. As Inuit, our elders encountered the first ways of Qallunaaq. I was

very proud of Taparti because although he was an elder, he was involved in local politics. A couple of times when I was elected as the Member of Parliament he used to be my assistant. I would like approval to finish my statement Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Are there any nays. Please proceed.

Honorable Jack Anawak (interpretation): He also worked with the RCMP in Rankin Inlet guiding them. They put up a plaque to recognize him. He was almost mauled by a polar bear but fortunately, he was okay. In 1998, he went out hunting with his wife and an in-law and when they did not return a search party went looking for him. Apparently, he had hurt himself, had broken his pelvis and injured his head and was trying to return to the camp.

I am not sure what the exact details are but he made it as far as the kamotik. On March 12, 1998, unfortunately he passed away. I am very proud that he had gone out of his way to help people not just in Rankin Inlet but also in Repulse Bay. Therefore, I would like to send my condolences to his wife and their children and grandchildren and there are many more.

The reason I feel for this is because he was not hesitant to say anything and he was willing to help others who needed his help. He was a very kind man and we will always remember his words. We will not forget him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Anawak. Members' statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 448– 1(3): Inukjuak Music Festival

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about an event that occurred this past summer in Inukjuak, Nunavik, a music festival. While I was there, I told the people that during the fall session that we would have to publicly thank the people of Inukjuak, Nunavik.

Their music festival went very smoothly and everybody welcomed us. They all said that they also watch us on television over there, especially Emily Epoo. I hope she is watching, and her and her spouse are okay. Everybody is okay here and I was welcomed to make a small presentation and they recognized me as a minister in Nunavut. I was very happy that they treated me like that and recognized that I am a minister.

I would like to thank the Inuit. They are very intelligent and can overcome anything although they have gone through very difficult times. There are a lot of things that are available that can prevent us from leading a good life but we can overcome them. For those people who organized the music festival in Inukjuak, I thank them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Members' statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 449 – 1(3): World March of Women 2000

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday past I joined with over 50 women and men to participate in the World March of Women 2000. The marchers joined with thousands all over the world to bring forward principles of fairness and equity.

The marchers also sent cards to his excellency Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations asking the UN and its member states to take concrete action to eliminate poverty and ensure a fair distribution of the planet's wealth between rich and poor and between men and women.

Mr. Speaker, the marchers also asked the UN to help eliminate violence against women and ensure equality between women and men. Mr. Speaker, violence against women and equality for women needs to be addressed in a proactive way as demonstrated by the marchers here in Nunavut and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers of the walk and would like to present the marchers' banner, by their request, to you Mr. Speaker signed by the marchers to be displayed by this House in the lobby as an indication of our support, the Legislative Assembly, for women and the marchers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Members' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 450 – 1(3): Residents of Pangnirtung in Hospital

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning. Coming from Pangnirtung, we have two persons from my constituency who are at the hospital here, David Arnakaq and Elisapee Kunilusee.

I want to inform you that Elisapee Kunilusee is the sister of our Premier. On behalf of Mr. Okalik and myself, I want to extend our gratitude to the excellent staff of our Health & Social Services Minister Mr. Picco. The individuals I referred to are doing much better due to the great care given by the nurses. We hope that they will get well soon, and return to their families.

Turning to another subject, my colleague Peter Kattuk was talking about strong winds that were reaching up to 80 kilometres an hour, that is pretty strong but in Pangnirtung every month we have 80 kilometre per hour winds and sometimes they reach up to over 100 kilos an hour. With that in mind I will have a discussion with him about winds later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' statements. Moving on to item 4. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Premier.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to OQ 231 - 1(3): Nunavut Seat on Canada Post Board and Council

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, at the Northern Premiers' Forum last spring it was agreed that Nunavut would take the lead on insuring the appointment of a northern resident for the board of directors of the Canada Post Corporation. Since that time, on behalf of northerners in all three territories, I have met with and written to both Prime Minister Chretien and Alfonso Gagliano, the Minister for Canada Post, concerning this matter and indicating the need to have the board of directors reflect the entire country.

I'm pleased to announce that yesterday the Federal Government appointed Mickey Akavak formerly a resident of Kimmirut and now residing in Baker Lake, to the Board of Directors of Canada Post Corporation.

>>Applause

Mr. Akavak will bring a unique perspective to the Canada Post Corporation, and will be able to further the understanding of Canada Post to the needs of northerners, thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Premier. Moving on to item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I usually do not have anybody to recognize, but today I do. There are some people from Sanikiluaq who have come to visit their children here in Iqaluit at the handicapped care facility. One is my cousin Elijah Kavik and Annie Kavik, the person in the middle is my wife, thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although we have sessions in my riding, I rarely get the opportunity and the pleasure of recognizing visitors in the gallery from my constituency. Today I would like to recognize a constituent; a long time northerner and well read and writes weekly articles in our newspaper, Nunatsiaq News. Mr. Jim Bell is

with us here today. I would like to recognize him and welcome him to the legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery Mr. Bell. Hope you're in a good mood today. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to recognize the PPD staff from Rankin. Roy Green as everybody knows now who he is, he is a famous guy from the last session in Rankin and you guys should know him. Maybe everybody should shake his hand afterwards before my prices increase.

Gail Alexander is one of the other staff at the department there in Rankin. Also Dorothy Merritt who is also my cousin. Her mom is my mom's stepsister. They are from the PPD office in Rankin and are just passing through. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Just before moving on, today is Friday and although we have many important issues to discuss, it is also known to be one of our lighter days. You will note that in front of each member is a nameplate. Just a reminder that these are for your offices not for the chamber here. That is just a memento of your time here as a member and the family that we have here in this chamber.

I believe that everybody will find a nameplate with the exception of Mr. Picco. As you look down to your lower shelf Mr. Picco, you will find your nameplate.

>>*Applause, laughter*

Having said that, moving on to item 6. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 617 – 1(3): Nunavut Arts & Crafts Association Meeting

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not want to be first but thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we had a meeting here a couple of days ago I stated that I would be mentioning Nunavut artists. That is an issue that I will continue to keep bringing up. I know that this is not the only issue but it is still an issue up in the air.

I would like to ask the Minister of Sustainable Development about the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association. They will be holding a conference very soon during the Nunavut Arts Festival taking place in Rankin Inlet next month Mr. Speaker. I know this funding is

available both at the Territorial and Federal level for artists but they are having great difficulty accessing it.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister be able to attend this forum and use this opportunity to push forward a one-window approach for Nunavut artists to provide funding and information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Concerning your question about whether I will be attending this forum. I would like to take this opportunity to remind the member and my colleagues that the Nunavut Arts and Craft Association is funded by the Department of Sustainable Development for their operations and maintenance. As this is the case we have agreed that the Nunavut Arts and Craft Association is a stand-alone association and they have access to other funds outside of the Nunavut Government. It is up to the Nunavut Arts and Craft Association to access outside funds and since that is the case when I go to their annual general meeting I would like Nunavut Arts and Craft Association to run smoothly.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can recall there are also people I believe who are recognized. I think you know what I am referring to but I asked a question a few days ago about the Arts and Craft Association. They are not running properly at the community level. They are having a hard time accessing funds and marketing their crafts. As the Minister of Sustainable Development, you have stated that you will provide funding for the Nunavut Arts and Craft Association.

Mr. Speaker, since the minister is representing the Territory of Nunavut, he could possibly lobby on behalf of the artists so that they could be provided additional funds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have always stated as a rule that the Nunavut Arts and Craft Association should be well represented. We will be working closely with this association today and in the future. For your information, we are making changes in the way we work with the Arts and Crafts Association. We hope that they will be properly represented. Communication is a big part of this policy and in marketing crafts.

We are working closely with them. Gjoa Haven, Sanikiluaq, and Repulse Bay go to Toronto where they have a marketing outlet. But I think that our department will properly support each community in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also thank you to the Minister of Sustainable Development for giving his full support. Since the creation of the Nunavut Government, we know that the Nunavut communities, and especially the smaller ones, are having a hard time selling their arts and crafts. We have very famous carvers out there in the communities but I am concerned about the rural carvers who have no proper facilities.

They work outside to feed and clothe their families because they have no proper facilities. Because of that the Nunavut Government through the Department of Sustainable Development should be giving them their full support. We have to work very closely together to get proper facilities for the carvers.

I myself was a carver before I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly and I will keep lobbying on behalf of the carvers out there in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was more of a comment than a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Just a reminder that members should try to keep their preambles short even if they are comments. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 618 – 1(3): Timing of Negotiations for Mineral Accord

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. I am really pleased with the response from the Premier on the Canada Post appointment, like holy cow, I didn't expect the Federal Government to respond to us that quickly. They never have in the past so maybe this is a new beginning.

On a more serious note Mr. Speaker, I am always concerned about revenue in this territory. We don't seem to be attracting enough outside revenue to put into our own coffers to make us self-sustaining. For this territory to grow and prosper we have to bring in outside dollars. Being an ex-businessman and still a businessman, my question today is to the Minister of Finance.

I have brought this topic up in the House a couple of times. My question to the minister today is, in his budget speech the minister committed to pursuing a devolution agreement with the Federal Government to give Nunavut greater powers to control its own natural resources. Could the minister tell us how far this initiative has progressed to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to date we have been working, Government of Nunavut officials have been working with NTI officials and some from the Federal Government in trying to lay out a framework and identifying issues and putting together what those issues are.

The plan would be to move on from there once that is clarified and there is some agreement to try to establish a time frame to move on into some more substantive negotiations. That's the process. That's where we are at now Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. As Minister Thompson declared in her statement the other day that there was over 350 million dollars in mining opportunities or revenues generated in Nunavut last year, that caught me by surprise. I want to pin the minister down a time frame. I know the old GNWT was working at trying to get a Mineral Accord with the Federal Government and I know there is an election looming on the horizon here, it is no big secret.

But could the minister be more precise, I know there are other parties involved like NTI, but is it going to be this year, next year, 10 years from now. Can we expect to see it in the foreseeable future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that is being identified and it hasn't been resolved yet from the perspective of any concrete agreement, or even quite frankly at the level of our cabinet, is the actual time frame of when we would want to try and reach an agreement. When we would try to have implementation if that agreement were to be finalized.

So those are the issues, as I had indicated earlier Mr. Speaker, those issues have been identified. As we get closer to finalizing an options paper a decision will have to be made at that time on how aggressive we want to be given all the other factors of trying to continue to move on in establishing a government and addressing the issues that we continue to meet in continuing to try to meet the demands of our constituencies at large Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it is a monumental task to do something like this and stream negotiations and I am still trying to get an answer out of the minister if it's a year from now, two years from now or three years from now.

On that topic, when we redo our formula financing agreement with the Federal Government will this be a factor in our renegotiations with them if they sign some kind of Mineral Accord. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that's obviously a factor and they are connected but it's a matter of which one would precede the other. I can say from

a personal perspective as the lead minister responsible, I am not trying to be vague answering the question about timing, because it is a very complex matter. From the perspective of being the lead minister, my intention to my cabinet colleagues would be to try to have the framework of the negotiations completed before the end of the mandate of this government to allow for an orderly transition laid out for the next government coming in as far as assumption of any of those responsibilities.

Now I don't know if my colleagues would think that is not aggressive enough but again it is a matter of timing, resources and expectations and being able to deliver on those expectations, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Question 619 – 1(3): Inuit Liaison Officer with RCMP

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Justice. On April 26 of this year the minister made a statement saying that he will be creating a position that will be a liaison between the RCMP and the Inuit. This officer would be giving advice to the RCMP on Inuit traditional culture and values.

Could the minister tell us how far they have gone on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize because I cannot give you a direct response to your question. I can tell you that we have a very close working relationship with the RCMP. We are working with the RCMP to look at how they can better operate within Nunavut. It has to be an ongoing relationship and I know that Chris Bothe has worked very hard to ensure that the RCMP and the Inuit are closer together.

Mr. Chris Bothe will be leaving us soon and there will have to be a replacement for his position. I have also stated that the Commissioner of the RCMP and I had a meeting recently to make sure that we have an ongoing close working relationship between the RCMP, our department and the Inuit.

I apologize that I cannot give you a direct response to your question but I will be taking this as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Minister Anawak. The question is taken as notice. There will be no further supplementaries. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 620 – 1(3): Changes to P3 Approach

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Finance I believe. Mr. Speaker, in the minister's budget address last

March, he stated that Public Private Partnerships or P3 are an example of a resourceful approach to addressing our capital needs and that the P3 process represents a valuable financing vehicle for major infrastructure projects in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister of Health indicated that the Government of Nunavut has moved away from the P3 concept. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance why there seems to be an about turn in looking at this approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as members know we were trying to finance the new health facilities using a public private partnership approach. At the time we were aggressively pursuing that. Subsequent to that budget speech Mr. Speaker, there was some changes in the accounting and reporting relationships for public private partnerships that were pointed out by the Auditor General to our staff.

In reviewing the circumstances, really there were two things I guess. First of all, there was no perceived long-term advantage for us in continuing to pursue public private partnership financing concept that would differentiate between conventional capital leasing arrangements. So we have made a decision, basically to go back to more conventional methods of financing in respect to those three health facilities and any future capital facilities that might be provided by the private sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the minister's comments that it was pointed out by the Auditor General that we are really not able to do that I take it. I am just wondering Mr. Speaker, last spring the government announced that it had entered into a P3 agreement to build a health facility in Arviat. I was just wondering if there was any effect or any changes that are going to have to take place on that existing project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes I believe that we are terminating that project now, sorry Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, no we don't think there will be an impact given that when we entered into the agreements on the Arviat health facility at that time it was our understanding that it met all the criteria for the public private partnerships and it was signed off prior to any of these changes from the accounting profession. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. I am not sure if you have any supplementaries left there Mr. Tootoo. Please proceed.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No Mr. Speaker, I am in no way trying to say let's not go ahead with that, I was just wondering if there were any technical changes that may be necessary as a result of the recent decision.

I guess I am just wondering, the minister stated that there were some changes made after the agreement was signed for the health facility in that community. Mr. Speaker, what were those changes that we weren't able to use that method on the newer facilities that we are looking at.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there were changes implemented by the Public Service Accounting Board of Canada, which I believe is a association that governs accounting procedures and reporting that type of thing. Not being a fully fledged accountant I could not speak to what those technical changes were.

But, I can if the member wants I can provide that information but basically as a layperson, the change meant there was no difference in structuring a Public, Private Partnership versus a capital lease. The capital leases through governments are allowed to be amortised over a longer period of time over the useful life of that asset versus having to charge it out in the year of assuming responsibility for that asset.

Basically it allows governments not just ours, to use a method similar to basically what is in the private sector now. Being able to amortise over a longer period your capital assets. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his response. I would like to ask if he could please provide us with at some point in the future, a briefing on why those changes were made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be more than glad probably in the upcoming business plan and budget reviews that will be taking place in a couple of weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 621 - 1(3): Support for Community Health Committees

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Health & Social Services.

The regional health boards have been dissolved at this time. We now have committees and they were given some funding, 5 thousand dollars I think. My question is to the Minister of Health & Social Services, at the committees at the community level, is there some kind of support at this time. What are their responsibilities. I would like to ask the Minister if he could explain where you are at now with the training of committees at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, similar to the education councils that were on the ground within the Department of Education after the integration of the education boards. The Department of Health & Social Services felt that a similar organization, a similar set-up should be created and this was the Committee of Council. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the member who chaired the health committee which supported us in setting up those councils.

The training has been on-going Mr. Speaker. Right now we have just completed, for example, training sessions in four high Arctic communities; Grise Fiord, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and the home community of the Member of Pond Inlet. Training was given on advocacy issues, on confidentiality issues that the committees would be dealing with.

The second part of the member's question Mr. Speaker, on the 5 thousand dollars that was allocated to Hamlets for the community health committees. There has been an indication from several of the mayors that 5 thousand dollars was not acceptable. Mr. Speaker I accepted that. So what I did, what I intend to do Mr. Speaker, is to review the 5 thousand dollar amount as I stated to the Mayors and again two weeks ago when I met with the mayors in Iqaluit. To review that amount to see indeed if it provides the logistic as well as administration and financial needs of the committee at the local level. And if it does not we will review it. Mr. Speaker, that would form part of our business plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister of Health and Social Services say how much authority these committees will have, according to their terms of reference. How much authority will these community health committees have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco

Mr. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as the members know, in consultation with the Standing Committee of Health of this Assembly, the terms and draft terms of reference for the committees on health, which are attached to the Hamlets was tabled with the members.

Also Mr. Speaker when we went forward with the process and in consultation with the mayors the terms of reference for the committees were actually given to the Hamlets themselves, at that time. The authority of the committees comes from their designation by the Hamlets, because they are committees of council. That is why, Mr. Speaker, the money to help administer the Health committees has been given to the Hamlets.

Their terms of reference outline their authority, and their authority deals with advocacy issues, Mr. Speaker, deals with promotional issues of health, deals with other issues of social services at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, hiring, recruitment and so on, still is maintained by the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): They have committees at the community level, have you already planned to get staff in place for them, some time in the future. Do you have that in place in your plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, most of the administrative support that has been given to the committees to date, has come from the Hamlets, as I said earlier, they are committees of council. The Hamlets have provided the administration support, the five thousand dollars that was originally put forward for the committees, was to be used for honorarium, to pay the members of the committees, sub committee of council, or it could be used for administrative support.

Mr. Speaker in some cases some of the Hamlets have not even accessed the five thousand dollars for the honorarium, they have used it for the administrative support, for the committees and that Mr. Speaker is purely at the discretion of the Hamlet.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services has not given the administration support at the Hamlet level for the committees, but we have spoken Mr. Speaker, about providing administrative, legalistic as well as some the advocacy and confidentiality issues workshops, for the committees so they can be able to get up and run. For example, in Cambridge Bay they have now 11 members on the committee.

As you know Mr. Speaker, like the members of the House know, the committees are a voluntary committee, the Hamlet has in each case asked people to sit on it, on those committees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Oral questions. Mr. Havioyak

Question 622 - 1(3): Education Capital Projects

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Education a question about 2000 – 2001 capital projects.

In April people were happy when the budget was approved for 600 thousand that was to be used for education in Kugluktuk. Six hundred thousand dollars was made available in April. But this summer we heard that the money was not used. What is the status of the funding. I am wondering what happened to the money. It was completely finished. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible For Education, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we were unable to complete this task this fiscal year. We are planning for the upcoming year and we wanted to utilize the funds for others because we were unable to complete the project. We did not completely stop it, we just deferred it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He said it is not completely done yet. I did not understand when this is going to be starting up again. When we can access this. When can we try to access this for the people of Kugluktuk. I did not quite understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this budget was already approved so it has been deferred until the next fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Supplementary.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, now I know. I would like to know if the minister had said the money was allocated towards something else. Are there any other problems like this. Sometimes it is hard to access it in the same year. It was to be used over two years. Is that going to be moved to one year. I would like clarification on that. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes it takes a while to get some projects going. If we have the funding available then we will be taking on that project again. However, we have allocated some funding for future projects and we have just deferred this project for one more year. That is our plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is this going to be deferred to one year. I did not hear it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, we will be taking on this project again some time this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 623 – 1(3): Recruitment of Nurses

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, I directed a question to the Minister of Health & Social Services. I wish to ask the minister what kind of plans we have for recruiting nurses in the communities, and has the minister looked in to seeing why we have such a shortage of 35 nurses in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the members know over the past several months now, and not just here in Nunavut but across the country indeed, in North America, there's a pandemic shortage of nurses. Now after saying that the Government of Nunavut over the past 16 months has moved aggressively to look at recruitment and retention issues and several initiatives we have done have started to bear fruit.

Mr. Speaker, as an example last month I met with the President of the NWT Registered Nurses Association, which also represents the nurses here in Nunavut to discuss why they think we're having a problem with recruitment as well as retention. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Health and Social Services I put together an action team on recruitment and retention.

Mr. Speaker, the report was given to me in August in Kugluktuk, I accepted the report, and it has an opportunity phase within it, 22 recommendations for recruitment and retention. Mr. Speaker, I've accepted every one of these recommendations. We also just completed Mr. Speaker, a national recruitment drive in the south where we had recruiters trying to hire nurses for us, in southern Canada; we were quite successful there.

Mr. Speaker, as the members are aware, we have hired internationally, we've gone to Australia, Mr. Speaker we were successful there, we're also in the Philippines right now hiring nursing staff. Mr. Speaker, on all those issues two weeks ago in Winnipeg, as the Minister of Health and Social Services I, along with my Provincial and Territorial colleagues, addressed a National Health Human Resources strategy, that was announced which deals with Nurses as well as other medical professionals.

Mr. Speaker that is another component of the recruitment and retention drive that we're on. As well Mr. Speaker, we moved forward on the bonuses that were paid out in the past and Mr. Speaker with the support of this House, we've started our own Nursing Program, where we've been turning out Registered Nurses. I should also add Mr. Speaker, that all nurses working in Nunavut are certified nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was, are we still having a problem recruiting nurses into the communities. Is it possible to get some more nurses in the communities. The reason why I am raising this question is there does not seem to be any difference in my community when it comes to nurses and staffing of nurses. Can the minister elaborate a little bit more on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an example, Mr. Speaker, in the community of Hall Beach, we have 2.5 PY allocations for nurses, we have two there right now, one is indeterminate, one is filled on a casual position basis.

Mr. Speaker, the member has a good point, and the point is, how do we fill the number of nursing positions that we need. We talked about in this House earlier how we had gone down from at one point, X number of operational beds in the hospital; we're down to eight beds now. So all of the strategies I just talked about, Mr. Speaker, the 22 recommendations of the nursing recruitment and retention, going nationally and internationally hiring and recruiting nurses as well as trying to bring forward market rates and bonuses and so on, is to be able to recruit Mr. Speaker and also to retain our nursing staff and the nursing complement.

The member has a good point when he was saying he has not noticed anything different at the community level. But Mr. Speaker, what we have seen is that with the success that we've had nationally and when these people that we have hired come into the system we should be able to bring the numbers up.

So Mr. Speaker, I think we have done quite a bit over the past several months to recruit as well as to try to retain. Some of the recommendations Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of translating it so I can bring it forward to the House and I will also bring it forward to the Standing Committee on Health so that they can give me some assistance and ideas on recruitment and retention issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplementary question pertains to the nurses in Hall Beach. If one decided to leave the community would the department have difficulty in getting a substitution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we should point out as an example this summer we probably had one of the most serious crisis situations with the nurses and nursing staff. Mr. Speaker, we never closed one nursing station in Nunavut. In the Northwest Territories as an example and other jurisdictions hospital beds have been closed. Indeed, I think there were three or four centres that closed in the Northwest Territories. Health & Social Services in Nunavut did not do that.

In the member's case he asked if a nurse left the position would we be able to fill that position. Mr. Speaker, we would be as expedient and expeditious as possible to try to fill the position that was left. As I said earlier Mr. Speaker, at the present time 2.5 positions have been allocated for Hall Beach. One is filled with an indeterminate staff, a full time employee for the Nunavut Government. The second position is a casual and the .5 position is for a casual until February 2001.

So, Mr. Speaker, the community is covered off. If a person left, we would be expeditious to try to hire a person or have someone in the wings to bring in. Another thing to add Mr. Speaker, if I may just very quickly, since the integration of the health boards we have been able to shift resources. If I have five extra nurses in Baker Lake and I need an extra nurse in Hall Beach, we have been able to move those nurses around. I am also now in discussions with the Government of New Brunswick to see if there is an opportunity to bring up local nurses. Mr. Speaker, I have also had some conversations with other jurisdictions about covering up. Mr. Speaker, I think we have been progressing aggressively and doing what we can as a smaller jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Final supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the minister's response. This will be a short question. I am trying to ask the minister if one of the nurses decided to leave a community would a replacement be immediately available. For instance if a nurse decided to leave a community would the minister's department be able to get a replacement for the nurse right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been informed by my colleagues in the House looking around that members would like to get a real response and the real response Mr. Speaker, is if the person left then I as minister and staff would move

quickly to fill that position as fast and soon as possible. The reason Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is a funny thing, but it is not fair to leave one nurse in a community by themselves.

That's one thing when I met with the Nurses Association a month ago that they raised. So yes Mr. Speaker, this government would move as quickly as possible to replace that position. I thank the Speaker and the member for their indulgence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Question 624 – 1(3): Tabling of Public Accounts

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Could the Minister of Finance inform the House whether the first set of public accounts of Nunavut will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the deadline of December 31. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they will be available before December 31. I can't ascertain whether we will be sitting on December 31 but obviously they will become public information. I do plan to do a presentation and a statement on our current financial situation early next week on Tuesday, Mr. Speaker. In the next session. Thank you.

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

Question 625 – 1(3): Employment for Youth of Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. We know that all of us in our communities have problems finding work when you do not want to leave. In Kugluktuk they need to find work. People in Kugluktuk try to help them but there are still problems so I would like to ask the minister this question.

Will there be positions going into Kugluktuk to help some people. How will he be addressing helping the young people find jobs. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very good question from the member for Kugluktuk. We are all aware that in the communities there

are different groups and there are elders' committees, youth groups and we encourage them to work well together.

I agree with him that they need all the help that they can get. So in the communities in Nunavut we encourage these groups to get assistance from different organizations and I talked to the member about going to the Kitikmeot, going to Kugluktuk and I was looking at meeting with the elders' committee. We will be doing this in December to make some time to meet with the youth in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Minister Kattuk. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 626 – 1(3): Applications for Heritage Centre Funding

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I would like to ask the minister, as all members are aware there was half a million dollars approved in the budget for capital funding for heritage centres across Nunavut. I would like to ask the minister how good a response, or if they received any applications for that funding over the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money that was approved for the heritage centres I would like to be able to respond very clearly. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth, I would have to get the information from them to see what was proposed and I will get back to the member with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just for a point of clarification. I believe the minister took this as notice. There will be no further supplementaries. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 627 – 1(3): Advertisements for Doctors

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health & Social Services. He stated earlier that they look for nurses to recruit outside of Nunavut. If I was a doctor are there job opportunities available in different places for doctors to look into finding jobs in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Health & Social Services. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understood the question correctly, the question to my understanding was, are there opportunities for doctors to work here in Nunavut, or is there recruitment of doctors for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes. As the member knows we do have reciprocal arrangements with several different southern jurisdictions that provide in some cases

medical services to us through physicians' contracts. Those contracts are also covered off by the Northern Insured Health Benefits, the NIHB.

In Iqaluit as an example, we do have resident-based physicians and Mr. Speaker, as you know we do have a resident based doctor in Pond Inlet. We are Mr. Speaker, as we are trying to recruit nurses we are at the same time, where needed, trying to recruit physicians and doctors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you minister. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would he be able to give me a letter or written documentation showing what kind of advertisements they have in the paper. For instance in the south he stated that they are looking at recruiting nurses outside of Canada. Would he be able to give me advertisements showing these recruiting opportunities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we could make that available to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Picco for that precise answer. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 628 – 1(3): Outreach for Culture, Language, Elders & Youth

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be directing my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. I would like to ask if in looking into the information that he committed to earlier if he could also include the type of outreach that the department did in ways of informing the public in communities as to how they can obtain or apply for funding as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be able to provide him with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, minister. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 629 – 1(3): Number of Staffing Appeals to Human Resources

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Human Resources. How many appeals have been given by the Nunavut Employees Union. How many appeals have been given by the Nunavut Employees Union within the past six months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is a very technical question. Mr. Speaker, my information shows since April 1, 1999 there have only been sixteen appeals launched and of those, three were successful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 630 – 1(3): Special Day to Recognize Elders & Youth

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth. Looking at the days that are designated for mothers, fathers, and so on. My question is, are they looking at designating days to recognize youth and elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very good question. In the past, this has been a concern within communities. People have brought this to our attention. The people feel that it is very important that the youth are recognized. There are days within the year to recognize youth. It would be very helpful for the youth to feel important. I agree with his recommendation. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Kattuk. You will note the time is up for Question Period. Following the basketball rules if the question is already in the air then we will allow the member to continue. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a very brief question if you would give me the opportunity Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Yes Mr. Puqiqnak you have a supplementary.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): I am getting a little bit confused here. My question, maybe I didn't understand the answer and I do not know whether he responded or not. I am trying to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth about whether they are going to be designating a day for youth or elders.

As you know we have mothers' day or fathers' day where the children celebrate their parents. I am very pleased when my children celebrate fathers' day and give me presents. It gives you an uplifting feeling. So my question is could we designate a youth day similar to mothers' day or fathers' day. Do you have any plans to designate a day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In responding to your question on whether we are planning to designate a youth day, I don't know, but I do know that at the international level we have days that are designated and usually we celebrate them when they are international days. If you would like to recognize such days as this, like the youth day, we could think about it, whether it is for youth or elders.

It helps the people of these age groups and I think that each community should be given the opportunity to celebrate their youth or elders if they wish to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for your response. I find that you do not have any plans to designate a youth day. I think if I got your response it is up to the communities. I believe that you will be posing the question to the communities. Are you going to be sending them a letter about what they think about designating a youth day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not saying that I will be asking the question or posing the question to the communities. What I am saying is that each individual community, if they wish to do so, could celebrate their youth. If they do such things, they could inform our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Question period is now over. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: No I don't have any Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 8. Returns to written questions. Returns to written questions. Item 9. Petitions. Petitions. Item 10. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 11. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 12. Tabling of documents. Tabling of documents. Mr. Ng.

Item 12: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 111 – 1(3): GN Responses to Standing Committee Reports of Review Draft Department Business Plans & Previous Information on 99/00 Main Estimates

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to table in the Assembly the Government of Nunavut responses to Standing Committee Reports of the House from September '99, October '99 and spring of 2000. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 112 – 1(3): Response to Petitions 11 – 1(3), 12 – 1(3), 13 – 1(3)

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table responses to the following petitions; Petition 11 – 1(3), 12 – 1(3), 13 – 1(3). Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Item 13. Notices of motions. Notices of motions. Item 14. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 15. Motions. Item 15. Motions. Item 16. First reading of bills. Item 16. First reading of bills. Item 17. Second reading of bills. Item 17. Second reading of bills. Item 18. Consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. As there are no items in the committee of the whole we will proceed to the next item.

Item 19. Report of committee of the whole. Item 20. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk would you ascertain if the Commissioner is ready to enter the chamber.

Prorogation of Third Session

Commissioner Irniq (interpretation): Good morning Mr. Speaker, Premier Okalik, Members of the Legislative Assembly. I am very pleased to conclude the Third Session of the Legislative Assembly. The Fourth Session of the Legislative Assembly will commence on Monday October 23, 2000.

Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Returning to the orders of the day. Item 21. Mr. Clerk.

Item 21: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Monday October 23, Fourth Session;

1. Prayer
2. Opening Address
3. Ministers' Statements
4. Members' Statements
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Petitions
9. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

10. Tabling of Documents
11. Notices of Motions
12. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
13. Motions
14. First Reading of Bills
15. Second Reading of Bills
16. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Clerk. Before we conclude for the day a few announcements. I would like to remind members of the presentation of the Living Dictionary in the Assembly's Library starting at 4 p.m. today. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Also tomorrow, Saturday, the unveiling of the official Nunavut symbols which will be on display here in the foyer at 2 p.m. We would also strongly encourage all members to attend these events. Also if members would join me in the members' lounge following our meeting today.

The House will adjourn until October 23 at 1.30 p.m. Thank you.

Sargeant-At-Arms

>>*House Adjourned at 11.57 a.m.*

