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Baker Lake

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Nattilik)
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Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
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**Baker Lake, Nunavut
Tuesday June 3, 2003**

Members Present:

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Jack Anawak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Donald Havioyak, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irqittuq, 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, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, members, Mr. Premier. For members information I've authorized CBC to have their cameras in here for the next 30 minutes. Be prepared and be alert. I also have a letter from the commissioner of Nunavut that reads as follows:

I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following Bills during the session of the first Legislative Assembly. Bill 38 – Supplementary Appropriation Capital No. 1, 2003/2004. Signed by the Commissioner of Nunavut, Peter Irniq.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 164 – 1(6): Power Rates

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform members of the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut that the Government of Nunavut will freeze power rates until the beginning of next fiscal year on April 1, 2004.

>>*Applause*

In doing so the Government has rejected both the request of the Nunavut Power Corporation for 10 cents per kilowatt hour as well as the Utility Rates Review Council recommendation of 7.5 cents per kilowatt hour, fuel stabilization rider. This action was taken after a detailed review of the Utility Rates Review Council decision and consultations with affected power users.

Mr. Speaker, the decision was made with careful consideration of the financial viability objectives of Nunavut Power Corporation and its ability to deliver affordable and reliable power to our consumers.

Mr. Speaker, we took this action after taking a close look at the numbers when considering a recent request by Nunavut Power Corporation for a temporary increase. We were not satisfied that the numbers were full and complete.

We also considered the human side. We heard from concerned electricity users. They said a temporary increase would hurt our growing economy and would cause personal hardship.

Mr. Speaker, our newly created Qulliq Energy Corporation needs time to establish itself and come up with ways to reduce energy consumption, improve efficiency, encourage conservation and find alternative energy sources. This will reduce the cost pressure on power bills on the future.

We also need to get a fuller picture of the true costs of electricity before approving new power rates, temporary or otherwise. That's why we have asked Nunavut Power to provide us with verifiable financial information every three months.

In addition, during this financial year, Nunavut Power will become a fully functioning subsidiary of Qulliq Corporation, freeze discretionary capital and operating commitments and expenditures, develop a General Rate Application proposal that includes redesigned power rates, design an Affordable Energy Fund, and Develop an implementation plan for affordable and predictable rates.

This action plan underlines our commitment to provide Nunavummiut with reliable electricity supplies at the lowest prices.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is also committed to establishing the best methods for tracking the real costs of supplying energy to Nunavummiut and controlling these costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. McLean.

Motion 022 – 1(6): Minister's Statement 164-1(6) to Committee of the Whole

Mr. McLean: Mut'na, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to rule 34 (5) I move seconded by the Honourable member for Iqaluit Center that Minister's Statement 164 – 1(6) be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Minister's Statement 164 – 1(6) will be moved into Committee of the Whole. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 165 – 1(6): Nunavut Tourism Strategy

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to say hello to my wife and children. (interpretation ends) I am very pleased to inform members that Nunavut Tourism and the Department of Sustainable Development have developed a Tourism Strategy for Nunavut that I will be tabling later today.

The strategy, "A Strategic Plan for Tourism Development in Nunavut", outlines how and where key investments should be made. These areas include attractions, exhibits, accommodations, product development, marketing and training and development of our labour force.

In developing the strategy, the current situation was analysed and industry, government and tourism delivery agents were consulted on what was needed to bring Nunavut to a level that was competitive with the other territories. Based on all of this analysis and consultation, a strategy was developed. The strategy provides recommendations on specific programs and activities, timelines, responsibilities of partners, cost estimates and potential funding agencies.

The strategy outlines how to effectively tap into this growing sector and provide benefits for present and future generations. I believe Nunavut is one of Canada's most unique tourism destinations and it is my intention to build on this economic opportunity.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would also like to announce that Nunavut Tourism approved this strategic plan at their annual general meeting in Rankin Inlet in November 2002.

Mr. Speaker, the Conference Board of Canada has stated that tourism is one of the key building blocks of Nunavut's economic future. It has been singled out as one of the "four pillars" of economic growth.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I recognise that it will take key public investments to build our tourism industry. To convince our Federal partners of the values of these investments, we must show them the potential and that a strong foundation exists in this economic sector. We must also show we are committed to the growth of this sector. The Nunavut Tourism Strategy does all this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister Thompson.

Minister's Statement 166 – 1(6): Standardized Testing in Nunavut

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about an issue that has raised a lot of questions. Since I became the Minister of Education I have been asked about my position on Standardized Testing and whether or not I was for or against it.

Mr. Speaker, currently that is no way to determine if a grade 3 level is the same in all Nunavut communities. We can say the same about most grade levels.

We know that our teachers are trying their best to ensure all students are receiving the best education. However, they also need the tools to ensure education is consistent in all communities.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is unfortunate that a lot of good ideas and information were lost in the debate on this issue, particularly because there was very little consultation, discussion and general information circulated.

I would like to emphasize a couple of things that I believe in reference to Standardized Testing. As a former teacher and education consultant I believe that there must be methods to assess the progress of our students. Parents, teachers, education authorities and our department must work together as a team to develop a satisfactory method of assessing our progress in the classrooms. We want an education for our children that does not come second to any other territory or province when it comes to our children's future. Standardized benchmarks can be designed and implemented with our requirements and needs in mind.

Mr. Speaker, we want an education system that meets the needs of our children, their future and the future of Nunavut. We want our students to receive an education that is competitive and provides them with the tools to succeed anywhere in Canada.

We can design an education system incorporating our own values and traditions without harming the academics that our children need to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that all parents, teachers and Members of the Legislative Assembly want the best education for their children.

I am pleased to state that this work has already begun within the Department of Education. This year consultations will take place to ensure we are working together using the tools of the trade and incorporating our strengths as Nunavummiut. I commit to working with all those individuals, parents, students, teachers, school administrators and the District Education Authorities to see a world class education system in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 167 – 1(6): CLEY Update

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the new Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I am pleased to update this House on recent achievements and new initiatives of the Government of Nunavut through the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

In the March session, we heard about a significant advancement in coordinating Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in government; the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit was announced. Since then, I have been taking nominations for the Katimajit and departments have been hiring staff to sit on the intergovernmental support committee, Tuqtarvik. I will be announcing the appointments to the Katimajit later this month.

In March we also heard about two new cross-government working groups that will focus on language strategies to ensure that as a government we meet our Bathurst Mandate goals and our legal obligations for Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun. These two groups have been established and are preparing for the first meetings.

Mr. Speaker, building on a successful archaeology season last year, our Archaeology Program will be heading to Igloolik and Southampton Island, to assist communities in preserving and protecting historical resources. In July archaeology staff will travel to Coral Harbour, responding to a request from the community for expert advice on the possibility of designing a new territorial park in the area. Inspections in other important archaeology sites around Nunavut are also scheduled for this upcoming season.

To support youth, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has begun a series of workshops across the territory to speak with youth about their identity. These workshops are the planning phase of a Youth Identity Development Strategy aimed at developing pride and self-esteem through culture and language.

We are also gearing up a new program to collect and preserve oral histories by interviewing Elders across Nunavut. The project will start this month in Gjoa Haven, Cape Dorset and Whale Cove. These communities have been chosen as first priority because they have the smallest number of oral histories preserved to date. The program will be offered in six Nunavut communities in the coming year.

In addition to the new initiative I have outlined, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will continue to offer support to individuals and community based organisations by providing grants and contributions.

Mr. Speaker, The Government of Nunavut and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth wish everyone a safe and happy summer and much luck with the projects they will be perusing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Minister's Statements? Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 539 - 1(6): Leena Petersen Boarding Home

Mr. Havioyak (Floor): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will be raising an issue that I have frequently raised in our past sessions, or when we are in Iqaluit. The residents of Kugluktuk or the people of Kitikmeot for that matter, have concerns and are not satisfied with the (Floor ends here) (Interpretation) Leena Peterson Boarding Home in Yellowknife, it is not fulfilling the needs of our constituents. People are complaining that it is too small for the Kitikmeot communities.

Sometimes people from Kitikmeot communities find out that there is no room in the boarding home, so they have to be put into hotel rooms and sometimes they have to go to the Inn, the other native community boarding home located in Old Town.

We realize that they will be making a new hospital in Cambridge Bay and hopefully it will be completed next year.

I believe that until that health centre is built, I think that the boarding home in Yellowknife will be utilized until we have a health centre in our communities, by the Kitikmeot, but a lot of people will also be utilizing that boarding home for doctors' appointments and so on.

Some of the patients have to stay in that boarding home for quite a long time and there is nothing for them to do there. They get very bored because they have to stay there for quite some time.

They do not have facilities or recreational areas for these people to make their extended stay. Everybody knows how difficult it is to stay away from home and it is even more difficult if you are sick, but once Cambridge Bay has facilities being built, we look forward to its completion.

In the meantime, the boarding home will be used for quite some time because a lot of people still have to go for the doctors' appointments in Yellowknife. I will be bringing this issue later on sometime during this Session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Just to remind Members to try to stay to the two and a half minutes, if they require more, as the rules state, they should be asking for unanimous consent to conclude their statements. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 540 - 1(6): Storage of Cargo in Churchill Warehouse

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Kivalliq Region last winter, we did some scheduling of the sealift for the Kivalliq communities from Montreal for cargo and to deliver fuel supply and so on and we are happy as residents of the Kivalliq Region. But, some of the supplies go from Montreal to the port of Churchill before they are sent to the communities in the Kivalliq Region. There is a warehouse in Churchill and the supplies that are going to be shipped by sea are stored at that warehouse.

The danger that we saw right away is that the individual who operates the warehouse, if he does not have enough supplies stored in his warehouse, that he would bring the prices up for storage.

They are, in turn, raising the prices of consumer goods when they finally reach the communities. I just want to let Public Works and the Government know that the prices might go up for the consumers because of this issue of insufficient volume at that warehouse in the port of Churchill.

We have to look very carefully to make sure that the prices do not rise or the fuel price does not rise for the people of the Kivalliq Region. Later on, I will be asking questions regarding this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 541 - 1(6): Planned Renovation of Airport in Gjoa Haven

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Greetings to the people of Baker Lake. It seems like I came home and I am happy to see my relatives here. I also wish to extend greetings to the people of Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the planned renovation of the Gjoa Haven airport terminal building. This project is extremely important to my community and everyone who has visited Gjoa Haven can understand the necessity of the expansion.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the 2003-2004 Capital Estimates include funding to begin construction this summer. However, it is my understanding that the project is short by \$200 thousand dollars.

Mr. Speaker, on May 22, 2003, a design presentation was made to the Hamlet Council. The Hamlet Council is looking forward to the timely completion of this project, but is concerned that the increased cost projections mean that it will not go ahead as planned.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet Council of Gjoa Haven is willing to contribute financially to this project and they have asked that I present them to the Minister. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Hamlet, the Department of Community Government and Transportation and the Government of Nunavut can cooperate to ensure that this important expansion will be completed this summer.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister of Department of Community Government and Transportation questions on this matter at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 542 – 1(6): Funding for Teacher Positions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Government's commitment to education and before I continue I would like to commend the Minister for her statement and I look forward to seeing some progress in that area and other areas that they are going to be mentioning here as well, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of this Legislative Assembly, I was very pleased that one of the four stated priorities of this Government, as expressed in the Bathurst Mandate, was continued learning. One of the specific objectives in that area was to improve student/teacher ratios Nunavut-wide. This is a worthy goal, one which I whole heartedly supported.

As the end of the school year draws near, here in some places preparations get underway for the 2003-2004 school year, we have been hearing concerns from the District Education Authorities from the Nunavut's most western community, Kugluktuk, to one of its most eastern communities in Iqaluit, that the number of teaching positions might be reduced in the upcoming year.

Yesterday, the Minister of Education made a no-layoff commitment and I applaud her for that. However, long-term challenges remain acute.

Mr. Speaker, information provided by the Minister of Education in response to my written question on March 19th, indicates that the number of students enrolled in Nunavut schools has increased by 588 students over the past four years.

This is an increase of 6% of the number of students since 1999-2000 and yet, at the same time period, there has only been 3% increase in the number of funded teaching positions, only 19 teaching positions since 1999-2000, despite the fact that almost 600 more students are in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, over a year ago, the Minister of Education tabled a discussion paper on funding options for Nunavut schools. It was the recommended to modify the student

funding formula with specific reference to lowering... Mr. Speaker, I wish to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement, are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was recommended modifying student funding formula with specific reference to lowering the student/teacher ratio, that objective is so nobly stated in the Bathurst Mandate.

The report went on to recommend that a minimum of 25 new teaching positions be added for the 2003-2004 school year, while the second option recommended that 60 new positions be added.

Mr. Speaker, there is no indication that the number of students in our classrooms will decrease during the coming school year. I am sure, in fact, that there will be even more. There is no indication that the recommendation for modifying the school funding formula had been taken into consideration.

It is clear to me, Mr. Speaker; the reality is a poor substitute for what Nunavut schools really need. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister responsible questions on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 543 – 1(6): Encourage Nunavummiut to Take Control

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the people of Nunavut and to my honourable colleagues here in the House. I need to talk about the things that are concerns for the people of Nunavut, especially for the people that have lived long in Nunavut are not in control of what their needs are.

Whenever there are people who are non-resident to Nunavut, when they come to up here they start controlling what we are supposed to do. I would like to say this to the people of Nunavut, to the adults and the Elders and the young people.

We now have our own government here in Nunavut and we should be in control of what we want to do. As for the people who are non-resident to Nunavut, I would not like them to control us because we can take care of our own affairs.

We can do whatever we want to do and we know what is happening in our own communities. Whenever some non-residents to Nunavut come into town, they assume the positions of higher jobs.

When we come in control and residents of Nunavut start to become leaders in our own land, we would like to be able to continue on with our traditional ways, together with

modern ways, in controlling our own affairs in our own land. We now have had our own government for 4 years. We do not want to bring up high technology right away into our communities; we want to control what we will use.

We have a lot of years ahead of us to make rules for our own use here in Nunavut and I encourage the young people to gain the skills to start controlling the government of Nunavut and their own communities. I would like to encourage them and I know you can do it because you have the technology and we can make our own laws without importing it from the southern regions. We can do it as the people Nunavut. If we were not residents here as Inuit, there would not be a Nunavut Government.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker: Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement, are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut should not just be submissive, but they should be in control of their own destiny. We should not be treated as people that cannot do our own.

So, for this reason, that is why I speak about things that are of concern to me and the people of Nunavut because I became a Member of the Legislature to help and to support the people of Nunavut.

I would like to say thank you very much to the people of Clyde River and Broughton Island that I am able to represent you here in this House and to voice your concerns in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 544 – 1(6): Standardized Testing in Nunavut

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe it is formal today, I do not know. I am standing up before you and I am very happy about what the Minister of Education said earlier and our students have to be prioritized because we are part of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, our students are very special to us and although they know a lot more English than we do, the education is very necessary and is needed very badly and I am very happy about the testing being done now.

There are many students who have dropped out. If they did not drop out, they would have benefited the people of Nunavut. Although they are going to school, they are not learning very much sometimes.

Maybe what I am saying is not true, but I know it is true in certain communities they each have a different way of teaching. I think the curriculum should be with the rest of Canada because we are using a different curriculum for testing in our community, the Alberta curriculum right now.

Alberta testing is the minimum and it is not too strong, it is not too weak and I am going to stress for our students to stay in school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 545 – 1(6): In Support of Collection of Stories from Elders

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what Hon. Peter Kilabuk has said earlier from Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, who has become a Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Minister now and what is expected by the people of Nunavut is, I am sure that he is going to do his best to work on what Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth wants.

Mr. Speaker, to clarify this more, because a lot of times it is said, the Elders are diminishing in number and they have not been taped and they have not been video taped. It is, although we are going to continue to have Elders because we are going to be Elders one day, my father has become 82 years of age and I am very, very happy about him and he knows about traditional knowledge that I am not aware of.

Regarding what Peter Kilabuk said earlier, I am very happy that the elders of Whale Cove are going to be interviewed, the Atuat's siblings, Aliaqtugaaq's, although they are not living in Whale Cove, I would like to be able to have them remembered and there are other families that will have to be remembered although they are not living in that community anymore, I am very happy about that and I expect that Sivviaq and her husband will interviewed in Whale Cove.

This is a very good beginning and I am very happy that Whale Cove will be included. I want Peter Kilabuk's staff to feel welcome when they get to Whale Cove and do their best to interview and I just wanted to say thank you to Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 546 – 1(6): Economic Development Strategy

Mr. McLean: Mut'na, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement is a bit shorter today, thank you. Mr. Speaker, it is a great day, again. Mr. Speaker, it is a great day, again, in Baker Lake, the sun always seems to shine and it is also a good day to talk about one of

my favourite issues, economic development. Mr. Speaker, as the weather grows warmer and the days grow longer, our thoughts turn to the land, the source of our wealth and well being.

Mr. Speaker, I spoke yesterday about our needs in the area of economic development. I spoke about the need for the Government to bring forward a strong mining strategy and a workable tourism strategy and I am glad that the Minister was going to table the tourism strategy today and I want to see a comprehensive economic development strategy formed.

Mr. Speaker, two years ago, the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, which I Chair, undertook community consultations on the future of tourism in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, we visited the communities from Kugluktuk to Gjoa Haven to Baker Lake to Pond Inlet to Hall Beach to Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, we held our hearings in Baker Lake in August 23rd, 2001. We heard from community residents here that tourism and mining are the backbone of local economy. We heard the concern expressed that Nunavut tourism is perceived represent the regional centres, not the smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Government is working on this economic development strategy. I want to hit the point home, but our small business people and tourism operators need real support.

I want to hit the point home that where we are at risk at missing the boat when it comes to preparing our constituents for job opportunities in the mining sector, which I believe has the potential to put us on the track towards being a have territory and letting us and allowing us to stand on our own two feet.

Mr. Speaker, our potential is boundless. As the Standing Committee pointed out in our report two years ago that we need to do is move from potential to payoff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Member's Statement 547 – 1(6): Medivac and Medical Travel Contracts

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just need some clarification today in my statement that when Mr. McLean and Mr. Anawak asked a question about medical travel contracts, both of the medivac and scheduled services that the Minister answered in some way that does not seem to have any effect on other operations of the Government.

What I am saying is that the Minister stated last year that approximately \$20 million dollars is used on medical travel. On the size of our airlines and the regional carriers like Kivalliq, Skyward, Calm Air, First Air and Baffin and Kenn Borek, who have services to

the communities in Kivalliq and Baffin, especially, they get a lot of their income from medical travel. If the medical travel is not shared with those airlines, then that big portion of that revenue is lost. What happens then? The airline has to pull out.

We already experienced this when we only had Calm Air in Coral Harbour, the prices, the fares were very high, and most of us could not afford it. When First Air was flying to Igloolik and Pond Inlet only, before Kenn Borek started flying there, they could not afford it either.

Every decision that the Department of Health and Social Services dictates through their awarding of the contracts effects other air fares, too, effectively. So, I would urge this Government that before awarding contracts on medical travel, that they review what other effects it will have on the Nunavut economy, the airfares for the regular ordinary citizens of Nunavut, who will pay from their own pockets to visit their relatives, especially when someone dies or gets very sick, they have to go see them.

I would urge the government, look; other things are affected when you make you make that kind of contract award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 548 – 1(6): Education System in Nunavut

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very happy to be here in Baker Lake.

Today, I stand before you, and I'm not trying to repeat what was already said, but I don't know the education system today and I don't know how our students are learning. I'm sure there is a lot of room for improvement.

I'm happy that my colleagues have mentioned this because we should urge our students to stay in school so that they can get into a proper job when they graduate. I know the school DEA in my area is fairly strong.

With Kitikmeot, when the Kitikmeot Inuit Association stressed education in our communities, it was very beneficial for us. Recently, however, with changes at KIA, things have begun to change. Although the local DEAs often know exactly what they're doing, they don't seem to be stressing enough the importance of education now.

When I'm talking about education, education is needed for our young people now a days and I'm going to be asking the same questions about this at the appropriate time. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 549 – 1(6): Family Services Needed in Communities

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, about having social services in our community, the question is that Health and Social Services is needed in some communities because we do need counsellors in our communities.

If there should be a counsellor for family counselling and meet with the families, this would be very beneficial because a lot of women do go to Iqaluit to the safe shelter. There are five social workers there who are non-Inuit and there are only two Inuit who are in Iqaluit.

They went on a vacation because they were stressed out due to the work load. There should be community counsellors in each community with Inuktitut knowledge, and I don't know, maybe some day it will happen.

If there could be counsellors within Nunavut, not all in the communities, it would be very helpful, because with the safe shelter being located in Iqaluit, it is a hardship for other communities.

When it comes time for me to ask questions, I will be bringing this up again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements. If not, we'll move onto Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 545 - 1(6): Housing Scale Recommendations

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of the Housing Corporation.

With the new rates, it seems like there are a lot of problems within the community and we as a committee, what we have said is very different from what the Housing Corporation has implemented. I don't know whether they were using Housing Corporation or the Housing Association.

Who has brought this up? We worked on this to solve these problems with the rent scales. \$32 dollars was paid by the social recipients, the income support recipients, regardless of how many people there were in the household.

We had made a recommendation that they go up to \$60 dollars a month and this \$60 dollars would be paid for. Not more, not less. This \$60 dollars would be it. And for the people who are employed, their rent scales would go down a bit.

This would have helped a lot. However, Housing Corporation did not do what we have suggested for. I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I think my question is why is what we have recommended not being utilized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, fact, a lot of the recommendations that the task force made and also that local Housing Associations and Authorities made was taken into consideration as we developed the new rent scale that is in place now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not the only one who wants clarification on this. The rest of the people of Nunavut want to hear this. Not just me.

Why is it our recommendations are not being implemented. Why have you have set these rent scales up on your own. Because it's going to cause hardships for the people who are living in public housing.

Can you look at this again? Can you look at the rent scales again before it gets too far? And we'd like you to look at the rent scales again. Could you clarify that for me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I've tried to make it clear and I'll try again, that Nunavut Housing Corporation and this government didn't put in this new rent scale out of the blue.

It was done in consultation with stake holders, local Housing Authorities. The managers I believe met three different times and as well, the ones with the housing board of directors from each community as we worked towards the finalization of the new rent scales that we're dealing with.

Having said that, we recognize, right now, where the bulk of the problem is in respect of actual incomes. There is more income being reported as a result of using the Canada Customs Revenue Agency actual numbers that people are using for their income tax returns than what they used to do in respect of this reporting on their rental assessment forms what they deemed to be their income.

Things that were not included that are taken into consideration are things like overtime, northern allowances, standby pay, income support payment if an individual or family had not been working.

So, those kinds of things have been captured now as a result of using CCRA disclosures and having said that, Mr. Speaker, we have said that we want to put in a fair rent scale. If there are problems as a result of these things, we will take a look at it.

But right now, we have just implemented it, the new rent scale, we have to give it a time to recognize and find out where the problems are and then if they are not significant enough, then we will make amendments accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am very pleased with your response. I would like to ask him again, for the people of Nunavut, because I have gone through income support program before and I have paid \$32 dollars a month, no more, no less.

But today, with the people who are in income support and for those people who are with no income, although they are trying to feed their families, there is no money; it is going to public housing instead now.

If a person gets a thousand dollars, then he will have to pay three hundred dollars. Is this true or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin. Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is not true. The Member is incorrect in the respect of income support clients. Yes, their base rent went from \$32 dollars to \$60 dollars, again, based on recommendations from Local Housing Associations that that a more reflective cost of administrating income support clients' rents.

But having said that, the increase has been offset by income support payments that come from the Department of Education. So, there is no net affect on income support clients in respect of having less money available as a result of this new rent scale. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Question Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is not true either, I am sorry. Can you actually go see, in person, to my community, what the actual expenses that these income recipients get? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu, I think all Members are aware of the rules of the House and if you are not, you should be and it is not, according to our rules, to accuse anybody of making a false statement or a statement that is not true. Minister Ng.

Point of Privilege

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, for the advance, fully, Mr. Speaker, I was going to raise the point that a privilege, Mr. Speaker, that the Member is inferring that I am not telling the truth and I ask him to withdraw those comments if that were the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I believe it was Minister Ng that raised the point of privilege first so we'll deal with that point of privilege and he has asked the member to withdraw the comment, referring that the comments that Mr. Ng made were not true. So, I'll ask the member to withdraw that word from his statement. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would not have said that either if he did not say that to me through the interpreter either.

From what I heard through the interpretation, that's what he implied that I was also wrong. So, I don't think I should be withdrawing my comments because I'm telling you the facts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Given the comments from both sides, I will review the Hansard and over the next few days, get back to the members on the issue and until that time, I will not be entertaining any further points of order or points of privilege on this particular issue. Thank you. Going back to Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 546 - 1(6): Baker Lake Child/Youth Outreach Worker Position

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to keep this one clear. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, there was an advertisement in the news paper about a position being advertised for a Youth Addictions Outreach Worker for Baker Lake.

It's been over six months now and I know these positions are hard to staff and it's hard to find qualified people to do them but can the Minister tell me and the community of Baker Lake if this position will be filled and when. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these are one of the several positions we've identified across Nunavut, a child and youth outreach worker who will work with our youth on addictions areas, tobacco, alcohol and drugs as well as being a peer counselling service for youth in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, this has been one of the better initiatives of this government I believe in the past year. The position that the member is speaking about has either been filled at the present time or it's just in the middle of completing the competition process.

My understanding is that the process of the competition has been completed and they're in the process of doing either the reference checks or an offer has been made. That's my understanding of the situation for that particular position right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you were out of my view there, so I'll forgive you.

So that's good news for the community of Baker Lake because it's no secret that this is probably the third largest community in Nunavut with a large population of young people. I would be the first one to say that drugs are widely used in this community and alcohol is also used.

Could the Minister confirm to me that this position will be filled by a bilingual person? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that certainly is the intent of the position itself. The youth and outreach worker would be able to communicate with the citizens that that person would be working with.

So, that would be indeed the optimum situation in this regard or in this case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if the Minister is being nice to me today because we are going into Committee of the Whole over the power rate increase, but he is sure giving me the answers that I want to hear today.

On a more serious note, Mr. Speaker, when I am asked by a bilingual person and I am assured that this person would be Inuit and working in Baker Lake, but on that, Mr. Speaker, my next question is, far too often when we hire people to come into the community or rehire new positions to deal with youth and addictions outreach and issues like that that are starting to grow in this community.

And can the Minister confirm to me and my Constituents in this House that this will not be a position in a Government Office where this individual works out of all day and is sitting there waiting for people to come to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can confirm that that person would be working to the very best of their ability, to follow the job qualifications that have been outlined, that they have been hired for.

And I would suggest, as the Member has said, that a person who is familiar with the community, who is in the world of a youth advocate, would be out there working with the children, working with the young people where young people meet.

I also would suggest that position would probably want an office where he could actually council people and talk to them in privacy and looking at confidential issues. You cannot do that at an arcade or you cannot do that in a community home.

So, I think the person that would be hired not only in Baker Lake, but other communities would looking at all of the roles and responsibilities as well as the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, the opportunity of having a formal office if that was called for in the course of the duties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Minister brought up about the youth in the community and working with them because that is exactly what I wanted to hear him say today, the youth in this community.

Can the Minister guarantee that this individual who is going to be hired will spend at least half their time working with the youth in this community in the schools and not in an office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can guarantee that this person would be working full-time with youth and young people in Baker Lake and I think that is what we want to see upon this position.

And I think as we roll this position out across Nunavut in different communities, we will be able to see the maximum advantage of having a dedicated youth outreach worker dealing with peer pressures, drugs/alcohol addictions, as well as, Mr. Speaker, being able to provide an extra confidence for young people being able to talk to someone who will understand what is going on with them in that community. So, I can guarantee that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Question 547 - 1(6): Documentation of Elder Knowledge History

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps, over two years I have been asking questions regarding Elders who are leaving us at a very fast rate and we know the knowledge goes with them because they are not passing down this knowledge through any program and yet we need to document the history and those are the questions that I have been asking.

I was asking the Minister last year, Minister Akesuk, when he was the Minister of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. He stated that they would be starting a program, specifically a daily journal up to this day for many years and he is an Elder. And so, we were told that that would be dealt with.

The Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I'd like to ask him that the commitments made by the previous Minister are still going ahead regarding that project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I announced earlier, it will proceed.

The elders' oral histories will start being documented and I would also like to reiterate that, yes, we are pushing it and it is to help and support the elders' committees and councils in the communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We make plans as a government. Yes, I understand what he says, however, some while we're planning, while we're discussing, we continue to lose people each day.

Our elders, without having been documented, all that oral history and wisdom that they have just goes with them, and this could be used for anything from school curriculum to anything.

I have been asking for a couple of years, if the oral histories from elders who have already been documented for instances, Kuniliusi Nutarak, who has kept a daily journal all his life, perhaps they can be bought by the government immediately and there are other cases where there are elders' journals, before it's too late.

Let's not wait to hire and appoint councils and all these planning committees. So, I'm asking what the current situation is with that program. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to apologise to the member regarding the current situation, the status of his question, but that was previously asked of another Minister for that specific question.

I will find out further information and get back to the member regarding the specific questions on those projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister assure me that he will do that as soon as the session is over or fire somebody? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will go a step further. I'll get a response before we leave Baker Lake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 548 - 1(6): Changes to the Funding Formula for the Schools

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to direct my question to the Minister Responsible for Education.

Earlier in my statement I had indicated that the former Minister had tabled last May, over a year ago, a report on funding options for Nunavut schools. In a Ministers' statement, around the same time, the same day, he'd indicated that using the school funding review and the responses in it to prepare in the coming years for the preparing the budgets for the schools and how they're staffed.

My question to the Minister, if she could update the house on what recent changes had been made to the funding formula that is used to determine the number of teaching staff positions allocated to the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister for Education, Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report was tabled a year and a half ago, as I know, the original report.

Up to today, I have not seen any changes for the funding formula for the teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like there is another report generated by the Government just to sit on a shelf and collect dust. I think this is something that we cannot afford to see happen with this report.

Like I stated in my statement there was two options for increased teachers. One was 25 this year, coming up immediately and they needed those teachers and the other option was for 60 more teachers.

In there, Mr. Speaker, another issue that has always been raised in the schools is a lack of student support teachers. There was a request to increase it from 38 to 48 and also student support assistants to be increased from 53 to 78.

Can the Minister confirm whether or not these recommendations will be taken into place for the coming school year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I have to look at the options and the report itself in detail. I can say that the staffing to 2003-2004 funding levels are guaranteed for next year. There will be no reductions from my Department for that. We will work around that.

I will take the recommendations from the report very seriously and commit to making sure that we improve student/teacher ratio in Nunavut if it has to, Mr. Speaker, I have already talked to staff and if it boils down to reorganizing the Department, we will do that and make sure that the children in the schools are not suffering because of lack of teachers or resource teachers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I had indicated in my Members' Statement this Government and all the Members of this Assembly made education one of its top two priorities with housing.

To me that would mean any resources we can increase to improve the systems we have done for housing, we have failed to do it in education. The Minister indicated that there were going to be no layoffs, that there is going to be more students next years, no new teachers. What kind of a commitment is that?

You look at in Nakasuk School in Iqaluit, next year almost all of the classes are going to be split classes. Almost every grade is going to be a split grade where you are going to have two grades in there. How can teachers be expected to do their jobs in those kind of working conditions?

Given the record that we have seen by this Government, I would like to ask the Minister to confirm whether reducing the pupil/teacher ratio is still an objective supported by the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation at the high school in Iqaluit, the teachers, perhaps there are two or more, they have too many teachers, I think there are three teachers in the high school, but I know their elementary schools are short-staffed.

(interpretation ends) With regards to the Member's question, I will make sure that there are no layoffs, that has already been directed to the staff and there will not be any layoffs now. In regards to hiring new staff, I have to look at my numbers first and see what the numbers are out there in order to make a different change in that directive.

Right now, we can do with what we have and without the layoffs going to the schools; we will be able to provide a good education to the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd urge the Minister to meet with her cabinet colleagues to come up with something to at least meet the forced growth needs of the schools not only in Iqaluit but across Nunavut to come up with that funding somehow to do that.

My final question, Mr. Speaker, is the Minister had indicated that there are going to be no layoffs. Does that also mean that there are going to be no classifications or down-grading from positions from full-time to part-time?

Is everything going to stay the same or are there going to be positions that are going to be cut in hours in order to meet the fiscal restraints that they're going to have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The directive to the staff is that there will be no layoffs as there is and that means what was expected in the last year to be the norm is going to be the same thing this year.

I don't have that details of where people might be losing hours. I don't have that detail for I have 26 communities to deal with. But I can say that my cabinet colleagues and I have already discussed this from the Bathurst Mandate.

We have all said that we want to improve the student teacher ratio Nunavut-wide and as the Minister I have the commitment to that. That report that was tabled a year and a half ago will be taken very seriously and we'll see what we can do to help out our teachers and resource staff in our schools so that our students are not suffering. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Ms. Williams.

Question 549 - 1(6): Public Concerns on Rent Scales

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

There was a question from one of my colleagues and I would also like to get some information up to date about the concerns that the communities have regarding the new rental scales.

I just wanted to know what kinds of things that Housing Corporation has done after the people have voiced their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Housing. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it depends on what specific concerns the member is raising or if it's more of a broader community concern. As members are aware, there were public consultations that had taken place.

After the rent scale was finalized, there were community consultations to inform people what changes were going to be put in place. If there were specific individuals that were impacted or didn't understand things, the staff would have through the local Housing Authorities or required through Housing Corporations, certainly be available to provide more specific information on any specific issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a great concern to most of the communities, I think and mostly more so to the people that are renting these buildings or houses.

Some people that have been working for a very long time are contemplating resigning and going onto the income support program in order to be able to afford to be in that house, in their houses.

That's already a problem and I'm sure that the Minister already knows that. The concern and the clarification that people need to have is that people are alarmed about the calculation that they were going back to incomes from 2001.

Can the Minister clarify that issue in this House so that people would have a proper understanding and if the Housing Corporation is going to change that calculation for people of Nunavut? Qujannamiik, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, it was based on reported income on income tax forms as I had stated on assessments made by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency. And as I had indicated earlier, there were incomes that were not reported normally on the income assessment forms prior to this.

So, it is capturing, I guess, some income that people normally would not have been assessed upon and that is where it is causing some difficulties for certainly some of the higher income earners.

As I indicated earlier as well, I mean if there is problems with this, I mean, we are more than willing to make adjustments based on that, but we have to give the new rent scale an opportunity to work itself out over the course of the year.

Recognizing that there has been a lot of factors taken into consideration to address some of the issues that have been brought forward by members of the public, by stake holders and by task force in respect of family size and respect to the housing condition and in respect to the cost to the community, those types of things that have been factored in to the new rent scale and generally supported in concept.

And what is happening now is there are individuals, obviously they are falling outside of that for whatever reasons and those individuals may have to be looked at as we move to adjust this in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people that are working for a very long time have to pay very high rent for the units that are not very good to live in. That is one part.

The part is that not very many people work full-time, but they do work seasonal jobs. For example, some people in 2001 worked in the shrimp fishery or shrimp boats, but they did not work for the last two years and that income from 2001 was calculated.

So, can the Minister tell us that this will not be happening because it is not a true income for this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are provisions in the rent scale to recognize changing circumstances, particularly a lowering of incomes based on an individual or family situation.

If their income has been, their job status and income status has changed from the time that the assessments have been made, the rents will be reduced accordingly. At the same time, if the rents, if their increases over the course of the year, their rents would not go up correspondingly in that immediate year.

So, that is kind of the offset. It is more of an advantage for somebody recognizing if there circumstances changes negatively in the respect of lowering income, lowering rents versus increasing because there would not be increases if their status would have changed immediately, but if they were to go down, then that is recognized immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Ng. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister send one of his staff to, because there seems to be a misunderstanding of Local Housing Authorities and the clients that they have.

Will the Housing Corporation be sending people around to make sure that the calculations are being done properly to make sure that people understand? I would hate to see people that are working resigning because of high rent that they have to pay for the units that are not very good to live in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister, Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the key aspects of the rental changes, the new rent scale was to encourage employment opportunities, income generating opportunities and to not discourage it.

So, while having said that, certainly if there are problems, then, in specific communities, I'm more than willing to have Housing Corporation staff work with the Housing Authorities staff in order to rectify that problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 550 - 1(6): Number of Polar Bear Tags Distributed

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we had our last session of the Legislative Assembly in Iqaluit, I asked some questions to the Minister of Sustainable Development.

I will ask the same questions and rephrase them differently. There are a lot of women who acquire polar bear tags in the communities. How many polar bear tags will the community receive?

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member from the Amittuq riding for his question.

What we do is the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the Department Sustainable Development looks at the tags for polar bears collectively and then they allot them so many tags and in some cases they are increased.

What they do is the agreement is reached between the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Sustainable Development as to how many polar bear tags are distributed. That's the way we do it currently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the policy that Sustainable Development currently follows, in my community of Igloolik, they're running out of polar bear tags and it's not because the polar bear population is declining, it's because of the dangerous bears that have to be shot and the tag is taken away.

In Igloolik, they have a shortage of polar bear tags. I'll put it in a different way. It has nothing to do with the population of the bears over there. It's because of the nuisance bears that are shot; they have to be accounted for by deducting them from the tags allotted.

It doesn't have anything to do with the population. I think there should be another study of the polar bear population, or the hunting of bears because of the green house affect, because there will probably be changes again because of the polar bear populations and nuisance bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the question. Well not really, but I'll respond to it.

On the polar bears in the Gulf of Boothia, in 2001/2002, there were 7 tags allocated and if there's a nuisance bear shot, before the nuisance bear was shot in 2001/2002, there has been 7 and that number has not been changed.

We will look into it again to see what changes we can do and to look at the quota and also to look at the situation where if there has been a bear study and a migration study, looking at all the things such as migration and the warming weather that is warming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't really concerned about that, I know the weather is changing in my constituency.

We will probably get to the bottom of this in Igloolik because we're not really sure if the green house affect is affecting the area of Igloolik. But we do know there is a huge population accumulating around the Igloolik area of polar bears.

The question I really had was about when they shoot a female, if they shoot too many females, and then they take away a tag, one tag for so many females. Maybe it's because they don't want the polar bear to decline but Mr. Speaker, our polar bear tags, there's not very much in numbers at this time.

Is there a possibility that they can be given a tag in the Gulf of Boothia? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that the migration of polar bears is different in different years and there are different numbers that come to the communities as nuisance bears.

We can do is look at the situation because we can't just give out another tag. In accordance with the agreement, we have to follow the rules. We can look at the population and the bear population, in November, we can visit the community and meet with the Hunters and Trappers Organization and see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Nunavut Wildlife Management Board can give me some information.

Can the Minister give us a report of the numbers of females that have been shot and how many tags have been taken away from the community because of shooting too many females?

That way, if we see the numbers, we can figure out exactly. Can the Minister provide us with information as to how many females have been shot and how many tags have been returned because of too many females being shot? This way we can know how many we can get as a quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will get my staff and the wildlife officers in the communities to meet with each other and we will go to

their community and we will give them the information in writing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Just a reminder to the Members that we have six Members yet to ask questions and thirteen minutes left in question period. So, let us try to pick up the pace. Oral Questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 551 - 1(6): Counsellors Needed in Communities

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought I was being forgotten. This is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services for the counsellors, for family counsellors.

During our meeting in March in Iqaluit, he supported the need for counsellors in each community and there is a need for counsellors right inside the Legislative Assembly.

And I talked about the two counsellors in Iqaluit who are bilingual and they were mentioned when we were having a meeting in Iqaluit. I thought there was going to be more family counsellors provided to the community. What is happening with the two family counsellors? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just on the counsellors and I would like to touch base on, just very quickly on social services because the Member has raised many times the situation in his community with social workers.

I want to touch base with that first and tell the Member that there are three positions slated out for Pond Inlet, one is the supervisor position and then there is a level 1 and a level 3 social worker. Mr. Speaker, the supervisor position has been filled and we are in the process of filling the other two positions. So, that is good news for that community.

Specifically on counsellors, Mr. Speaker, we have, over the last several weeks, have had several different people in the employment of the Department, including Meeka and Abraham Arnakak from Pangnirtung who have actually been delivering counselling programs and services at different workshops and events.

This is in part of what we were talking about in the last Session, giving the opportunity for more counsellors at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Yes, I have mentioned this numerous times and there is going to be one in Pangnirtung hired and perhaps if he or she will be a family counsellor.

My main question was that with the social services workers, are they going to be hired in Pangnirtung only that position is being filled? What is happening with the other communities? Will the other communities receive family counsellors or social workers? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are in the process of aggressively recruiting social workers across Nunavut and it was our intentions to have social workers in place and try to bring those numbers up and it has been raised by the Members as well. Ms. Williams, for example, several times in the House and we have been aggressively working on that.

We are also putting in place the child/youth action workers and different positions that are counselling at the same time. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, we have mentioned this about utilizing too much money and the women going down to Iqaluit to the safe shelter and he's fully aware of it.

I think it would be a lot easier if there were a social worker in this community, that can be approached by the people who do need them. He indicated that there is going to be one in Pond Inlet because I know the social worker that was hired was only for the whole community.

How many people, because of the fact that there are no social workers in these communities, how many clients has the safe shelter received. Do you have the numbers in Iqaluit with the family problems? Do you have the numbers of how many people have gone to the safe shelter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No Mr. Speaker, I don't have the numbers of clients, of women and children that have gone to the Qimaavik Shelter in Iqaluit for the Baffin Region but we can make that information available to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 552 - 1(6): Report on Leena Peterson Boarding Home

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thought I was forgotten. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I would like to raise this question in regards to the Leena Peterson Boarding Home in Yellowknife. As I stated, this boarding home is insufficient because it's too small.

As we know, in March, the Minister, I and Ovide went to Yellowknife to look at the boarding home situation. My question is when will the Minister make known, the results, to the members in regards to the review and in regards to the plans of how to improve the Leena Boarding Home in Yellowknife for the patients that are going down to Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as soon as I get that information, I will pass it onto the member.

We talked about different options that are available to us. I did tour the facility. I do have an outstanding RFP put in process to look at that situation and when that information comes back, I will be in a better position to inform the member on what the next occurrence is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Mr. Minister for your response.

I also want to know, as you stated, you and your staff are doing a review. I would also like to know about the contracts. When will this be reviewed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is under way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They are under way right now. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you stated, are you saying that we will hear about the review today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm in a very difficult position here because I've been trying to rush my answers and you know I have problems doing that, to give the member the answer he wants and so on.

So, Mr. Speaker, no, we're having the review, the process for the RFP, and then I would have the answer for the member. I would hope that I would have that answer in the coming weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister for your response.

As we know, I'm not the only person that wants answers to this. The people not only in Kugluktuk, but in the Kitikmeot would like to hear about the review. While I am the Member of the Legislative Assembly for my riding, I will continue to stress my concerns in regards to this boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I didn't hear a question, just a comment. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Question 553 - 1(6): Hiring Social Workers from Southern Cities

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I'm stopped, when we say in Inuktitut, some times not intentionally, you are not telling the truth or you are mistaken, they mean two totally different things. You can say you lie, or you can say you're mistaken.

My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. With the social workers, do they still come to each community because there are very few communities with their own social workers?

When social workers are hired from down south right into the community, without any orientation of, perhaps if there was an orientation done about Inuit culture and because with the culture shock sometimes, they're in a difficult situation because the lack of Inuit culture and because a lot of these social workers are not familiar to our culture.

I'd like to ask the Minister if they can start, when they hire social workers, not only the social workers, but other government employees as well, I'm sure I'll ask the same question to a specified Minister, when they're not actually Inuit, give them orientation about culture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, all hires through the Government of Nunavut go through the Department of Human Resources.

The only positions the Department of Health and Social Services actually hires itself are the nurses. I believe Education retains the right to hire teachers. My understanding is, Mr.

Speaker, when we put out an ad for social workers, we request through Human Resources for the positions and Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the Department of Human Resources does do an employee orientation program which gives up to date and relevant information on Nunavut culture, language and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously Human Resources people are not doing enough of a job to at least orientate the social workers when they come up here because we're still getting social workers who really have no time for the utilization of justice committees, who really have no time for the norms of that community.

They just think that because they have qualifications on paper that they know better than the community. So, I'm asking is there a way to do a complete orientation if a person is hired from the south on the different environment up here where Inuit are predominant, to at least tell them, through that orientation that they have to have a fair amount, a lot of respect for the mores of that community and the culture, because we're not getting those people yet.

We're getting people that think they're in charge with no need to utilize the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the comments as well as the question. Mr. Speaker, I have had an opportunity to speak with the Minister for Human Resources on this issue and the Minister for Human Resources has put in place a pretty strategic plan on orientations for all employees.

I have also had an opportunity ask in this case, social service workers who have to work in the community, who should be culturally accessible as well as understand what is happening in a community, had maybe extra help through Human Resources on that orientation program, as well as working with the Department of Health and Social Services in doing the recruitment with Human Resources to put that in place.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Member's comments are well taken and my understanding is that Human Resources is working on that with Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to ensure that Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as well as languages are incorporated in the both the CD-ROM, which is also available for the new employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. If you are going to, perhaps we are four years late. If it is going to be the same situation, however, it is going to take some time before these things can actually happen.

While you are a Minister today, you can tell your staff, because if the social workers are Qallunaat, let them respect the people of the community, either with the Hamlet or Justice Committee or our community counsellors and Elders as well.

Can the Minister issue a directive to the staff, to his own staff and to utilize the people of the resources in each community and perhaps he can go through with that Deputy Minister and the social workers can do a lot in the community if they get the resources from their own community. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member and I think, Mr. Speaker, that the Government has been trying to be more proactive with employee orientation programs under the Department of Human Resources.

My understanding is, for example, Mr. Speaker, that seminars were recently completed in Kugluktuk, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, as well as Kugaarjuk. So, you are talking about larger communities, smaller communities and so on.

And those seminars continues as Human Resources brings on new employees, but again, Mr. Speaker, I will work specifically with Human Resources to make sure that indeed orientation programs, Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in all of its relevancy are put forward.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, we have been trying to do that over the past several hiring sessions and I think Human Resources is trying to demonstrate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want an agreement. I do want to be just agreed with, I want action by the Government and a simple action would be giving a directive to the Department to say, look you are in Nunavut, you are amongst Inuit, you have to respect the fact that it is a different culture, there are different ways of doing things.

Couldn't the Minister send a simple directive to his social workers to say, look, you are in Inuit land, respect the fact that you are. Cannot he send that directive? Qujannamiik.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Mr. Speaker, I think it has been sent. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members will note that by the clerk's clock, question period is now over.

Before we return to, or continue with the orders of the day, we'll break for 20 minutes. Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*The House recessed at 3:35 p.m. and resumed at 4:11 p.m.*

Speaker: Returning to 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. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 004 – 1(6): Report on the Review of the 2002 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services, I would like to report back on the committee's report on the review of the 2002 Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as we go through this, along with my committee colleagues, we'll be reading it into the record, or I'll be reading it starting off with part of it and then passing it on to the next committee member to read and everyone's going to read a little bit in. So bear with us Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the second annual report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut was tabled on November 28, 2002. This followed the tabling of Nunavut's second set of public accounts for the 2000/2001 on May 16, 2002.

Under the Nunavut Act, the Auditor General of Canada is responsible for auditing the Government of Nunavut's financial transactions and financial statements. The Auditor General also performs this function federally as well as in the Northwest Territories and the Yukon.

Each the year the Auditor General prepares a report to the Legislative Assembly in which management issues that arise during the course of the annual audit are brought to the attention elected Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The government is given the opportunity to make management responses to the Auditor General's observations and recommendations. The Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services is mandated to review the public accounts in the report of the Auditor General.

Standing committee reviews of such annual reports of those printed by the Auditor General, the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the Languages Commissioner provide an opportunity for the issues raised by each independent office to be examined in a transparent manner.

Government accountability is fostered through the requirement of the rules in the Legislative Assembly that the government table a comprehensive response to the standing committee's reports and recommendations within 120 days of its presentation in this house.

On October 30, 2002, the Government of Nunavut tabled its response to the Standing Committee's report and recommendations within 122 days of its presentation in this House.

On October 30th, 2002, the Government of Nunavut tabled its response to the Standing Committee's March 2002 Report on the review of the 2001 Report of the Auditor General.

The Standing Committee held meetings on February 20th and 21st, 2003, to review the Auditor General's 2002 Report. These meetings were open to the public and media to observe in addition to providing an opportunity for the Auditor General to appear before the Committee to speak to the issues raised in her report.

Committee Members were able to post questions to senior Government of Nunavut officials on their management responses to the Auditor General's recommendations. Inuktitut and English transcripts of the meeting are being prepared and will be made available on website of the Legislative Assembly.

The Standing Committee would like to express its appreciation to Ms. Sheila Fraser, the Auditor General of Canada for again, appearing in person before the Committee to present and discuss her second annual report.

The Committee would also like to thank the following officials from the Office of the Auditor General, Mr. Dale Shrier, principal and Mr. Roger Simpson, principal. The Committee would also like to acknowledge the Witnesses from the Government of Nunavut who appeared before the Committee and stayed in order to respond to the questions posed by the Members.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to pass the floor over to Mr. Iqaqrialu to continue on with the next part of the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu, continue.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General's 2002 Report represented a number of specific recommendations directed to the Government of Nunavut.

The Standing Committee undertook a chapter review of the Auditor General's Report posing questions and comments to appropriate Government of Nunavut's Witnesses at each stage. Members also took the opportunity to follow up with Witnesses on the contents of the Government's October 2002 response to the Committee's March 2002 Report.

During the Auditor General's appearance before the Standing Committee, the Committee again, enjoyed a productive exchange with her on the number of broad themes related to the financial management practices and capacity of the Government.

In particular, the Committee noted with concern her comments regarding the need to significantly improve the timeliness of the production and tabling of the Government's financial statements and other related documents such as annual reports of certain Crown Corporations.

It is important to recall that the production and tabling of such documents is not a matter of discretion. It is the law. Section 44 of the Nunavut Act states: The Commissioner shall on or before December 31 of each fiscal year lay before the Assembly a Report called the 'Territorial Accounts' for the preceding fiscal year of Nunavut an Assembly shall consider the Report.

As of May 31st, 2003, the public accounts for 2001-2002 have not yet been tabled. As of May 31, 2003, the annual financial statements of the Nunavut Power Corporation had yet to be tabled for any of the fiscal years since the establishment of the entity.

The Committee also noted with attention, the Auditor General's comments regarding the desirability of financial statements being produced in such a way as to allow Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public to better compare the Government's actual financial result with its budget plans. This has been an ongoing issue for the Committee.

The Committee also took serious note of the Auditor General's concerns regarding the Government's failure to obey its own laws with respect to departmental over expenditures.

While the committee recognises the expenditure pressures facing, in particular the Department of Health and Social Services, it is none the less unacceptable for the government the government to spend more than it is authorized by the Legislative Assembly.

The committee is also concerned about the frequency with which the government brings forward requests for supplementary appropriations. As of May 31, 2003, the Legislative Assembly had considered 17 supplementary appropriation bills since April 1, 1999.

The committee is hopeful that as the government's process matures, it will do so with less frequency. The committee was very concerned with the revelations regarding the government's failure to submit documents to the Federal Government in order to receive monies under certain programs, most notably in the area of health.

This is unacceptable. The Government of Nunavut began tabling annual business plans of departments and other entities for the 2000/2001 fiscal year however there has been very little evident progress made with respect to implementing a government wide system for evaluation it's performance and results and for making this information public in the Legislative Assembly on annual basis.

The committee remains convinced of the need to move in this direction and reiterates its call for the government to move performance measurement that reflects not only expenditures and outputs but results and outcomes. At this point, I'll pass it onto James Arvaluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General made some recommendations in the 2002 report.

The Auditor General's recommendation number one, the government administrative policies should clearly state whether they apply to crown corporations.

The Government of Nunavut's management response was the government agrees that the administrative policies should clearly state if they apply to crown corporations. We will be reviewing this issue and considering the various options available to comply with this recommendation.

The committee engaged in extensive dialogue with Government of Nunavut officials on this issue and raised such informed questions as whether the example the Government of Nunavut's hiring policy will or will not apply to such entities as recently established, Qulliq Energy Corporation.

No conclusive answer was forth coming. The committee was interested to learn that one of the options under active consideration by the Government of Nunavut is the establishment of so called Crown Corporation's Counsel, in other words, of a senior Government of Nunavut official, this entity would be charged with the overall mandate of at least accountability of a crown corporation.

The standing committee's recommendation number 1, that the Government of Nunavut table at their earliest opportunity, their terms of reference of the Crown Corporation's Counsel and that the government make public, any decisions that it takes with respect to the issues of crown corporation's accountability.

The standing committee's recommendation number 2; the Government of Nunavut table at their earliest opportunity a comprehensive list of policies that have been formally adopted by the executive council since April 1, 1999 and that the list indicates which policies applies to Crown Corporations, Boards, Agencies and other entities and which do not.

The Standing Committee recommendation #3, that the Government of Nunavut table of the various opportunity, copies of in administrative directives to Crown Corporations made since April 1, 1999.

The Committee recommendation #4, that the Government of Nunavut direct the Crown Corporation's Council as a component of its work to examine the issues of how enhanced transparency in the reporting practices of the business credit corporation and any other public body which makes loans to individuals or businesses.

Auditor General for recommendation #2, the Government should continue to work towards implementing basic financial controls within all parts of the Government by 2004.

The Government of Nunavut's management response, the Government is working towards essential financial controls and financial capacity development.

The Government has initiated several training programs to train senior staff and we continue with efforts to recruit senior accountants, auditors and financial managers. Much of the Committee's dialogue with the Auditor General and the Government of Nunavut Witnesses revolved around this theme.

The Committee recognizes that capacity building is an ongoing process and stresses the need for continued efforts in the area of training for Beneficiaries.

The Committee was pleased with the offer made by the Office of the Auditor General to assist in the area providing opportunities for Nunavummiut and urges the Government to work with the OAG in this area.

The Standing Committee recommendation #5, that the Government table regular updates in the Legislative Assembly on its plans and progresses in the area of financial capacity development.

The Auditor General's recommendation #3, the Government should address specific financial management issues in the sport. These include, Mr. Speaker:

- a) Ensuring budgetary control operate effectively
- b) Implementing good reports management
- c) Ensuring key reconciliations are completed promptly
- d) Submitting revenue claims promptly
- e) Billing revenue promptly
- f) Merging accounts receivable and collecting them when due

- g) Analysing revenues needed through formula financing agreement calculations
- h) Ensuring signing authorities operate as intended
- i) Ensuring that employment leave records are accurate
- j) Completing and tabling annual financial statements promptly

The Government of Nunavut's management response: the Government agrees that these specific financial management issues need to be addressed and will work towards compliance.

The Department of Finance has made changes to its organizational structure to allow for better coordination of accounting issues on responsibilities.

The Government is in the progress of improving the revenue monitoring system, which will enhance the accuracy, timeliness and reporting within the revenue and receivable cycle. The Standing Committee concurred with the Auditor General's observations in this area.

The Standing Committee recommendation #6, that the Government table regular updates in the Legislative Assembly on its plans and progress in the specific financial management areas identified by the Auditor General.

Now, I would like to pass the continuing of the report to Ms. Williams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Other issues and outstanding matters from previous reports and government responses; debt authority and the government's financial health. The standing committee has noted with interest the government's frequent assertion that it did not incur any direct debt during its first two years of operation however, the committee is aware that the government has since 1999, guaranteed debt on behalf of other entities such as the Nunavut's Power Corporation.

The government's power to borrow and lend money derives from section 27 of the Nunavut Act. Although there is no specific requirement for the government to disclose its annual financial statements, the amount of debt it has guaranteed on behalf of other entities, the committee is of the view that such information is important in order to provide the Legislative Assembly and the public with the most complete possible picture of the government's financial position.

The Government of the Northwest Territories which operates under a similar statutory framework as Nunavut with respect to borrowing and lending has recently a commenced a practise of including it in its annual public accounts comprehensive information on its debt authority position.

This information also includes a very important indicator of the government's financial position, its available borrowing capacity. Standing committee recommendation number 7; the standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut include in its annual consolidated financial statements, comprehensive information on its lending and borrowing activities under section 27 of the Nunavut Act and that such information include the government's available borrowing capacity.

(interpretation end): The Auditor General's 2001 raised a number of issues related to the government's leasing practices. The standing committee pursued this issue in its review and recommended that the government table range of information related to its leases.

The committee has been extremely disappointed with the government's response on this issue. According to the most recent set of public accounts, the government has committed tens of millions of dollars in public money to leases in coming years.

However, the government has taken the position that it requires the consent of the parties with whom it has entered into leasing arrangements in order to make public such basic information as the length of value of the leases in question.

Given that the government has at various times, taken the initiative to issue press releases, and the sole purposes of announcing the dollar value as specific contracts for specific capital projects, it's reluctance to make public similar details with respect to it's leasing arrangements in both inconsistent and troubling.

The committee is not persuaded that continued secrecy in this area is in the public interest. The committee was interested to learn that Government of Nunavut officials and the new leasing policy was considered by the financial management board on February 20, 2003.

The committee stressed the need to ensure a much greater degree of transparency than presently exists. Standing committee recommendation number 8; that the government table at the earliest opportunity, it's new leasing policy and that the policy includes strong provisions in the area of transparency and disclosure.

Standing committee recommendation number 9; that the government re-examine it's position with respect to the tabling of a comprehensive list of leased properties and that such a list include information on the entities from whom the properties have been leased, the length of the leases and the values of each lease.

(interpretation) Financing of construction of regional health facilities. The committee was somewhat surprised to learn that a final decision has not been taken with respect to the financing arrangements for the construction of new regional health facilities in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay.

In particular, the question of whether these two facilities will be constructed through some form of leasing arrangement still appears to be an open one. Standing committee

recommendation number 10; that the government make public its plans with respect to the financing of construction of regional health facilities in Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay.

Over expenditures by the Department of Health and Social Services. The committee appreciated the commitment made by the department's witness to provide a detailed breakdown to the committee of where funds were over-expended in 2000 and 2001.

To date, this commitment has not been fulfilled. Standing committee recommendation number 11; that the government fulfill its commitment to provide a detailed breakdown of where funds were over expended by the Department of Health and Social Services in 2000 and 2001.

(interpretation end) Assessment of the financial management and funding requirements of the Department of Health and Social Services. The committee learned that the Department of Finance in consultation with the Department of Health and Social Services recently conducted a detailed assessment of the department's financial management and funding requirements and submitted these findings to the Financial Management Board.

The committee has noted with concern that the fact that the 2003 and 2004 main estimates budgeted almost \$10 million dollars less in total Operations and Maintenance for the department than was provided through and main and supplementary estimates in 2002 and 2003.

The committee is concerned that the continued over expenditures in this department may occur in part because of unrealistic budgeting in the long term improved provision of medical services at the community level with help to reduce the need for medical travel and medical evacuations.

Members recognised the expenditure pressures placed in the department with respect to medical travel and medical evacuations. The committee noted in its hearings that progress in this area appears to be dependent to an extent on the results of Community Government & Transportation air services study which was announced on August 27, 2002.

The study was expected to have been completed by the end of 2002. To date, the results have not yet been tabled. The government's announcements indicated that the value of contract awarded to LPS Aviation Incorporated for the conduct of the study was \$349 thousand, 920 dollars.

Standing committee recommendation number 12; that the government table the Department of Finance's assessments of the Department of Health and Social Service's and the results of the Department of Community Government & Transportation's Air services study.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I will pass on to my colleague Mr. Tootoo.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, presentation of financial information to the Legislative Assembly. The committee was gratified to hear from the government's opening statement that it agrees with the importance of providing budget to actual comparisons and intends to introduce these changes as capacities increases.

This type of information is critical to a sound estimates process that allows legislators and the public to compare the government's passed results with its future budget plans. The committee would wish to congratulate such public entities such as the offices of the Languages Commissioner for already providing this level of detail in its most recent annual report to the Legislative Assembly.

Standing committee recommendation number 13; that the government move forward in this area. The public accounts and main estimates in this area should provide detail at the standard object level with respect to last year or prior years actual expenditures, transparency in contracting, grants and contributions.

The committee would note that improvements have been made since 1999 with respect with the government making public, information on the identity of recipients of grants and contributions and contracts and the value of awards made.

The committee was pleased to learn during its hearing that the government is making an effort to prepare a comprehensive schedule of grants and contributions for inclusion in the 2001/2002 public accounts.

The recommendation number 14; that the government table on an annual basis, a comprehensive list of RFP and tender awards made during the previous fiscal year. This list should include information on the identity of the proposers and the contract recipients in addition to the value of the award.

Investment guidelines for the Nunavut Development Corporation. The standing committee understands that a new set of investment guidelines for the Nunavut Development Corporation have been approved. The committee recommends in recommendation number 15; that the government table a complete set of the investment guidelines for the Nunavut Development Corporation.

Statutory tabling requirements. Over the passed year, the committee has noted improvement with respect to the government complying with its statutory tabling requirements for annual reports, financial statements and other documents.

However, as of May 31st, there still remains a number of important outstanding requirements and the committee strongly urges the government to fulfill these.

The reviews of the revolving funds and the utility price subsidies. The committee understands that the government's reviews in these areas have to at some extent overlap with such development of the establishment of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

None the less, the committee would wish to see the government fulfill its October 2002 commitment to presenting recommendations resulting from its reviews to the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in less than a year, a new Legislative Assembly and government will be in office. Over the passed four years, much has been accomplished in the way of establishing a functioning government and the committee is pleased to have contributed to the development of a transparent accountable system.

Much work remains to be done and the committee looks forward to closely monitoring the government's progress in their final year of its mandate. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule 91 (3), I move that the report of the standing committee be adopted by the assembly as read. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do members agree that the report of the standing committee be adopted by the house pursuant to rule 91 (3) . So adopted.

Item 11. 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. Mr. McLean.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 114 - 1(6): Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table document, Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce Resolution 13, whereas the current funding for the Baker Lake print makers operation has been terminated over the last couple of years and they're totally closed down now and a historic part of Nunavut is now not being reproduced.

Be it resolved that the Government of Nunavut provide financial support to the Baker Lake print makers to continue their artistic traditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. McLean. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. McLean.

Tabled Document 115 - 1(6): 12 Resolutions

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the other 12 resolutions from the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce meeting. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akesuk.

Tabled Document 116 - 1(6): The Time is Right

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I would like to table the following document. The Time is Right, a vision and strategy for tourism development in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Are there any further Tabling of Documents. Minister Picco.

Tabled Document 117 - 1(6): Utility Rates Review Council Report to the Minister**Tabled Document 118 - 1(6): Executive Summary – Annual Report of the Nunavut Power Corporation 2001-2002**

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to table two documents.

The first document is the report of the utility rate review council on two questions posed to me as Minister Responsible for Energy.

And the second document Mr. Speaker, is the tabling of the annual report of the Nunavut Power Corporation.

>>*Applause.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to present these reports to you today. Nunavut Power Corporation points out that several difficulties were incurred in the determination of assets, liabilities and equity balances related to the separation from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

In addition, Nunavut Power Corporation, not unexpectedly, had to go through a learning process associated with the initial year end audit. Mr. Speaker, in spite of the delays encountered, the corporation's financial statements meet all of the requirements of the Office of the Auditor General for Canada and were prepared in accordance with Canada's generally accepted accounting principles. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Picco, can we have that document. Will you send it to the clerk's table please. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Ng.

Tabled Document 119 - 1(6): Public Accounts – March 31, 2002**Tabled Document 120 - 1(6): Schedule of Inter-branch Transfers Over \$250 Thousand**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the public accounts from March 31st 2002, both the non-consolidated and the consolidated financial statements of

the Government of Nunavut and I would also like to table the transfers of over \$250 thousand dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Are there any further tabling of documents. Moving onto Item 14. Notices of motions. Mr. Irgittuq.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 023 – (6): - Extension - Reviews of Bills 20, 33 and 35 - Notice

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, June 3, 2003, I will move the following motion;

I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Uqqummiut, that notwithstanding rule 68 (1), the reports of Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, Government Operations and Services and Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development on the review of Bill 20, an Act to amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Related Statutes and Bill 33, Tobacco Control Act, and Bill 35, the Wildlife Act be extended until such time as the committee have concluded their review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. McLean.

Motion 024 – (6): Extended Adjournment - Notice

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June 5, 2003, I will move the following motion;

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the house concludes its sitting in Baker Lake, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, October 21, 2003 in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Mr. Havioyak.

Motion 025 – (6): Appointment to Standing Committee - Notice

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 5th, I will move the following motion;

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that Jack Anawak, Member for Rankin Inlet North be appointed to the Standing Committee on Health and Education and Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development;

That Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be appointed to the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Language Act, to replace Jack Anawak;

And further, that Peter Kattuk, Member for Hudson Bay, be appointed as an alternate to the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Havioyak. Are there any further Notices of Motions. If not, we'll move on. Item 15. Notices of motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent of the assembly to waive the two day notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 36, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Minister is seeking to waive rule 62 (1), so that the Bill can have first reading today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. The motion is in order. Please proceed. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 36 – An Act to Amend the Worker's Compensation Act – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I move, seconded by the Honourable for Baffin South, that Bill 36, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 36 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent of the assembly to waive the two notice requirement to allow for first reading of Bill 37, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act, for today. Thank you.

Speaker: The Minister is seeking consent to waive Rule 62 (1) so that Bill 37 can have first reading today. Are there any nays. Please proceed. Minister.

Bill 37 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, colleagues, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 37, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 37 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 38, Supplementary Appropriation Act Number 1, 2003/2004, be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Ng. You require consent. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: My omission Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent of the assembly to waive the two day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 38, the Supplementary Appropriation Act for today. Thank you.

Speaker: The Minister is seeking consent to waive rule 62 (1), so that Bill 38 can have first reading today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Minister.

Bill 38 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Capital) No.1, 2003/2004 – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: So, once again, Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay, that Bill 38, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2003/2004, be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 38 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to waive rule 62 (1) so that Bill 39 can be read for the first time today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Minister is seeking consent to waive rule 62 (1), so that Bill 39 can be read for the first time today. Are there any nays. Please proceed.

Bill 39 – An Act to Amend the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – First Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, colleagues, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 39, an Act to Amend the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 39 has had first reading. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this assembly to waive the one day notice requirement to allow for Second Reading of Bills 36, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister is seeking consent to waive rule 62 (1), so the Bill can have second reading. Are there any nays. There are no nays, please proceed.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 36 - An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, colleagues, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 36, an Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act is to move to implement changes that the Legislative Review Panel recommended to both Ministers responsible of the WCB in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Among the key objectives of the bill are to establish an governance counsel of directors of the board, provide that items, such as the yearly maximum insurable remuneration will be set out in regulations and to clarify the board's power to acquire, hold and dispose of real property in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. To the principal of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and the bill has had second reading and according to the bill, stands referred to a committee.

Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent of this assembly to waive the one day notice requirement to allow for second reading of Bill 37, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Minister is seeking consent to waive rule 62 (1) so the bill can have second reading today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed. Minister.

Bill 37 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, colleagues, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Ranking South/Whale Cove, that Bill 37, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the act to amend the Nunavut Liquor Act is to make changes in the number of ways to improve Nunavut's liquor system, including empowering

communities to make special prohibition orders, stiffening penalties for offences under the act and supporting the objectives of the Tobacco Control Act, which is currently being considered by the assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. To the principal of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and the bill has had second reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Bill 38 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Capital) No. 1, 2003/2004 – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hudson Bay that Bill 38, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Capital) No. 1, 2003/2004 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the supplementary appropriation number 1 2003/2004 is to seek legislative approval to carry over \$29 million 386 thousand dollars in capital projects from the 2002/2003 fiscal year to this current fiscal year.

This approval will allow the projects that were in progress to continue this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and the bill has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to waive rule 62 (1), so that Bill 39 can be read for the second time today. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Minister is seeking consent to waive rule 62 (1) so that the bill can have second reading today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Please proceed, Minister.

Bill 39 – An Act to Amend the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act – Second Reading

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 39, an Act to Amend the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Supplementary Allowances Act to provide a member of the Legislative Assembly the option of receiving pension payments for one of three fixed terms.

The Bill would also allow a member to defer the start of the payments to a date of his or her choice. The bill also requires the speaker to table annually the names of members who are participating in this pension plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to waive rule 67(2), so that Bill 39 can be immediately ordered into the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. The Minister is requesting unanimous consent to waive rule 67 (2) so that Bill 39 can proceed directly into Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Bill 39 is referred to Committee of the Whole. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Minister's Statement 126 - 1 (6), 164 - 1 (6), Bill 34, Bill 38, and Bill 39 with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the chair.

Before we proceed into Committee of the Whole, we'll just take a five minute break so that we can restructure the chamber here. Five minutes.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 5:04 p.m. and resumed at 5:20 p.m.*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Iqaqrialu)(interpretation): Of course, feel welcome. While we are having a week in Baker Lake, there's going to be a Committee of the Whole with myself as Chairperson. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, as the Committee of the Whole we'd like to start now with Minister's Statement 126 - 1(6) and after that we'd like to deal with Bill 34. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. There are going to be several items that we're going to be dealing with Bill 34, Minister's Statement 126 - 1(6), Minister's Statement and 154 - 1(6) and Bill 38, Bill 39, those are our tasks. Thank you.

We do have Minister's Statement 126 - 1(6). Does the Minister have any comments?.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have anything to say in regards to this issue. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are you going to have your support staff? Your staff and you can go to the witness table.

Thank you for sitting down, Minister Thompson. Can you introduce your official please.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My official is Tom Cortelli, who is with Human Resources, one of the analysts. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Thompson. Mr. Havioyak, do you have any comments.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first item I would like to bring up is regarding the job descriptions. I will be speaking in English so that everyone has an opportunity to understand.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak today in the Committee of the Whole about this Minister's Statement.

As the members know, this is an issue that I have raised before in the Legislative Assembly, most recently in October of 2002. Mr. Chairman, I have consistently spoken out on the need for the government to ensure that they live up to the land claims obligations.

One of those obligations is to develop a public service that is representative of the people it serves. In my community of Kugluktuk, people want to work. They want to work at a meaningful job that contribute to their community.

They want a chance to develop their own skills, through the life long learning. Mr. Chairman, I have seen many job advertisements posted for provisions in the community. To be honest, I have often wondered how exactly the government decides what skills and qualifications are needed in order to apply for some jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the government is on the right path when it says that they want to review its job descriptions to ensure that the focus is placed on the actual skills and abilities that are needed to perform effectively.

Mr. Chairman, I don't think that anyone can argue with the idea that they should only hire competent, qualified, dedicated people for the positions in our government's work force.

The question is, how we determine what skills are required for jobs and how do we fairly evaluate the skills of people applying for them. Mr. Chairman, in some cases, the answer is obvious. Everyone would agree for example, that a surgeon, employed at the hospital needs a professional medical designation. That's common sense.

In other cases, I believe that we need to make sure that we don't put up unreasonable barriers. An administrative support position, for example, what skills do you need for this type of position.

I would suggest you need a strong administrative skills, strong life skills, good organizational skills and sound interpersonal skills. For a lot of positions, I would also suggest that an ability to communicate with clients in Inuktitut and Innuinaqtut is also a key skill.

I know that many people in my community have these skills. Perhaps they don't always have a specific degree or diploma but they can do the job. Our system of hiring needs to test these skills but we need to make sure that people have a fair opportunity to apply for positions and demonstrate that they can do the job.

Mr. Chairman, they should get the chance to get in the door and prove themselves. Mr. Chairman, we should not down play the value and importance of a formal education and training. As I have said in my member's statement, we need to build a quality education system for our youth.

Our youth know that formal education and training will always benefit them in building a career. Mr. Chairman, this is the area where one size does not fit all. We need to make sure that we hire people who can do the important jobs that we assign to them.

We need to make sure that our residents get a fair chance, Mr. Chairman, to prove that they can do the job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(interpretation) I will be asking questions on this at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Haviyak. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What they have in Human Resources, and how they test their skills, there has been some changes, but we know when the Government of the Northwest Territories were advertising positions, with, I don't think just posting job opportunities should only be that.

There should an overriding objective of selecting the most qualified applicants for employment within the government. How do we determine who is most qualified? Are they the ones with the certification? We already know and sometimes when you get your university diploma, sometimes everything seem easy when you've never held a job before.

Then there are some people who have never entered university before who have been employed for many years and they get their skills. And the Minister knows for a fact, there have been people who have become mechanics that have gone to Chilliwack, although they were unilingual.

With the other courses that were given to those people, and they were taught very well with their skills in order to be able to become mechanics. This is what I'm actually trying to say. Some Inuit do want to work for the government and the government is reluctant to hire them because they are afraid of these people because they are so powerful and this has happened with Government of the Northwest Territories.

For example, former leaders from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and ITC are unemployed because they negotiated the land claims. What has happened. Are they not skilled anymore or what.

For myself, for instance, I'm from Coral Harbour. I have applied for jobs in Coral Harbour as an adult educator. There's was an advertisement in Kivalliq News that there was a job opportunity in Repulse Bay for an adult educator.

I applied for it. I tried for that job with that position. If you're not certified, you would receive 75 percent and be on job training. Because I was one of the most qualified people, I was told, due to the fact that I have not been certified, I can not do the job. Okay. But 75 percent, I will be taught on the job training.

I was told, because I would be getting 75, that I cannot work. Why. Because I was told that I'm already aware of what my position was. It was impossible for me to really, because I didn't have the certification and they told me that I was more qualified than anybody else.

I know there are a lot of people in the same situation. Because when they know that person, it seems like they are reluctant to hire that person because they are afraid of him or her. I think this is breaking Federal law.

When you actually looked at the person, maybe they're going to reject that person. This is going to have to change, because it's already breaking Federal laws.

Because sometimes they go through under the table, we especially people in Nunavut, we are not open because we don't see them sometimes. Although they're not open to everybody, I think, they might open up to the Minister or to the leaders because I don't think that person will just wait.

Because I used to be a Minister once upon a time, and as a Minister, and when ever I gave the, there would be a Minister, there's no Assistant Deputy Minister, that we're going to be equal when we're going to have a managerial meeting and we're going to try to decide how we can make improvements.

But since some of the management people weren't happy with this idea and within Nunavut, if we're going to be hiring people in Nunavut, how's this job going to be advertised with this qualification.

What I'm trying to say, Mr. Chairman, if you do need a university degree, and in the job description, if you have done certain work and if you believe yourself that you are able to help other people, like Mr. Anawak, mentioned this afternoon, let's look for who are willing to work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We're at general comments at this point. We'll get into questions after general comments. I will now call on Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we were discussing this issue during the 1990s, 1980s and 1970s, while we were striving for Nunavut, we were building expectations for Inuit and that they would take on the jobs, although they do not know the qallunaat way and although they do not have that piece of paper to justify what they can do.

So, there were high expectations, according to the experience of the person that they would take on these jobs. This started when we started working towards the creation of Nunavut, because we thought Nunavut would be our own as we heard earlier from other members such as Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Although we are now in control, however, we still don't seem to grasp the idea that we do have control because we are not giving these jobs to people who are able and giving these jobs that are not able instead.

For instance, whether they're Inuit or not, and there are people who are against Inuit working up here, or they just don't respect Inuit as they should be. They don't respect the fact that they are on Inuit land, they're just working because of the job, the pay cheque.

That was not the vision for those people that worked towards Nunavut. For instance, Mr. Arvaluk was involved in that process through Inuit Tapirisat Kanatami and that was not the vision of our leaders, that when Nunavut came to be, we didn't think we would have a Nunavut that is just a rubber stamp.

We wanted its full contents, not just for the name. Yes, Nunavut sounds really good, but there is no beef by which we can justify Nunavut as yet. So, if we are still going to follow through with our wishes, and to ensure that it is not only a name, but that is Nunavut, we should take action now.

Talking with a lot of people, they say Nunatsiaq, the Northwest Territories seems to be even more desirable in contrast to what Nunavut is today. Some are still waiting for what they expected and they are not forthcoming. Perhaps they can look within Nunavut but they start advertising in the Globe and Mail and the Ottawa Citizen, National Post.

Just recently I saw a job ad, that really, an Inuk can do. A job ad, that said Nunavut beneficiaries will be a priority and then they advertise this to the rest of Canada. So the

people that are coming in to Nunavut, at all times, they don't know what the Inuit land is like and we need to gain more respect from these people because we just don't get that.

Yes, people are here for many years and I thank them for all their contributions, but a lot of them come up here to work without any regard for Inuit culture. They come up here just to make money and they don't respect Nunavut.

Yes, we have to start working harder to ensure that we start hiring people that actually believe in Nunavut and that do live in Nunavut. I thought recently, that I'm always going to be in Nunavut. I'm going to die in Nunavut. And while I'm still in Nunavut, people will still be here and so, a lot of those perhaps, you get a lot of thoughts going through, so I always thought, I was born in Nunavut, and I will die in Nunavut and I will live in Nunavut all my life.

However, at times, we don't get the respect we deserve as Nunavummiut because when we're being looked down upon, we can feel it, we can tell. You can't tell from a piece of paper but these are the different things that we need to start considering.

As I said earlier with my question to the Minister, regarding utilizing youth justice committees in the communities and the different committees in town that are set up through social services. Social Services continue to take children without consent or looking at the issues.

I think there's even a child here from Repulse Bay that was taken from a family by surprise without any prior notice. And so, they still haven't had a response exactly why the child was taken from them.

So, these are the types of cases that we have to work on. For instance, I don't know the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nanulik, but I don't know what education he has, but if I was to apply for a job right now, I said this before, if it says grade 12 education required, I wouldn't be qualified right there and then because I have grade 8 education.

But I would think if I was applying for that job, they would perhaps, consider my experience. I think in the 1980s I applied for a wildlife officer position in Rankin Inlet. I was living in Repulse Bay at the time. I was told I don't have any training in wildlife so I wasn't hired.

It was totally opposite. There was somebody from the south getting hired who has never been in the wilderness. So this job I applied for, as a wildlife officer, yeah, I'm happy he went to Rankin Inlet but the job was never filled again because there's nobody in wildlife officer who knows anything about wildlife.

So, perhaps the Repulse Bay residents have more knowledge than that wildlife officer that had just moved. We need to use elders more.

When we say, innait, elders we're saying elders when we respect them. There are a lot of elders but there's not very many elders left.

We respect them, they are our foundation and so we need to utilize them through the schools and these different considerations that can be put to use. We should have been working hard a long time ago, starting in 1999, especially it seems we are a little late because an election is coming up. That is unfortunate.

But because the election is coming up, now, finally, we are talking about this. We are campaigning on. That is not right. We have to work hard at this because we were voted to carry out that task, not do this now just because we want to be re-elected. That is all, thank you, very much.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, my colleague. Next is Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if we did the right thing in Nunavut, we would be talking the right way.

If we were dealing with something positive, we would be talking positively and not pointing fingers at anybody. What I say is true. Today, it is not right what is going on in Nunavut.

Those long term Nunavummiut are being wheeled by someone else in the backdoor. For instance, there are so many behind back doors that today, that we don't see.

There are too many things done behind doors and we need to see more transparency and talk about it, disclose these issues. The Government of Nunavut has good responses when we ask of them and when they have all the responses, we say, yes, they understand what they are doing. When we're talking about it, that's one thing.

Mr. Chairman, government staff are many. \$2 thousand to 5 thousand staff for the government. If I was to say to the Human Resources Minister regarding this issue, one of their officials won't understand what I'm saying and they'll be setting up those barriers just at that point.

He's just going to put up barriers for us and he won't even give any reason to his superiors. The jobs today are like this; if I wanted to work, without any grade at all, I would not be hired.

It is true what my colleague said earlier, as Nunavummiut, people are reluctant to give us that power to take back our own lives. And what I will say is true. Don't be hurt, don't take it personally. Those Nunavummiut, qallunaat or Inuit, because what I will say is true, some of the officials do not have any passion, no passion. They're only in it for the money.

We, the long time Nunavummiut have gone through some very painful times and yet we are very resilient. We have laws that are imposed upon us that give us barriers. No matter how bad they are for us, nobody cares.

We don't want that anymore. Suicide rates today are very high. As we all know, our lives, whether those of us have survived, the pain is still within us and we have to let that go because there is a misunderstanding. They do not know what our needs are.

Mr. Chairman, we need Nunavummiut who have the passion and desire to work in Nunavut. What am I talking about when I mention passion. Things that are good for our lives within Nunavut, that are relevant to Nunavut is what we need in our lives. Sadly, future generations of youth will be going through hardships and face an economic hell because it will be even more expensive to live in the future.

You will need an economic basis to stand up for themselves. We have to empower youth to gain that strength. Now, today, after four years of our mandate as a government, the youth, there is no protection and no tools made available to youth, just things created by the Government of Nunavut, Federal Government, laws that were imposed upon us which we more or less have to emulate in order to get made in Nunavut laws. All simply because we were told we have to do it that way.

Is that true. With our own government in place, we should be able to come up with our own needs, not the Canadian Government's needs, not the Vancouver, not the Saskatchewan Government's needs, Nova Scotia, our government, as Nunavummiut.

We have to start expressing what our needs are, so that Nunavummiut and non-Nunavummiut will work together, have been asked to work together for their government. What I will be saying is true, that as Nunavummiut, if there were no Inuit in Nunavut, in this area of land, there would still be the Canadian government and there would be no Government of Nunavut because they would think that was adequate.

Yes, that was the government and we have had enough of it. We were using the processes in those days, so we wanted to set up our own government because the old government system was not serving our needs.

We wanted to run our own affairs and not be run by other people. Many bills that come for Nunavut are still giving us artificial and hidden barriers. They are trying to get us to rubber stamp as a government things which we will still be pushed aside as Nunavummiut.

We, as Inuit, yesterday, when we came here, I was told when I came here, I am glad I am in the main land of Nunavummiut land. But then again, when we went for a ride up to the access road, I still did not see evidence of our own self-government.

There is a lot of poverty, people looking for their own food with no means to feed their families. They only have their very basic necessities and the government doesn't seem to see that.

We need to empower our people to ensure that they are self-sustaining and arm our people with the means to ensure that we become self-reliant. We are not the only ones. We must help all Nunavummiut be able to stand on their feet. We have to give them the strength to stand up on their own two feet.

Life, for instance, on social services issues, has been a very big one that had hurt a lot of people, instead of helping them. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, if we do anything wrong, then, for instance, something that will really try to put us down, what little wrong move we do, and so, I'm sorry, my time is up Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu, you have to direct your comments towards job descriptions for the issue at hand as to how we can improve the job descriptions in Nunavut to ensure that Nunavummiut can be able to take on more of these jobs without any barriers.

So, please be more direct towards the job descriptions, minister's statement at hand. Thank you.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, you're right.

What I said was, I saw Nunavummiut up here that have never had a job, here as well within the community of Baker Lake. There are so many houses that were built here. There are so many jobs that were created because of that, yet they were never even hired to work in their own community.

I'm talking about jobs, but you ignore that. Once a job ad is open in Baker Lake, well I guess they're going to have to hire from Newfoundland because they're very short of jobs in Newfoundland and they're efficient and they can do the job and that is what you're doing. I'm saying the truth.

I had to say what the facts are as I was told earlier. Inuit here who are able to work in Baker Lake should be hired instead for those jobs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>Applause

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Iqaqrialu. Your time is up. I will now give the floor to Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy that we are discussing the job descriptions.

When Mr. Kilabuk was the Minister, he made the Minister's Statement on job descriptions and I'm happy to say that we are now in the discussion stage. First of all, when we first became members of the Legislative Assembly, I was extremely pleased. Others were just as happy.

Can you pay attention please. I'm talking Inuktitut, so I you could pay attention to me and put your ear piece on.

First of all, when we first became Members of the Legislature of Nunavut, and we knew and thought that there was going to be a lot of jobs given to the people of Nunavut, especially because there was decentralization, the first thing that I asked was whether in the decentralized communities, whether Inuit would be given jobs because I knew that there was a lot of people expecting to get jobs in Nunavut Government.

It is stated that it was supposed to be over 50 percent of Inuit employment. It has to become up to 80 percent within a few years time. For these reasons, looking at it today, it is kind of embarrassing, the target that we set as a government has not been reached yet.

When we first became Members of the Legislative Assembly, we do not even have 50 percent, we have 40 percent Inuit employment. Looking at that figure, we wanted to get elected to the legislature and promising our people that we would help to create jobs for Nunavummiut.

It is embarrassing that we have only reached a 40 percent target. We were very happy to receive the Minister's Statement on job descriptions and I wish that it could be so that they could go through with what they said.

I am not really sure exactly which people or which section of the Human Resources Department hires or interviews or selects candidates for jobs within the government. I do not know who they are. I have never talked to them before.

I could be blamed too because I never tried to find out for myself. I would like to see in the future, I have always asked the Minister of Health and Social Services a question that there should be Inuit social workers who are more sensitive to Inuit. Hire Inuit as social workers because they know the culture and they are sensitive to our culture and our traditions and our values.

We eat different food and have our different values and morals and from the other people in the provinces, we have a slightly different culture here in Nunavut in the communities. I always talk about how little bit different we are from the rest of the world. This is the first time that we have been given this kind of job to do in Nunavut.

We have no idea of how to heal ourselves. It takes time and there are a lot of people that say we have to work by following Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Just a word, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, is not enough.

The social workers and the hamlet workers have to work together to make it better for the Inuit people so they could approach the social workers and it would be very good if the jobs that they are asking for could be given to the hamlets so that they can select the people that they can hire because social workers have to be very sensitive and passionate and they have to understand Inuit culture in order to work with Inuit people.

You have to be able to know the people in the community and know their culture to work with them. They have to be able to want to help and they have to try and preserve and be the same level as the Inuit culture and to understand them in order to counsel them.

These are the things that I would like to see when it comes to the government writing job descriptions, especially for the social workers, when we hire social workers. These people, I'm not saying that I don't like the counsellors or the social workers that come to the communities, but what I'm saying is that they have to be able to understand our language, our culture, and our feelings, to be employed in the communities.

There should not be any barriers. It should not just be that you can get the job because you have a diploma or you can work in the office. It should not be like that. There is a concern that I have too, as well, that Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, the staff of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and because the people that are in higher positions in Culture, Language, Elders and Youth do not really know the Inuit culture and they should be.

The higher up people in the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth should know Inuit culture. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Irqittuq. I have some more names on my list. Three people I will get Mr. Havioyak to talk next. Thank you.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we're going to take a while so I would like to report progress.

Chairperson (interpretation): The member is making a motion to report progress and I will call a vote to report progress. There's a motion to report progress at this time.

So I will stand and report progress, and we can get the speaker to come into the house. Thank you, we'll see you tomorrow.

Speaker: Returning to Orders of the Day, Item 20, Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Minister's statement 126 - 1 (6) and would like to report progress, and I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

Speaker: There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion. Is there a seconder. Mr. Arvaluk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder to all members that tonight at 7:00, a number of events are occurring at the Community Center, commencing with an arts and crafts display.

Tomorrow morning at 9:00, a meeting of the regular caucus in the Nunamiut Hotel board room.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday June 4, 2003:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 34

- Bill 38
- Bill 39
- Minister's Statement 126 - 1 (6)
- Minister's Statement 164 - 1 (6)

20. Report of Committee of the Whole.

21. Third Reading of Bills.

22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Just to follow up on the point that Mr. Quirke stated, the sale of arts and crafts at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Hall. And Mr. McLean also wanted me to mention that following that, there will be a casino night with the proceeds going to the radio station.

This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 4th, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House Adjourned at 6:13 p.m.*

