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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Kevin O'Brien
(Arviat)

Ovide Alakannuark
(Akulliq)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Jack Anawak
(Rankin Inlet North)

Enoki Irqittuq
(Amittuq)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation; Minister of Energy, Minister of Homelessness and Immigration

Hon. Manitok Thompson
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)
Minister of Human Resources; Minister of Education;

Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Premier; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs; Minister of Justice

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)
Minister of Sustainable Development

Glenn McLean
(Baker Lake)

Jobie Nutarak
(Tunnunig)

Hon. Kelvin Ng
(Cambridge Bay)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Government House Leader

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(Kugluktuk)

David Iqaqrialu
(Uqqummiut)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Patterk Netser
(Nanulik)

Hon. Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)
Minister of Public Works and Services

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Community Government & Transportation; Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Rebekah Williams
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Paul Kanayuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday October 21, 2003**

Members Present:

Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Jack Anawak, Mr. Donald Haviyoyak, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Hon. Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Mr. Patterk Netser, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Hon. Manitok Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: I would like to call on Mr. Alakannuark to say the prayer this morning.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good afternoon, Members. Welcome back to the Assembly. Before we proceed with the orders of the day, I'm extremely pleased to welcome our newest Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Patterk Netser representing the electoral district of Nanulik.

>>*Applause*

Welcome. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 179 - 1(6): Minister Absent from the House

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Olayuk Akesuk will be absent from the House today and tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 180 - 1(6): Nunavut Housing Corporation Local Housing Organization Managers Public Housing Rent Scale Meeting

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an important meeting hosted by the Nunavut Housing Corporation to discuss the Public Housing Rent Scale is currently in progress here in the capital.

Mr. Speaker, the *Minister's Task Force on Housing* recommended that the Public Housing Rent Scale should be changed to make it simpler, fairer, and to remove the disincentive to work that existed under the previous scale. Revisions to the rent scale began in March 2001 with a workshop that included chairpersons and managers from all twenty five local housing organizations as well as Housing Corporation staff. This initial consultation created the foundation for the new rent scale.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of that meeting, the Public Housing Rent Scale was further developed, with ongoing consultation and feedback from LHO board Members and staff, officials from across the Government of Nunavut and Members of this Assembly.

A special meeting of the Standing Committee of the Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development was held to discuss the proposed changes to the rent scale and to seek Member's input.

Mr. Speaker, when the new Public Housing Rent Scale was introduced effective January 1 of this year, I committed to review, in a timely fashion, the effect of the changes to the rent public housing tenants pay.

As part of this ongoing review we've invited the housing managers from every Nunavut community to gather and thoroughly discuss all aspects of the new Public Housing Rent Scale. Some of the areas for discussion are: how tenants have been affected, is it truly easier for tenants to understand, what are the administrative challenges and what additional support can the Housing Corporation provide through our community partners to enable them to deliver the Public Housing program as efficiently as possible.

Mr. Speaker, the outcome of the meetings will allow the corporation to adjust the rent scale to make it more efficient. I'll keep Members informed of these deliberations and commit to adjust the rent scale if we believe that it is not meeting objectives that it was designed to achieve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members to join me in welcoming housing managers from across Nunavut to the capital and in wishing them good luck in their meetings this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 181 - 1(6): Healthy Workplace Week

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, welcome back to Iqaluit, the capital of Nunavut, and to this wonderful Assembly that you have an opportunity to share every day during the sessions.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new Member for Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Patterk Netser.

Mr. Speaker, October 20th to the 26th is Healthy Workplace Week. Mr. Speaker, the theme for 2003 is "Healthy Workplace Planning".

Its mission is “to promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to workplace health in order to improve and sustain the health of the Canadian organizations in their work environment and their employees.”

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all employees to do their part to create a healthier workplace. Being healthy at work means more than just eating a healthy lunch. Stress, Mr. Speaker, and busy schedules also affect our health.

Try taking the stairs Mr. Speaker, instead of the elevator to the third floor, or spend some time getting to know a co-worker. Share your ideas on how to make your workplace healthier with your supervisor.

Mr. Speaker, take the time to be positive and to look at the positive issues at work. Mr. Speaker, a healthy lifestyle is a balance. And that life balance includes our workplace here Mr. Speaker. This week gives us a time to reflect on how we can all work together in small ways to improve your health, our health and the Members' health, together as one, and for one during Healthy Workplace Week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 182 - 1(6): Inuktitut School Materials

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome Mr. Patterk Netser, the Member for Nanulik.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that I have three staff Members visiting Iqaluit this week from the Curriculum School Services in Arviat. I am happy to have Mark Kalluak, Louise Angalik and Donald Uluadluak here at the Legislative Assembly. They're situated behind me in the gallery.

Mr. Speaker, for the past three years we have had elders developing Inuktitut materials for the Department of Education. These elders have contributed to many of the Inuktitut curriculum projects used in our schools.

On the occasion of their visit, I'm pleased to release the Traditional Inuit Calendar designed by Mark Kalluak. Copies of these calendars have been prepared for the Members.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, there are also CDs and other Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit resources that I'm pleased to share with each of you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues during our break to visit the Natsiq room.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite our colleagues during our break to visit the Natsiq room to take a closer look at the materials that have been developed by the elders who work in our department.

The elders are very knowledgeable in this area and are looking forward to sharing their work with you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk

Minister's Statement 183 - 1(6): October - Women's History Month

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since the month of October is Women's History Month for all of Canada, this year's theme "What Do You Mean, Women Couldn't Vote" draws attention to the kinds of battles women fought to gain the rights that today we often take for granted.

We were pleased to see that this year's Women's History Month poster, created by the Status of Women Canada, contains a picture of a group of Inuit women hauling provisions. My department, in cooperation with the Status of Women of Canada, has reproduced a poster in Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun to go along with the English and French versions. The posters will be distributed for display to every community in Nunavut. I invite my colleagues to view the poster displayed in the great hall in four languages.

Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month was established in 1992 by the Government of Canada. It provides an opportunity for us to learn more about women's historic accomplishments and their contributions to Canadian society. Today, not only can women vote, they are increasingly becoming elected representatives at all levels of Government.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as a highlight, not as a side note, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Elisapee Sheutiapik who was elected as the new Mayor for the City of Iqaluit.

>>Applause

(interpretation) While much has been done in advancing equality for women there is still much left to do. Even while we do that work, we must take the time to look around and celebrate what has already been accomplished in the area of women's equality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Members' Statements. Mr. Netsler.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 596 – 1(6): Acknowledge and Thank for Support as New MLA

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased but quite obviously very nervous to rise today for the first time. My colleagues are all very experienced in making statements so I'm sure you appreciate the butterflies that I have in my stomach as I speak.

Mr. Speaker, it's a tremendous honour and privilege to represent the people of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet in the Legislative Assembly and I want to thank both communities for their support in the recent by-election.

I would also like to acknowledge the strong campaigns of the other two candidates who ran in the by-election. Mr. Speaker, the word of God says to acknowledge him and he shall direct our path, so Mr. Speaker, in the presence of the leaders of Nunavut I am acknowledging him and I also want to thank my wife and my family for the tremendous support that they have given me and continue to give me.

Many of my new colleagues have warned me about the tremendous burden that public life puts on the families of those who sit in office and I want to say that I will do my very best to balance the demands of office with the needs of my children.

Mr. Speaker, when I ran for the Legislative Assembly, I did so knowing the tremendous challenges ahead of us. The two communities that I represent may have had many needs and it is my intention to vigorously represent them.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut has come a long way in the last four years. Much of the progress is due to the hard work of people on both sides of this chamber, but I know there is much to be done. During my campaign I talked about the need for support to homeowners. I talked about the need of economic development opportunities for my communities. I talked about the need for an education system that will prepare my children and for those of my constituents for the challenges ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to achieve my time limit on my very first statement so I will close again my thanking Chesterfield Inlet and Coral Harbour for their support and I intend to re-earn their support every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 597 – 1(6): Iqaluit Homeowners Owing Taxes

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to say that we had a very proud moment in Rankin Inlet. Since we did not have satellite access, I couldn't watch the hockey game in my home but we were extremely proud that we have our first NHL Inuk hockey player, Jordin Tootoo.

I would like to also congratulate Patterk Netser for becoming the newest Member of the Legislative Assembly and also Paul Kanayuk who is here.

But I would first like to talk about some of the comments that we had heard this summer. We had heard that, well, we're all from Nunavut and we all have to work together as Nunavummiut for the benefit of the communities. I am only thinking about the three people who were going to be evicted from their homes because of the huge amount they owe to the City in property taxes.

I understand that process has been delayed, and it will be going through the court system in December. Should they lose their case they will be evicted from their houses in the middle of winter. Who will be buying those houses after they're evicted? No doubt, it will be those with commercial interest.

I was disappointed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation said this is out of their hands and they cannot help those homeowners. These individuals, however, got their homes under the NWT Homeownership Program, where they put in 'sweat equity' and after living in those homes for five years, would own the homes outright. A number of unfortunate events took place for these people, some losing their jobs and others no longer able to work.

We as the Government of Nunavut should be helping Nunavummiut who are in that kind of situation. It is regrettable that their homes will then become commercial properties and moneymaking ventures.

I just wanted to make that comment about these three individuals. There may be more, and I will also be posing the question to the appropriate Minister in question period. And also I would like to know if they could decrease the interest amount. It is usually 7% interest in Canada. Thank you.

Speaker: Just so we get started on the right foot, I will ask the Members to try to keep to their time allocations. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 598 – 1(6): Successful School Year in Quttiktuq

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin today by also congratulating the new Mayor, and the new Council Members of the City on their election last night.

I hope that the Members will understand when I single out Councillor, Glenn Williams, for special congratulations on his re-election. Sometimes when you have two elected politicians in the same family discussion can get a little heated.

Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to see all of my colleagues back today; we have a lot of work ahead of us. There will be hard discussions these coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, in June, we had our last sitting in Baker Lake, and I was able to spend time in my communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord. My constituents have shared concerns with me regarding such issues as the lack of housing, and the need for new community infrastructure. I will be raising their concerns as we deal with the Government's Capital Estimates over the coming weeks.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to thank the Members of this Assembly for their efforts in trying to hold our recent caucus retreat in Resolute Bay. The weather prevented us from making it, but I am confident that we will hold a full sitting there some day. I do know, but I believe that we could have a meeting in the High Arctic area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by extending my best wishes to the students and teachers in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord, for a successful school year. I also want to give my best to my mother in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Williams. Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 599 – 1(6): Successful Municipal Election

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise today to welcome back all of the Members who were not delayed by weather, back here to Iqaluit. I look forward to everyone else arriving as soon as Mother Nature permits for this session, here in our fine capital city.

I would also like to extend, as I had mentioned already, a special welcome to our new colleague, Mr. Patterk Netser, from the riding of Nanulik, who just joined the good side of the House. I look forward to more efforts coming from this side during question period.

Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit residents went to the polls yesterday to choose the City's next leadership team. Just over 1,400 people cast their ballots in the Municipal race. I am delighted to be able to offer my congratulations to the Mayor elect, Ms. Elisapee Sheutiapik and I would also like to congratulate the other candidates who ran good campaigns, as well as paying a tribute to the hard work by Mayor Matthews and the Council over the past few years.

I would also like to congratulate the new Members of the Council, Annie Gordon, Glenn Williams, and Chris Wilson, our trusty Sergeant-At-Arms, Simanek Kilabuk, Nancy Gillis, Simon Nattaq, Stu Kennedy and Goola Nakasuk.

Congratulations are also due to the Members of the Iqaluit District Education Authority and the Council École for the Francophone District Education Authority. These Members are Andrew Tagak Sr., Aseena Allurut, Tim Neily, Caroline Anawak, Cathy Smith, Catherine Trumper and Sean Maloney, Caroline Malory, Jeff Barkley, Paul Landry, Marco Desault, and Jacques Fortier.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's Capital is currently in a period of tremendous growth and opportunity. The Mayor and Council certainly have their work cut out for them and in terms of delivering quality service, quality municipal services in their growing city.

I want to say that good progress has been made and I look forward to the Government of Nunavut working closely with its Municipal partners in such areas as the City's new Block Funding Agreement.

As one of Iqaluit's Members of the Legislative Assembly, I can say that the Council has a strong voice in this House. Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit's needs are many... Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask 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. Members, I tried. Iqaluit's needs are many, as Canada's newest and coolest capital city, the pressures on our infrastructure are intense, our residents expect quality services and innovative leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Mayor and Council are up to the challenge and I ask all Members to join me in wishing them every success for the road ahead as we build a capital city in which all Nunavummiut will be justly proud. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 600 – 1(6): Commonwealth Regional Seminar in Iqaluit

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would first of all like to say my greetings to the people in my riding and I would also like to congratulate the new Member for Nanulik and this was your first rising in the House. I congratulate you for it and I welcome you to the House. Please let me know if I am running out of time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the Members about the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the Canadian Regional Seminar held here at the Assembly last week. The seminar was very successful and I would like to thank Mr. Quirke, the Deputy Clerk, Nancy Tupik, and also the Interpreters who were interpreting during this seminar. The seminar was very successful with twenty six delegates from nine provincial and territorial legislatures attending, as well as delegates from the Parliament of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, this was the first time that Nunavut has hosted a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association here. The seminar got underway last Thursday, with an opening reception that I had the distinct pleasure of emceeing.

Sammy Qaummariq and Mary Wilman lit the Qulliq, while explaining the significance of the Qulliq to Inuit culture. The Joamie School drummers and the Aqsarniit Ilinniarvik Choir entertained the delegates.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you colleagues. The Joamie and Aqsarniit drummers and choir entertained the delegates with songs, drum dancing, throat singing and traditional games. The evening was capped by a wonderful performance by Madeline Allakariallak, and Sylvia Cloutier. They formed an excellent duo. During the opening reception and meals, all the delegates had the opportunity to try our country foods, including char, turbot, caribou, and musk-ox.

During the seminar's five business sessions, we had lively and thought provoking discussions on topics including consensus government, e-democracy, and the nature of casting a vote. The delegates were particularly interested in the unique form of our Government.

I was joined at the seminar by my colleague, Ms. Williams, and I would like to thank you for your attendance. I am sure that she will join me in thanking all of the delegates from across the country who took time out of their busy schedules, to attend the seminar, in many cases, visit Nunavut for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Okalik.

Member's Statement 601 – 1(6): Congratulations to the New Council Members

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raised my hand quite a while ago. I welcome you back. First of all, I would like to welcome the new Member, Mr. Patterk Netser, welcome. It was good to hear your opening comments.

First I would like to mention the election yesterday. It was quite exciting to see the results, to see more Inuit elected to the Council. They were quite recognizable. This is a sign that Inuit want to start taking on their own destiny, by using their language and working hard for their people.

First, I would like to recognize my constituents who were elected. For Mayor, Elisapee Sheutiapik who is from my riding, I congratulate her. As well, our Sergeant-At-Arms, Simanek Kilabuk was elected, and congratulations to an elder, Goola Nakasuk, who is also in my riding, I congratulate him and as well Stu Kennedy, congratulations for being elected to the City Council.

Inuit were elected onto more than half of the Council seats and I am very proud of that. In this way, Inuit concerns will now be heard more and be dealt with. And those that were also campaigning for other seats, I congratulate them for taking the time to put some ideas out in the open during the campaign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 602 – 1(6): Encourage Nunavummiut to Volunteer

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad to be back here in the House today and I would like to welcome Mr. Netser here for representing his Riding and it is good to see you here.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to encourage Nunavummiut to be more active contributors to their communities. Mr. Speaker, I am talking about increasing volunteer base across Nunavut. I am especially talking about increasing the number of volunteers to mentor our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank many of the people who already volunteer their time to make the community a better place to live and to show our youth how valuable they are to us. Many people spend countless hours coaching organized sports. I would like to recognize dedicated people who keep the Kugluktuk Grizzly Youth Program running.

I would like to see more adults and elders involved with our youth. Not every child has an opportunity to go out on the land and learn about our traditional lifestyle, but every child can benefit from these experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage Nunavummiut to invest their time in our youth, to take young people out on the land, to coach a team, to spend time reading, teaching, and socializing with our youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 603 – 1(6): Spiritual Gathering in Baker Lake

Mr. McLean: Ma'na, Uqaqti. Uqaqti, first off, I would like to welcome Patterk Netser to the Assembly. I first met Patterk in 1975, when I worked for the infamous Hudson's Bay Company in Coral Harbour. He was a willing customer and a purchaser of many snowmobile parts. Today, it is great to see a guy from the Kivalliq in this House because it is no secret that I felt very alone in the last two or three years representing my Constituency and the Kivalliq.

Uqaqti, I would like first, to say thank you for the wonderful sleigh, of carrying it to our tapestry that is now on display in the Legislative Assembly foyer. When I walked into the Assembly this afternoon, I almost thought I was back at home in Baker Lake, but I guess you cannot have everything you ask for.

Uqaqti, I am pleased today, on the First Sitting of our Fall Session and I hope that all of the Members of this House were able to spend a lot of time in their communities during the past few months since we last gathered together for the tremendous success and successful sitting in Baker Lake.

Uqaqti, it has been a great summer and early fall in Baker Lake. Earlier this summer, we hosted a very successful Kivalliq Summer Games and approximately 70 athletes from across the Kivalliq came to Baker Lake to take part in this excellent event.

Last month, Mr. Speaker, a major spiritual gathering was held in Baker Lake and I want to pay tribute to Bill and Joan Kashla, who made this event a reality. Mr. Speaker, there were over 400 people from Nunavut, Nunavik, and other parts of Canada who attended this spiritual gathering, and today, Mr. Speaker, Baker Lake is a better place for that.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, far too often, we neglect the spiritual side of our lives, and I am glad that Baker Lake was the place of much celebration, and reflection on that.

Uqaqti, I even had a little archaeological adventure of my own this summer. As Members may have heard, we stumbled across an interesting mystery in Baker Lake, an old burial site that appears to be dating back to the nineteenth century. I want to thank the folks at Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, who are helping us out on solving this mystery.

Uqaqti, the fall is going to be a busy one for us. Next month, residents from my community will be voting in an important plebiscite question. I want to encourage everyone in my community to think carefully about this issue and to make our voice heard in the ballot box.

Over the next few weeks I am pretty sure that I will be able to identify a number of areas where we need to make further progress, and I will look forward to speaking on these issues in the House over the next three weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 604 – 1(6): Recognition of Sons

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise as well today. There have been two occurrences of firsts for me that are most important to me. First of all, I would like to thank Joseph, my son. This is the first time that he bought me a tie that I can wear in the House, it is a golf tie. And Kevin Alikatuktuk, not you Mr. Speaker, I will send my regards to him. During the fishing season in Pangnirtung, he caught two fish for the first time, this year. I would like to congratulate him, I am very proud of him.

As well for quite a while now, in Pangnirtung, in 2003 we have had two springs for the first time. We were riding our snowmobiles a while ago and now the snow is all gone, and we are out boating again. So it is our second spring this year. My regards to the people of Pangnirtung. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 605 – 1(6): Ministers Retreat in Sanikiluaq

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today to send my regards to my family. As well, welcome to Mr. Patterk Netser to the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, the Ministers were able to travel to Sanikiluaq for a retreat. The residents of Sanikiluaq were very proud to host the Cabinet. They were made quite welcome in the community. They also had an opportunity to see a different part of Nunavut and also eat what they have never eaten before. So it was quite an experience for everybody.

We also have seen some minerals that are quite different in the Belcher Islands. So they had quite a few experiences and took home a few things from Sanikiluaq. We also make dried meat, and the person to my right had never heard that they dried up the intestines of the whales. We always throw those parts away, but he took those and said that he would dry them. He taught a lesson to the people of Sanikiluaq in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

Member's Statement 606 – 1(6): Health Diagnosis in Nunavut

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have my voice back. I would like to send my regards to my family, my wife and my daughter, should they be watching, I say hello to them and also would like to extend my congratulations to the new Member elected for Nanulik.

I rise today on behalf of Nunavummiut to talk about health. I know that Nunavummiut get sick and some will have poor health. At times, these individuals are not diagnosed for a very long time. Even though sickness may never be eradicated in Nunavut, I would suggest that some individuals should be tested for what kind of illnesses they have.

Currently, we now have more technology to diagnose some illnesses better than before and also, I know that the nurses and the doctors are very professional and I praise them for their work, but we all have to help each other and they should be giving more support to those people in need.

And when the time arises during question period, I will be asking questions in regards to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 607 – 1(6): City Council Election

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to begin by thanking the people of Sanikiluaq for their excellent fishing pole I guess they gave me in June. I won another contest there.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday an overwhelming number of Iqaluit residents went to the polls to elect a Mayor, Council and Iqaluit Education Council Members.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to begin by saying that over the past several years, I have had an opportunity and a chance to work with Mr. John Matthews as the Councilor and a Mayor. John provided yeoman service as Mayor during some of the most tumultuous and difficult times that the City of Iqaluit has seen in the past several years.

Mr. Speaker, John Matthews held the Office with dignity, and Mr. Speaker, with honesty and I would like to take this opportunity to thank John for his services to all the people in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, Councilor Irving and our former mayor Mr. Jimmy Kilabuk also dedicated much time in elective office representing all of Iqaluit residents and I wanted to thank them also for offering themselves to the people of Iqaluit for elected office yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, our new Mayor brings experience, drive and dedication to the position and I look forward to working with her and her colleagues during the Assembly over the coming months and years.

Mr. Speaker, almost overlooked in the election yesterday was the election of the Iqaluit Education Council and the Iqaluit Francophone Education Council. I wanted to congratulate them on their elections and single out a former employee of ours, here at the Legislative Assembly, Ms. Aseena Allurut. I congratulate Aseena for her election yesterday to the Iqaluit Education Council.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this opportunity to extend best wishes, Mr. Speaker, best wishes to a former Iqaluit resident, my good friend and well-known CBC broadcaster, Mr. Winston White, who is seeking election under the PC, the Progressive Conservative banner today in Labrador.

Winston's family and his friends here in Iqaluit, his sister Pauline, his nephews and nieces, all wish Winston the very best in the election when we are watching the returns tonight.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Winston chose to represent the Progressive Conservative Party and I am hoping, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Grimes pulls through. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? If not, we will move onto Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 533 – 1(6): New Air Terminal Extension

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question was posed to me by Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide the Member for Nattilik with a response to the question that I took as notice regarding the air terminal building stationed in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, my Department has secured federal funding support for an air terminal building in Gjoa Haven. A large portion of the funding is provided through a federal infrastructure program, for which there are strict guidelines.

Transport Canada Service Levels and Criteria are used for sizing the building. The Federal Government would not cost share any additional changes that went beyond the required specifications. These specifications do provide for a terminal that allows for the

continued growth and economic development in the community over the next ten to fifteen years.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the building will support the needs of the community for some time to come. In this time of fiscal responsibility, ensuring that buildings are built to the appropriate guidelines provides for maximum use of the limited funds available.

I am very much looking forward of the opening of new air terminal building in Gjoa Haven soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Return to Oral Question 501 – 1(6): Plans for a New Government Building in Arctic Bay

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide a response to a question from Ms. Williams on March 26th, 2003. The Technical Division of Public Works and Services has completed a technical evaluation on the current government facilities in Arctic Bay. Government employees with offices in that facility have been working out in their homes.

We are addressing the short term office needs by renovating a portable to meet current building codes. These renovations are scheduled to be completed by mid January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Thompson.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize constituents of yours who are here for the education materials.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a couple of individuals behind me, Mark Kalluak, Louise Angalik, and Donald Uluadluak, who will be displaying the things in that room and you will be able to ask questions.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, one more who I would like to recognize, is an individual, Sergeant-at-Arms for this week from Rankin Inlet, my constituent, Paul Kanayuk.

(interpretation) Paul Kanayuk, if he could rise. I have invited him for Sergeant-at-Arm, and the Sergeant-at-Arms had trained him this morning and I would like to thank the Sergeant-at-Arms.

Paul Kanayuk started carving in Rankin Inlet, in Reception Bay, when he was sixteen years old. He started working the mines. He also worked in the transport ships for four years and he has worked at a power house for a year and half.

Also, Mr. Speaker, Paul Kanayuk has worked for twenty-eight years in Rankin Inlet as a road maintenance worker I'm glad that he's retiring and we're glad that he's here. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Thompson. I'd also like to recognise Mark Weason Donald and encourage everybody to go through their display from the side room here. It's a very comprehensive and exciting display. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognise the former legislator of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, a former colleague of mine, I believe he was the longest serving Member by the time he had left office, and that's Mr. Ludy Pudluk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognise a couple of individuals behind me. My wife Lorraine, and beside her are her cousins, please rise; they now live in Pond Inlet although they came from Gjoa Haven, and her name is Rachel and her brother Tunnua. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognise another individual, Sarah Takijuk; she is from Gjoa Haven and she'll be one of the pages and I'd like to thank her for coming, although this individual has already been recognised, one of my relatives, I find it very difficult and uncomfortable to say his name, Paul Kanayuk, Although he is my in-law, please welcome him. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I'd like to welcome Mr. Lootie Palluk and also there are two individuals who are from Sanikiluaq that I would like to recognise. They're behind me. This lady is my Constituency Assistant

in Sanikiluaq and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for providing support services.

We also have the Qikiqtani Inuit Association who are having their annual general meeting here in Apex, Iqaluit. I would like to welcome the Members of QIA.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This individual was recognised, but I too would like to take the opportunity to recognise this Nunavut wide known individual; his name is Lootie Palluk. I would also like to recognise two individuals who are not here, Karen Inutiq, who is my Constituency Assistant in Resolute Bay and May Inutiq in Arctic Bay.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The person beside me who is from Sanikiluaq forgot the names of the people who were here from Sanikiluaq. Mosesie Novalinga and Louisa Meeko and I would also like to recognize Ooleepeka Veevee, who could be a comic at times. She will probably give us a little bit of entertainment during our break. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Any further Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery? Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to welcome Mr. Puqiqnak's wife and also our comic, Rebecca Veevee. (interpretation ends) Rebecca, Mr. Speaker, will be beginning a new program, modelled after 'This Hour Has 22 Minutes' beginning in November and Rebecca was dressed up as that crazy Marge with the sword, or as 'Xena Warrior Princess'.

We are looking forward to that, Mr. Speaker, starting and she is in here now studying some of the attributes of the Members, because many of the Members will be on TV in that Comedy Special being aired across Canada on the APTN Network as well as CBC North.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to welcome Rebecca and thank her, in all seriousness, Mr. Speaker, for the daring rescue she was involved in about a month ago here in Iqaluit at the breakwater, so I want to thank Rebecca for that.

I also wanted, Mr. Speaker, to also welcome, at this time, someone who has been welcomed several times, but I wanted to add a little footnote and that is Mr. Lootie Pulluk. Lootie's brother was also elected yesterday to the Education Council here in Iqaluit, Mr. Andrew Tagak, a good friend of mine, and I wanted to mention joining Andrew in Elected Office yesterday, a repeat offender, Mr. Glenn Williams, was elected to the Iqaluit Council and a Constituent of mine, I wanted to wish him the very best also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on to Item 6. Oral Questions. Do we have any Oral Questions? Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 583 – 1(6): Three Territories to Increase Credit Limit from the Federal Government

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a few years younger than Mr. McLean; my reflexes are a little quicker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Finance.

I believe it is tomorrow that he is going to be giving us a fiscal update on the Government of Nunavut. Without pre-empting that, I know that there have been a number of rumours and stuff going on throughout the bureaucracy on our situation.

But one thing that I would like to ask him is, earlier this month there was a report that all three Territories might be approaching the Federal Government to increase their borrowing limit.

I would like to ask the Minister if this Government is going to be looking at doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe a consideration for the future, but at the present time, no, I mean we are working within the credit limit that we have with the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe just for the record, I'd like to ask the Minister to let us know what our limit is and where we are at on this right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our limit is that \$200 million dollars and it involves the guarantees that we put out for some of the Crown Corporations, in particular, two larger ones being the Nunavut Housing Corporation debt and the Power Corporation debt.

I do not have the actual estimates here with me given that the public accounts are now still being finalized by the Auditor General, but I can get the information certainly at a reasonable timeframe and advise the Member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if that will be in our fiscal update or not, but I look forward to getting those numbers. Mr. Speaker, I guess the reason that this comment was made about approaching the Federal Government to increase the borrowing limit, I believe was made by Mr Ng's counterpart in the NWT, and it related to the fact that all of the money that's recently been announced for infrastructure and housing and things of that nature is all matching money.

The funds that we received, if we're not going to be looking at going to borrow, do we have the capacity to be able to match to maximize all those dollars? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as usual it's a very good question that the Member raises. I can say that given those discussions with Infrastructure Canada at the officials level that have been ongoing for several months before the final announcement made by the Federal Government on the infrastructure funding that the majority of the contributions for the Government of Nunavut have been put into our fiscal outlook. So they have been included in the capital plan to allow us to maximize the opportunities in matching federal funding that's available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues from Qamanittuaq would say it's no secret that this Government has been going on from day one over the need for additional funding and resources from the Federal Government.

Given that, and what we've done as the Government has on numerous occasions over the past we've spent our money, putting our money into public housing and infrastructure and things of that nature. Would it be possible for the Minister, if he could look at going back and counting the funds that we've already spent over the last number of years since division of our money that we've spent and put into those types of infrastructure and

housing projects, and at least count it as a credit towards the matching funding for federal dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can say that the Federal Government, the representatives and their political representatives are well aware of some of the needs that we have in Nunavut and it has been reflected in being able to access federal funding that is available without having to be penalized based on our current situation.

So, yes, there are some provisions to recognize money that is being spent by this Government as part of the matching contribution required for the federal infrastructure dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 584 – 1(6): Healing Centre Facility Training for Prospective Employees

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This question is for the Minister of Justice.

First of all I'd like to thank him for coming to Kugluktuk this summer to deal with the issue of a Healing Centre.

(interpretation ends) I would like to ask the Minister on the position he is taking for the Kugluktuk Healing Centre; are there going to be any training programs put on during the winter of this year before the place is opened? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan is to train prospective employees to work in facilities before the facility opens in the summer of next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Maybe I did not hear part of it. When will the training take place? When will it commence before people are employed in the Healing Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To train perspective employees, before actual opening of the facility, we are looking at the program currently. Perhaps some of

these perspective employees will work on a casual basis at the current correctional facility, learn some of the basic skills needed and get hands on experience.

That is what we are looking at right now and as soon as a plan is finalized, then I will forward the information to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Minister for your response. At times employment is forthcoming, will there be training in November or December geared to the young people or to those potential employees? When will the information be available? When will it commence, in November or December? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I believe that we are in the process of hiring a project manager for the facility. So that is the priority at this time. Once that is completed, and then the manager will then go through the process of hiring or identifying individuals in the community to be trained, and work out the training program for this facility. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 585 – 1(6): Price Increase in the Kivalliq Region

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, late last year, there was a decision made by this Government not to award the fuel contract to NTCL, or the dry cargo to NTCL. We were assured by the Minister at that time that the same level of service would be provided to the Kivalliq region. To date, I do not know if this is true or not.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister today is that, the major reason that the contract was not awarded to them was price. My question to the Minister today is can the Minister tell us in this House that he is going to ask if there is going to be a price increase in gasoline, or home heating products? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister responsible for Public Works, Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding his question, to this date it is still hard to say whether the price of gasoline will rise, and we have not announced anything in that regard. As for the dry goods and fuel contract, NTCL was able to service other communities quite adequately and there has not been any decision made to raise the rates for gasoline or dry goods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the shipping season in Nunavut is a long season, and I know it is a decision that the Minister does not make on his own and it has to come from whatever they are called over there.

Does the Minister know, or can he tell us if there is going to be a price increase in home heating fuel or gasoline by the end of this Session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk: No. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Minister for saying “no”. There is not going to be a price increase in gasoline or home heating fuel this year and I am sure all of our Constituents in our communities will find it as welcome news. I have no more questions on that issue. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 586 – 1(6): Community Nurses Mandate

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding the community nurses across Nunavut. How many years are they mandated to be nurses in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me say that the flower arrangement that you have adjacent to you and next to you looks very nice, it is nice to see the warm colours of fall being displayed next to yourself. The roses here look very good; I mean that in all seriousness.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, the nurses that we have in our communities, what we are finding with right now, Mr. Speaker, we have about 80 percent termed and indeterminate nurses, which means that there on the longer period, where they would be in for at least two to three years. Indeterminate status means, Mr. Speaker, that they are full-time employees of the Department of Health and Social Services.

The nurses that we have working in our communities are all white nurses. They hold various degrees and so on from various universities that are recognized throughout

Canada and internationally. So, I hope that helps answer the Member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Question. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his response. The reason I asked this question is that we have some nurses who are very dedicated and committed in the North and there are some that are different. Although they work hard, they cannot seem to accomplish their job as well as others. Could there be improvements in the healthcare system in that regard through the performance of nurses? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I preference my answer by saying that at the beginning the Member made an excellent point and it is that our nurses are dedicated people working under tremendous amount of stress, dealing with life and death situations on a regular basis.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, in most of our communities, the nurses are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. As with any other employee of the public service, Mr. Speaker, there are ongoing performance appraisals that are done on the employees, the Nurses falls into that Public Service Act that fall into that category.

Ongoing evaluations, indeed monitoring of the work that is being performed by the nurses are also carried out by direct supervisors of the nurses. So, there are checks and balances to ensure the work that is being done by the nurses.

However, Mr. Speaker, if there is a concern specific to work being carried out by a particular nurse or a Member or staff of the Department of Health and Social Services, then Mr. Speaker, I would very much entertain that type of thing in writing from the Member if there is a specific issue or a problem that the community has experienced and in a letter form would help me indeed, Mr. Speaker, be able to look into the matter for them. Thank you.

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

Question 587 – 1(6): Lowering Percentage of Interest Rates for Land Lease

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation.

Iqaluit is a tax based community. They generate revenue through property taxes and things of that nature, which is unique to Iqaluit. Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay are in discussions for gearing towards that. I'm not against leasing of land property, however, the leasing, when they are late with their payments, the interest builds on the arrears and

in the Act it states, that we have just found out recently, that I should have caught this earlier on that it states in the Act that the communities, once they lease land then interest rate cannot go over twenty four percent and I believe this was devised in the late 1980's.

The interest is quite high, twenty two percent I think is the interest rate for past due arrears for land leasing. It's up to each tax based community. Don't you think this twenty four percent should be decreased at this time, this interest rate that has to be paid on top of the arrears; it's only seven percent interest rate for the Federal Government, perhaps five percent if you are in good standing.

Do you think the interest rate of twenty four percent should be lowered to follow with the status quo? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps we can look into the matter. The interest rate for land leasing, twenty four percent is the ceiling. We can certainly look into the matter. I can't really say anything else at this time without having to look into this matter further.

The City of Iqaluit is using that rate at this point and they're the only tax based community that can set that rate at this point. If there is a call to look into this matter, then we can look at the issue of the rate of interest. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for his response. Mr. Speaker, what I'm looking for is a very small change to the Municipal Act. Section eighty three of the Act, subsection c says, "Respecting the imposition of interest on amounts outstanding that the rate of interest must not exceed twenty four percent per year." That's one little section of the whole Act that needs to be changed.

I ask the Minister to take a serious look at whether the limit of interest rate charged should be changed looking at the fact the interest rates have been lowered for quite some time in Canada and obviously charging twenty percent or eighteen percent, is the same thing as charging the same amount as a credit card, and should we be looking at lowering that interest rate at this time for tax paying residents. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again the City of Iqaluit sets its own interest rates for arrears. If there is a request or concern of the Member, and some Members, or the residents of Iqaluit, this is an issue that for taxpayers, this is a section that they can consider looking at possible changes in the Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 588 – 1(6): Completion Date of New Hospital in Iqaluit

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Just a few days ago, when the sun was shining, all the Members went up to where the new hospital will be built. What is the completion date for the new hospital in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Speaker. I would like to be able to give a categorical date, but Mr. Speaker, over the past several years now that I have been involved in this file, something always seems to occur. Last year it was the remediation of environmental damage on the lot. The facility should be completed, Mr. Speaker, with patients being able to move into it in late 2006-07.

Mr. Speaker, the site workers are on their way right now, with access roads and so on. Mr. Speaker, after sealift next summer, the piles and so on will be put in place, and then it will be two years after that. So then by the Fall in late 2006, early 2007, the facility should be ready to receive its first patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been visiting some of my relatives at the hospital. Not too many beds are open, and every time I spoke to the health professionals up there, the beds available are for very short periods and the nurses work twelve hour shifts, and the hospital has to be open twenty four hours a day.

Can the Minister respond to me now by way of correspondence what has been planned for the patients' rooms? Since the hospital is going to be larger than the current hospital here, will they be able to hire doctors, and other health professionals that are required? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, indeed one of the questions or concerns that keeps coming up and has been raised by the public at large is: will we be able to fill the positions that will become available, not only in Iqaluit, but the Cambridge Bay facility, and the Rankin Inlet facility.

We suggest, Mr. Speaker, that we will be able to do that. Having a better facility in place, having the expertise, Mr. Speaker, should not be a problem. Right now in the three

regional centres and including at the hospital here, we are at one of the highest levels we have had with staffing.

We also have an additional \$4.5 million dollars for the primary healthcare functions that the Federal Government will be opening in the coming weeks, the primary healthcare medical service for the first time in Nunavut.

We do not believe, Mr. Speaker, that there will be an issue around the staffing of the new facility once it comes on stream in 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would further ask that is anything in place to make sure it is going to be fully staffed in three years with the crew and nurses and the doctors he is speaking about. This is a good hospital; I worked in that hospital before and they are saying that this is a good hospital.

Now they are trying to make a new one and they know that they are saying that they are not going to be able to stop it. Maybe the Minister could tell, reassure this staff and Nunavummiut; that there will be staff in this hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let me say categorically that the Baffin Regional Health Facility was built in 1960; it only had one substantial renovation that was in 1977.

Mr. Speaker, the population of Iqaluit was 1,530 people when that hospital was put in place in 1960. The population of the Baffin was about 3,200 people. Today, Mr. Speaker, we almost have 20,000 people in the Region and we are still using the same hospital.

Our hospital is 43 years old; it is still one of the oldest pieces of infrastructure in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, having a newer facility, so that people actually have a good facility to work in means that you would be able to attract people.

Right now, Mr. Speaker, when people are offered a job, although that facility is nice and it is solid, it is not up to date. If I had to bring it up to code, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about \$15 million dollars. Having a better facility with new technologies and so on, Mr. Speaker, will give us an opportunity to recruit, because you would be recruiting to work in a better facility. That in itself, Mr. Speaker, should help us recruit.

However, Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the future, I cannot tell that in 2006, yes, it will be at 100 percent. What I can say is that we are working right now on the ground work to do what the Member is asking for, that at the end of the day, we will have the facility, we

will have the expertise and we will have the professionals to run the facility like we are doing right now, Mr. Speaker, in Rankin Inlet, as well as in Cambridge Bay with those facilities.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are working towards that and we do have a plan in place. We need that facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I used to work in that hospital before and I know exactly what I am talking about. There are probably close to six thousand people in Iqaluit. There are only about four beds, four rooms open and most of the rooms are closed in that hospital. That is what I am talking about.

We have a hospital that is almost empty, but some of the elders downstairs have to wait 12 hours to get a bed upstairs when there are always beds up there, but they are saying that there are no beds because there are no spots.

That is what I am talking about. We need to be assured that this new hospital will have staff, if we do not have already a staff in this one, how are we going to get a new staff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to be at the hospital the past weekend also, visiting a patient. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, that depending on the nature of care that is needed in the hospital, for example, if it is intensive care and so on, more staff are needed for, let us say one patient or two patients and the Member is correct, some beds have been closed, but that is not unique just to this hospital. One of the problems we have, Mr. Speaker, is attracting the professionals to work in that building, try to get medical professionals to go in there.

Mr. Speaker, just recently in the Nunatsiaq News, there was a letter about the cleanliness in the hospital. Mr. Speaker, we cannot even buy the proper hospital gurneys because they will not fit through the hallways.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am suggesting to you that if we had a better facility, you would have a better opportunity to recruit people to work in a better facility. We believe that will be the case and all evidence points to that.

However, I am prepared, Mr. Speaker, to update the House, as the Member has said and I am not trying to say it is not correct, because the Member is correct, that beds have been closed because of shortages in some areas of staffing, not necessarily all of the staffing, it depends on the chronic care case load that needs to be taken care of at a certain or given time. That is one of the reasons for that.

So, that's something that we could update the House on and actually provide that information to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 589 – 1(6): Guidelines to Follow to Get a School Bus

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Education.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask about school buses. According to the size of the community, are there criteria in place depending on the size of a community where they can be eligible for school buses? Are there criteria that we have to follow or is there a guideline that we have to follow when a community requests a school bus this year? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Education, Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't purchase school buses through the Department of Education; however, there is O & M funding available for school buses.

Mr. Speaker, I have not seen any guideline or criteria such as that but I could say that I have met with the District Education Authority of Gjoa Haven, and I have been informed about or rather in Taloyoak about their request and they were asking questions about guidelines or criteria in order to get a school bus. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we kind of assumed that there would be a guideline or criteria if the roads in the community are one mile long, I thought they would be eligible for a school bus and I thought that was the old criteria from Government of the Northwest Territories.

I have two constituencies; the community of Taloyoak is one of them. The parents at school time have to transport their children to school and after school everyday.

When I was visiting that community, my constituents were requesting a school bus and they were wondering what kind of process they have to follow in order to try to get a school bus in their community. That's my question to the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there's a vehicle in the community, there is funding available for operation and maintenance of this vehicle.

I have heard this request while I was in Taloyoak. Currently there is no school bus in that community. They transport their children. I have told the community that I would work with the community and I have already informed my officials about this issue.

Yes, we are looking into the issue regarding Mr. Puqiqnak's constituency. If there is any type of buggy in that community whether it is qamutik with a shelter or other modes of transport, I will ask my staff to look into that. We would like to give them more support as to how we can improve the transportation of the children to and from the schools. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for acknowledging that Taloyoak is in need of a means for transporting the children in that community to school. Thank you for looking into that matter. It is extremely important that we acquire a school bus for that community.

The people of Taloyoak and the Education Authority and your department worked together to prepare for the plan. My question is, are we going to be able to acquire that bus in 2003? When are we going to be able to get that school bus? Thank you.

Speaker: The Minister responsible for Education. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have a discussion with our department, and inform the Member. Of course we do not directly allocate money for vehicles. This concern from Taloyoak was brought to my attention and I would like to let the Member know once I've had a chance to discuss this matter with our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. On our second round. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 590 – 1(6): Lessons Learned Following Joamie School Fire

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is also for the Minister responsible for Education. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister knows, I am sure, that there was yet another fire related incident that hit Iqaluit earlier today. Although the damage was not significant and the fact that it occurred is a cause for serious concern, especially given the recent tragedy that hit Joamie School.

My question for the Minister is, Mr. Speaker, what lessons has the Department learned from the incidents at Joamie School and Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Mr. Speaker, the lesson for all of us is that when a building burns down it costs a lot of money to build one. That is the biggest lesson for the territory, where we have to start scrambling around for money to build a new building. That is a lesson for everybody.

I think that one of the areas that we have to also do is fire prevention workshops, or training manuals, or colouring books for the students, which we should be doing anyway. Also, having the Fire Department go and visit the schools making sure that the safety measures are put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can certainly agree with the Minister that the money or costs to replace a piece of infrastructure like that is money that we can ill afford to spend. We have many other uses where we can put that money.

Given that, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if the Department has come up with any type of strategy developed to try to fight these incidents, whether it be arson, or any other related causes, within the schools, whether it be, as she had mentioned earlier, having the Fire Department going in or any design changes that they may be looking at in future and existing infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the curriculum for Education in our schools, we have our Fire Prevention Week that we do each year as one of the strategies, and Mr. Speaker, we would encourage that all the Fire Departments in the communities visit the schools and educate our students that we have to prevent fires, which is one of the strategies.

I know that all the teachers are aware that this is a very important lesson for all the students across Nunavut and we've taken it very seriously. I have my staff finding ways of preventing fires in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, if there are any other ideas I would be open to them, but I think we are doing everything that we can to educate our young population that we have to prevent fires. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think lessons learned can be taken from things that have happened in the past, and I know that there was an investigation into the incident at Joamie School when it burned, and I know, not only myself, there

could be lessons learned there, but I know that a lot of people here in the community of Iqaluit have questions and are wondering what happened as well.

I'd like to ask the Minister, when will the investigation into the fire be concluded and the results made public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's up to the Fire Marshall who is doing the report. He doesn't work for me, but as soon as there is a report I will be giving it to the Members and to the public, the information that is needed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 591 – 1(6): Number of Nurses Employed with the Government of Nunavut

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to complement you on your flower arrangement today. Very beautiful, it reminds me of the east coast in October.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I was in Winnipeg earlier this week and I'm a frequent reader of the Winnipeg Free Press; one of the ads was an ad for Agency Nurses. Can the Minister tell me today, or the House today, how many Agency Nurses are currently in the employ of the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to see that the Member is able to pick up the Winnipeg Free Press; it's a very good paper.

Mr. Speaker, seventy eight percent of our current staffing of nurses Nunavut wide are term and indeterminate. This means that Mr. Speaker, that twenty two percent or two out of every ten nurses would be on a casual basis, which may be filled by an Agency Nurse.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that speaks for itself, I think that is a pretty good number; actually, it's one of the highest numbers we've been at in the last three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to compliment the Minister with his hard work and acquiring full time nursing positions for Nunavut.

Can the Minister advise me of when we're going to have a nurse in charge in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have continued our aggressive recruitment campaign. The Members are aware that we went to Australia, recruited nurses; we are also now actively engaged in the United Kingdom.

We will be bringing three nurses from the United Kingdom, as the Minister of Immigration also, Mr. Speaker, we are able to now facilitate that.

Mr. Speaker, the situation in Baker Lake with the head nurse, I don't have, Mr. Speaker with me, any information to tell me that the position would be filled within the next two or four weeks.

That is something Mr. Speaker that I will be able to get and provide to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. You should also note that, it was actually Mr. Picco who made the arrangements regarding these flowers at one of his fortes and hobbies. Thanks again Mr. Picco.

>> *Applause.*

Oral Questions. Mr. Anawak.

Question 592 – 1(6): First Air and Canadian North Interchange

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

In July of this summer when I was returning from Ottawa to Iqaluit, I flew on Canadian North of course, and Canadian North and First Air usually leave at approximately the same time from the southern destination to Iqaluit.

First Air, for some reason cancelled their flight and there were a couple of women who were trying to head back home with First Air and then I asked them why didn't they switch flights to Canadian and the two ladies were told that they had to take First Air.

I believe that there was an agreement between the two airlines where they can interchange patients who need transportation to either destination but Canadian North are not happy with their 40 percent.

My question is, if they're reaching the 40 percent ceiling? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to just very quickly give an overview of the contract and explain it because a letter writing campaign on behalf and for Canadian North had taken place; it has been in the media, and I just wanted to explain very it quickly.

Mr. Speaker, about 7 months ago, Canadian North Airline were getting basically very little of the airline business with medical travel because we had a contract in place, signed-off by the previous Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board for First Air.

We did an RFP, the Member with his question will reMember that it went to Cabinet and we said look, this is based on the available data, the travel arrangements and so on. We did a 60/40 split and Mr. Speaker, at that time I commented to both airlines, I've been in communications as well as my deputy Minister with First Air as well as the Canadian North and we even met with people from First Air today and we went and got an outside auditor, Mackay Landau here in Iqaluit who actually independently and transparently have audited the transportation figures and have gone back to both airlines to ensure that there is the 60/40 split and indeed Mr. Speaker, there was a difference of about 10 percent, I believe, and Mr. Speaker, we will make that up to Canadian.

So, Mr. Speaker, on a quarterly basis, for the Member's question and for the people in Nunavut, we have in place a mechanism, an independent audit for transparency by an outside auditing firm, Mackay Landau, in this case here in Iqaluit, who actually audit the 60/40 split with the 60 percent increase of travel passengers from one airline and 40 percent for the other. And that, Mr. Speaker, has been brought forward to both airlines with my understanding, Mr. Speaker, with their consent. Thank you.

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

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not need all of that extraneous information, but it helps. What I am looking for is a commitment by the Minister that if there was a 60-40 Agreement between the two airlines and that agreement should be followed to the letter rather than just a figure that is being exploited by the Department.

But I just want to make sure that Canadian North gets its due share of the medical traffic that is presently between here and Ottawa, I think it is and I just wanted a commitment by the Minister to say that he will look into it to ensure that it is being followed. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are doing that and I can commit to the Member and to the House that that is what we will do and that is the reason for the independent audit, to ensure that the numbers given by Health actually match what the airlines are stating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 593 – 1(6): Long Term Plans for Office Space in Arctic Bay

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank Minister Kattuk for responding to my previous question regarding the government offices in Arctic Bay.

Due to the inadequate space for office he has placed it where it is at in the short-term. I am wondering if the Minister can tell me what the long-term plans are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, your previous concern will be dealt with in the immediate future. That is a temporary facility and because of that, we have not addressed what the long-term plans are and so we would just like to, first of all, deal with the immediate concerns in Arctic Bay Government Offices to ensure that they are up to code and that they are adequate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now it is apparent that the Government only has a short-term vision when a long-term plan would be more efficient, which is the way to do business.

Mr. Speaker, in Arctic Bay with the growth in population and the Government services having to keep in touch with what is going on, either through the services in the Offices or Health Centers and so, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask, once again, what are the long-term plans for the construction of this building in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said was that the Government Building that is for the teachers of the school, we will be dealing with that immediately.

Yes, it's an urgent matter as she was saying before. That is what we're dealing with. We'll deal with that for the time being and then when it is time to look at the long term, it just doesn't come from the Minister, but by working together and through Cabinet we'll then find out what the long term plans are in Arctic Bay.

There is a process to follow when we're dealing with long term planning. We'll give you the information once that is in the books. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Final question to the Minister. I'm wondering after the session if he can come to Arctic Bay with me so that he can go see for himself the condition of this building. I think that it's older than a lot of us and the renovations will cost a lot of money, the structure is not up to code and I'm asking and inviting the Minister to come and see this building with me after the session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to go see that building after this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 594 – 1(6): Number of Houses to be Built in Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I talked with him with his other hat on as the Minister of Finance about the infrastructure funding. As the Minister of Housing there have been reports that this new funding that we're going to get to build up to four hundred units throughout the territory, much needed units I would say at that.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he could update the Members of this House whether it's going to be four hundred or what the number is going to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for Housing. Minister. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, those numbers were in the federal press release and I understand that they weren't realistic, given our construction costs in Nunavut and our numbers are roughly in the eighty unit neighbourhood, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the funds that have been allocated for that, can the Minister indicate whether they're going to go towards the social housing units only, or are there any other areas that the funds are going to be put to use. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, they're targeted specifically for public, social housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm sure all the LHO managers who are here in town and throughout the territory will be happy to hear that all those funds are going to go towards public housing units. I believe that is what the Minister indicated.

Am I correct in determining that they're all going to public housing units that are going to be owned by the Housing Authority to maintain in the same manner that their existing housing inventory is, or are there any other types of public housing programs that those funds may be allocated to in the way of homeownership or rent to own type of programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I'd indicated it's specific to the public housing program, specifically for social housing, the units that are built and constructed and operated by the Housing Associations in every community where they're constructed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, having a small background in housing, like yourself, Mr. Speaker, and I think that most of us that even in the construction area know that a very small portion of the costs of social housing is capital expenditure.

Can the Minister indicate if this money is all for capital. Is there any money for the continuing operations and maintenance of those units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the money from the Federal Government Infrastructure capital specific to capital investment will be up to the Government of Nunavut. The Housing Corporation just deals with the ongoing operating and maintenance costs of these units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Members will note that Question Period is now over. We will move on to Item 7. Written Questions. Are there any Written Questions? If not, we will move on to Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table to a response to nine Written Questions. From Written Question 11-1(6) up to and including Written Questions 19-1(6). Thank you.

Return to Written Question 011 – 1(6): Input of New Public Housing Rent Scale

Mr. McLean asked:

- 1) As of June 1st, 2003, broken down by community, how many public housing units were owned or leased by the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

The information tabled reflects the number of public housing units owned or leased by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

- 2) As of June 1st, 2003, broken down by community, how many were vacant?

The information tabled reflects the number of vacant public housing units, as reported by the Local Housing Organizations.

- 3) As of June 1st, 2003, broken down by community, how many income support clients were residing in public housing?

The information tabled reflects the number of income support clients residing in public housing units, as reported by the Local Housing Organizations.

- 4) As of June 1st, 2003, broken down by community, how many households were assessed increased rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale?

The information tabled reflects the number of households assessed increased rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale, as report by the Local Housing Organizations.

- 5) As of June 1st, 2003, broken down by community, how many households were assessed decreased rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale?

The information tabled reflects the number of households assessed decreased rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale, as reported by the Local Housing Organizations.

- 6) As of June 1st, 2003, broken down by community, how many households did not experience any changes to their assessed rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale?

The information tabled reflects the number of households that did not experience any changes to their assessed rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale, as reported by the Local Housing Organizations.

- 7) As of June 1st, 2003, broken down by community, how many households were assessed at the minimum amount of rent?

The information tabled reflects the number of households assessed at the minimum amount of rent after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale, as reported by the Local Housing Organizations.

- 8) As of June 1st, 2003, broken down by community, how many households were assessed in amount of rent equalling the actual cost of their unit?

The information tabled reflects the number of households assessed an amount of rent equalling the actual cost of their unit after the implementation of the new public housing rent scale, as reported by the Local Housing Organizations.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Return to Written Question 012 – 1(6): Mental Health Workers

In response to Mr. McLean's questions asked on June 4, 2003:

- 1) The Government of Nunavut currently employs sixteen (16) full time mental health workers who are Inuit. Ten of those are Social Workers, four are Wellness Counsellors, one is a Mental Health Specialist and one is a Supervisor, Social Services. In addition the Department of Health and Social Services funds and provides training for sixteen (16) Alcohol and Drug Counsellors, all of whom are Inuit.
- 2) The existing Nunavut Arctic College social work program has a strong emphasis on counselling skills, and many counsellors have taken all or part of the Alcohol and Drug certificate program.

The Department is in discussion with Nunavut Arctic College about the development of a diploma program in Addictions and Mental Health. The objective is to develop a common core of knowledge and skills required by a number of disciplines, with a second year that would focus on more specific knowledge and skill areas.

The Department in the past year has begun to offer on-going professional development to addictions and wellness counsellors (e.g., the week long counselling skills training held in Baker Lake in February, 2003 for counsellors from the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot).

- 3) The Department strives to make Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit pervasive in its mental health and addictions services, blending good clinical practice with cultural sensibilities and interpretation. The establishment of the Wellness Counsellor is one example of a unique approach to bringing clinical skills and cultural sensibility together in practice. All mental health staff, be they Inuit or Qallunaq, are expected to seek out opportunities to incorporate traditional practices and methods, where appropriate, in their practice.

In our participation in curriculum committee with Nunavut Arctic College, we also seek ways to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in formal studies.

Two elder counsellors are scheduled to travel to various locations in Nunavut to speak with staff about how they could enhance their practice with practices drawn from Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Return to Written Question 013 – 1(6): District Education Authorities

On June 4, 2003 Mr. Tootoo asked:

- 1) What formal authorities, responsibilities and powers do District Education Authorities have with respect to hiring, termination and discipline of teachers employed under the collective agreement between the Federation of Nunavut Teachers and the Government of Nunavut?
 - DEAs are involved in the teacher hiring process and sit on the interview and selection committees. The offer of employment comes from the GN as the teachers are GN employees.
 - DEAs have a shared responsibility, duty or power under the Education Act for the discipline or termination of teachers with the Department of Education. Recommendations by the DEA to the Executive Director are taken under advisement and the final determination rests with the GN as the employer.
- 2) What formal authorities, responsibilities and power do District Education Authorities have with respect to hiring, termination and discipline of school principals?
 - DEAs are involved in the principal hiring process and sit on the interview and selection committees. The offer of employment comes from the GN as the principals are the GN employees.

- DEAs have a shared responsibility, duty or power under the Education Act for the discipline or termination of teachers with the Department of Education. Recommendations by the DEA to the Executive Director are taken under advisement and the final determination rests with the GN as the employer.
- 3) In May 2002, I believe, the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut passed a motion regarding District Education Authorities. What specific actions has the Department of Education taken in response to this motion?
- All DEAs have three possible contribution agreements depending upon DEA involved:
 - 1) School O&M – all expenditures related to school expenditures.
 - 2) Staffing dollars – for additional support positions moved to the DEAs.
 - 3) Bussing Dollars – to provide service(s) to schools.
 - Prior to the dissolution of the former Education Councils, the Council office in Iqaluit did all accounting for DEAs in the Qikiqtani. Since dissolution, all DEAs in Nunavut have taken on the responsibility for their accounting services either directly or through contracting out.
 - Training for DEA's bookkeepers has been ongoing since 2002. Follow up training is occurring.
- 4) What is the Department of Education's position with respect to the establishment and funding of the Nunavut-wide District Education Association?
- A Nunavut wide meeting with DEAs was held in 2001-2002, regional meetings with DEAs was held in 2002-2003 and meetings are being planned for 2003-2004.
 - DEAs are free to establish a Nunavut wide association should they choose to do so. To date, no funding for a formal territorial wide association has been allocated.

Return to Written Question 014 – 1(6): Status of the Proposed Manitoba - Kivalliq Road Link

Mr. McLean's written question seeks information concerning the proposed transmission lines from Northern Manitoba to the Kivalliq Region of Nunavut.

The proposed mega project requires two preliminary due diligence steps. The first step, the pre-feasibility study, has been completed, in May 1999, with the cooperation of the governments of Canada and Manitoba. The pre-feasibility study, Churchill to Kivalliq

Regional Transmission Pre-Feasibility Study (May 1999), has been widely distributed in Nunavut.

The second step, a full feasibility study, has not been commenced. The principal challenge is funding. The full feasibility study cost is estimated in the range of \$3.5 to \$5 million. Minister Picco and his staff have taken several proactive measures to seek the funding for the feasibility study.

Immediately after receiving and assessing the pre-feasibility study, Minister Picco had several discussions with the Province's former Energy Minister, Greg Sellinger, to cooperate in next steps.

Most recently, on April 3, 2003 Minister Picco met, in Iqaluit, with Minister Tim Sale, Manitoba's Energy Minister to facilitate inter-governmental cooperation in support of the transmission project. The Ministers will meet again, in Winnipeg, in June 26, 2003 to further develop a funding strategy to bring for support to the federal government.

The Government of Nunavut (GN) intends to submit the funding of the feasibility study to the federal government as a component of the GN's Kyoto funding submission for the Kyoto implementation resources identified in the federal 2003 budget.

It is expected that the Minister of Energy will confirm the funding request and next steps in Spring 2004.

Return to Written Question 015 – 1(6): Manitoba – Kivalliq Road Link

On June 5, 2003 Mr. McLean asked; As of June 1, 2003, what is the status of the proposed Manitoba/Kivalliq road link?

- A Terms of Reference for a multidisciplinary Map, Air photo and Satellite Imagery Study to locate, terrain map, evaluate and estimate cost of three competing road routes from Highways in Northern Manitoba to Rankin Inlet has now been developed;
- This study along with related community consultations will cost approximately \$1 million;
- Action on this study is still dependant on receiving some federal funding (\$500 thousand) through DIAND's Resource Partnership Program;
- GN and the Province of Manitoba have helped KIA to rework their original submission and follow on work. CGT has contributed to these costs;
- CGT Minister has sent a letter to DIAND Minister Nault reconfirming this road is a priority and supporting KIA application for study funding;

- Both CGT and Manitoba Highways have confirmed their share (\$250 thousand each) of study costs;
- Decision by DIAND on KIA's resubmitted application is expected in late June early July;
- Favourable decision by DIAND should allow "full" study to proceed.

Return to Written Question 016 – 1(6): Priority Hiring Policy

On June 5, 2003 Mr. Iqaqrialu asked:

From June 1, how do you want to prioritize the hiring?

- 1) The Priority Hiring Policy was approved by Cabinet in August 2000 with a Sunset Clause of December 2001. In January 2002, Cabinet approved the extension of the Policy to December 31, 2006.

The Priority Hiring Policy complies with the requirements of Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and gives priority consideration to Inuit beneficiary applicants. Inuit beneficiary applications who meet the qualifications are given priority over other applicants for all job competitions.

Land Claim Beneficiaries who wish to receive consideration under the Priority Hiring Policy are asked to identify their eligibility when they apply for any Government of Nunavut employment opportunities. Land Claim Beneficiaries are defined as those persons who are enrolled as beneficiaries under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

As of June 3, 2003 how many beneficiaries of Nunavut Land Claims Agreement were hired in indeterminate terms and contract positions in Government of Nunavut's departments, boards, agencies and Crown Corporations?

- 2) The total number of beneficiaries hired between January 1, 2003 and June 1, 2003 is 89. This includes all term and indeterminate hires in all GN departments, Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Power Corporation.

From January 1, 2003, to June 1, 2003, how many non-beneficiaries of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement were hired for indeterminate terms, contract positions in the Government of Nunavut's departments, boards, agencies and Crown Corporations?

- 3) The total number of non-beneficiaries hired between January 1, 2003 and June 1, 2003 is 217. This includes all term and indeterminate hires in all GN departments, Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Power Corporation.

Return to Written Question 017 – 1(6): Power Subsidy Program

The MLA for Iqaluit Centre submitted a written question related Nunavut Power Subsidy Program with four questions, below are responses related to the questions.

No. 1. With respect to the Government of Nunavut's Power Subsidy Program, which is funded through the annual appropriation of the Department of Finance, how was this subsidy calculated and applied from the January 1, 2000 to June 1, 2003?

The Nunavut Power Corporation (NPC) invoices the Department of Finance monthly for the amount of revenue the NPC foregoes from individual domestic electricity consumers as a result of the Nunavut Territorial Power Subsidy program (NTPS).

In general, the NPC determines the amount to invoice the Department of Finance by summing, for all domestic electricity consumers in Nunavut, the difference between the consumer's community base rate and the NTPS rate times the first 700 kWh of electricity consumed plus the basic service charge.

This general method applied for the periods between January 1, 2000 to June 1, 2003 and April 1, 2002 to June 1, 2003 respectively.

For the period July 1, 2000 to March 31, 2002 a separate 3.4 ¢ fuel rider charge times the first 700 kWh of electricity consumed was added to the general method.

A table is attached in annex 1 which illustrates the subsidy rate paid by the GN and the net rates paid by consumers in Iqaluit over the period in question.

No. 2. If any changes occurred during this period with respect to the calculation and application of the subsidy, what were they and why were they undertaken?

During the period in question no changes were made to the procedure for determining the NTPS. As noted above, however, the NTPS calculation was modified by first adding and then removing a 3.4 ¢ fuel rider charge.

This fuel rider was added to the subsidy when the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (prior to the splitting of that corporation into two entities) added it and was removed from the subsidy when the Nunavut Power Corporation no longer applied the charge to consumer electricity bills.

No. 3. During this period, how was the power subsidy calculated and applied in relation to the fuel stabilization rate riders imposed by either the Nunavut Power Corporation or its predecessor, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation?

The NTPS was calculated and applied as indicated under response 1 and 2. The government decides the elements of the subsidy as well as any fixed costs including the subsidy.

No. 4. Have any audits or reviews been conducted since June 1, 2003 with respect to the calculation and application of the power subsidy and if so, what were the conclusions?

The Government of Nunavut has conducted no internal audits of the NTPS program. Although no specialized audit of the NTPS has been conducted by the Auditor General's Office, the program was included in the general audit of the Department of Finance.

Return to Written Question 018 – 1(6): Income Support Policies

On June 6, 2003 Mr. Tootoo asked:

No. 1. For the purposes of determining the level of payments made to income support recipients, what is the Department of Education's policy with the respect to the treatment of coop patronage refunds?

Patronage refunds given by a co-operative are considered as unearned income for the purposes of establishing needs for an income support applicant. This means that, under section 20 (4) (k) of the Social Assistance Regulations, unearned income shall include the reasonable value of goods and services received by an applicant as estimated by the Officer. Unearned income reduces the amount of eligible benefits by an equal amount.

No. 2. If Co-op patronage refunds are treated as unearned income, what policy objectives are achieved by reducing the amount paid to income support recipients?

The Income Support program is intended as a provider of last resort, it is important that all reasonable efforts be made to consider resources available to the applicant from other sources first.

Government programs must be equitable, sustainable and consistent for all residents. Patronage refunds are limited to Co-operative Members and could result in an inconsistent approach to exempt this type of income, as it is not accessible to all Nunavummiut.

Return to Written Question 019 – 1(6): Status of the Government of Nunavut's Medical Travel for the Kivalliq Region

On June 6, 2003 Mr. Arvaluk asked:

As of June 6, 2003, what is the status of the Government of Nunavut's contracts for scheduled medical travel and medical evacuation services for the Kivalliq Region?

- 1) As of June 6, 2003 there is no agreement in place regarding scheduled medical travel. An RFP issued for scheduling medical travel was cancelled by the department based on concerns that continuing had the potential to reduce competition in the region.

An RFP was issued for emergency medical travel and the successful proponent was notified. The terms of that agreement had not been finalized as of June 6, 2003, but the Department had been advised of service for medical emergencies and does not unnecessarily reduce competition in the region.

What are the terms of the contract or contracts for these services? How do they differ from the terms from the contract or contracts, which were previously in place?

- 2) Since there were no previous contracts, providing a point of reference is not possible. The Department has developed a set of standards for scheduled medical travel that cover ticket pricing and other expenses, passenger/customer services, related experience of the company, operations, and Inuit Preference.

The Department has developed a set of standards for medical evacuation services that cover aircraft and cabin requirements, flight safety requirements, qualifications of flight crew, contractor experience, contractor fees, Inuit content as well as medical flight crew and operations requirements.

What contracts are currently in place between the Government of Nunavut and Kivalliq Air? What contracts are currently in place between the Government of Nunavut and Skyward Aviation Ltd?

- 3) As of June 6, 2003 there were no written contracts between Kivalliq Air and the Department of Health and Social Services. Discussions remain active.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Alakannuark.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report 016 – 1(6): Bill 12 – Human Rights Act

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 12, the Human Rights Act, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, and that the Bill is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Committee Report 017 – 1(6): Bill 33 – Tobacco Control Act

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please do not forget my name. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 33, the Tobacco Control Act, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Health and Education and that the Bill as amended and reprinted is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents**Tabled Document 126 – 1(6): Contracts on Kivalliq Health Centre**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a collection of media clippings, and letters between myself and the Minister of Public Works on the issue of the Government of Nunavut's recent contract award for the construction of the Kivalliq Health Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. I have a document that I wish to table.

Tabled Document 127 – 1(6): Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

I wish to table the October 2003 version of the Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative of Assembly of Nunavut. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk

Tabled Document 128 - 1(6): Petition 008 – 1(6): Call Display Service

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a response to petition 008-1(6) on behalf of the Minister of Public Works and Services. Thank you

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Are there any further Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 029 – 1(6): Member for Nanulik Appointed to the Standing Committees - Notice**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday October 23rd of 2003, I shall move the following motion. I move seconded by the

Honourable Member from Kugluktuk that Patterk Netser, Member for Nanulik, be appointed to the Standing Committees on Government Operations and Services and Ajaqtiit and to serve as an alternate Member on the Standing Committees for Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development and Health and Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Tootoo Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15 Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills

Bill 46 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2004/2005 - Notice

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Speaker, I give notice on Thursday, October the 23rd that I'll move that Bill 46, Appropriation (Capital) Act 2004/2005 be read for the first time. Thank you

Speaker: Thank you Minister. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Ministers Statement 164-1(6) and 167-1(6), Tabled Documents 117-1(6) and 118-1(6), with Mr. Puqiqnak in the Chair. Before proceeding to the committee we will take a short break

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:43 and reconvened at 16:09*

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

Chairman (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Thank you for coming to the Committee of the Whole. I would like to call this meeting to order. We will be dealing with Minister's Statement 164 – 1(6), Tabled Document 117 – 1(6) and 118 – 1(6), Minister's Statement 167 – 1(6). What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Committee would like to begin with Ministers Statement 164-1(6), and Tabled Document 117-1(6) and 118-1(6).

If we have time to complete those three, we would like to deal with Minister's Statement 167-1(6).

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Williams. Does the Committee agree that we will deal with Minister's Statement 164-1(6) and Tabled Document 117-1(6)? Do you agree that we deal with this under the Committee of the Whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Picco, you may go ahead now. Thank you. Minister Picco are you going to bringing any officials?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It brings me great pleasure to bring two officials from the Power Corporation, Mr. Hawker as well as Mr. Jamie Flaherty and they will approach the bench. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome Mr. Minister. Can you introduce your officials for the record. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me today is the Chief Operating Officer of Nunavut Power Corporation, Mr. Hawker, on my immediate left and my immediate right, Mr. Jamie Flaherty, Senior Vice President of the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister. In my capacity as chair, please address me so that the meeting conducts properly, and also make sure you say “Thank you, Mr. Chairman” at the end of your remarks.

Before we start, under our rules and procedures, each Member has 10 minutes for general comments. Are there any general comments? Are there any questions? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, we all know that it has been over four months since the Minister announced in Baker Lake concerning the Power Corporation’s application for a rate increase. I’ll say rate increase, I know the Minister will say it was a rider, it was supposed to be a rate increase, about a bill would’ve been up, if I can get out of calling it our not calling a rate increase.

It’s been four months since then. I’m just wondering if the Minister can indicate to us, I know living here in Iqaluit and listening to a lot of the stuff going on that there has been all kinds of, I’ll use the word turmoil going on since then, the Power Corporation from senior officials that have left and other issues around there.

I’d like to ask the Minister if he could give us an update with the current state since then, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Power Corporation went to the Utilities Rate Review Council, URRC and requested the rate rider. Subsequently when the URRC came back and actually suggested the 7.5 and then it was renewed and reviewed by the Cabinet and it was rejected based on our understanding of what was occurring at the Power Corporation at that time.

It is very important to point out, Mr. Chairman, that the Power Corporation has only been in operation for a little over 2 years now. And that’s to take the corporation, set it up, put

all the management, the logistic, the administrative, as well as the financial aspects of the corporation in place, and then Mr. Chairman, to continue with the energy policy.

Over the past four months since Mr. Tootoo has announced, I, in accordance with the tabled documents, in Baker Lake, I announced that over the next year, the Power Corporation would become a fully functioned subsidiary of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

We would freeze all the discretionary capital and operating commitments and the expenditures, general rate applications, develop an affordable energy policy and implement a plan for affordable and predictable rates.

The concern has always been, Mr. Chairman, is the depth of some of the losses that we were sustaining in year one were the results of the revenue side of the Corporation or the expenditures side of the Corporation.

Mr. McLean on many different occasions articulated concerns with the expenditures side of the equation. We have changed several of the senior management people in the Power Corporation, number one.

The president as well as the chief financial officer and I believe the Human Resources person have all left the Corporation over the last couple of months. We have put in place an aggressive review of all non-monetary and monetary issues surrounding employees and staffing outside the collective agreement.

We have tightened up the fiscal and financial control and I can say without fear of contradiction last week I met with the Auditor General of Canada. As you know, Mr. Chairman it is rare when a Minister is actually asked to meet independently with the Auditor.

I had a good frank discussion with the Auditor General of Canada concerning the operational role of the Power Corporation and I can say without fear of contradiction that the Auditor General agrees with the direction that we're moving in is the correct one. It is aggressive.

There are concerns at the end of the day that this Power Corporation belongs to us and we have to make sure that it returns the investments that we have put into it as taxpayers. That's what we're trying to do, that's why you've seen all the senior management changes, that's why we've frozen the discretionary capital and so on that we've talked about since June.

So, anything that we are proceeding to do we have done and we're moving forward in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one of the things, as the Minister has indicated that it's rare for a Minister to be called before the Auditor. It's probably a good thing that it's a rare occasion that the Auditor General might feel it necessary to call in the Minister and meet with him and I think there is probably a lot of questions that can be asked around those and I'm sure that we'll probably have to wait until the Auditor General's report on that without look forward to seeing that and questioning the Minister at the appropriate time on that and I think it is pretty surprising that any Minister would be called before the Auditor General unless they had some major concerns with what was going on there.

The Minister had gone on a little bit here, he talked about a bunch of commitments and stuff that were made that they are looking at and what they have done over the last four months and I know over the Summer, some time I believe, four months ago, they were looking at I believe the figure was a \$15 million dollar deficit.

Over the summer there was a report, and it's now down to the \$3 million dollars. I would just like to ask for the information or if the Minister can clarify the status of the financial position in the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not signed off the Financial Reports for this year yet. So, I am not in the position to say what the deficit is. There were forecasts originally as high in June that we were looking at between \$10 to \$15 million dollars deficit this year of the operation of the Power Corporation and the accumulative debt of the Power Corporation in the first two years of operation could exceed \$27 million dollars. That is inclusive of the cost from division. So, you would not actually count those in the operating costs.

I believe that we are going to be able to do a little better than that. We have taken some aggressive steps that we have just spoken about, coming out of the meetings in Baker Lake in June.

We also stated at that time that we need to get a fuller picture of the true cost of electricity before approving any new power rates and one of the reasons we are seeing right here, any person who is a business person out there listening when it is on TV or here in the room today knows it cannot continue to sell a product for the same price you were selling in 1998 and still make a profit.

So, in this case, the rates that we are charging for electricity have not increased in five years and if that is the case, then what does that mean for the cost of oil, for example, that we have debated in the House that has increased over the last four years and so on and so forth.

We do not make this stuff up. What I can say and the Member is correct, I was not called before the Auditor General for Canada, I want to make that clear, I was not called before the Auditor General for Canada in any formal way.

The Auditor General for Canada, the principle is Mr. Simpson, I have known him since 1995 and indeed, I was Chairperson for the Standing Committee of Finance and met with him several times.

He was here reviewing the report for the Power Corporation and it was an opportunity for me to sit down in a private discussion with Mr. Simpson on some of the issues that will be coming out of his report on the Power Corporation and an opportunity for me and to question on some of the issues and the direction that I was taking as Minister and I was quite pleased with that.

So, let me say that basically was in concurrence with what we have heard and so on. And again, I have to reiterate, Power Corporation has only been in place for two years. We have only got one Financial Statement from the Corporation that the Members are aware of, that has been signed off and so on, for the first year of operation.

We are only a little over three months passed the second year of operation for the Financial Statements and I am hoping to be in a position to table those either at the end of this Session or at the beginning of the next Session of the House once the report is completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess if you look at one of the things Mr. Picco has mentioned is the fact that the price has not gone up in a number of years. Looking at how we dealt with the Fuel Subsidy as well, for the price of gasoline, if the Government determined that this is maximum that we feel our residents should pay for this service and that the rest of it is subsidised by the Government, the fuel. Even as a comment, maybe that's something that should be taken into consideration and looked at, instead of increasing the cost of fuel and looking at the overall cost of the increase to the Government as opposed to leaving it the same and increasing the subsidy; whether it's more effective or not to do I think is something that should be looked at before coming forward with any rate increase.

Going back to the finances and the deficit, can the Minister indicate how much does the Government guarantee to date on behalf of the Nunavut Power Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all, I think the idea of a coordination of the pricing regime of fuel and so on that would be put in place as well as the literal rate would be the way to go and that's what we announced in June when we

talked about the affordable energy fund. The whole idea of taking the Power Corporation, and the subsidiary corporation, the Qulliq Fuel Corporation, and leveraging out the POL, to actually account in a full way for the cost of the generation of energy, which came out in Ikuma II.

So, that's part of the affordable energy fund and it makes it transparent. On the second point, in the first year of operations, we've only been in operation for two years; we had a deficit of \$5.5 million as a corporation. The Members are aware of those because it was in the audited financial statements that were tabled in the House and so on; we lost \$5.5 million.

However, in that year we still are owed, we believe between \$4 and \$6 million from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and we're in arbitration right now on that debt. So our bottom line will actually improve quite a bit.

For this year, for March 31, 2003 year end, the second year of operation for the corporation, we had thought at some point, and Mr. McLean had talked about it before in Baker Lake in June, that we were looking at anywhere between \$10 and \$12 million loss for the second year of operation.

We're hoping that we're going to be able to bring that in a lot better than that, when I say a lot better I would hope to be able to bring it in under \$8 million if that was possible. I don't have the final figures yet; they haven't been signed off.

That's where we are on that so instead of an accumulative loss of about \$27 to 29 million in the after including the division of assets and liabilities we would hope that we could bring it in a lot less than that. If you take out the cost of division, after the transfer of liability, after the division which are in accounting numbers, Mr. Chairman, we would hope that we could bring in the cumulative loss over two years to less than \$15 million, that would be the plan.

That's why we have put since June, the cost cutting measures in place, and the aggressive look at the capital funds and so on. So we hope to clarify those issues. On the actual accumulated deficit, or notes that are guaranteed by the Government of Nunavut, as of March 31, 2003, which is the second year of operation of the corporation, it was about \$78 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am going to go back to something that I had mentioned earlier. The Minister had indicated that the three senior officials, from the present Chief Financial Officer to the Director of Human Resources, I believe, have all left.

I know many of these people who work for the Power Corporation and within the community here and all of them who I talked to did not have a clue what was going on. They were very surprised that all of sudden someone was not at work anymore.

Have you done anything to put the remaining employees minds at rest thinking that it is not going to be me next after what has happened there over the last few months? Is there any type of information going down to the employees to keep them informed from what is happening, or are they just left out of the loop? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, several meetings have taken place between the senior staff, and so on, at the Power Corporation. Indeed, Mr. Chairman, I have actually had lunch with the majority of the employees based right here in Iqaluit, right in the Parnaivik Building in early July to talk about some the changes that have taken place and that are occurring.

The Power Corporation, based on what we have heard here in this Assembly, based on some of the financial statements that came out, needed to move in a different direction. And therefore and thus some of the changes that you have seen in the senior management of the Corporation. That is fair to say.

At the same time some of the positions, for example, they announced decentralization, since decentralized positions were not met with, I would say, with a lot of happiness from the staff who would have to move from their positions to Baker Lake. That has caused some consternation. And that is to be expected.

So I believe, Mr. Chairman, there has been a lot of work done and with the current staff meetings and so on, but I can ask Kate and maybe and Jamie can speak about the ongoing work that has occurred with the staff on the personnel issues as well as meetings to keep the staff informed of what is occurring. Again, the Power Corporation realized very heavily, it is staff that keep the power on and it is important it keep the morale up.

I will ask Mr. Hawker, first of all, to give you an idea of some of that stuff. And then maybe Mr. Flaherty can give you another overview on some of the work that have taken place, the meetings held with staff to make sure that the people are up-to-date. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Hawker.

Mr. Hawker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Immediately before the announcement of decentralization, all of the staff who were affected, were met with and provided with a notice letter. Subsequent to that, they were met with by myself and the CEO of the Qullik Energy Corporation, Jack Evalik. We then gave them the opportunity to visit Baker Lake to look at what the opportunities were for housing, where the office space was going to be.

I have sent a schedule of the decentralization based on the availability of that housing and based on the availability of the office space. We are presently planning to continue with that schedule on an ongoing basis until it is complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hawker. I am going to give Mr. Flaherty an opportunity now also.

Mr. Flaherty: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Qullik Energy front on the staff morale, it is very comforting right now. Even though we have a small core staff at Qullik Energy we work well with the Nunavut Power Corporation as far as Hayden's group and that based out of Baker Lake. As Mr. Picco said, there have been a number of meetings with staff.

We basically have the open-door policy with the employees and that is with the senior management and during the Board Meeting that Qullik Energy and Nunavut Power Corporation Board, the Chairman and the Board thanked the employees of the Qullik Energy and Nunavut Power Corporation and they really appreciate the work that the employees have been doing to date and they really do feel comfortable with the things that are going to get better as time goes along. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Hawker and Mr. Flaherty for giving us an update. I have other people on my list. Mr. McLean, just a minute; Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that the Minister had indicated that they have done was a freeze on discretionary capital and I want to go back before that and I know that there has been some cases of things that have happened that probably should not have happened and I am sure that they are more of those things than I am.

But not only it was capital, but on how things were dealt with on paper, whether they were capital or operations and maintenance expenses, one is the policy that they have in place that the Corporation has to follow in that area on how funds are to be allocated whether their actual capital expenditures being put down as Operations and Maintenance cost. I understand that there had been incidences of this happening in the past.

I just wanted to ask for clarification on behalf of the Minister as to what kind of guidelines that they follow for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, originally, the Power Corporation had budgeted about \$12 million dollars for the upcoming fiscal year for capital.

Based on the review and recommendations coming out of the Baker Lake Session, I directed the Power Corporation to freeze all discretionary capitals and decrease the

capital budget. Indeed, the capital budget went from \$12 million dollars down to \$4 million dollars. This was again, to improve the cash flow situation of the Power Corporation.

The situation with the way expenses are maintained and recorded, for example, Operation and Maintenance and Capitals, those follow generally given principles and guidelines of the standards of accounting and practises as audited by the Auditor General for Canada, following the principles of such Legislation and Acts that are necessary, for example, the Financial Administration Acts.

But specific to the point on the financial control, Mr. Hawker may be able to give a little bit more light on it because he is currently our Chief Operating Officer for the Corporation as well as having the Certified General Accountant (CGA). I will ask Mr. Hawker to answer more elaborately that question from Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Hawker.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Hawker.

Mr. Hawker: Mr. Chairman. There is criteria in place to determine whether an expenditure is calculated and recorded as an operating expenditure or a capital expenditure.

The auditors regularly review all of our expenditures in relation to whether they are operating our capital and they determine that we have properly recorded the expenditures as operating our capital during the previous year.

They would not allow us to record that capitalized expenditure as an operating expenditure. Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Hawker. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman Mr. Chairman, I just want to ask, would the garage, a sizable garage addition to a house be considered O and M or Capital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in that case, in that hypothetical situation that was to occur, then we would suggest that would probably be a considered a capital project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I ask the Minister in the House for a list of capital projects, I might hypothetically see something like that on there, I guess.

The other question I have is in relation to housing, I know that government wide we have a huge staff housing crisis. I'm just wondering if the Corporation had any type of staff housing policy that it follows for its employees and the acquisition of staff housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Power Corporation, the genesis of the Corporation is it came from the NWT Power Corporation and then of course the Northern Canada Power Commission. Because of those in the genesis it holds its own stock of staff housing and in deed, through the procedure and so on of the Corporation as well as the usual corporate development aspects of policies and so on; here indeed is the policy which outlines the employee housing situation.

I believe at the present time the Corporation owns about 27 units directly and leases about 32 units in total in Nunavut and recovers in rent from 59 employees over 50 thousand dollars a month for the Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman Again I want to ask the Minister in the House, if he would table a copy of the housing policy and guidelines that they use for acquiring the leasing, I think he said 32 leases, they must have guidelines that they are following if he'd be more than willing to do that, I look forward to that.

I want to go back to some of the things that were said in Baker Lake, at the session there, I thought the Minister was reading from the Hansard, I was going over that, but I've been saying it has been in operation for only 2 years, it is, almost identical to what is in the Hansard from Baker Lake.

One of the things that was raised then, as an issue that we were saying that out of that, the Minister was indicating that about 80% private consumers did not exceed the subsidy level out there for the power subsidies.

I would like to ask the Minister, I know he mentioned it, on page 40 of the Hansard, if you can go back and check it out, I wonder of that 80% of private consumers, how many of those are actual homeowners and how many of those are living in apartment buildings or mutiplex unit staff housing units who don't pay the same rate as a homeowner.

I think that has a huge impact because I know a lot of home owners who I talk to that own their own home and live in their own home and have invested in the home in Nunavut all said that they exceed the subsidy and they were wondering where the heck did you get this information that said 80 percent of them didn't pay over the subsidy.

So, I'd like to ask the Minister if he doesn't have that information, if he could get it and then provide it to us because I think even if it doesn't effect the decision that was made

back then it's going to be important information to have for any type of future increases that the corporation may be looking at requesting because it's the home owners that its going to impact the most.

If you're living in an apartment you don't pay the same type of utilities, you don't have the same usage as someone that owns a three bedroom house, and they live in there with a family.

So, think that that's important to get a grasp on clarifying exactly you know what those numbers really mean and not just putting numbers out there because it looks good. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to assure the Members and Mr. Tootoo that there is there is no way that the Finance Minister would allow me to put numbers just out there unless they were certified and honest numbers that could be accounted for.

He would rather carry on, carry forth, cash and carry, Mr. Chairman, before he would allow me to do that. So, I hope that makes Mr. Tootoo feel a lot better knowing that.

Mr. Chairman, I want to point out a couple things first. It doesn't matter if you're in an apartment, if you're in a multiplex, if you're in a duplex, or if you're in a detached home, if you are in that home, whether it's an apartment and you have a separate meter on it, it would be rated as domestic residential.

Therefore and thus, you get the same subsidy that Ed Picco would get in a single house or that Uriash would get in an apartment; everyone is in domestic residential. Then you get that subsidy in that place. There is no difference.

When we said on the rider itself, what I was trying to point out was that the first 7 hundred kilowatt hours are subsidized right. So, if you go over the 7 hundred kilowatt hour, that's when the actual rider would have kicked in.

But I believe 80 percent of our customers actually on a regular basis out of a 12 month period, actually stay below this 7 hundred kilowatt hours receive their subsidy therefore and thus, the impact of the rider would not have been incongruent to the point that we had talked about in the beginning of that much. That was the point I was trying to make, I believe on that issue.

I'm going to ask Mr. Hawker just to paraphrase and clarify that on the meter reading themselves, that if it is a commercial business they have a different rate and Mr. Hawker can tell you also Mr. Chairman, the different categories for the billings. Mr. Hawker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Hawker.

Mr. Hawker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the rates charged in Nunavut are fairly complicated in the communities specific and we're just in the process of changing the billing system so have them known off by heart.

But, the community rates are broken down as commercial, commercial government, commercial non-government, domestic which is eligible for territorial support, domestic which is not eligible for territorial support, housing, the housing subsidy, and there are other ones, laying the street lights and miscellaneous residual heating, that sort of thing.

Each of these rates is community specific; in other words, the rate you pay today for domestic/residential would not be the same as the rate presently paid in Iqaluit, for example.

All of these rates are reviewed by the Auditor General every year, and their review was somewhat easier this year because they have not changed since last year. And they have determined that we are charging the appropriate rate for each category for the last two years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If that could be your last question as you are out of time. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think that the Minister kind of missed the point that I was trying to make, which is rare for him. Mr. Chairman, I am not doubting the 80% of the private consumers use less than the subsidy. How much of those private consumers are actual homeowners? Because the consumption of a single, detached home, is much more consumption than you would have in an apartment or in a multiplex staff housing unit.

What I would like is to see a break out of that, because like I said the majority of the homeowners who live in homes, who pay their power bills use more than the 700kWh. Overall that 80% may be an accurate number but it does not reflect the impact that it would have on the homeowners. I think that that is an important thing.

These are people who have invested in a home in Nunavut, made it their home, bought a home is if something like this were to go through; they would be penalized the most for something like this. I would say on average, they would have more consumption than you would have than someone living in an apartment, or a row house.

That is what I was asking the Minister if they could break out and see, for all of us that are homeowners, I would rather than someone who lives in the high rise, their power bill, they are lucky if it is fifty, or eighty dollars per month. For homeowners it is more than likely a little more than that.

I think that before anything like this comes into place, the impact that it has on the people who are probably being subsidized the least in Nunavut, the homeowners that live here, and work for the Government, how it would affect them should be taken into consideration.

That is what I am asking, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister can look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just had some words with Mr. Hawker and Mr. Flaherty, and we agree with the Member. We are homeowners ourselves, and we pay the same bill.

What has occurred here in the last two years, is that if you are in an apartment, you will receive the same subsidy for domestic/residential as a person that is in a house. That is the same format as standard that is in place across Canada for any Power Corporation. However, we cannot track right now the difference between a tenant and an owner. It is hard for me to say that I am renting an apartment.

What happens is if I move into a Co-op Housing tomorrow, I do not own Co-op Housing, for example, here in Iqaluit, there are three and four bedroom units. I do not own them but I will be renting. And the rate that I am charged will be the same amount, a domestic/residential, as Mr. Tootoo may be charged in his house, or that any other Member would be charged.

If I am living at the Northern Staff Housing, if I am in a Bay Staff House, the Bay will be charged if it is a residential unit, domestic residential for that unit. The same rate would be charged if I was in a room that is across the street. On the other units, for example, if it is owned or rented, we have no way of ascertaining that.

I believe right now, Mr. Chairman, just for example, the Government of Nunavut, we have 16, 000 customers ... 11, 000 customers and we do not differentiate between rented or owned or if it is an apartment or whatever, the same way you do not differentiate anywhere else in the country. It would be almost impossible logistically and administratively.

So, that is why, on the fairness factor that is put in there, there has to be auditors and regulators. It is that it does not matter if you are in a rented accommodation and you are paying for domestic, because you live there, you will get the same subsidy as Ed Picco gets if he is in a house because he is still a residential domestic. It would be very difficult to change it. So, it helps to ask the question and that indeed the subsidy is put in there.

Our concern would be next year, Mr. Chairman, if the Government, if Mr. Tootoo will be here next year sitting in this House when the Government comes forward with the

General Rate Application and all of the rates will have to be reviewed and that is still to come forward in the New Year.

Right now, our rates are based on 1998 rates and the subsidy is in place for the capital here in Iqaluit and so on are based on Yellowknife rates.

So, in less than twelve months, this Government or the Government that comes in, the Members in this House will have to decide, should Sanikiluaq still pay a rate based on the Yellowknife rate or should it be based on what the true cost of electricity is? Should Iqaluit pay the same thing, Clyde River and so on?

And that will be the decisions that will have to come forward and we will definitely look at the domestic residential and commercial. We have said that, we have said that in June in Baker Lake and that is what we would do. So, I hope that helps answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The next name on the list is Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of comments and I will ask some question. I picked up a copy of the McLean's Magazine last week and I do the occasional reading.

In the headline, the top hundred companies listed in Canada this year and heaven behold, our Power Corporation, Nunavut Power Corporation did not make the top hundred this year and that is a tragedy. Last year, it was in the top fifty and the top ten and you know, there is probably a reason why it is not listed in the top hundred this year for the obvious reasons.

But on that, it is amazing how much has changed since the Baker Lake sitting. It is amazing the transformation in this Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Power Corporation since June. It has almost been a wholesale change in the organizational structure.

And I was one of the ones who really pushed you as a Minister to split the Power Corporation from the Northwest Territories and I still say that is a good move and you did show leadership on that issue.

What happened in the meantime was it got a little lost in the shuffle because you are such a busy Minister of Health and Social Services that you could not devote your full-time attention to it to see that it went astray a bit, but it is nice to see that the Government and I have to commend the Premier for taking a lead on giving direction on where this Corporation is going, the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I see a lot of the senior management are gone for whatever reasons, I do not know, maybe it is the transition to the Qulliq Energy Corporation or differences in philosophies or

directions and stuff like that, but I am hoping that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is headed in the right direction finally.

It has only been a couple of years, but I am sure, under your leadership for the time being, it will head off in the right direction and at the utilities those users pay. So, you know, I am not going to say too much more on that.

I just have a couple of questions. You said that you had twenty-seven owned houses and thirty-two leases. My question to you Minister, and I know it is off the rate increase, but it does impact the benefits of employees.

Are Nunavut Power Corporation employees given benefits that way or more a typical Nunavut Government Employee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman: I want to make sure for the record, as tactful as I can, say that two years ago, following Ikuma I, which was tabled in this House, following Ikuma II, which was tabled in this House, following a Qulliq Energy Corporation Report which was tabled in this House, laid out a plan, for the development affordable energy in Nunavut, we are still on that plan.

The Corporation didn't fall astray the Minister wasn't too busy on another file, let's get serious about, Mr. Tootoo knows this, what occurred here is this, and very seriously I can say this, we didn't have a financial statement from the corporation till this past May. The Corporation would've only been operation for one year then. The financial statements were not available, so how can I go back and say; well you've lost \$5 million, \$4 million or \$2 million.

At the same time Mr. Chairman, those reports were tabled in this House and the Auditor General Canada said "hmmmm, you need to be able to get a better grip on the way these expenditures are doing", and Mr. McLean was correct on that. This is what we've done. There have been senior management changes; they have tightened up some expense. As the Premier indicated in June, this past June, we weren't sure if there was a revenue problem or expense problem or both. Mr. Chairman.

And the first year in the operations as we said, we would lost \$5.5 million dollars, we are in arbitration right now to get back at least \$4million dollars of that, that's pretty damn good, in the first year of the operation of the corporation Mr. Chairman. That would be a loss of about \$1 million dollars.

In the second year of the operation of the corporation, we're trying to deal with some of the issues that have come up including the cost of generating electricity. So we may have a loss but the loss could be considerable less than what we thought of going to be around \$10 or \$12 million, I hope that we could bring it under \$8, so I think that's pretty good.

Mr. Chairman. That's where they came from, and where we're going. The Corporation has only been in operation for two years, and I think we've done quite a lot and again as Mr. McLean had said, when we put the rates in place in 1998, five years ago there was no cost recovery or monies put in for decentralizing in Baker Lake, no cost recovery or expenses for having a lone headquarters set up. There was no cost recovery for setting up financial administrative as well as logistic areas, to cover off our own operations.

So where was the revenue supposed to come from based on the 1998 rates? That is the debate we are supposed to be talking about here. I think for the record it needs to be put into the record and say that.

I'd be happy to debate that with anyone, in or out of the House. And at the same time Mr. Chairman, directly on the question on the housing, there are housing procedures and policies in place, actually right now, some of us forget that we actually have a board of directors, who are tasked with running the corporation also. Mr. Simailak, from Mr. McLean's hometown is on that board.

We actually put two more people on that board; we put in two former senior civil servants, one being a lawyer and one being involved in the energy field with the oil, Mr. Ross Mrazek to actually add some assistance to it.

The new mayor of Iqaluit for example is also Member of the Power Corporation board. So Mr. Chairman, strictly on the housing issue, all benefits that occur and reoccur for housing are under review right now by the committee of the board, and there are policies and procedures in place for Members that lease or rent units from the housing corporation.

I'm not in the position to say they are more or less or greater than what the GN is offering because I don't have scales to look at both of them, what I can say with the majority of the things that are in place now, have been grandfathered over from NWT Power Corporation before we set up our own corporation two years ago, and if the Member is suggesting that we should go in and look at what we grandfathered from the Government of the Northwest Territories into the new Power Corporation, now that we have set it up separately, and that is something that we would be prepared to look at and we are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that after all this time that the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation would be used to taking a little criticism in his department and unfortunately it's our job as Members of the Legislative Assembly to ask questions as he knows when he was in the Northwest Territories, he used to ask a tremendous amount of great questions; the Minister and you know I complement the Minister because he was one of the best at it.

In my own little way I admire Ed in his questioning techniques when he was in the Northwest Territories and if I can do a little bit of it too, I try to. And like I say, when you raise the ear of our Cabinet Minister, you know it is sensitive and I don't mean to do it on purpose, but as politicians elected to represent people in Nunavut we have to ask the questions that arose there. I would hope that, yes there is some stuff that is grandfathered and yeah I know it is going to take time to change it. But I would hope when you are looking at these policies at the Power Corporation don't be treated any better than Government of Nunavut employees. They work hard and I appreciate the efforts that they put in.

My colleagues in Iqaluit said that the people here in Iqaluit were not sure what was happening with their job positions and stuff like that. Well I can sympathize with them. I can totally sympathize with the employees in Iqaluit.

Because the employees in Baker Lake put up with that for two years also. All of them didn't know where they fit in the organization. But you assured everybody today that everything is okay. So, I commend the Minister on that.

When we talk about grandfathering and I'm glad you brought that up, when we grandfathered a lot of the benefits, did we also grandfather 40 thousand dollar bonuses for senior staff?

Did we pay out 40 thousand dollar bonuses to senior staff in the Power Corporation?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very proud of what has occurred with the Power Corporation, the genesis of the Power Corporation over the last couple of years. People like Laura Gauthier who put a lot of time and effort who basically co-authored the Ikuma I report, and the Human Service put out in the file by people like Peter Scott.

I think we've moved in the right direction and if I was a little bit testy, I apologize to the Member. I understand that your role is to ask questions and no one knows that role better than me, and I appreciate that.

I can say that, you know, in the corporate world, there are some things in corporate culture that were carried on from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation that have found their way into the Nunavut Power Corporation that we have under current review. I think that is fair to say. Some things that have crept in that we do not probably want to face and we're addressing that right now in various ways.

Mr. Hawker who is the new person in charge of the power corporation has been very aggressive in reviewing all the status, the logistics as far as the administrative perks, benefits, costs and so on that are in place and like most organizations there are

performance policies for senior management staff in place like there are for example in the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can understand that the Minister feels uncomfortable about answering the question, you know, that was asked and I'll wait for a more appropriate time to ask it.

Grandfathering again. Were VTA's grandfathered into the Nunavut Power Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, as the Minister responsible there were eight VTAs put in place for the Minister. I am just kidding. No, Mr. Chairman, there were no VTAs that were grandfathered from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation to the Nunavut Power Corporation. It is my understanding from Mr. Hawker, who is in charge of the financial operations of the Nunavut Power Corporation; indeed there are no VTAs as a benefit to the employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is another rumour that I can squelch. I am still waiting for an answer on the bonuses, and how much they are.

Is it true that the Power Corporation owes their sister company in PPD \$12 million dollars in outstanding fuel bills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think that I answered Mr. McLean's earlier question. I said that like the Government of Nunavut there are incentive pays in place for senior management. No different from ADMs, or DMs. Senior executive for the Power Corporation receives that like any corporate company that does it.

Mr. Chairman, again another rumour. I am glad that Mr. McLean is bringing up these rumours up so we can dispel them once and for all to know. The Power Corporation does not owe POL, Petroleum Products, the Department of Public Works and Services, \$12 million, \$10 million, \$9 million, \$8 million, \$7 million, \$6 million, \$5 million, and \$4 million. Indeed we owe \$3.6 million dollars right now to POL for fuel delivery.

In the last month, we owe \$3.6 million dollars, and not twelve million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everything seems to be ahead in the right direction. The people who have called me, given me this information from Rankin Inlet, when I go back through the next time I will have to sit down with them and say these are all lies, that a lot of this information is not true. Like I say, they would be riding me at the airport in Rankin Inlet quite a bit about certain things, and now I can stick my chest out say no that is not true.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to know if he would answer this question directly. Did senior management get \$40 thousand dollars in bonuses last year from the Power Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, I do not know why people in Rankin Inlet would be giving the Member a hard time. I know that people are seeing, in that area of Nunavut, that the very good aggressive ostentatious type of narcissistic job that the Member is doing for the people of Baker Lake and that may be one reason why they are accosting him in the airport in Rankin Inlet and giving him the information that is incorrect.

I can, again, tell the Member categorically, that no, the answer is no on the bonus, in the amount that the Member is talking about. The answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: I will wait for the appropriate, proper forum to ask that question. It just scared me a little bit that it could even be higher, those amounts. On the Board of Directors, yes, you've got very capable Board of Directors.

Since the creation of the Qullik Energy Corporation, have the Board of Directors been given more responsibility in the day to day operations, decision making of the Corporation now from a year ago, or six months ago? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think Mr. McLean had alluded earlier to some concerns that you know the Power Corporation was drifting a bit and at that time he eluded to the point that maybe there had to be a little bit of a different direction given by the Board and I think that is scarce to say.

The Board is taking, I would suggest to you now, the very act of the Board, the Chairperson of the Board of the Power Corporation, Mr. Simon Merkosoak, a former mayor, a well-known business person, an Inuk business person from Pond Inlet, we have, I believe, on the Board five former mayors, former mayor Denis Lyall, former mayor Simailak, Current Mayor Sheutiapik, for example, Ms. Crawford and Mrazek, we have an

accountant, it is a very good Board, Mr. Chairman, we even have an expert from Ontario Hydro is on the Board, Mr. Holmes, from Niagara.

So, it is a very good Board and a working Board. I will ask Mr. Flaherty just to give you an overview of some of the work that they have done. Last week, we had probably one of the most important Board Meetings held to date here in Iqaluit with all of the Board Members. Mr. Flaherty can give you an overview of some of the work that the Board is doing as he is directly involved with Qullik. Mr. Flaherty.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I will give Mr. Flaherty an opportunity.

Mr. Flaherty: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to elaborate more on what Minister Picco had mentioned on what the Board is getting more involved in a way of ensuring that the Power Corporation and Qullik Energy is currently going in the right direction.

A week and a half ago, we had a Board Meeting, with about 80 percent of the Board Members attending, and Mr. Picco is correct when he said that we have a diverse group of individuals who are on the Board, with different backgrounds. I am pretty sure that we have individuals with background on the Board, like from a Government's perspective, like those with petroleum perspectives, some are more financial, but various group of individuals who really care what happens to the Crown Corporation.

And during the last Board Meeting, which was about a week and a half ago, the Board took a look to ensure that the communities that some of the events that are happening within the Corporation improve.

For example, there is a Transition Committee, which the Board is made up of basically three Board Members to ensure that there is a smooth transition of the implementation to April 1st and also for things like a Committee to ensure that the Auditor's Report is followed through. But there are some Committees being set up by the Board to ensure the Corporation is going in the right direction. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Flaherty. Anything else? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the end of the day, Minister Picco, at the end of the day the Power Corporation is in a deficit, I think we are all agreeing that for it to be, have a healthy surplus at this point, it is probably not even realistic; setting up the utilities is no minor issue.

Can you assure this House that there will be no staff layoffs so that staff can rest assured if there is any kind of uncertainty in the Power Corporation or the Qullik Energy Corporation, that there are not going to be any staff layoffs in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to say a couple things. The Power Corporation employees and the ranking Members on the ground keeping our electricity on every day have done yeoman service for the people of Nunavut.

And we have no, Mr. Chairman, we have no contemplation at this time or in the foreseeable future, any layoffs and indeed we were looking at, depending on how the Corporation grows, expansion.

As we are seeing right now in the office in Baker Lake a result of what occurred was a rate review, for example, we've put an extra four, three accountant positions for example in Baker Lake so we've actually been hiring more staff for the power corporation.

On the bonus issue asked earlier by Mr. McLean, I want to make sure that there is no doubt left in anyone's mind that, you know, there was nothing near the amounts given by Mr. McLean. I don't have the actual amount here. In total payout in bonus which is done again by corporate groups the world over. But it was certainly less than 40 thousand dollars. No individual received a 40 thousand dollar bonus; I can guarantee you that, Mr. McLean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've got no problems with deputy Ministers or assistant deputy Ministers or senior employees in corporations in government getting bonuses.

But when you hear those numbers being touted around in the track record of the some employees and my question was about the board of directors making decisions on staff bonuses because as we know senior staff, deputy Ministers, could be gone at the flick of a pen and so they're under a tremendous amount of stress and accountability and I will wait till a later time to find out about the bonuses.

Earlier you mentioned the capital free and you built a beautiful, beautiful warehouse in Baker Lake I think in the tune of 2 and one half to 3 million dollars. I was up looking at it last week and lots of lights on, and beautiful facility, state of the art.

I think it's supposed to be a power plant when it's finished. Does the Minister have any kind of time line when that facility is going to be completed in Baker Lake? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Baker Lake power plant is one that has grown within me. It was valuably featured in the URCC report and there was some concern from URCC that we had over built.

However, based on the population growth in the community of Baker Lake and based on possible mining activities and so on, the facility itself should be there for several years to come for the community.

There is a delay this year in completing the installation of some of the generators. However, we have a contingency plan in place to make sure that the power stays on in Baker Lake and it is my understanding we will be able to commission the plant in 2005 so, we're not that far off the actual scheduling. Schedule has been laid 2004 and now it'll be 2005. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, you can guarantee the fine people of Baker Lake that with the two year delay on this power plant that the existing power in the community will be maintained to it's level now that we have and that there be no power failures that would seriously effect the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of issues when you're dealing with electrical power. I can't guarantee any and all foreseeable effects that would cause the power to go off but I can say, in this case, specific to the delay of the completion of the new power plant in Baker Lake, we have put in place a contingency plan, indeed an emergency plan, to ensure that the power stays on in Baker Lake.

Now, I have been assured by Mr. Hawker and some of the other people within the department, within the corporation, within the power corporation that indeed the contingency plan, the emergency plan that is put in place by the corporation should suffice and again adding Mr. Hawker on the ground in Baker Lake, living there, to ensure that that power plant stays up and running.

I'm pretty confident that we'll be able to let you know that the residents of Baker Lake will not have too long to go with interruptions in their power. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very assuring what the Minister has told me and I would sleep a lot better at night knowing full well, that if the power goes out at two o'clock in the morning, I can call my friend Hazen and tell him that the power is out, and we're freezing and that it's going to be on shortly. I'm really glad that Minister accommodated me that way, and I know Hazen; he's a hard working man and you know the back bone of the power corporation at this point and I know his phone number at home, I have it written down and I'm sure to highlight it and make sure that it's there when our power goes out Hazen. Mr. Chairman, I would like to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. Those in favor of the motion. Those against. The motion is carried.

I just would like to remind the Ministers and the Departments and the officials, in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut we follow parliamentary procedures and we are required to wear formal attire, just a reminder to the Ministers and to the officials that they should be dressed appropriately when they appear before the House. This is according to the parliamentary procedures in Canada and others. Thank you very much for coming. I will now ask for the Mr. Speaker to come in. Any final remarks from the Minister?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think this afternoon the continuation of the debate that we had in Baker Lake was well taken; I believe you were able to dispel some of the rumors and innuendoes. Indeed we are working hard, in the Ministers office, and with our senior Members of Power Corporation itself to stem some of the things that we've seen. I think we are having positive results from Mr. Flaherty and Mr. Hawker and the other Members of the team on board. I thank the Members for their questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask my colleagues whether we are concluded with Ministers Statement 164-1(6), Tabled Document 117-1(6) and 118-1(6). Are we done with those? Thank you for coming Mr. Minister and your officials, I will ask the Speaker to come in.

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

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Ministers' Statement 164-1(6), and Tabled Document 117-1(6), and Tabled Document 118-1(6). We would like to report that Minister's Statement 164 – 1(6) and Tabled Document 117 – 1(6) and 118 – 1(6) have been concluded. And I move to have our report concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. There is a Motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the Motion? Do we have a seconder for the Motion? Mr. Netser will second the Motion.

>> *Applause*

The Motion is in Order. All those in favour? All those opposed. The Motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Order for the Day for Wednesday, October 22nd.

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
 - Minister's Statement 167-1(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. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, October, 22nd, 2003, at 1:30 pm.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:33*

