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**Thursday October 23, 2003**

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**Iqaluit**

**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*

**Donald Haviyok**  
(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**  
(Quttiktuq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday October 23, 2003**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. Ovide Alakannuark, Mr. Jack Anawak, Mr. Donald Haviyok, Mr. David Iqaqrialu, Mr. Enoki Irgittuq, Honourable Peter Kattuk, Hon. Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Glenn McLean, Mr. Patterk Netser, Honourable Kelvin Ng, Mr. Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Kevin O'Brien, Honourable Ed Picco, Mr. Uriash Puqiqnak, Hon. Manito Thompson, Mr. Hunter Tootoo, Ms. Rebekah Williams.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker:** Good afternoon, Members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 185 – 1 (6): Premier Okalik Absent from the House**

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

**Speaker:** Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Minister's Statement 186 – 1(6): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to announce that eleven appointments have been made to the newly established Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

The Katimajit will provide advice and assistance with the government's effort to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

Mr. Speaker, the new members are as follows, we will recognise them later on, Miriam Aglukkaq, Rynie Audla, Atiima Hadlari, Henry Isluarnik, Jackie Napayok, Metuq Nowdluk, Albert Nuvviyak, Peter Peetooloot, Kananginak Pootoogook, George Qulaut and Mary Ann Tattuinee.

The Katimajit members are in Iqaluit this week for their first meeting and will begin their important work by meeting with Deputy Ministers and interdepartmental Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee Tuqtarvik.

Mr. Speaker, as a government we are very pleased to welcome this fine group of representatives from across Nunavut. And we look forward to working together and I would like to ask the Members of the Legislative Assembly and you Mr. Speaker, please join me in welcoming them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** I'd like to also welcome all the elders here in the chamber today. Especially my special friend from Arviat, Henry Isluarnik. It's nice to see you here.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Minister's Statement 187 – 1(6): Advertising Procedures for Government of Nunavut Job Opportunities**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome the people here for the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit. I would also like to remind Members they are still showing the educational materials so everyone is welcome to attend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm the Department of Human Resources' commitment to effectively promoting employment opportunities within the Government of Nunavut and to inform my colleagues of new cost saving measure being used in the department.

Mr. Speaker, it is perhaps important for me to emphasize our commitment to northern recruitment. The Department of Human Resources uses a variety of ways to promote job opening to Nunavummiut.

For example, we use our northern newspapers and we post our job advertisements in prominent community locations; we are also starting to regularly advertise our position on local radio and cable stations.

All our job opportunities are listed on the GN website. All of our advertisements are posted in Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun and English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, in the past the Department of Human Resources has incurred considerable costs advertising in southern newspapers. I am please to announce that since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2003 we have been using a new, more economical way of advertising for some of our senior level and hard to fill positions.

We are now advertising Government of Nunavut jobs using an online recruitment service. "Monster.ca", (Monster dot ca), posts job ads on the internet that can be accessed by anyone.

This type of advertising reaches a much broader audience, across Canada and is much more cost effective than print advertising in the south.

Mr. Speaker, effective recruitment strategies like these will enable us to concentrate more on northern recruitment to ensure that we bring well-suited, qualified individuals into our public service. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 188 – 1(6): Foster Parents Handbook**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our foster parents provide temporary shelter for young people in need. To help them better understand how to fulfill their responsibilities, the Department of Health and Social Services has produced a handbook to provide information on roles and expectations, including what is required from them under the *Child and Family Services Act* when they are caring for children.

Mr. Speaker, the handbook explains what is expected of the foster parent and describes the duties of the social worker. This will help develop a closer relationship between all involved with the child in the foster care placement.

Mr. Speaker, foster parents perform an important service to our children and deserve our support, understanding and thanks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Picco. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 619 – 1(6): Government of Nunavut Contracting Procedures**

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, when the Iqaluit Centre MLA was asking questions to the Premier, the Premier stated that he was in support of the people who have companies in the communities.

I asked similar questions, but I could not get an adequate response and he had the Minister of Housing respond to my question.

The Premier had stated that he is in support of the people with the companies in the communities. If he could be a better leader, if he would have said that the government will be using private companies in Nunavut.



(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I quote the Premier in his response to the question put forth by the Member for Iqaluit West, “what we could like to say to the people of Nunavut that we support you if you are locally based”

I like that quote because, if the Premier could show real leadership by directing this government, to look at the contracts that are given out for erection of houses in the communities by dividing the contracts to supply and ship and letting the communities erect, that way the money would stay in the community rather than sprouting wings and flying off to southern cities.

I congratulate the Premier for thinking locally based companies are the ones we should be looking at. Again I point out, now is the time to show some real leadership by directing the government to divide the contract and allow local communities to erect the houses so that the money stays in. You save money for not providing hotels, wires, electrical, get them but let the community do the work. That would be real economic development by ensuring that the money stays in the communities in Nunavut. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 620 – 1(6): RCMP Replacing Muskrat Fur Hats**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that I will be running out of time, so let me know when I do. Mr. Speaker, this is not a new issue that I am going to be bringing up and it is involved with Green Peace.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern on the recent news that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is looking at replacing the classic RCMP muskrat hats because of pressure from extremist groups in the South.

Mr. Speaker, trading fur was, at one time, the only source of income for Inuit. Extremists, anti-fur groups almost destroyed our fur industry to a point where our people could hardly survive. We are only now starting to recover and it started only when the Inuit and the people from the North became vocal.

Mr. Speaker, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police claim that they would like to find out if a more durable, wind-resistant alternative to muskrat fur exists. Mr. Speaker, there is no comparison to fur and that is why we, the Inuit, have survived for so long in this harsh climate and that was the time before the Europeans came in.

Mr. Speaker, if you take a look at old RCMP photographs, you will see that the officers only wore caribou or sealskin clothing during the winter because that is the only piece of clothing that is suitable in our harsh environment.

Mr. Speaker, today, RCMP officers no longer use Inuit clothing, however, I am positive that officers appreciated the warmth of this clothing and to show their appreciation, they should commit to keeping their furs ...I would like unanimous consent to conclude my Statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Puqiqnak, please proceed.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. As I stated earlier, the RCMP officers long time ago used only caribou or sealskin clothing and they should retain the usage of the muskrat fur hats.

Mr. Speaker, as a proud Member at the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut and in order to keep the people of Nunavut's economy up, I would recommend that the RCMP serving in Nunavut communities consider using fur or skins from Nunavut such as sealskin and other sealskin or other products that are from Nunavut.

I am very sure that the Inuit officers who are serving on the force would be especially proud to use our Nunavut products because of course they are Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to our Minister of Justice presenting sealskin models made in Nunavut and a fur hat to the Commanding Officer in the 'V' Division.

This is the concern that I have because I'm from Nunavut; we have to start using the Nunavut products. The extremist don't know anything about the conditions up here.

I'll ask questions on this matter at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

### **Member's Statement 621 – 1(6): Cost of Housing Rent**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure some of the Members missed me in my absence. I apologize to the House for my for two days absence. Mr. Speaker, I'll probably request that you give me six minutes because I have missed two days, two minutes in the last two days and that should equal to six minutes.

Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to talk about housing situation in Nunavut. Nunavummiut are provided housing through the Housing Corporation. Since the creation of Nunavut why is it that Nunavut Housing Corporation is still here and who is responsible? We're not the ones who brought them here; we are not the ones who brought the Housing Corporation to our territory and we all know that they came in here on their own before we made the request.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of housing and the recommendations that were made by Housing Task Force have not been implemented by the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, we as the people of Nunavut do not have a whole lot of money. The people do not have the economy and there is a lack of jobs. The issue of housing is extremely expensive to keep a house.

The fifteen year old has to put in his share to pay the rent in Nunavut but the nineteen, the age of nineteen is usually considered the age where a child is considered mature, but why are we using fifteen years old? I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am extremely please to be back in the House.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of housing, as people of Nunavut we have supported the Housing Corporation with \$53 million dollars so that we could increase the number of social houses in Nunavut. With \$53 million dollars to provide housing to the people of Nunavut, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is said to be an independent body but the Government of Nunavut provides \$53 million dollars to this entity. \$53 million dollars is a lot of money that we fork out to the Housing Corporation.

The rental scales in the communities when was it that we asked for a review of the rental scale. We never saw anything to date. We worked extremely hard to get our recommendations implemented within the Government. I have yet to see one item put in by the Government.

This Nunavut Housing Corporation did not come from the Legislative Assembly. The Housing Corporation is a separate entity. I would like the people of Nunavut to know that. Because if nobody is going to be listening to us out there, is it possible to get rid of such entities and create our own that are Nunavut made.

I think that we should be able to have the power as a government to do that. The people of Nunavut did not create the existing entities. They came here by themselves and they call themselves Nunavummiut, and it is something that I do not like.

The reason why I am making those comments today is the people who are paying rent to the Housing entities is the source of revenue coming for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The Nunavut Housing Corporation does not build additional houses even though they have revenue coming in. The rent that we pay, where is it going? What bank account does it go to, because they are not increasing the number of houses in Nunavut.

The Nunavut Government that I want would provide the money in order to increase the amount of houses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Member's Statement 622 – 1(6): Recognition of Constituent Josephie Takijualuk**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today we are going to be televised in Inuktitut. I would like to recognize a person from Pond Inlet, Josephie Takijualuk Kunuk. There are two Josephie Kunuk's so I use his middle name Takijualuk.

Josephie Kunuk used to work at DPW. And he worked at the water reservoir. When they first came out there would be frequent freeze-ups. When the tank came into refill, the connecting pipe would freeze between the booster and the truck. So what he did was improvised the pipe so that it would no longer freeze. All of these types of equipment were improvised. Because of the improvisation, there was a better system.

I do not know if he was recognized for introducing these gadgets. So I would like to recognize Josephie Takijualuk Kunuk, who modified that equipment in order to improve the services, and I want to recognize that in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Member's Statement 623 – 1(6): Pleased with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased and would like to congratulate the new Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit appointees.

We have been talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for many years and as regular Members we would become frustrated talking about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. I am not opposing the Minister, but they would be frequently stating using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and I have always been frustrated about it being used or just put out as a lip service by the Government.

As I heard earlier, they would be having meetings with the Deputy Ministers and I am extremely pleased to hear that, but the Deputy Ministers will also have to listen to the elders, listen to their advice and wisdom and believe in them.

If I use an example, there was an elder in Igloolik and before passing away, he wanted muktaaq or bowhead whale and that was at the time when there was a moratorium on harvesting bowhead. At that time, one of his friends harvested a bowhead whale and he was taken to court, but he was acquitted because he harvested that bowhead at the request of an elder.

So, the Deputy Ministers will have to understand where the elders are coming from if they want to understand. We are aiming get to 80 percent Inuit in the work force and we will be able to teach the non-Inuit about our tradition and culture.

I've kept this to myself for years; I had to let it out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

**Member's Statement 624 – 1(6): Economic Development in Smaller Communities**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to revisit one of my priority issues, economic development in smaller non-decentralized communities. I recognize many of the elders here and I have been board members with them. I am sure that we will have an opportunity to recognize the elders here, but going ahead with my Members' Statement, we all know that economic development opportunities in the smaller communities are limited.

For the past five years, I have seen the Government place an emphasis on implementing its decentralization strategy. I believe that the needs of the smaller communities have been neglected in this process.

Mr. Speaker, the Government has a responsibility to help ensure that businesses in local communities have a chance to get off the ground. It also has a responsibility to help ensure that its procurement and that contracting procedure does not create monopolies.

We are at this stage at this point and in my communities there is concern that limited economic opportunities are not being spread out far enough. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to see that the Government recently released economic development strategy stressing the need to encourage and I quote: "...greater participation of local and Inuit firms in selling goods and services to Government and in providing Inuit employment..."

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And it also states that it will provide Inuit employment. Mr. Speaker, the Government needs to look closely at every one of its contracts to ensure that it balances the need for good value with the need to build a strong, diversified economic base in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

**Member's Statement 625 – 1(6): Salute Working Families of Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, even though we were not sitting last month on Labour Day, I would like to take this opportunity to offer a well deserved salute to the workers who keep Nunavut moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of Nunavummiut get up every day and head out to make our territory a better place in which to live and raise our families. Teachers and classroom assistants and daycare staff provide our children with the tools they need to build their destinies.

Nurses, doctors, counsellors, and mental health workers, as well as social workers help to heal our wounds and comfort our communities. Police officers, court staff and attorneys keep our streets safe and protect the rights of our citizens. Public servants keep the machinery of Government well oiled and develop the programs and services that our Constituents rely on.

On the front lines, they are keeping our water clean, protecting our facilities, and caring for our patients. In the private sector, people work long hours and provide goods and services that we rely on for the comfort and efficiency of our homes and our workplaces.

Mr. Speaker, I have continuously spoken out for the need for our Government to support our employees and provide worker-friendly environment in Nunavut, but the record to date has been mixed.

For example, it took three years and many questions, mostly from my Honourable Colleague from Baker Lake, from this side of the House, to have the Government, finally, raise the minimum wage.

Thanks to an amendment proposed by the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, the Government is now legally obligated to report back to the House on an annual basis as to whether the minimum wage should be changed. I look forward to seeing that obligation fulfilled during our coming Sessions.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to Government of Nunavut employees, I am concerned, I am concerned that while senior executives receive supplementary pensions, the Union has to fight tooth and nail for a fair deal and at times are dealt with pretty much by the take it or leave it approach to things.

I am concerned that there is a climate of uncertainty for our work force in respect to decentralization. I am concerned that there are inadequacies and inequities in our system, our sometimes chaotic system of staff housing.

Mr. Speaker, all of these issues can be addressed if we have an attitude that puts the needs of our workers and their families, our constituents, high in our agendas. I ask all Members to join me in saluting the working families of Nunavut.

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

**Member's Statement 626 – 1(6): Community Learning Centre Opening in Baker Lake**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement will be brief today. After almost five years, I finally felt comfortable in Iqaluit at lunchtime today. The reason being in coming from the east coast it is not very often that you get to partake in a good old-fashioned turnip and potato stew. So I would like to thank the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for making me feel that I was down on the east coast again.

I would like to thank the elders for putting up with me there. I felt like I was back in the Maritimes, in the old days when I was a kid having stew amongst our big family down there.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand up today and thank the Department of Education and specifically, Nunavut Arctic College for finally, finally after fifteen years, and I am sorry, and I want to apologize to the Arctic College Board of Directors for missing the grand opening of our new Community Learning Centre.

This shows the commitment on part of the Nunavut Government to help educate and to help train individuals in Nunavut. I have stood up here many times and ask them to help Nunavut, give them the skills so they could stand on their two feet.

I would like to congratulate the parties involved, Kilabuk, the Premier, Mani, and everybody for finally having a Learning Centre that we can be proud of and I would also like to thank Arctic College and the Department of Education for finally, after almost five years of asking, and praying, and cajoling, and begging that they are now running a pre-mine training course in Baker Lake. My hat's off and thank you very much to that side of the House for listening to one of my banter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Member's Statement 627 – 1(6): Nunavummiut Dreams and Expectations**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well to the elders, it is very good to see you here. I am probably as old as you are. What I would like to speak about today, Mr. Speaker is that I am happy to rise today with the dream of Nunavut, that things would become easier in the everyday lives for people in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit to date are still expecting this dream. Perhaps if we were told back then that once Nunavut came to be, it will still be difficult and that it will take time for the dream to come true, if we had been told that, expectations would not have been so high.

Mr. Speaker, it will take time to get things straightened out and for the youth we have to build a solid foundation for their future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Members' Statements. Ms. Thompson.

**Member's Statement 628 – 1(6): New Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit**

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome them, the newly appointed Katimajit for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Mr. Speaker, they have a difficult task at hand. Mr. Speaker, perhaps I can briefly mention that this Government, although with only five years behind us, we have truly been developing towards the right direction. And with the previous NWT Government, which was in place for over thirty years, perhaps because Inuit did not have a strong voice there, although we had Members of the Legislative Assembly.

However, Mr. Speaker, we now have our own Government, although it seems like a thankless job a lot of times, what we have done to date, Mr. Speaker, is made more progress than the previous government that was in for thirty years.

In this newly appointed Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee, perhaps, we will need workshops as to how the Government process is done so that they have a better idea of how the Government operates and how the Assembly operates because we do have rules and procedures. We follow Parliamentary procedures and just from sitting here, they will note that we as Ministers on this side, when we are being asked and when we are being asked of the numbers, a lot of times it seems like they are belittling us and this is because of the adversarial system of the British Parliament.

We do work hard to try to get our job done, but it is apparent that in this House, we are still not really using the British Parliamentary procedures, yet it seems like we are just against each other because we have not incorporated Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit well enough into this process.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut has provided perhaps over 300 housing units since 1993 which were long overdue. Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you.

**Speaker:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her Statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed Ms. Thompson.

**Hon. Manitok Thompson** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our culture is very different, obviously, we grew up within Nunavut and the previous Government and the people who planned for the Nunavut Government perhaps should have planned, right at that time, how to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and we would have seen a completely different procedure run in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



And as well, I am very proud that we have had only five years in our mandate, we have managed to bring in schools, public housing, vehicles, and infrastructure that has been beneficial to Nunavut and as well, Mr. Speaker, we see more Inuit appointed to boards and we can speak Inuktitut in the House and say what is on our minds.

So, I am proud to see the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit in here and I welcome them to help with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit curriculum development people in the next room and I do wish to see a workshop be held by this Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Committee about the process of Government and the process of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Member's Statement 629 - 1(6): Pangnirtung Road for Turbot Fishing**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome our visitors as well. Today, I would just like to make a further clarification to my Colleagues here that we have, in Pangnirtung in the fall, what we usually have is an annual occurrence where ships come into the community to unload some cargo and they have been able to go to the community four times to offload some turbot. This will create job opportunities over the winter and it will be a good time to hire some people while they wait for freeze up when they can start going out on the ice and catch turbot.

And so, I am proud to hear that people in the fisheries plant will be quite successful again this year, but because freeze up has been quite late in the winter, they are going to look for other ways to harvest the turbot. Towards end of this month, they will be building a road along the river that the skidoos can use as a trail to the turbot fishing site. They can then get an early start before freeze up.

This trail will have other benefits; during the fall it is quite hard to get caribou and other stuff because they can't go hunting during the fall. I am proud of the hamlet and the residents of Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin, not you Mr. Speaker, my Kevin in Qikiqtarjuaq, I say hi to him if he is watching and to my son Joseph in Pangnirtung, my daughter Jenna and my wife Rosie and my daughter Lynn who is here in school in Iqaluit.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Any further Members' Statements? Mr. Picco

**Member's Statement 630 - 1(6): Business Plans to Open a Co-op Store in Iqaluit**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, over the last few days, the school, the students at the high school, the Inukshuk High

School in Iqaluit have been studying the politics and studying the operation of the Legislative Assembly.

The other day I had an opportunity with my son to go through different names of the different Members and he knew every Member's name and when he got to you, Mr. Speaker, he referred to you as UQAQTII of the North. Just wanted to mention that, Mr. Speaker; he will be watching today.

Mr. Speaker, over the past several years, many attempts have been made to move forward with an organization and a business plan. A business plan to develop, build, and open, Mr. Speaker, the first community Co-op store here in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, over the past several months a number of meetings has been held, Mr. Speaker, a plan have been developed, a plan to move ahead to open a general retail Coop store here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the good work done by Iqaluit residents to move forward with a Co-op plan. I would like to single out a constituent of mine, Mary Ellen Thomas, who has been one of the most active and indeed long serving members of the Co-op plan here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you and this House to join with me to wish the newly elected Iqaluit Co-op Board here in Iqaluit the very best and Godspeed in the opening and setting up of the community Co-op here in the Capital of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further members' statements? Moving on to Item 4. Return to Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I'd like to recognize in this House, there are many of us in Nunavut who don't have any parents. I would also to congratulate the Government departments who will be acquiring parents of elders here. I would like them to stand up one by one when I say their name.

First of all, Renee Audla from Sanikiluaq; Metuq Nowdlak of Iqaluit; Albert Nuvviaq from Hall Beach; Kanaginak Pootogook from Cape Dorset; George Qulaut from Igloodik and those are from Baffin region.

And from Kitikmeot, Miriam Aglukkaq from Gjoa Haven; Atiima Hadlari from Cambridge Bay; Peter Peetooloot from Taloyoak. They are from Kitikmeot and Kivalliq Regions, Henry Isluarnik and Jackie Napayok from Whale Cove and Mary Anne Tattuinee from Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Members to recognize them and welcome them as well for the job that they are about to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** I would like to, once again, welcome all of the elders to the Gallery and you are certainly welcome here at any time and I would also like to acknowledge and recognize Leona Aglukkaq, the Deputy Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, welcome to the Gallery, also one of our former table officers. Once again, welcome to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was a pleasure to hear my fellow Member from Pangnirtung recognizing the elders and for the Departments who will acquire new “Parents”. As a Government, please listen to your Elders.

>> *Laughter and Applause*

I would also like to recognize as well Kanaginak Pootoogook, Miriam Aglukkaq, George Qulaut, and my constituent, Mary Anne Tattuinee.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate and recognize the very important thing that George Qulaut will be doing within the Government. I would like to congratulate him on his appointed by the Federal Government Minister to be involved in the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

And from my community, Albert Nuvviyak and he knew me when I was a child, Jackie Napayok and my relative Mary Anne Tattuinee; she collects cups, so give her some cups. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my Colleagues. First of all, I would like to say hello to my constituents of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut and I would also like to recognize and thank the elders, the Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and to congratulate them for electing or appointing

Kananginnaq Pootoogook as a member of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two people who have been appointed to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit and I would like to recognize Miriam Aglukkaq and her Inuktitut name is Milaulaaq from Gjoa Haven. I would like to thank the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for appointing the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit. It is something that we have been trying to attain from the Government.

I would also like to recognize some people from my constituency; Peter Peetooloot, and behind Peter is Atiima Hadlari; welcome to the House. Mr. Speaker, the person who used to represent the Kitikmeot region during the Regional Government, Nick Carter; I would also like to welcome him to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have recognized and welcomed the elders to the House. First of all, I would also like to recognize George Qulaut. I have worked with him before the Nunavut Legislature was created. I would also like to recognize Rynie Nowdlak; she used to live in Resolute Bay. My Inuktitut name is Oqi, Oqi's sister; I would like to also recognize, Nooveya. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to be back in the House. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome and recognize two individuals, especially Metuq Nowdlak, who is from Iqaluit. She is like my mother. Every since I was very young, she has assisted me greatly. I would like to congratulate and thank the government for appointing her to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. She is also a very good friend of my wife.

There was somebody who wanted to see me, and the individual's name is Jackie Napayuuq. I would like to say that I congratulate him, and welcome him to the House. And I will now know him, whenever I see him.

And also to the rest of the elders, I would like to welcome them, and congratulate them, and to let them know that you are our elders and you will know what to do when it comes time for you to do what you have to do within the government.

I would also like to congratulate the Minister for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. It is nice to hear him say that the Government's "Parents" are finally here and I would like to congratulate him for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize several individuals. The first two are former constituents who have been recognized. They are Mr. Nick Carter, and Ms. Leona Aglukkaq. And lastly, I would like to recognize a friend of mine, a well-distinguished cultural performer, and a long-time resident of the community who has now become one of the respected elders of the community, and he is also a golfer of limited ability, and that is Mr. Atiima Hadlari.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Peter Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the individual who has been recognized already who is from Sanikiluaq. I'm sure that the individual will be working very hard for the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, Rynie Nowdluk. Welcome

They provided lunch for us that was good. I also recognize one of the individuals and I think it was in 1970 the people of Coral Harbour became a hamlet and Sanikiluaq people wanted to do the same thing. So what they did was travel to Coral Harbour to find out how the hamlet ran and when I got to Coral Harbour, I boarded at their house and I'm sorry that I didn't recognize him but I would also like to recognize Jackie Napayok.

**Speaker:** Are there any further recognition of visitors in the gallery? Mr. Irqittuq.

**Mr. Irqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry Mr. Speaker I forgot to recognize the people who are working for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth I would also like to recognize Jonah Haulli and I forgot your name, those are the people who work for the department and they live in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** Item 6. Oral Questions. Members you'll have to excuse me but we will have to get back to Item 5. It appears that Mr. Picco would like to be on the list. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker you left me behind there. First of all I want to welcome to the gallery two people; first is with the Arctic Coop, a good friend of Mr. Kelvin Ng, Mr. Nick Carter, a long time government employee and now with the Coop.

And leaving us right now is Metuq Nowdluk. Metuq is a constituent of ours, and Mr. Iqaqrialu is a good friend of the people here. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Item 6. Oral Questions. Do we have any oral questions today? Mr. Nutarak.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 607 – 1(6): Age Requirement to Pay and Rent**

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I was asking about the income support division in the Department of Education and I said that I would be directing my question to the Minister responsible for Housing.

Young people have to pay rent when they have an income, and they usually have seasonal jobs such as in the summer when they are out of school and they make a contribution to pay the rent during that time. It was mentioned earlier, where one of my colleagues stated that as soon as they are 15 years old, they have to pay rent.

My question to the Minister is how old do they have to be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Speaker:** Minister for responsible for housing. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no age limit on that, on the issue of generating income, and for youth in a new rent scale, for the first five thousand eight hundred dollars worth annual income, which we assess, anything over and above that would not be assessed.

And, again, based on a new rent scale we've done once a year, and come into effect the following year after they've started working. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions, supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As an elder, if I was sixty years old, and I have grandchildren living with me, if my grandchild had a seasonal job, he or she would have to pay the rent, and the Minister has stated that there is no age requirement, so possibly if I was still 12 years old and had a summer job, I made over

five thousand two hundred dollars, would that mean I would have to pay rent on the house? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, based on the new rent scale, yes, it would mean, in the following year that you would be assessed, that individual would be assessed that portion into that household but having said that, circumstances change, and the individual wasn't working at that time, and that would be a factor, that wouldn't be assessed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like we have to make changes to the rent scale because young people do not have the incentive to go to work or to get employment because the rent increases dramatically.

If I paid thirty-two dollars a month, up to from thirty-two dollars to ninety dollars, my grandchild would have to make a contribution and the rent would jump up from thirty two dollars to ninety dollars.

Is it possible for your Department to review the rent scale or is that the responsibility for the Nunavut Housing Corporation? Is it possible to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier a couple of days ago, I believe the Member was still in transit, I indicated that local housing authority association are in town right now, for a workshop on the new rent scale and there were some problems identified and they will make some adjustments on that new rent scale.

But having said that, I want to clarify, I am speaking now on the new rent scale, and the former rent scale before a few months took place, had all income generated being assessed immediately.

And the youth category is based on the age of 15 to 25, which is what we are using right now, so this current rent scale takes a lot more into consideration and taking away this disincentive to work, if you started to work this year, you wouldn't be assessed. Those individuals, not just youth, but any individual wouldn't be assessed for a year, but it would take place a year down the road.

And having said that, there is also a cap on it, like I said the amount of \$5,800 for youth. Anything over and above that it would not be assessable income. So it is to show really what the housing managers, and housing board of directors, in developing a new rent scale, really show that people wanted to contribute to the operations of the house, to the operations of the social housing programs.

So that is why this was put into place and I think there have been positive amendments in the new rent scales to reflect that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The youth have to contribute to the monthly rent. If they make \$5,800 or over. Do you have an age requirement that have to be factored in if youth wants to apply for housing? Or do they start from fifteen years old and on? Is it possible for a fifteen-year-old youth to get a house because they have to make a contribution to the rent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, no, a fifteen year old is still deemed a minor and a dependent of their parents, so they would not be eligible to put in an application for public housing. I believe the age is either eighteen or nineteen. I will clarify exactly which one of those two it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

#### **Question 608 - 1(6): Department of Fisheries and Oceans in the Kitikmeot Region**

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Sustainable Development. I wanted to suggest that while we were in Kugluktuk they wanted to know about how the Department of Fisheries and Oceans operates. I know that the Minister works with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans; I am just wondering, do they have a DFO presence in the Kitikmeot region? I would like to find out if the Minister has that information for me. Thank you.

Are you working with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in the Kitikmeot region?

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot respond to his question, because we are not informed where the DFO is situated. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has an office here in Iqaluit, so it would be better if you asked for the information from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like assistance from the Minister, because I know that you work with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans here in Nunavut. If we had a Department of Fisheries and Oceans office in the Kitikmeot region, I think that it would be more beneficial for Kitikmeot residents.



Perhaps they can approach the DFO head office in Ottawa if they could set up an office in the Kitikmeot region. If the Minister maybe perhaps can ask the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to have offices in the region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would probably write to the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. As the Nunavut Government, I could probably see what I can do and write a letter to my counterpart and make that request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is reassuring that the Minister is willing to help out in this matter and will be working with the Department of Fisheries in order to help us out in Nunavut.

When will you be writing a letter to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to see if they can have more offices up here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff will have to look into the matter and see how they can proceed. There will have to be a review, so at this point I cannot tell you when I will be writing that letter. I can initiate the process and if I should meet up with my counterpart we can initiate the discussions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 609 - 1(6): Number of Vacant Staff Houses in Nunavut**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker my question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, who I stated earlier in my Member's statement, is responsible for the sometime chaotic housing situation that we face here in Nunavut.

And I know this is an issue that I have brought up on numerous occasions over the years with the Minister, but I'd like to ask the Minister if he could inform us as to the number of vacant staff housing units that we have here in Nunavut and where they are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have 38 vacant units out of approximately 1100 units throughout Nunavut and of that 9 of them are here in Iqaluit, 10

are in Pond Inlet, 3 in Igloolik, 8 in Pangnirtung, 2 in Cape Dorset, 3 in Arviat and 1 each in Qikiqtarjuaq, Arctic Bay and Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I know for the ones here in Iqaluit, I'm wondering why we have vacancies here in Iqaluit, there seems to be a shortage of staff housing.

Could the Minister indicate why are they vacant and don't have staff to put in them? Or what. Like why do we have vacant staff housing when most ads that are going out there in the paper saying these positions don't qualify for staff housing.

So can he provide us with an indication as to why the units that are vacant throughout Nunavut are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should clarify the numbers I quoted was as of September 23 and obviously things change day by day, week by week in any organization.

I can't say it's more or less as a result of people moving in and people moving out, it's rare to have 100 % occupancy, unless they have a turnover that is not, that's stable I guess that isn't there.

But anyways having said that Mr. Speaker we will find out the details of that and report back to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First thing I guess is hopefully that it's turning quickly, that that happens. Mr. Speaker I know it's been raised in this House before by Members where they have staff housing in their communities that people don't want to live in because of the state of the unit.

Can the Minister indicate if we have any staff housing units that are vacant because they can't be lived in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that there are 10 units that we have in our inventory of 1,100 that are under repair right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I'm wondering if the Minister could indicate the information he is getting to us, one where those units are and how long they have been vacant, whether they are just under repair for minor things or if they have been vacant for a long time.

And if they are, if they have been vacant for a long time are we continuing to pay for leases because if he's indicated if they are under repair is that something that violates the lease that the government has with the owner? And is it necessary for us to keep paying those lease costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of the units under repair I can tell you there are 5 in Nanisivik, 2 in Resolute Bay, 1 in Arviat and 2 in Igloolik and yes we will provide that additional information. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

#### **Question 610 – 1(6): Other Plans to Improve Health Centre in Taloyak**

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Sorry for the cracking noises Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed toward the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker last year the plan for renovating the health centre in Taloyoak was cancelled because the second floor couldn't be added, as it was not structurally possible given code requirements.

Mr. Speaker, the current centre is small and crowded with a mixture of nurses and social workers. In addition, the facility is so small, patients who are waiting can hear confidential conversation between other patients and staff including the telehealth worker.

Mr. Speaker can the Minister tell me what other plans have been made to meet the urgent need for a new health centre in Taloyoak and due to inadequacy of space for social workers and work of a confidential nature, what are the new plans for the Department of Health and Social Services regarding this health centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all I want to say that the Member representing Taloyoak has been very vocal in his support of moving forward on the Taloyoak health centre.

The Member is correct we did complete some renovations on the facility; we had planned to do more but the structure and the integrity of the building did not lend itself to that.

At the present time, Mr. Speaker, the functional program for the renovations for the proposed addition to the Taloyoak health centre is currently under final review so the plan would be right now to move forward on the addition to the Taloyoak health centre as it is under final review. So the plan would be right now to move forward on the addition to the existing health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the Minister for being aware of this problem. However I'd like to ask, Mr. Speaker, in 2003-2004 the Department of Health and Social Services used \$670 thousand for planning renovations to the health centre in Taloyoak.

Can these plans still be used and modified so that funds were not wasted. Mr. Speaker are there additional funds in the budget to use an additional \$670 thousand dollars for the planning? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I said earlier the functional program for the renovation as well as the proposed addition is under final review. Once that is completed Public Works and Services will then issue a request for proposal for design services for the facility.

Mr. Speaker I want to say that this is moving forward as the Member has indicated through his excellent support for the community of Taloyoak. We had requested supplementary capital of funds in the budget for 2004-2005.

However based on the needs of the government as whole we weren't able to get those monies at that time for the facility. However we are looking at putting it into the budget and we would hope that if the funds are forthcoming in the capital budget we could start construction on the renovations themselves as well as the addition if the functional program review is complete in 2005-2006 to move forward with the much needed renovations as well as the addition to the existing facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my understanding 2006-2007 would be the start date for the construction of the renovation and I'm well aware that his department will be quite busy for a few years in the construction of new health facilities.

However as I stand here it is the year 2003 and what I'm trying to get across is that the residents of Taloyoak need the most understanding; I stand in representing the need of the inadequacy of space in their health facility.

2003-2004 can't the department start then? Or is it impossible at this point? It is an urgent matter if you really think of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier the problem was we had included the Taloyoak health centre on our supplemental request but there weren't funds available and as the Minister responsible like many other Ministers for the government we can't put in the budget something that we haven't got the funds for down the road if it would be a multi-year project.

So, Mr. Speaker what I tried to do was access the money that is available, I think it's a little over \$70 thousand to complete the functional program and review to do the design for the facility and then, Mr. Speaker, try to be expeditious and try to put in the budget for 2005-2006 and move it forward.

So it's not in the capital budget for this year unless there was extra funds that became available or if there were slippage funds in the other capital projects in the Department of Health, than I could reallocate those monies to Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker that is something that I would be willing to look at in cooperation with the Cabinet to redirect funds if I had slippage to look at...as indicated by Mr. Ng, not very often there is slippage within the department.

Mr. Speaker, what I would try to do is to put the money towards the project in Taloyoak. We realize Mr. Speaker, that there are concerns with the size of the facility. I committed to the Member in the committee that we will have the capital planner to meet again with the hamlet and go in there.

This afternoon during the Capital Budget debate on the Department of Health and Social Services we'll be able to get into some more detail on Taloyoak when the Capital Planner is here with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you to the Minister for his response.

As a government, and I'm quite well aware that the Bathurst Mandate is what we fall back on as Members and as government so that the needs of Nunavummiut are met and are taken care of.

Looking at the situation in Taloyoak, I think it's quite urgent and I'm wondering if the Minister can direct his officials to ensure that the Taloyoak Health Centre is made a priority and done earlier than planned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member. What I will do is, and I did this about two weeks ago when we met with the Standing Committee on Health during the Capital Budget review of the Standing Committee with myself as Minister to instruct the department to review the situation in Taloyoak again to see if in the mean time if there is an opportunity for some minor alterations that we could put in place to alleviate some of the concerns that have been brought over.

In the mean time, is there a way to be expeditious and bring forward the Capital Planning process for Taloyoak? So we'll make that commitment. I actually have a letter to the Committee, to Mr. Nutarak, the Chairperson of the Committee, concerning Taloyoak, and it should be translated by this afternoon and the Committee would have that by tomorrow, when the commitment will be made.

We also have committed to bring the Capital Planner and the Regional Director for the Kitikmeot to Taloyoak to meet with the hamlet to go over the concerns on the health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Are there any further Oral Questions? Mr. McLean.

#### **Question 611 – 1(6): Supply Ship and Labour Only Contract for Housing**

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I almost got lost there listening to that lengthy answer, but as usual Mr. Picco is good at it.

Mr. Speaker my question today is to the Minister of Housing. Over the last couple of days, Mr. Speaker, there have been issues brought up regarding housing, small business development, contracts, etc, but at the end of the day if the government doesn't come forward and help small business there won't be any left.

So my question today to the Minister of Housing is in 1997 and 1998 there used to be a shipping and supply contract and there also used to be just labour only contracts from Public Housing. When you were the District Manager, you used to, in Arviat, many years ago, used to put out labour only contracts in housing projects and a lot of small business people got contracts and started up their businesses. But in the last five years, and we heard today that there were over 300 units built in Nunavut in the last few years and I know not many of them were labour only contracts.

Would the Minister commit to doing a pilot project and maybe this year, or next year, or the year after put out labour only contracts on public housing units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker:** I'm not sure if that requires an answer Mr. Ng. Mr. Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indicated yesterday that in fact, a pilot project has taken place in Kitikmeot for exactly that; supply one year and construction/labour for the following year.

Having said that, recognising the issues the Members have raised and the support that this government places on the local entrepreneurs and the small business operators in each of our communities, that I'll make a commitment that will broaden this project to all of Nunavut communities for this coming construction year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that's the answer what everybody in Nunavut wants to hear, except for a few big corporations. Can he also free Kivalliq this year the pilot projects on two separate entities, supply and ship and labour only for next year and all his projects? Can he commit that now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought the Member understood English.

>>*Laughter.*

I said yes, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions Mr. Iqaqrialu.

#### **Question 612 – 1(6): Revision of Rent Scale**

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Housing Corporation.

The Minister of the Housing Corporation said that his staff were reviewing their rental scale from the local housing authority. In the communities is that a true commitment, that yes they will be revising the rental scale? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify the local housing association authority along with Housing Corporation staff are attending this review of the current rental or the new rent scale that is put in place.

I can commit that if there are problems, we will make revisions, but I haven't heard the outcome of those deliberations, but the workshop was taking place, and once that is finished than I'll have a better opportunity to assess what issues are out there and see what actions may be required. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you minister. Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a very good response, and it's very good to hear. The residents of Nunavut who are not employed and this new rental scale has been a very hurtful experience for a lot of Nunavummiut.

Could he make a further commitment that once these recommendations come in on the new rental scale that he will table it in the House, so that we know right away and that's so we can inform our constituents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes and if the House isn't sitting I'll make a further commitment to provide all Members with translated copies of those recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. Oral Questions. Williams.

### **Question 613 – 1(6): New Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Members Terms of Reference**

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of the Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and it's regarding the Ministers' Statement.

It was very good to see the elders who are going to be dealing with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the Minister stated that these groups will be meeting with the Deputy Minister.

Would that group that was introduced today be meeting with that Minister as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit will be able to meet with the government departments and they will be; the Deputy Ministers and the Ministers will be available to meet that group as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Miss Williams.



**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be asking my question in English (interpretation ends). Mr. Speaker, are the terms of reference laid out for this group? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Miss Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the government wrote the terms of reference and there was an incident whereby a resident of Coral Harbour who wanted to hunt polar bear traditionally and they had some kind of a group of elders that were advising the government was told to make some recommendations.

And we had problems as Members of the Legislature and one of the elders who was interviewed by CBC could not respond and I would like to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth the recommendations of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit, will they be brought to this House and discussed by the Member of the Legislature or will the government just state to us that this is what the recommendations of this group is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify to the Members of this House in regards to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit will not be able to change the legislations, but what they will be doing is advising the government departments, to give them advice on how the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit are to be used by the government.

And the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit will be working with all the departments of the government and at the beginning of their mandate they'll probably just be in the planning stages and as the years go by we will eventually see some changes within the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a real welcome to see the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajiit, there are 11 appointed, but there is not very much money that is allotted.

How many times will this group be meeting and will they have adequate money to travel and to have hotel accommodations and honorarium and stuff is that already planned or is that already done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for asking that question. Regarding the 11 appointees for Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajiit, we have already informed them that this year at the beginning of their mandate that they will be meeting about 4 times and their money has already been approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Question 614 - 1(6): Problems with Grizzly Bears in the Communities**

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regards to a question that I had last year. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. My question is in regards to grizzly bears. Grizzly bears are starting to come into our community more and more, and they are a danger to the people. They are hungry. They are a nuisance. They have destroyed some personal property, and they have robbed Inuit of their food that they keep in their camps.

So for that reason, I would like to ask the Minister if there are any plans in place to deal with these nuisance and dangerous grizzly bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for his question. Mr. Alakannuark, we are dealing with this situation at this time, especially those two communities that have grizzly bears in their communities.

We have worked with the local HTOs in Baker Lake and Kugluktuk. We are in the process of working with those HTOs. I am sure that two communities are not the only locations where grizzly bears come in.

What we have done is to work with the people of Baker Lake in regards to the dangerous and nuisance grizzly bears in their community. If there is anything that we can do to resolve the problem of nuisance grizzly bears, we will deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the Minister for his response. In regards to the smaller communities, in what year will those communities be assisted in dealing with grizzly bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk, just before we proceed, I would ask you to take your documents away from the light, the technician cannot see when the light is on and when it is off. Thank you. Minister.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing is we are doing a study on those nuisance grizzly bears, but I do not have the community's names in place.

The things that we are will be dealing with in 2004 in regards to nuisance grizzly bears, we will have to find some funding in order to do a thorough study on the dangers of grizzly bears, but I cannot say which year the study will be done. We will do our very best to help those communities who have those dangerous grizzly bears.

I will make a commitment to the Member and work with my department to do a study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response. I would like to also ask the Minister that as soon as he has the information available that he provides that to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to grizzly bears if there was a grizzly bear that approached the member's community, the wildlife officers in his community will deal with the dangers there as soon as possible.

In the mean time what we are doing is a study on the numbers of Grizzly bears. I would like to assure the member that if there was a dangerous grizzly bear that came to his community that the wildlife officers will deal with is as soon as possible.

What I'm trying to say is that we're having some studies done but I'm not really sure exactly when that is going to be completed. In the mean time, just to assure the Member that if there was a dangerous grizzly bear coming into their community, the wildlife officer in the communities will deal with them.

I would like to tell the Member for Akulliq that we will do our best to help his community and other communities in regards to dangerous and nuisance grizzly bears and we will work with the communities because they have the knowledge of those types of things in their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because this is very dangerous for the communities would it be okay for individuals in the communities, if they happen to come up to them, being nuisance and dangerous for the individuals to shoot them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, the community wildlife officers in each community, it would be better if they could deal with the local wildlife officer and if there was a grizzly bear that approached a camp, I'm sure that individuals would be able to shoot the dangerous grizzly bear.

I would also like to say to the Member that that is the only way that could be dealt with and then work with the wildlife officers later on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 615 – 1(6): Polar Bear Hunting Boundaries**

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Minister for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for appointing the members for the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit.

The question that I wanted to ask is that in his statement that he made earlier on, the Minister for Sustainable Development, I'm not sure now, but at the beginning of October, I think that this is very important for all of Nunavut.

In Chesterfield Inlet, there was a bear killed on October 4<sup>th</sup>. It's okay that the individual shot a polar bear because it was out of his boundary; it was confiscated on October 4. Inuit have boundaries where they have a quota for a certain community and the boundary is drawn.

There was never a boundary line years ago. Can the Minister inform us, that yes, we will deal with this that the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and Katimajit will deal with that too but in regards to this.

If you're an Inuk, a hunter, hunters have a boundary to kill polar bear. It's okay to kill polar bear but at the same time when the hunter kills a bear, then the hide is confiscated.

I'm just using this as an example; will this issue be dealt with by the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit with their knowledge of hunting issues within the Inuit culture because the issue of boundaries is ridiculous to us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is something that we have started work on. Say for instance the community of Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, we put a moratorium on their quota in the M'Clintock channel.

We will be working with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit on this issue. We can't do it in a day but we will work with the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, in regards to traditional Inuit hunting especially in regards to polar bear quotas.

We will also be working with Wildlife Officials, HTOs and Wildlife Officers at Gjoa Haven in regards to the boundaries and we will be looking at the those boundaries for quota purposes as well. We will work with them to try and come up with solutions to the system that we acquired from the NWT so see if we can resolve this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you Minister. I'd like to remind everyone that we have one Member left to speak so if Members now try to pick up the pace so we can get that last Member in. Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's perfectly fine to have a review but I have yet to hear for example, in Rankin Inlet, we don't have a lot of narwhal over there so they don't get tags; it was only when they got a narwhal and they finally got a tag.

If I use Ukulsiqsalik as an example there are a lot of polar bears over there but that doesn't increase the number of tags that I get for harvesting polar bear, so we'll have to look at the closer and look at the zones because it doesn't make any sense to the hunters in Nunavut.

The zones are there for the benefit of the biologists and everything else and I think we also have to look at it again, because the zone system doesn't make sense to us. The polar bear is not going to read a sign and say "Oops, I cannot cross this line because I might go to the unrestricted zone and get shot."

So we have to look at the issue of zoning. It could even be the local Hunters and Trappers, or the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): We could look into it and also use the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. We also have to keep in mind that we have to work closely with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and see what we can do. We could do a review in the future and we will also work with the Members of the Legislative Assembly to see which would be the best route to go in regards to polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

**Question 616 – 1(6): Access Housing Policies**

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was falling asleep waiting for my turn. I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for Housing. We have Access housing where they are mortgaged for fifteen to twenty years. Now, there was a time when a person who did not reside in the house on a rent to own program, and then this person was told that there would be an increase in his monthly payments. What kind of policies do you have in regards to rent to own houses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The Minister responsible for Housing. Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are different policies. The Member has to be more specific if it is in respect to Access housing, it is based on your income. As the Members recall with the new rent scale that went in place, where a lower incomes took effect in respect to operating costs of houses as well. Those costs were taken off the rental payments, the mortgage payments of Access clients.

As you may recall that was a very positive move that was well received. So they have come down significantly, recognizing the higher operating costs in Nunavut. I do not know if that answers the Member's question or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be more specific. If I should agree if you could for example, rent my qamutik for X amount of dollars per month, and if you should get a higher salary, or make a larger income this year, could I say that I will double your monthly rent on these qamutiks?

Could we apply the same principle in regards to those clients who are renting a house? There was an incident where this individual received a letter from the Housing Corporation and was told that his monthly payments were increased. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, this is based on a yearly income and there are adjustments taken to update income situations among families and clients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqittuq.

**Mr. Iqittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Nunavut Housing Corporation have the authority make an inquiry without having to know that individual's income other than perhaps by rumour? Can they increase the monthly payment without having the actual sheets in front of them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would think the Housing Corporation or all Governments should base their decisions on facts. So, it would have to be substantiated if that were the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final Supplementary. Mr. Irgittuq.

**Mr. Irgittuq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do know that the Nunavut Housing Corporation claims silent agreement and I do not believe that there is a clause in the agreement that says that they will increase the monthly payments should their salary increase. It is in the agreement?

Mr. Speaker, could the Minister responsible look into this matter to make sure that they are adhering to the Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Minister Ng.

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will make a commitment to review the Policy and what is there and clarify that for the Member and for the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Members will note that Question Period is now over. We will move onto Item 7. Written Questions. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing in Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Minister Akesuk.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 131 – 1(6): Nunavut Tourism Annual Report 2000-2001/2001-2002**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Sorry, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to Table the following documents, Nunavut Tourism Annual Report 2000-2001/2001-2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Are there any further Tabling of Documents? Minister Ng.

#### **Tabled Document 132 – 1(6): Nunavut Housing Corporation Annual Report 2001/2002**

**Hon. Kelvin Ng:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to Table the following document: Nunavut Housing Corporation Annual Report for 2001-2002. Thank you.

**Speaker:** Item 13. Are there any further Tabling of Documents? Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 16: Motions**

#### **Motion 029 – 1(6): Member for Nanulik Appointed to the Standing Committees**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move Seconded by the Honourable Member from Kugluktuk, the following Motions whereas; section 38 of the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council Act provides that the Legislative Assembly may establish Standing in Special Committees and whereas Rule 89(2) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly provide for the Striking Committee to recommend Members to serve on Standing Committees, now, therefore, I move that Patterk Netser, Member for Nanulik be appointed to the Standing Committees on Government Operations and Services and the Ajauqtiit and as an alternate Member for the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development and Health and Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The Motion is in Order to the Motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The Motion is carried. Item 16. Motions. 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration to Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 12, Bill 13, Bill 46 and Bill 33, with Mr. Iqaqrialu in the Chair. Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a short break and return to the Chamber in approximately 20 minutes.

*Sergeant-At-Arms*

*>>House recess at 15:46 and reconvened at 16:13*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I was late for two days and now I'm back in my seat again. Perhaps I won't always be sitting here. We will be dealing with Bill 12, Bill 33, and Bill 46.

We dealt with the Department of Health and Social Services yesterday and we had his opening remarks and the Chairperson for the Standing Committee also had his opening remarks. Now we are at general comments. Minister Picco would you like to go back to the witness table with your officials. Minister Picco, do you have staff with you?

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all welcome back to the Legislative Assembly and to Iqaluit, the capital of our fair territory of Nunavut. Welcome.



With me today, Mr. Chairman, is the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Bernie Blais on my immediate right and immediate left is Rosemary Brown, long serving Capital Planner of the Department of Health and Social Services well-known resident of the community of Rankin Inlet. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Before we start, Members I'd like you to know that according to the rule 77-1(6), Members will be allowed 10 minutes for general comments as well as 10 minutes for questions. General comments. Any general comments? Mrs. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Welcome back. From the Minister's opening comments yesterday, three major health facilities in Nunavut are being talked about here. I think all of us are welcoming the new facilities especially when they are going to be staffed and when they're completed.

I would add that, maybe, I missed it, but I don't see Social Workers less than nurses in the communities. Although, they may be dealing with life and death situations I didn't see anything in his opening remarks as far as new offices or office in communities especially in my community, which I've been very vocal about.

I would like to make a comment, that Social Services needing some attention, and they need to have an office. They need to have equipment to work with as much as other people who are working for the government.

These people are serving the public night and day. They need to have a good office to go to, in order for them to do their work properly; in order to provide good service to the community people, they need to have a good place to work from. And later on I will be asking the Minister when those plans will be put in place for the social workers in the communities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mrs. Williams. Mr. Havioyak

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Minister and your staff for providing us some information. I was very pleased to see that hospitals will be built in the three regions and they are being built.

And also about the boarding home in Cambridge Bay, I think in order to operate the facilities we will need qualified staff to operate that facility. The boarding home in Yellowknife, the Lena Pedersen Boarding Home, I know you have visited that center in Yellowknife, and we know that it's too small and there is no playground for the children now. There's nothing, there is no room for people to do but I think if you're going to be building a home in Cambridge Bay, for those people who will have a lengthy stay in that boarding home.

I think if they're going to build make a sewing facility or playroom for the children, with their parents, maybe not by the TV room, or if you could build a playroom for the children and sewing facility maybe separate from the living room.

But as you know that boarding home in Yellowknife is very small and they don't have these things, but people who stay there say Lena Peterson's home is too small but I want you to make sure that you build that boarding home in Cambridge Bay that you have these things available as indicated here.

It appears the old one couldn't be renovated to this old hostel; I think if your only going to renovate, I think you should have facilities available. But I want to make sure that you have better facilities compared to the Yellowknife one.

Also the Lena Peterson boarding home in Yellowknife, as you know as a Minister, Ovide and myself have seen it. I know we visited it last year, probably last summer. It is too small for Kitikmeot people who were there, to visit the hospitals.

I know a lot of people will be visiting Yellowknife to go to the hospital too but I know you have spoken to the community of Kugluktuk that you have mentioned to the people there that we were there together and as you know, many people from Kugluktuk will be going to Yellowknife boarding home to visit doctors and that but I want to support you in continuing on with Lena Peterson boarding home in Yellowknife.

As you know it would be used continuously from Kugluktuk; I want to see in those capital estimates that improvements should be made to that boarding home. Maybe you can build a better boarding home geared to that because we will be continuing to request that improvements made to that Yellowknife boarding home, as you know the boarding home in Yellowknife will be used continuously and I wanted to see improvements on those facilities.

But as you know in the capital estimates that, but you and your staff should be trying to support, maybe making improvements or maybe office facilities in those facilities, when they don't have proper offices they don't operate too well. But we will be continue to visit those facilities, so that they can operate properly with office facilities so that people can work and operate that facility properly. I think that's all I had for suggestions at the moment but if I have some more I'll ask some more questions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. You are all making brief comments although you have ten minutes each. Mr. Alakannuark.

**Mr. Alakannuark** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be speaking regarding medical patients. As we heard, we need adequate facilities for medical patients to stay in either the south or within Nunavut, not only for Kitikmeot but also for Kivallirmiut.

In Kitikmeot, just to supplement early comments regarding the planned facility in Cambridge Bay to be renovated into a medical boarding home, we would like assurance that we will not stop sending patients to Yellowknife. We are well aware of the situation in Yellowknife and the condition of the facility and the facility is quite far from the hospital and it's quite far from other amenities in the community as well.

Escorts also stay in the boarding homes with patients and they too would like to be closer to the medical facilities that are more adequate for patients. During our meeting we heard one of the patients asking for a facility that was closer to the hospital and that makes sense.

The situation has to be rectified because we will keep going there and the facility will be needed in the future either for patients or children and there have been some concerns regarding the care at the facility.

There is still a lot of room for improvement; it's also a safety issue especially when there is a language barrier, and there could be further barriers. We need to serve Nunavummiut as best we can and so it doesn't hurt to start planning for the future.

On the issue of mental health workers in the communities, there are those who are quite capable in serving the communities; however, there are some who don't have the proper cross-cultural training in the communities and with the different cultures they're dealing with whether you're an adult or an elder, once you have some experience you are able to help out in the area of mental health in the communities.

And I think it's a matter of people taking on more responsibility in the community as well that's one consideration because we are not using our elders and there's a real huge void there when we are always talking about utilizing the knowledge of Inuit.

If there could be some money set aside for setting up a program where regular community members can help out in the process because of course we are in the money economy so paying them a small dividend would give them an incentive for the communities members to help out in the community and because there are some artificial barriers where they are required to have certain degrees or whatever, that also has to be looked at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alakannuark. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and welcome Mr. Chairman and you have a replacement if you want, if you feel tired, just like I found out yesterday and it was very nice when Mr. Irqittuq came back that I was able to have a replacement. Welcome Mr. Chairman.

The Health and Social Services is a very important Department for the people of Nunavut. You also have to believe that, and we have to believe in the Department; it is a

very important job that you have dealing with the public and their health and their wellbeing.

Since 1999, a lot of work has been accomplished by the Department and they will accomplish more. I would like to congratulate the Department, but there is still a lot to do. And, Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank the Minister in his Ministers' Statement, he mentioned the foster parents who are important to the wellbeing of children.

And, Mr. Chairman, because of that and others, I just wondered during my questioning later on, Mr. Chairman, I will be asking a question about the Inuit culture way of doing first-aid.

The Nanulik Member of the Legislative Assembly yesterday mentioned something about the resuscitation of a drowned victim or a drowned individual and I think it was a comment or a question that the Member had yesterday that according to Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit that whenever there is a person who was to be revived, go in the water and you cannot wipe off the bubbles that are coming out.

That is the Inuit way; that is the first-aid technique of the Inuit people and there are others out there that we could utilize as a Department. For example, to make it a little bit more clear, in the Dene communities, in a Dene community about 25 years ago, the Kitikmeot and the Dene hosted a conference with the doctors and medical professionals and there was a doctor who mentioned that how much do you know your ancestors' way of doing first-aid or herbal medicine?

What is your knowledge of those herbal medicines that your ancestors used years ago and how did the Inuit use herbal medicine? Because there used to be doctors or there used to be medical professionals in the Inuit culture and the Dene culture, the doctor apparently wanted some assistance from the Inuit and the Dene in regards to their herbal medicine. What the doctor said that they do not want to deal too much with things that could be done by the traditional people, such herbal medicines, bandages, and something that you can use when a person has a cold, preventative medicine.

The doctor wanted the Inuit and the Dene to be able to do their own stuff, instead of going to the doctor all the time. The Inuit people used to say that we are not doing as much as we should be doing in regards to what we did traditionally back then.

What we do now today is just take ourselves, or take our children and our families to the doctor whenever they get sick. As aboriginal people we could be dealing with them ourselves through our knowledge.

What I am saying is that the medical professionals should be able to try to acquire the Inuit traditional way of producing herbal medicine, because they have to be educated by their elders. And the doctors should be able to get some knowledge in that regard.

Mr. Chairman, I would also like to talk about the twenty-seven communities in Nunavut. There are many disabled people, whether it is a parent or the children of the people in Nunavut.

The parents have to care for those disabled children and we love them and we like to keep them in our household. We would like to be able to be with them for as long as they are still alive. The only time that we separate is when either one of us dies.

For instance, in Gjoa Haven there is an individual who has muscular dystrophy, or is a disabled person; cannot get around herself. She is the mother. Then they said that they have to ship her out so she can have adequate care in a home for disabled people because there is not facility in Gjoa Haven.

When the family heard that, they approached me because they did not want their mother to leave the community. You know about that Mr. Minister.

For that reason the Nunavut Government does not have adequate money because as you know they are going to be building the three regional hospitals. And then there are the nursing stations that have to be renovated. There is just not that much money anymore.

I know that there is no money for a home where a disabled person can have adequate care on a daily basis. There are no buildings. There is no money to build those facilities. We would very much like to see those facilities built in the communities, so that the families will stay together, because when one of the parents leave, the household does not function properly even though the individual is disabled they still love them and want to be with them and sometimes the individual gets sent out to the home just to give the rest of the family a rest. I will be asking questions about that later on Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqignak. We are under general comments and you have 10 minutes for general comments. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I could ask a question first if I make a mistake please correct me because this is my first time. It's in regards to social services and we are talking about Health and Social Services.

We have social workers in the communities and they are there to help us with services but we have had some problems whereby social workers in the communities especially where young people in the communities get together for the first time and they get married and sometimes they have a problem later on with their marriage as very young people.

Whenever they start having problems the social workers are brought in to help them. When my wife and I first got married, we were not always happy and we did not ask for the social worker to counsel us but we sent somebody or used the people from the church to help us, to help counsel us.

But today what we do is we get social workers involved and we get the police involved and the male spouse is probably taken away from the family because they feel that he is causing problems; the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit would be very helpful in that situation where they can do some counselling.

Or the social workers could be taught to do better counselling or use other people such as from the church group to help the young married couple to get counselling. I will be asking questions about that later on Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nester. I'm sorry I called you Mr. Kattuk earlier on. Mr. Anawak.

**Mr. Anawak** (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are really happy because in Rankin Inlet there is a regional facility being built and I'm sure that there have been some questions already. Perhaps the Department of Health and Social Services has been questioned about the present facility; what is going to be happening with the present facility in Rankin Inlet?

It just seems like there are no plans in place for the health facility in Rankin Inlet although we have been using it as a birthing centre. At the present time it's being utilized by the people especially in the Kivalliq region; it's okay to get a hospital here in Iqaluit but would that facility or that nursing station that is at the present time in Rankin Inlet will it be, will they do some more expansion on that or what is going to be happening to it?

Will they be getting more patients to go there to bear their children because as you know, we have a birthing centre instead of sending them out to Edmonton, Winnipeg or Ottawa and will they be using the present birthing facility in Rankin Inlet?

I think we have to think about what kinds of uses we can provide after the new hospital is built and to train midwives in the Kivalliq Region. At this time, those are my comments, but I am sure that the Minister has also thought about the usage of the hospital, after the regional hospital is built.

There is no question that a lot more needs to be done in health. On what my fellow Member from Nanulik mentioned, these are the kinds of issues that must be addressed.

I would also like to tell the Minister, and I say hello to Rosemary who is sitting next to him and is from Rankin Inlet and knows very much about midwifery, I would like the Government to start thinking about how we can improve or prioritize the issue of midwifery.

In Nunavik, they have a birthing center and it is very well coordinated. We are a little late in reaching the backstage and not all women can go there, but in Nunavik, there is a birthing center, I think it is in Puvunniqtuuq and possibly what the Minister should do is

to send some of the staff down to Nunavik so they can look at the birthing center and see how it operates.

I do not have many questions, but I would like to see the issue of midwifery and birthing centers considered. Thank you.

**Chairman** (Mr. Puqiqnak) (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Anawak. We are in general comments. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

**Mr. Iqaqrialu** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make my comments brief. We are in the Capital Estimates, but I would like to take my 10 minute opportunity to make some general comments.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not being used at all today in the health system. I wanted to make a few comments in regards to how we treated the Inuit. Let us take people who have had frozen limbs and they have had to take them out, which is wrong.

In the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, you did not take them out and I think that there could have been people who could have been taken to court. That is in regards to people with frost bites and having to be amputated.

We are going to stay in the North and there will be cases of frost bites because of our severe weather conditions. If it is the frozen limb should be put in ice cold water, even with ice in it because it does not do damage to the skin; if you thaw out the limb in warm or hot water, it will ruin the skin and it can also ruin the arteries because of course it is cooking the skin.

We have to look at these types of issues and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not being used as much as it should be today so that we can treat frost bitten patients properly.

Those of us who have been here know how we should deal with frost bite. We have survived from the igloo era to now. I think that if we included or implemented Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in this department we could probably save a few dollars in your department.

I have been making those comments for the last three years and I think the Minister knows what I am talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. I have no other names on my list. We'll go onto questions. I would like the Chair to come back and chair the meeting.

**Chairman** (Mr. Iqaqrialu) (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will keep my questions brief.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I would like to make a few comments before we go into questions. We have to note that 10-5, we're on page 10-5 on the capital estimates; the floor is now open to more questions. If there are no general comments, Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are the Chairperson if I go out of line please tell me, but my question is in regards to the traditional healers. One of the Members had stated, in regards to the traditional healers and the way that the Inuit are treated as patients, well my question is how are we going to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the Department of Health and Social Services? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We are in the 2004-2005 capital estimates, please keep that in mind but I will have the Minister respond if he should want to. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman but I guess to keep it brief because we are on capital and not dealing with the O and M issues. I'm very proud to say, as the Members know here the first Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit coordinator the government hired for any department was in Health and Social Services and I directly appointed Mr. Andrew Tagak over 2 and ½ years ago now.

Andrew has since that time coordinated within the Department of Health and Social Services with all the employees as well as headquarters and regional level a review of programs and services delivered.

In the last couple of months you know he's been Inuktitut Tukisinaktuk visiting communities on IQ, having phone in shows and meeting people about how more traditional practices, where possible, could be implemented and integrated within the department.

We're doing up a report on IQ involvement in health right now and we're hoping to have that report in several weeks. One of the things we are looking at is the incorporation of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The Member from Coral mentioned some issues around the traditional counseling and so on and I agree with those comments.

The question around having the foam on the person's mouth and I have heard that several times and I remember hearing it from the Minister Thompson when we're in Yellowknife about an episode in Coral when someone died because of the foam.

These are types of things we want to integrate and we are doing it, for example with our midwifery program in Rankin, which we are trying to expand. We've done quite a bit already with implementing IQ but a long ways to go. We would hope that when we have more Inuit nurses graduating from nursing program that we will be implementing more of these traditional practices where possible and available. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you Mr. Picco. We are in the capital estimates. We have an opportunity every day to pose questions. If you would like to ask those questions we have



question periods during the session. So I would suggest to the Members to stick to the capital estimates. We now open the floor for the questions. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): Thank you. I am just concerned in regards to what is not here. When will we see monies for the Lena Pedersen Boarding Home? Because I am concerned about that and my Kitikmeot colleagues are aware we have voiced this for long time. When we see this capital planning, next year or next five years? And when will we see the results about the capital planning that we're concern about? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Mr. Picco

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct I did. I have been to Lena Pedersen's Boarding Home several times and indeed before with some of the Members.

There are some concerns with inadequacies and everything in the home. The Member is very strong voice and the Member of Taloyoak, Mr. Puqiqnak and as well as Donald and Ovide expressed those concerns. The reason there is no money in the capital plan for the Kitikmeot boarding home in Yellowknife because that's sponsored through NIHB Non-Insured Health Benefits. It flows through the government of Nunavut and we won't have in the capital plans.

For example, the new boarding home we built in Ottawa was not in capital plans and the new boarding home in Winnipeg was not in capital plans so that's the reason for that and it is not over sight as such. It's just that we don't have the money allocated through the capital budget planning process because it is outside of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. Havioyak

**Mr. Havioyak** (interpretation): I thought that was an oversight and I thought it was put on the back burner.

That's why I raised the question. Thanks for your comments, and I will continue to raise my concern on this. I have noticed in the capital estimates in Kitikmeot medical boarding home, that it should be situated in Cambridge Bay.

I was commenting earlier because these boarding homes don't have leisure or recreational rooms. When the patients stay long at the boarding home and they start getting home sick, you know when you have a leisure room aside from the TV room, where you have sewing, crafts, leisure, or recreational rooms, have you looked into that? Are you aware of what my concern is in regards to medical boarding home in Cambridge Bay with regards to leisure rooms? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Havioyak. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member makes a good point. If you look at the boarding home that we have just completed, the model that we would like to have is the model that we see in Winnipeg where there are opportunities for playrooms, accommodations, common rooms, I do not know if any of the other Members have had a chance to be there. It is a beautiful facility in Winnipeg. We have also done the same thing in the Ottawa facility. We have also done the same thing in the Edmonton facility.

Specifically for the Kitikmeot, in Cambridge Bay we have a half a million dollars in the Capital Budget to revamp and renovate the student hostel in Cambridge Bay. That will include two common rooms, as well as rooms for TV, and so on, so that there will be opportunities for play stations for children, keeping patients separated, and so on.

That is the plan that we have in place. We believe that it will be suitable and we will be able to facilitate that. So that is the direction that we are moving in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Questions? Are there any further questions? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister, although it does not show up in his Opening Statements regarding the closure of the Wellness Centre due to the building not being up to code, what is the status of that? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman that building that is not up to code is under Public Works and Services. It is one of their projects. I met with the Member, and I want to thank the Members for again raising the issue on the facility.

It is my understanding that Public Works and Services has budgeted extra monies, new monies to actually renovate a facility in Arctic Bay to facilitate the replacement of the Health and Social Services workers there and some of the other staff.

However, they believe that that will suffice for now. I do not think that there is a plan to build a new building in the community. I know that the Member has talked about the opportunity with a local company to move forward. That is something that I would endorse. However, that is the discussion that needs to be ongoing with the review by Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I will switch it to English because my question had nothing to do with Arctic Bay. Thank you for the information anyways. My question was that the treatment centre in Iqaluit, which was closed due to the building not

being a very good building. The treatment centre treated a lot of people the Baffin or from elsewhere.

Maybe, the Minister can say what is going with on with this building because a treatment centre is needed, alcohol or a healing centre needed here in Iqaluit. Maybe he could update us on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Williams. Minister Picco

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the Member. I had Arctic Bay and the Public Works building on my mind.

The building that the Member is talking about, I believe she is talking about the Mamisarniq Wellness Centre that used to be the old, the one down behind Mr. Twerdin's house. That old centre, Mr. Chairman, the building that the Member is talking about was a leased building to the Government of Nunavut, before that, it to the Baffin Regional Health and Social Services.

It's an old building, and new roof was put on it, and one of the employees in the building complained about mold.

Mr. Chairman, the Workers Compensation Board under the auspices of the Minister of Workers' Compensation Board Mr. Ng, these people went in there and they thought it was an unsafe work place.

Mr. Chairman, we were leasing the building; we didn't feel we were in a position to go in and renovate and spend money on someone else's building, that's the building we were leasing, up to the owner of the building to get that building up to shape and so on.

So Workers' Compensation Board closed the building because it was an unsafe work place and we relocated our employees to other locations in town. At the present time we are renovating the Sylvia Grinnell building; there's renovations going on there and we will be co-locating our service there.

At the same time we're are in cooperation and working with Tukisinarvik group again to providing some services there and we hope to be able to maybe expand that operation. So I hope that answers some of your questions on some of the building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that the departments going ahead to make sure that you go ahead with the treatment centre. Maybe it's a minor capital, did it show up here and is it in the documents before us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Williams. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member is correct; it is under minor capital; it wasn't in the capital estimates budget.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco, I have no one on my list for questions. If there are no further questions, we will go to page 10-5. Directorate, Health and Social Services, Branch Summary for Directorate. Total Capital Expenditures, \$28 million, 635 thousand. There is a footnote for 10-6 and 10-7 and 10-8 for the directorate, are there any questions on those pages? Agreed?

We are on 10-5, but there are 3 pages, on 10-6, 10-7, and 10-8.  
Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government, not only the department of health has a whole number of vehicles that are top of the line model and on page one of the pages, there is \$300 thousand for the purchase of vehicles. If we look at Baffin Region for example and Kivalliq and Kitikmeot, there's \$100 thousand each for each region, for the purchase of vehicles.

What is the government doing when they are purchasing vehicles? Do they have criteria because they seem to purchase top of the line most expensive vehicles?

And we all know that while they are working, it's not only work time that they are used, they also use it after hours and they have a lot of miss use of these vehicles can the minister tell us, how many vehicles will be purchased for \$300 thousand. Thank you

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Williams. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Couple of good points and the member is correct, government wise, the Premier has acknowledged that there has been a concern raised with the employees using vehicles, not just in the larger communities; it's also in the smaller communities.

Through the good offices of Public Works as well as the individuals office we have been looking at the Vehicle Policy. My understanding is that that vehicles are only required for the people who are on 24-hour call seven days a week.

In this case when you look at the budgets presented and I will just look at, let us say 10-6, it says that Baffin Regional Hospital equipment and vehicles, \$100 thousand, for example, a vehicle that, would be only one vehicle and the rest could be an incubator, it can be a stretcher, it can be other medical equipment, too.

So, it is equipment, minor equipment and vehicles and that is the category, although it is not necessarily \$100 thousand dollars for all vehicles. In most cases, it is other medial equipment that is included in that program.

I don't have a breakdown of how many vehicles that we are buying in total this year, but I can get that for the Committee and I can say, Mr. Chairman, that the specifications for the vehicles are dictated by the Public Works, again, on what vehicles are available as requested by the Member or by the Department.

In this case, let us say it was a social worker who was on call 24-hours a day, and then you would probably need a 4-wheel drive vehicle in case there was a storm. If it is a vehicle, a van that a health center needed, it should probably be all-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive if they are carrying patients in.

Those are the types of things that are decided on. It does not come down to the luxury side of it, should it have a CD player or whatever, and it is based on the requirements of the data.

That is my understanding of how the purchases are done and if you look at again on the budget allocation amounts, the majority of that is also included in the actual equipment, for the health center and/or for the hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the Qikiqtaaluk Region listed here for equipment and vehicles is \$120 thousand for just the Baffin Region and just under that, for the Baffin Region new hospital \$100 thousand.

So, there is \$220 thousand there already that while you are trying to get that information as to how vehicle usage can be looked at because we often see vehicles, just one minivan going home to lunch with just one passenger and just recently, I went to Mary Brown's, they were quite big vans parked outside with just the one driver gone for lunch.

And seeing this around town, you think, well, Government is paying for the gas and this great big vehicle is just being used. We are always saying we have no funds for everything and so because of all those, I think there needs to be a closer look on getting a vehicle usage policy. So, I will not be agreeing to that section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I do not hear a question in there. Perhaps if Mr. Minister, if you would like to respond and always press the red button, there is a cough button there if you like want to converse between each other before you go on, okay? Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member makes a good point there. Some of the concerns that the Member has raised are the concerns that we have heard.

I mean, we as Members, everyone in this room have heard the same concerns, whether it be in our home community, whether you are in the capital there in the larger regional centers.

That is the reason why, Mr. Chairman, that the Premier had asked almost two years ago, probably longer, for each Government vehicle to have on it, for example, D-4, D-5, a large letter and a number and if you or me or if the public at large see a vehicle stopped at the Legion during dinnertime, at Northern Stores, you know, at the local Co-Op, whatever the thing is or the issue is, not being used for Government business, then they can contact the Government and say, I saw a vehicle D-4 and what was going on.

That is one of the Policies that have been put in place by the number. There has been some concerns raised and that is one of the proactive stances that the Government has put in place to deal with that.

On the equipment amounts, again, Mr. Chairman, I will find out, out of the total, by the vehicles. One vehicle costs \$30 thousand dollars plus freight. So, it does not take very much money to get up to \$150 thousand that could be three-four vehicles.

But my understanding is, again, that it includes equipment and vehicles, it could be stretchers, it can be new chairs, it could be furniture for health centers and the reason why it is broken out like this is that we are trying to show what the hospital is purchasing and what the region is purchasing.

The region is every community outside of the hospital and the hospital, of course, is the hospital itself. So, I hope that helps answer some of those questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the Capital Estimates on page 10-8, there is an ongoing question regarding what we call safe houses; I don't know exactly what you call them. But I think you are well aware of what I'm talking about.

There are women's shelters when couples have disagreements or problems or spousal abuse happening so they do provide for women's shelters. In Taloyoak there is a women's shelter and at the time with the Nunatsiak government there was funding for operations and maintenance for that facility and the annual contribution for that facility has never been upped and Taloyoak women's shelter operations and maintenance, even with the cost of living have been risen their budget allocation has never been increased.

Are there any plans in the future to increase that budget item for capital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the budget for the Taloyoak facility as well as for women's facilities are not included here in the capital; they are in O and M budget.

The women's facilities have not had any increase from 1992 to the year 2000. With the support of the members of the health facility, I increased the budget for women's shelters across Nunavut by 20 %, there's another increase in the budget this year 10% and 10% last year for increase to 20%.

However, in a smaller community like Taloyoak, the budget is only 50 thousand dollars; the budget would only amount to 4 or 5 thousand dollars. But we have increased for the first time in the last 2 years and the reason why we don't see it here is that it's not a capital project it would be in the O and M. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Yes I understand. The Minister has stated there has not been an increase since 1992 and I understand that you have increased the budget for safe shelters 20% and then 10%.

There have been people working at the Taloyoak safe shelter. Do they increase the O and M at times too for those facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: I don't have my O and M sheets with me. I could tell you categorically that I know because we had that review last year and my wife used to work at the women's shelter here I know that they had no increase from 1992 right until we increased it when this government put money into those budgets.

We put 10 % in and I increased them by 10% this year. So I know that in the last couple of years there was a 20 % increase because we did it, this government did that and that was the only increase those shelters had since 1992 and some of the Members have talked about where it's very difficult to recruit and retain staff at the women's shelters because the wages and incentives are low and can't compete with the government.

So that's something that we've done. But the Member is correct it's 20 %, 10 and 10 and not 10 and 20, it's 20 %. Again I'm at a bit of a disadvantage Mr. Chairman because I don't have the O and M sheets here I'm only going by memory. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco. Mr. Puqiqnak.

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Taking my community as an example, I wonder if the Minister can provide me the copy of the increases for those safe shelters?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Uriash, I think you are talking about Operations and Maintenance rather than Capital Estimates. What we are dealing with right now is the Capital Estimates and just to remind you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yes, we can provide that information to the Member. I will just ask the Deputy Minister to make a note of it and we will provide that information on the Operations and Maintenance and also the increases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Puqiqnak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, the Kitikmeot Member talked about the Boarding Home in the Kitikmeot Region. I do not think that I am mistaken when I asked about the safe shelter not being in the Capital Estimates and I do not think I am wrong. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Yes, okay, thank you, Mr. Puqiqnak. Anything else? Anything else? Ms. Williams.

**Ms. Williams** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under 10-6, Qikiqtani Hospital, what does FF and E mean under 10-6?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Williams. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Mr. Chairman, FF and E means furniture, fixtures and equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get right down to the questions. On the Qikiqtani General Hospital, \$14 million, 1 hundred for 2004-2005, projected 2003-2004, \$15 million 9 hundred and 2005 to 2009, \$25 million, 650 thousand, can you tell me what \$15 million is spent on in 2003 and 2004? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the way the budget and allocations are written in the budget allocation books that we are discussing right now, in the case that the money was not spent then the money would be carried over.

So, it could say for the year there is \$15 million and this year it would be three, so it showed allocations at \$18 million, because of the \$15 million has been carried over. That would be standard practise in the Capital Planning Books.

So, if I am understanding the Member's question correctly, based on the page number he is on, then the Capital that the previous expenditures was what was budgeted for the year before that, not necessarily what was expended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure we all understand that in this room today, that explanation. Can you tell me what the \$14 million, 100 thousand is going to be spent on in 2004-2005 and if that will all be spent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the budget allocations, again, are based on the expenditure timeline. In this case, Mr. Chairman, the budgetary timeline in the case to us that the major portion of the construction would begin in the year 2004-2005 and that amount being allocated in the budgets to date is the amount that the Member just read out, that is what the amount means.

If they expect the amount in the fiscal year it would be in amount of fourteen million one hundred, the amount that the Member mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a little confused now, so okay this figure of fifty million nine hundred thousand for 2003/2004 has not been spent and if it hasn't been spent, how much of it has been spent and where did it go? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The money hasn't gone anywhere, the process for the budget are such that what we do is we budget for it, we do capital carry over, they do supplementary appropriations and so on.

I am not going to go through the whole financial size. What happens in layman's terms, we budgeted a hundred thousand dollars this year to build a house and we only spent twenty thousand, next years budget will indicate a project continuing and you have eighty thousand dollars left. We've never spent on the house and which indicates that twenty thousand was spent the previous years, that's what the amount would be.

In this case when we are talking about the amount we have budgeted fourteen million, next year we are budgeting ten million, so in prior amounts we show fourteen plus the ten for a total of twenty four and if you go through each year, Mr. Chairman, the total amount again will be the total cost of the project year by year, because it's a multi year project. At that point, understanding again, I'm asking capital budget, is that correct. That's the way it is, I think that's clearer for the Members. Thank you

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco. Anything else Mr. McLean?

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure we all understand here, the explanation, Mr. Picco, I'm trying to comprehend what you're talking about, you know I am a little slower than most people.

But at the end of the day I just did my math here, and I could be wrong but 2003/2004, 2004/2005, 2005 to 2009 were up to sixty five million dollars in a hospital if you add the figures up; I could be out ten or twelve million.

But what is going to be the actual cost for that health facility in Iqaluit? Is it sixty five million for just that building? Is that the price? What's the actual price on this facility according to your calculations, not the calculations of the Capital Estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we're allocating, I'm just going to say this again.

The total project is \$55 million, 650 thousand; that's on the target sheet, that we have in the Capital Plan and on that there's a little over \$10 million dollars, which is furniture, fixtures and equipment.

So if the new facility, you build the building but you still have to put beds in there, x-ray equipment, surgical equipment and so on, and that's for \$10 million, so that forty five plus ten, however because tender is not out for the full package for the facility, right now we're out for service contract, I think you asked that question the other day, when I tried to explain it to you.

We have a service contract right now, Mr. Chairman, to do the site work on the project, those \$4.2 million dollars. By January or February this year, the complete package will be ready to go to tender and at that time you'll see what the price, concrete price, because we'll build a tender, we'll accept the tender and so on.

That's why we have budgeted the amount you see there; I believe its fifty five by fifty short, it should be within five percent of that, that's definitely right. We don't have the tender, so I can't tell you exactly what the price.

In the accounting system we had to adopt two years ago, the Auditor General for Canada said you had to book those expenses off in your Capital Plan, which is something you and other Members have to do, indicate what total cost of the facilities will be. Give or take five percent, that is what the total cost will be. That was the guesstimate that we have in place.

So the total cost of the facility, Mr. Chairman, including fixtures, furniture and equipment, we are looking at about \$55.6 million. So the actual building itself would be around \$45 million.

Again, when the tender gets out, and that will be January, so give or take five percent. That is the same, not just for these facilities but any other facility, the same thing that you do with any government itself. It is not unique just for the one project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Boy, when you think guestimate, you really mean guestimate. When you say we are a guestimate, when the Queen was here Mr. Picco, we had a big picture. You had a little model hooking up the old hospital with the new hospital and stuff like that. You were so proud of it, and I am so proud that we are going to actually have a facility in Nunavut. I am very proud.

You are like me; you are getting into that stage in your life, where you may have to use it for some kind of operation, and stuff like that, and I am sure looking forward to coming over and using that facility like everybody else.

It has been a long time coming. You are guestimating that this facility will cost about \$55 million dollars with furniture? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I do not want to get into a debate with the Member on guestimates, and so on. All I am suggesting to you, like any other capital project that the Government does. We say right now for example, we have budgeted \$200 thousand dollars for houses. If the tender goes out, and the houses come in at \$215 thousand dollars, the best guess that we had is the houses will cost \$200 thousand. When the Tender package based on what the steel costs are at that time, based on what the shipping costs will be, and so on, and so forth, that will give you the account.

So any type of project, you are building a house, you allow for a contingency. We have allocated enough for the facility, but you have to allow for contingencies. That is why I am saying that we have booked off \$55 million dollar; for the costs of the facility, including the furniture and the fixtures. Give or take, we say about five percent. That is a fair industry standard. The Member, who is a businessman, he knows that. So it is not just unique to this. It is not that we are pulling numbers out of the air or whatever; it is based on those figures.

For example, on the Rankin Inlet facility that you are very familiar with, we had a budgeted price going into that, we have come a little bit under budget. A little bit under budget. We have budgeted about 16 million and then we come in at about 15.6.

So give or take again. So that is a pretty good standard, we believe. There is really no issue here. We have booked off what we believe is a reasonable cost; again it was the

Auditor General who said to book off those costs with the accountants that we have in place. That is what we have done.

When the project package goes out to tender, then we will know what the costs will be because they will be bidding on the total package. However, I would like to stop here, Mr. Chairman, and ask the Capital Planner just to confirm for the record if what I am saying is correct. If what I am saying is not correct then I would like for her to give you a little bit more of an overview. I am not a Capital Planner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

**Ms. Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this stage in the design in the Qikiqtani Hospital, we are attempting to reduce costs to the building. The site is very challenging. The Government had to spend additional money for the remediation, which was \$1 million dollars.

I think that the Department would like to see everything come in at \$55 million or less, including equipment for it. It will be a challenge, but with Public Works, and working with QC, we are trying to contain costs. We are also facing a big building boom in the south where construction materials have increased, plus freight costs. Those are very challenging roads and sites and I guess that's what Public Works would say as well that we are doing our very best to contain costs within that target and what will be confirmed when the results of the tender come back in the new year, if what the construction market tells us this building is worth.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Brown. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'm starting to understand the complexity of this issue and the costs, but like I'm a simple man and I did the math and I added up the furniture and the equipment and everything that is important to the books that we get what we are supposed to believe, it's around 65 million and now he's guestimating \$55 million, so I guess he's got that \$10 million in there to play around with in case you know the pressure on stuff.

But looking at this it looks like it's going to cost us with furniture and equipment 65 or 66 million, but then he told me that that is not necessarily the case because in 2003-2004 there's a carry over of what and then there's a flight problem for a million and they spent 4.2 million and you know what I mean.

So are you inflating the cost of this building just to cover off maybe the deficiencies of not having the expertise available or whatever?

You did a great job on the Rankin Inlet one; you said you saved \$500 thousand dollars. It came in, it was budgeted at 16 and come in at 15.6, it shows good fiscal management there and I commend you for saving 400 thousand dollars on the Rankin Inlet facility and if finance had the lead on that, good for them.

So your best guestimate is \$55 million dollars for furniture, equipment and the new building, by the time it opens in 2009. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Give or take 5 %. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I just want to correct some inaccuracies in the Member's comments for the record, it's not 2008-2009, and I had said in the House for the last couple of days we plan to have the facility open in late 2006.

The numbers that I'm looking at, the numbers that we have in the targeted Government of Nunavut Capital Plan, it didn't go in the books, I'm using a different figure and below the 55 there is the extra 7, so the numbers he is talking about the 65 as well is actually there, budgeted in the books is correct and there is a line below that.

What we have done, what we are saying right now based on everything, that information we have available to us is that the total cost of the facility will be around 55. That includes furniture and 46 for building, roughly ten for the furniture.

We hope to be able to do a little bit better; we won't know until the tender package goes out. So work that has occurred for example remediation of the lot was 860 thousand dollars that was for the environmental damage for oil removal and we had a conversation with our good friend Mr. Bob Nault when he was here a couple of weeks ago from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and we are in negotiations to cover those costs, Mr. Chairman.

The 4 million dollars that is budgeted right now under the service contract with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation is to do the site work, the lot work that you are seeing right now that is occurring at the facility at the site, relocating the poles, putting in the access roads, doing the blasting and so on to get the site ready.

We knew the site was going to be a challenge in the beginning stages Mr. Chairman and the Member will remember him saying that what a great idea it was to use reheat from the Power Corporation and have it relocated next to the other one because, although the site costs will be higher, we will actually save more money because we will be able to have it affiliated and linked with the old facility and those O and M costs will be able to keep the costs down.

So, there are many challenges about having it adjacent to the old facilities and it makes more sense, it makes financial sense and it makes administrative sense. So, I hope that helps answer the Member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, strictly for the record because there could be a whole new group of people here next year going through the same exercise.

For the record, what furniture and what equipment give or take 5 percent that this hospital, this health facility in Iqaluit is not going to cost the people of Nunavut no more than \$55 million dollars give or take 5 percent, is that what he is saying? Will the Minister commit to that, if that is actually going to happen on that facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Mr. Chairman, first of all, I appreciate the Member's questioning, I really do. I cannot guarantee that the cost is not going to be more than that. I am telling you what I know. I was not elected to lie to people; this is being broadcasted right now in Iqaluit, and the people are watching this.

The reality, anyone watching this knows, I cannot tell you what the price of lumber is going to be in January or February. We have done the best budgeting that you can do. Like anyone else, you want to buy a car; you budgeted \$20 thousand and six months down the road, the cost of the car got up \$5 thousand. It is not your fault.

So, we are saying to you, based on industry status, we have Public Works and Services, we have the Department of Finance and we also have the Department of Health and people working on a committee overseeing the facility, the construction phases and so on.

We are working with the Qikiqtaaluk Corporation. We believe we can do a little bit better right now given all of the economic circumstances. I am prepared, Mr. Chairman, to say in the meeting here, for the record that the best information available to me is that we should be able to bring it in for that amount and that is what we give in or take in 5 percent.

That is, you cannot ask, Joamie School, we budgeted \$ 10 million dollars, Mr. Chairman, or a bit more for Joamie School based on the best information that we have available to us right now.

At the end of the period, it may be \$2 million dollars more based on whatever contingencies that are there. So, for the Member to try to get me to confirm in the House and lie to someone to say, yes, \$55 million dollars, but I do not even know what the shipping cost will be or any other contingent factors including the cost of steel that is not responsible.

So, I can say, for the record, that we believe within 5 percent of that amount and I think the Member knows that and I think, coming from me, he knows that that is a pretty strong commitment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bear with me; I know these are only Capital Estimates and I really do not expect the Minister to lie to the people of Nunavut on the cost of this facility, but you know, we have such an experience, we have got such a background in building facilities like the, we have absolutely none.

Surely this is an architect drawing of this, surely the architects can give you a budget, and a figure for everything else they do up here.

What I am saying is the architects might be out 5 or 6 percent give or take and I know you are trying hard and I know your people are trying hard to bring this facility and on budget.

But, I do not want to belabour this too much, but Mr. Picco, as Minister responsible on a \$55 million dollar project, 10 percent means \$5 million dollars. That means that we go over or 20 percent is over, that means that we have to look for \$5 or 10 or 15 or 20 million dollars, and where is that going to come from? That is going to come from the Education Budget, it is going to come from the Sustainable Development's Budget, it is going to come from this budget and that budget.

So, all I am trying to do here is confirm, you know and you basically said yeah, we should commit at \$55 million dollars, but as a Member of the Legislative Assembly approving the budget and the project at this magnitude, I am trying to make people very aware out there we are taking this seriously, I am taking this seriously as a Member of the Legislative Assembly about this project. I know it might not mean anything to somebody down south \$55 million dollars for health facility.

The way I've seen it the way it has unfolded in the last 5 or 6 years for this facility they finally got the one in Rankin Inlet down right, it went down to tender, yes know what it is going to cost we can put that into the budget. I know this is only an estimate.

That's why I ask you that question about Joamie School; by the way, it came to \$13 million. It was insured for ten so we have to come up with another \$3 million, you know. We're doing hiring freezes now, we are going to be doing lay offs and we'll be cutting backs in education budget by \$4 million dollars. So you know, what I want to say is, if we have to tack another \$10 million dollars onto this facility, where is the money going to come from?

We're all aware where it's going to come from. It's going to come from education; it's going to come from public works, stuff like that. So I take this seriously Mr. Picco so I'm not picking on you. I'm just asking you question. Do you think it is a realistic figure and is it going to come in \$55 million dollars, give or take 5 percent? That's all I want to know.

As a MLA I got a problem approving capital estimates, you know, we're guestimating that word scares me guestimating. So in all, it's my job to make sure your guestimate are within five percent. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just a comment.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the Member and the Members interested in the project. I mean I wanted to come in on time with the budget too. If I say sixty or seventy million dollars over I'm not going to be in this House next year or ten years from now.

Who knows whose going to be here and I have to live here. And I don't want somebody to say that we're off by X number days or months or years.

So when I say to you and I mean it in all sincerity and seriousness, Mr. Chairman, and to the members of the House, the best estimate, the best forecast from Public Works, Health Finance, the architects, the people from QC is fifty million dollars give or take five which is a contingency that you have in these projects. And I stand by those numbers. And I can't go any better than that for the Members so I hope that he would appreciate that.

I've never heard Minister Ng saying that there are going be lay offs in the Government, that cut the budget by \$4 million dollars and I don't think it is fair statement to make in a public debate. No one in this government say there are going to be lay offs because some kind of financial cut back or whatever.

Mr. Ng indicated for example that we'll be back in the black next year based on the forecast he has available to him. I think that should be clarified also.

I stand by the numbers. And I have been working on this project since 1995 to bring this forward. Hopefully based on those things, based on the best recommendations and based on types of forecasts and I believe it's a solid figure. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Picco. Mr. McLean

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you Mr. Chair. That's all I wanted to hear you say. Why did we spend 20 minutes doing this Mr. Picco?

Anyhow, as this is my last question on this issue, has the overall projected cost of building three new health facilities increased from about \$91 million to over \$103 million? What accounts for a projected cost increases of over \$10 million? How can the Minister ensure that the projected overall costs don't keep increasing in totally? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. McLean. Mr. Picco



**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you Mr. Chair. There are different reasons for increase in costs each time the project, the projects delayed. Remember when we started in 1999 we had these on, we tried to bring forth P 3, and those costs inflation so I bring those costs up forward. We had an additional \$2 million from Sakku when we finish off the accounts receivables, or accounts payables to Sakku for about \$2 million. So those are the contingent costs increases that you expected to see. I don't believe there was anything extraneous to that but again I wanted to confirm that with the capital planner, that's correct and I will ask Ms Brown to confirm that.

**Chairman:** Ms. Brown.

**Ms Brown:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I confirm that. Thank you

**Chairman (interpretation):** Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad there are not too many more, extraneous cost increases there or whatever it is but has there been any progress in accepting federal funding or financial assistance specifically in health facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I believe there has been help for our health facilities; there has been some extraneous money, from our federal part. Thank you

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm down from four hundred to three questions, so I'll continue on with my three; what options are being considered to insure that these three facilities will be fully operational and adequately staffed by the time they are constructed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman on the federal contribution Mr. Nault was in town as the Member remembered; Mr. Nault made a contribution of I believe a little over \$300 thousand dollars to our new health facilities to help with the plan, which includes the facility here and Rankin, and we thank our federal partner, so that one tenth, one percent on our facility.

Mr. Chairman, on the second question, Mr. Chairman, we do have and we're in the process now of developing a Human Resource strategy in plans, to make sure that the facilities are staffed up to standard level and that debate has come up to the house over the last couple of days.

We're quite confident Mr. Chairman, that we will be able to meet the requirements of the staffing level for the facility and again having a newer facility, and working, we can see what happens for example and note it, when they built the facility and they've actually increased their staffing levels because of that.

I should also point out Mr. Chairman, the Qikiqtani hospital is not just hospital; we see it as a centre of excellence, and we see that as an opportunity for a learning centre for medicine in the North.

There are no other facilities like it being built in the north, so there are opportunities to bring in other opportunities, university and teaching college? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm glad that he's speaking that way and they're going to be the centre of excellence. I'm sure it's going to be a lot easier to, when you have a facility like that, that will be able to train more local people, and people will take ownership in their territory.

On that issue, when these three facilities are badly needed, I support them all, like I say Mr. Picco; someday you and I may be using that facility for something and not having to travel to the south to get our illness taken care of.

Once those facilities are up and running Mr. Picco, there are going to be operational cost and I know it may be a little bit premature to ask this question but I'm sure somebody in the department is looking at it, what are the projected annual O and M costs for those facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. McLean. Please note Mr. McLean that your time is up. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman the Member is correct; there are a lot different logistics as well as the administrative aspects of support mechanisms in the new facilities. One of those mechanisms will be a dedicated mental health room and I'm sure the Member may have the opportunity to use in the coming year.

On the O and M budgeting I have made a committed to Mr. Kelvin Ng, as a Minister Finance Minister to bring forward to him, you know bigger and numbers and so on for 2004/2005 for an increased O and M costs.

In all seriousness, Mr. Chairman, we have not worked out yet the total increase in O and M costs based on staffing levels and so on. We think, for example, based on the trends and the numbers and the sizes of the facilities in Rankin Inlet, in Cambridge Bay, and in Iqaluit, coming on stream, we should be able to cut some of our costs, because we will not be able to ship out a hundred percent of our patients.

We should be able to maintain more patients here and deliver the services ourselves, and that, in itself, will cut down some of our costs. And those types of savings could then be used for the increased staffing of those facilities. That is the way it is looking right now. And that is the contingency that we are working on.

I invite the Member when the new facility opens in 2006 to come by and look at the special mental health room that we will have set up for him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I will allow you a little bit more time, once more, Mr. McLean. There are others. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You are being very generous with me and I really appreciate it. And yes, I have missed you over the last couple of days. I really missed you, and I am glad that you are back because you are a very fair Chairman.

On this, it is just a short comment for Mr. Picco. On that facility's completion in 2006, I will be more than, more than glad to come and visit him when he is in the mental health section of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all that I have.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. McLean. It is just a comment. At this point we will give Mr. Haviyak a chance. Questions? There probably are no further comments at this point. Going back to 10-5. Capital. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): The following pages 10-6. Detail of Capital. Total Baffin. \$21, million, 146 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Turning the page, 10-7. Directorate. Detail of Capital. Kivalliq Region, Tangible Assets, \$4 million, 401 thousand. Mr. McLean.

**Mr. McLean:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment again. I know that my Questions Period is over. The Kivalliq region equipment and vehicles, are these vehicles for the Health Centres, or are they for the Regional Office? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. McLean, please note that you are on a different page. So you have another ten minutes on top of that. It is a new line of questioning that you can get into, if you would like. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are just going to do the breakdown of the numbers. Mr. Chairman, the majority of that would be equipment, and we will have to get a breakdown of the number of vehicles. I believe that it is not that large. We will be able to provide that to the Member by tomorrow morning's Iqaluit Session. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. There is no one with their hands up. Questions? 10-7. Detail of Capital, the Kivalliq region, \$4,401,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Page 10-8. Directorate. Total Tangible Assets for the Kitikmeot region. \$3,088,000. Mr. Havioyak.

**Mr. Havioyak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kitikmeot Medical Boarding Home, I said earlier we need that space. Is it within that \$500,000 or are you going to get it from somewhere because some of them that you mentioned earlier on the other boarding homes in the other regions are outside. This one is inside the Government of Nunavut so I'm just saying I want to make sure there is a room for those people.

I just want to make sure because it seems to be a bit smaller. I just want to make sure there's space there. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$500 thousand dollars that's in the budget for the Kitikmeot facility is there because that's our facility, we own it, if it's student residence and that's why we have the half million dollars budgeted and the reason why you didn't see the other monies budgeted for those facilities is because we lease them; it's flow through money.

So we will ensure Mr. Chairman that what the Member is asking for is there and that we actually have that space he is asking for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister Picco. Anything else on 10-8? Total Kitikmeot Region. \$3 million, 88 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go back now. Total Tangible Assets. \$28 million, 635 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go back to 10-4. Detail of Expenditures for Health and Social Services. Department Summary. Total Capital Expenditures. \$28 million, 635 thousand. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Is it agreed that we are concurred with Health and Social Services?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): What is the wish of the Committee?

**Mr. Nutarak** (interpretation): I move to report progress.

**Chairman** (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor to report progress. Agreed? The Speaker can return now. Thank you Minister Picco and your staff. I think your other staff is very capable; I think she is even more capable than you I think she should replace your seat. Thank you Minister Picco.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole**

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker your committee has been considering Bill 46 and the Capital Estimates for Health and Social Services and would like to report it is concluded and that Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** There is a Motion on the Floor. Is there a Seconder for the Motion? Mr. Puqiqnak, long overdue. 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. Orders for the Day for Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>:

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
  - Bill 40
  - Bill 41
  - Bill 42
  - Bill 43
  - Bill 44
  - Bill 45
  - Bill 46
  - Bill 47
  - Bill 48
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 12
  - Bill 33
  - Bill 46
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 Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 2003 at 10:00 am.

*Sergeant-at-Arms*

>>*House adjourned at 6:06 pm.*

