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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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Minister of Human Resources Minister of Education;

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(Nattilik)
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(Baker Lake)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday October 28, 2003**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker: I would like to call on Ms. Thompson to say the prayer this morning.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker: Good morning. Mr. Premier, Members. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Premier.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 196 – 1(6): Youth Apprenticeship Pilot Projects in Nunavut

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Good afternoon colleagues and to the residents of Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet I say hello.

Mr. Speaker, the Bathurst Mandate gives clear direction to view every element of the government budget for potential training opportunities and to offer trades training in Nunavut.

We need to take advantage of our government contracts to achieve these goals. As the Minister of Education I am pleased to share information about a number of pilot projects that promote Youth Apprenticeship Programs in partnership with Nunavut schools.

Nunavut Arctic College and the Department of Education have worked closely with the Department of Public Works and Services to ensure government construction contracts include a training component for students to work with qualified trades people.

Mr. Speaker, students in Arviat, Whale Cove and Repulse Bay are taking courses to prepare them to work on contracted construction sites.

Mr. Speaker, this program is a positive introduction to the trades for students in grades nine to twelve. Students will work with qualified trades people in construction of the new senior school in Arviat, the addition on the school in Whale Cove and the new hamlet building in Repulse Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the school principal recommends five secondary school students to participate in this program. These students must first complete courses on safety and job preparation which are a beginning requirement.

When the students complete a probationary period of 125 hours of unpaid work they receive five work experience credits.

Another pilot project is regional and provides training to young adults leading to employment opportunities. This initiative is through the Nunavut Arctic College partnered with the Kivalliq Regional Inuit Association, Kivalliq Partners in Development, the Department of Education and the contractor of the regional hospital in Rankin Inlet.

Successful students are given priority hiring status by the contractor for construction jobs on the Rankin Inlet Hospital Project and other construction projects in the region.

Mr. Speaker, these pilot projects are a result of the Government of Nunavut is commitment to create employment and training opportunities in the private sector economy for Nunavummiut.

By the spring of 2004 we will have almost forty students participating in this Youth Apprenticeship Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Minister's Statement 197 – 1(6): Social Housing Investment in Nunavut Initiative

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform Members of the newest initiative of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Government of Canada. A \$40 million initiative cost shared with Infrastructure Canada will see approximately 160 new public housing units built in Nunavut over the next two years.

>>*Applause*

Mr. Speaker, these new homes will be constructed in every community ensuring that all Nunavummiut benefit from this program. The social housing investment in Nunavut initiative is directly administered by the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Infrastructure Canada and the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation.

We're very pleased to continue our collaboration with the Federal Government in finding proactive solutions to the housing crises in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I am also pleased to announce that the Housing Corporation will introduce increased energy savings as part of this program. Every new unit built will exceed the national building code requirements for energy efficiency by at least twenty five percent.

We will achieve this by increasing the insulation value in both ceiling, walls, and floors. In addition Mr. Speaker, the needs of our seniors and person with disabilities will begin to be addressed through ten percent of the units being barrier free or handicapped accessible.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my federal counter part, the Honourable Steve Mahoney, and his officials for recognizing some of Nunavut's housing needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Mr. Speaker. Ms. Thompson.

Minister's Statement 198 – 1(6): Revised Senior Fuel Subsidy Program

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues about some of the important changes we have implement for the Senior Fuel Subsidy Program.

The Senior Fuel Subsidy Program recognizes that seniors who are homeowners face the same fuel costs as other homeowners. This is often without having the same level if income as a working family to pay for their fuel bills.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from people using the program that they would often reach their subsidy limit before the end of winter or not be eligible for help in the months between April and August even when it was still necessary to consume fuel.

Mr. Speaker, I hope these concerns have been responded to and I am pleased to report that on September 1, 2003, we put in place a Revised Senior Fuel Subsidy Program for Nunavut.

The program is now available year round so that seniors can receive help when they need, it.

We are also working on making the application process easier to understand and the paperwork easier to complete.

(interpretation ends) As well, Mr. Speaker, the amount of fuel that may not be eligible has been increased from ten to forty percent depending on the community that the applicant lives in and their household income.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the support I've received from my colleagues for the changes that are intended to help many senior homeowners who are over sixty during the colds winter months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 199 – 1(6): Nunavut Broadband Development Funding Announcement

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be reading some parts of the Minister's Statement in English.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of this House a recent joint announcement by the federal Minister of Industry, the Honourable Alan Rock, and the Secretary of State for Rural Development, the Honourable Andy Mitchell, concerning financial assistance for broadband.

The federal Ministers announced Friday that the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation will receive \$3.885 million toward the costs of implementing their plan to bring high-speed internet services to all twenty five Nunavut communities. The Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation is one of just 33 organizations selected from across Canada that will receive a total of \$44 million under Industry Canada's Broadband for Rural and Northern Development pilot program.

Mr. Speaker, Members of this House may recall that in February of 2001, I announced the appointment of the members of the Nunavut Broadband Task Force, and asked them to report on how we could bring broadband to all communities in Nunavut by 2005. In their report, which was tabled in this House, the Task Force recommended the creation of a not-for-profit corporation – the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, to bring together representatives of government, municipalities, Inuit organizations, and the private sector to work together towards this goal.

Over the past nine months, the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation has worked to raise awareness of the potential for broadband in Nunavut, and to prepare their funding proposal to Industry Canada.

I have been please to support this work, Mr. Speaker, because I believe that high-speed internet service is essential infrastructure for the development of the Nunavut economy. Easier access to the internet though broadband will also support our training objectives, improve health care services, help to extend the use of Inuktitut and improve communications between all our communities.

The work of the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation is helping to ensure that these services will be available to private citizens, community organizations, municipal governments, and private businesses.

I am delighted that the federal government has recognized the work of the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation. With this funding in place, the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation has taken a major step toward achieving the goal of high-speed internet for all our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Are there any further Ministers' Statements? Moving onto Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 646 – 1(6): Irene Avaalaaqiaq Wall Hangings and Book

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you have noticed and admired the beautiful wall hangings in the foyer. I myself remarked on them in this House on our first day back here in the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about the career and life of Irene Avaalaaqiaq, the artist who created those wall hangings. Irene, who is behind me, was born in 1941 in the Kazan region and moved to Baker Lake in 1958.

Her art reflects the stories that she heard while growing up on the land. Mr. Speaker, Irene is a role model in Baker Lake where she has a wealth of knowledge on Inuit culture and art.

She has also shared her art nationally and internationally through numerous exhibitions featuring her work. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, Judith Nazbi's book, which is being passed around today, and coincidentally is being signed by Irene earlier today, 'Myth and Reality', was launched in Baker Lake.

This book includes Irene's stories reminiscent in full colour pages of her art and folder. It is truly a beautiful book. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to see stories about Inuit life in our stores and I congratulate both Judith and Irene. I would also like to thank Irene for the work that she does and for making the world a beautiful place through her art.

Mr. Speaker, I have made copies of this book available to all Members and I really urge you to share them with your family and friends. Mr. Speaker, while I have a few seconds left, I would also like to comment, that Irene received her Doctorate of Law from the University of Guelph in June of 1999.

I might also say, Mr. Speaker, that it is very easy to make Members' Statements about constituents of mine that succeed and here is perfect example of a unilingual Inuk person, who can succeed in life, and write books, and get a Doctor of Law Degree, raise seven children, numerous grandchildren and still maintain her own personal independent lifestyle today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery, Irene. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Member's Statement 647 – 1(6): Culturally Based - Reintegrating Offenders

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to send my greetings to my daughter and my grandchild, please be patient, I will see you soon. And also I send my greetings to my constituency in Gjoa Haven.

Mr. Speaker, I have been talking about justice issues lately, and I bring forward another issue today.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about the need to help offenders reintegrate into the society once they have been released from prison. Mr. Speaker, I think that it is very important that this Government develop programs in this area because not enough programs are available to offenders in the communities, if there are any at all.

I am rising to talk about these today. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Department of Justice did have plans, according to my knowledge, to provide additional rehabilitative and healing programs that were culturally based, and with community elder participation.

Mr. Speaker, Community Corrections Officers perhaps are critical to the successful reintegration of offenders but what happens if there are no officers in the community?

Mr. Speaker, if support services are not available to released inmates, we will continue to see them re-offend. Mr. Speaker, I am just about to conclude my Statement. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my Statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I believe that the Department must provide more support to communities to empower them to develop community-based solutions. At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions to the Minister of Justice. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 648 – 1(6): Country Food

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my Members' Statement.

We have an abundance of wildlife in Nunavut, such as fish and caribou, that we could use for consumption. I would like to show my appreciation for being provided with all these foods.

Also, today, the elders mainly live off the wildlife subsistence because that is what they were raised with, and our young people today are more used to the store bought foods.

But the store bought foods or groceries at the stores are very expensive to purchase and it is almost impossible for people who have no income to purchase those groceries.

How can the Nunavut Government provide more support to the people whose income is less than others and there are some people who cannot even go out hunting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 649 – 1(6): Support Assault and Various Abuse Victims

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In part of my Members' Statement yesterday, it seems at times I feel that the Government's target is off because of Inuit of Nunavut way of thinking.

I think we are not including that Inuit thinking and I am sure that, as I had stated yesterday, that I talked about various abuses like incest and sexual abuses. It seems like when we hear about murder, we do not seem to be surprised about those incidents.

And as Members, maybe we think that we are not responsible to deal with such issues and some people might think that this issue could be resolved at a home. We need to give support to the women and children who are abused and sexually abused and victims of violence.

When I talked yesterday about youth, when something comes up and we oppose it, we work really hard to correct it, even though it's not really close to our heart in our lives. We need to work harder on this issue even though they may not be close to our hearts.

Nunavut has to develop and be able to stand on its own two feet by nurturing self reliance among the population. I'm urging the Members to start considering these, how we can give help and support to the people who are abused and also to the offenders.

We have to give support to the people who are abusers, that way we can have a healthier life. That's why I keep talking about Nunavut mental health. I apologise for borrowing English. Let's start talking about Nunavut's mental health.

That way we can start resolving some of the issues that we face. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 650 – 1(6): Plans to Help Youth Who Commit Crimes

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and a big smile for you.

I am very proud of my colleagues. I would first of all like to say that since we were children, we can recall what we experienced as children and the things that we have seen.

Mr. Speaker, what I'm trying to say is that we deal with different bills that will be applied in Nunavut and we also have to apply federal legislation. Before there were many pieces of legislation there were less crimes committed.

I want to say that as far as our youth and children are concerned, there is a tremendous silence in legislation in their treatment in criminal cases up to this day. In fact, it seems youth are given the licence to do as they please, regardless of whether their wish is good or bad.

This has had a huge impact on us today. Youth are committing crimes today because they know, of course, that they are protected under the Young Offenders Act from being charged and being held responsible for their actions.

As legislators, we have to do something about it. These crimes that are committed by a young person have an adverse effect on them for the rest of their lives. When crimes are committed as a child, it will haunt them for the rest of their lives.

So, it's up to us as legislators to do something about it, something that will improve the social lives of Nunavummiut. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we have to consider what we can do.

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statements. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we can say today about the youth is that we the parents of these children are too disconnected to our children.

We don't have any plans in place that will reverse the time that is being used by the young people. It's up to us as Members of the Legislative Assembly and as parents to do something about it and we have to take it seriously so that we don't just let our children do whatever they please.

It's also the responsibility of the parents. It's up to us to work together for the betterment of the youth and our children and to keep them from committing crimes. It is something that has to be taken very seriously and I urge the second assembly to deal with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Ms. Williams.

Member's Statement 651 – 1(6): Corrections in Nunavut

Ms. Williams (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the state of corrections in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, Members know that this is an issue that I feel passionately about and I want to take a few moments to talk about what I think is going well and what is not going well in Nunavut today.

(interpretation end) Mr. Speaker, let me first give credit where credit is due. The recent announcements about the new Healing Centre in Kugluktuk was welcome news. I am sure that the residents of Kitikmeot were pleased too, pleased with the potential for repatriating offenders to their home region.

Mr. Speaker, I remain disappointed about the slow progress being made on providing adequate facilities for female offenders from Nunavut and on getting a permanent replacement for BCC.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, I learned about the status of our government agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories on housing inmates not from our own Minister of Justice, but from reading Hansard from Yellowknife.

To date Mr. Speaker, I have yet to receive a written reply to my letter to the Minister of Justice on one of the questions I asked him regarding the amount of Inuktitut programming Nunavut offenders serving their sentences in the Northwest Territories receive.

Mr. Speaker, I still have no idea what the answer is because the Minister will not reply to me. Mr. Speaker, the government appears to have sufficient funds for a new multi-million dollar court house building with new furnishings.

I have supported a new court house but I want to see real progress on a replacement for BCC. I want to see real progress on addressing the great need of female offenders of Nunavut.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Iqittuq.

Member's Statement 652 – 1(6): Authority of Income Support Workers

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the income support workers who provide the services on behalf of the government.

When you look at the income support workers, they have too much authority over everything. The government believes in setting up a paper trail and no one is believed unless there is written proof. Only when the Government sees something on paper, they start to believe that it is actually a fact.

I do know that the income support workers, without any proof or without anything documented can decrease the number or the amount of dollars that an individual gets when they hear from the people out there that this person had won money through lottery or bingo or something or that they had received some money from their children.

There was a time when one of the individual's daughters graduated and she gave her X amount of dollars. So, when this social worker heard it, without any documentation, decreased the amount that she was entitled to.

And here we are there was no documentation or proof that this individual had received money from some source. I have yet to see a piece of Legislation that says that you can decrease an amount if you found out, without proof, that there was income of some kind.

Usually a Government operates on a paper trail or proof or documentation. Mr. Speaker, I would like to unanimous consent to conclude my Statements. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my Colleagues. That is the way it is with the Government. The Government operates on documents, not only the Government, but also other entities. I do not know how an income support worker can make a deduction without proof or without documentation or without a receipt.

That is on hearsay that they make that deduction. If the law says that they can do that, then they have overwhelming power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 653 – 1(6): Nunavut Arctic College Courses

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of Nunavut Arctic College programs offered here in Iqaluit and throughout Nunavut. Tomorrow's nurses, community health representatives, teachers and carpenters and environmental technologists are being trained in these programs. Their efforts are an investment in their own future and the future of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, many students have to leave their families, their children and their communities to be able to follow this career path, their career paths. These individuals make personal sacrifices in order to reach their goals and play a part in achieving our vision of Nunavut.

As I can attest to myself, Mr. Speaker, being a student is a struggle. It is difficult to manage your family obligations from afar, it is difficult to make ends meet, it is difficult to focus on your studies when you are worried about how to pay the next bunch of bills coming in and keeping food on the table.

Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about developing our work force and serious about providing support to students so that they can build their skills and become the professionals that Nunavut desperately needs then we should be ensuring that they receive their financial assistance payments on time.

Mr. Speaker, you will recall that Members from this side of the House brought forward a Motion to support our students, recognizing the important role they play in our future.

Mr. Speaker, it is not fair to ask our students, who are already making great sacrifices in struggling very hard to make ends meet to go without the financial support that they are entitled to.

I would like some commitment from this Government that every effort will be made to ensure that students receive that assistance on time.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be questioning the Minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 654 - 1(6): Thank the Members for Attending Various Functions

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has taken me too long to show my appreciation. In the fall, I went to my community with the Premier, Mr.

Okalik, and I would like to thank him so that we can turn the sod for the College building. I would also like to thank my colleague for going to my community.

The Baffin Mayors had a conference in Cape Dorset, and I would like to thank the people of Cape Dorset on behalf of the other Mayors for having a successful conference in our community.

That was the Baffin Mayors, and again I would like to thank our Premier for attending the conference of the Mayors. Enoki Iqittuq, Jobie Nutarak, David Iqaqrialu also attended in the Mayor's Conference, and were welcomed in my community.

I would also like to send my condolences to the people of Kimmirut, for their loss. Thank you.

Speaker: Are there any further Members' Statements? Ms. Thompson.

Member's Statement 655 – 1(6): Thank Husband and Constituents

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would just like to say thank you to Tom, my husband, who has been alone in Rankin Inlet for quite a while now and say thank you the people of Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove.

Again, I would like to inform them that I will be running for the next election. I would like to say hello in Coral Harbour. Speaker, I would also like to thank Paul Kanayuk, who is here in the House; to Trevor and Buddy, who are with their father, listen to your father; I just wanted to say that I will see the people of Rankin Inlet on Friday. Thank you.

Speaker: Item 3. Members' Statements. Are there any further Members' Statements? If not, we will move onto Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Netser.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to draw attention of the Members to a number of visitors in the Gallery today. Joining us from Elections Nunavut are Sandy Kusugak, Hillary Makpa, and Meeko Solomon. They are from Rankin Inlet and Meeko used to be our principal in Coral Harbour when I was just a little man.

They are in Iqaluit this week to conduct training sessions for the returning officers for the upcoming the territorial elections. The returning officers will be learning how to register Nunavut voters on the new registrar of electors, an ongoing initiative of Elections Nunavut.

The returning officers joining us today are Jonah Kilabuk, returning officer for Pangnirtung, Daisy Nuqingaq, for Uqqummiut, Katherine Piugattuk, Amittuq, and Lymikii Kalluk, returning officer for Tunnuniq.

Also, joining us today in the gallery is Jeannie Inutiq from Resolute, who is the returning officer for the community's upcoming plebiscite.

(interpretation) I would also like to recognise Irene Avaalaaqiaq from Baker Lake. In 1975, there was no grade nine education in Coral Harbour. I went to Baker Lake and that's where I boarded, at her house. She was like my mother and she took care of me. I would also like to give her my thanks. Thank you very much.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the gallery. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognise individuals from my community. Salamonie Natali. Please stand up. He has been an advocate of housing in the communities. He has worked hard in dealing with housing for people in the communities. He has done a lot of work in my community of Clyde River.

Daisy Nuqingaq who is from my constituency of Broughton Island. I would like to recognise her. I would also like to say that people of Broughton Island have made me very welcome and it's very good that they have made me feel welcome whenever I go to their community and to thank them at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognise at this time some of my constituents and some of Ms. Thompson's constituents.

Although Paul Murphy is not really my constituent anymore, he is here now. But there's three of these members from Iqaluit. I'm not sure which one it is. I would like to recognise Haulli Mukpah who was originally from Chesterfield Inlet, Mitchell Solomon from Rankin Inlet and Paul Kanayuk is our Sergeant-at-arms, who is my cousin, although he is not a constituent of mine. The constituent of mine who is the Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut, and I would also like to recognise her as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to recognise anyone from Sanikiluaq but I would like to recognise someone from Public Works.

You knew that Ross Mrazek was my Deputy Minister of Public Works but he retired. I would like to recognise my new Deputy Minister and I knew that the father of my Deputy Minister at that time.

He was a pilot and I used to work with him. I would to recognise my new Deputy Minister, Robert Gunn.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This person was recognized already, a constituent; she has always been a returning officer and very capable at doing her job, Catherine Piugaattuq. I grew up with her, and I would like to recognize her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Jeanie Inutiq from Resolute Bay and Hillary Makpa and I would also like to recognize Mr. Naatanai and his daughter is our preacher in Resolute Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker for recognizing me and I thought that I was not going to be seen. I would like to recognize somebody from Pond Inlet, Laimiki Kudluk and Jeanie Inutiq who was originally from Pond Inlet, but now living in Resolute Bay; Jeanie and Laimiki. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also recognize an individual who I have not recognized before. I think it was in 1946 or 1947 when I was a child I grew up in this community or this camp.

After so many years, I was told that what I did when I was a child in the back of my mother. I would like to recognize an individual who used to live in my camp and who travelled around with us in numerous places around Netsilik area and Pelly Bay and all those areas. He knew me when I was a child; I would like to recognize my fellow Member, Mr. Alakannuark.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the House. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any further Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery? Last, but not least, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was moving my boat in the driveway last night; hurt my back. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to welcome to the Gallery, Mr. Bobby Gunn, a constituent of mine and I congratulate Bobby on his appointment as the new Deputy Minister for Public Works and Services.

I would also like to welcome, as Jack mentioned earlier, Mr. Paul Murphy, well known around Nunavut and a great entrepreneur and I would also like to welcome a person, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arvaluk. James Arvaluk used to be from Igloolik and he lived in Hall Beach and from Pond, he was all over the place. Something like Jeanie Inutiq; Jeanie lived in Clyde, she has been in Pond and now she is in Res.

It is strange how things work out. Last night, I was looking at a picture and me and my wife, Oopah, and who should be in the picture, but Jeanie Inutiq at our house visiting with Oopah's grandmother before she died.

So, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jeanie Inutiq to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving onto Item 6. Oral Questions. Are there any oral questions today? Keep your hands up. Okay. Oral Questions. We'll start off with Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 636 – 1(6): Funding Privately Owned Buildings for Renovations and Maintenance

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources in regards to the issue we dealt with yesterday.

Although we approved it yesterday, we approved the capital estimates for Human Resources and it was passed yesterday. Rather, I should be asking my question to the Minister for Public Works in regards to \$73 thousand dollars that we approved.

I am quite envious with \$73 thousand for the Nunavut Government's office renovation. I would like to know for the Trigram building, if there's an agreement signed, if they're going to be using Government of Nunavut money to make an addition to a privately

owned building; is there an agreement signed between those two, or is there a contract between those two within the Government of Nunavut?. If you understand me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Public Works is responsible for the other departments' buildings. There has to be an adequate level of maintenance done, we use the Human Resources funding for maintaining, the units that the government is leasing; if they need an addition or improvement, the Government of Nunavut can pay for the addition or renovation. For example, we at Public Works service the departments.

According to what you stated yesterday when the Minister was at the witness table, Public Works uses the money from the other department for maintenance. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I was quite envious to see that happen.

In my constituency, the government is leasing a building so we would be able to do that now. Is that going to set up a precedent in the communities of Nunavut, especially when we need to make an addition or renovation to the building? Since this has already happened, is that allowable in all the communities of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I am trying to say is the Department of Public Works and Services provides services to the Government Departments. Perhaps in Clyde River, if there is an office building being leased and needs renovation, or maintenance, yes, we can maintain it.

That is my response. If there is funding made available, our department does the maintenance. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Minister. Do I understand that in my community, if the government staff forwards applications to the Government, if the building that they are leasing needs renovations, or additions, then they can apply? Is that his response? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My response is, the Government leases units and if these units require maintenance, additions, and renovations, in any one of the communities, they can do so. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By using government funding we can apply to renovate or whatever we need to maintain our units? Is that what he is saying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): I apologize. Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to say is that the Department of Public Works, for example, Human Resources have funding set aside. The \$73 thousand that you had approved yesterday, there is funding set aside through that department.

The Department of Public Works and Services, we are not the source to apply for funding. If the government departments are leasing a unit, and if they provide the funding, we provide the maintenance, as the Department of Public Works.

I cannot really respond to him about applying for funding, but providing that the Department has some funding set aside for those things, then it can happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 637 – 1(6): How Many Inmates in the NWT Including Women

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It must be the red jacket today. My question is to the Minister of Justice. I would like to ask the Minister how many inmates that we have in place, in the Northwest Territories, including women? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The Minister responsible for Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently I am aware that there is one female inmate from Nunavut, serving time in the Northwest Territories. Overall, elsewhere for male inmates there are about 20 male inmates serving time outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister just indicated outside of Nunavut and I was specifically asking about Northwest Territories.

I'll keep my questions to the Northwest Territories. My next question is that we have approximately 20-25 inmates serving time in the Northwest Territories. How much does that cost the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently there is about 15 inmates serving time in the Yellowknife Correctional Facility. I don't have the exact total as in the overall amount but I can provide the information to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would really appreciate that. This government is always saying we don't have enough money.

My next question to the Minister is what type of Inuktitut programming do our 15 inmates in the Northwest Territories receive at this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that some elders do go visit the facility and provide programming for the Inuit inmates there. As to the overall programming, I'm not aware of any other programs that they are provided.

Our goal is to bring them back to Nunavut so that we can manage those ourselves. As I announced earlier this fall, we'll be opening up a facility in Kugluktuk so that we can run that ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Williams: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to hear that we have just one female inmate serving time in the Northwest Territories.

I think there have been some; courts are public here so, I think it's fair to say that this court is having a hard time placing some of these women who need help. Can the Minister tell this House when he will be putting up facilities for female inmates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot say exactly when, but we're governed by economies of scale and currently one inmate cannot justify opening a facility open 24 hours a day and with guards to provide security.

So, perhaps in time, but hopefully not. Hopefully we'll never need a facility and there'll be as minimal female inmates possible as coming out of the Territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 638 – 1(6): Income Support Rates

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to ask today, that I counted no less than six Baker Lake ties in the House today worn by Members of this Legislative Assembly and with all the art and wall hangings and stuff, it's nice to see that Baker Lake is finally, after five years making a small influence on this Assembly's art. That's a joke Mr. Speaker. But anyhow.

Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister Responsible for Income Support. We know that every so often I get an e-mail that our per/diems as Members of the Legislative Assembly has been raised according to union agreements etc. etc.

I think today, we get \$108 a day per/diems to buy groceries to take care of ourselves while we're here in Iqaluit doing our hard work. The statistics out there said a lot of people in Nunavut need and rely on income support to live daily.

I've asked this question in the House over the last three or four years. Has the new Minister been in the department long enough to look at the income support rates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have talked to my staff on my concerns and the Member's concern. So, we are aware of the basic needs might be very low in Nunavut according to our income support payments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked this question of the Minister of Finance two or three times in the last four years about the cost of living increases in income support and he said that it was all tied to the cost of the food basket in Canada and it is pretty hard to pick a food basket in Nunavut because of the high cost of living, transportation costs, etc..., etc....

Would the Minister look at, the Minister responsible for income support, look at putting that on, putting that cost of living allowance on income support checks for groceries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can certainly look at it and review it. Thank you.

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

Question 639 – 1(6): Individual Charged for Staying at Medical Boarding Home

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Health and Social Services, as he stated that he has got a very bad ache and I wanted to kind of help him to get rid of the pain.

This was asked to me by an individual who went to Ottawa and she was breastfeeding her baby and she had to take her baby down because, of course, she is breastfeeding it and when she went down to Ottawa, she was asked to pay \$200 dollars. Is that part of your policy to charge an individual who brings their child to go down for medical purposes? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each case is independent of another case and it is judged on sole merits. For example, Mr. Speaker, if a mother was amaaking (carrying) a baby, for example, on her back and that child was being breastfed, then, Mr. Speaker, those costs would be covered under the NIHB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. According to the age, as the Minister has stated that each incident is done or dealt with separately. Perhaps the Minister could consider the child more seriously if it is skinny or do not bother with the child who is fatter or this is just a question. But this individual who had to pay the extra dollars, did they make a complaint to your Department? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that individual case. I can tell you, like last week, for example, in the Larga Home, we were at about 120 percent occupation; it was over 80 patients in Ottawa. In any given time you have a transfer of between 10 and 15 patients going and coming out.

Mr. Speaker, on the situation regarding the child, if the child, for example, is still breastfeeding at age 3 or 4 and the mother had to take them, then depending, again, on the circumstances, there can be an allowance made for that.

It is very difficult for me to say exactly what the situation is regarding this case because I am not aware of the details other than what the Member has said, but I am not aware of a

complaint coming through my office where a person had to pay \$200 dollars, but if the Member is aware of it, then, Mr. Speaker, if he could make me aware of it with the backup information and so on and we can review it.

We did have a case a couple of weeks ago of a lady who actually paid more than the other communities, we were able to reimburse them on their money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was one of the concerns that were raised when I was having a public meeting in Pond Inlet. I'll get the information and give the information requested to the Minister. I had them stand up for too long and I apologise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I don't mind standing up. Mr. Speaker, again, in instances like this when we hear anecdotally that there was a person who was charged or invoiced for accommodations at a boarding home, there are rules and regulations in place and the management of the boarding home have to follow those rules and regulations.

However, exceptions can be made depending on the circumstances. In this case, as the Member has said, there may be an extenuating circumstance and like I said, I'm very open and prepared to review the case and see if we can help out the Member's constituent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 640 – 1(6): Problems in Payment for Student Financial Assistance

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister Responsible for Student Financial Assistance. I believe it's the Minister for Education.

As I had indicated in my Member's Statement, I have been made aware of a number of students who are having problems getting their financial support cheques from student financial assistance.

Can the Minister inform me if she is aware of any problems that the department has had in making sure that these cheques are being issued to the students on time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been aware of different problems in regards to students not being paid for the FANS (Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students).

In one particular case or group of students was the early childhood education students here in Iqaluit. The problem was the students had to do their applications 30 days before the program started but they had not done so, until I think, they were in the program.

That put a delay on the process but we were able to do bridge financing to the students and solve the problem that way. So, I can say that I'm aware of all the problems that are related to the FANS and we're trying to deal with them right now. Hopefully we'll be able to improve the services to the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know and I'm sure that the Premier can attest that there were some students who were taking the jewellery program here, who were not getting their cheques on time.

I would like to ask the Minister if she could indicate if she was aware of that situation, what the problem was there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm also aware of that one and one of the problems we were having is that we had a decreased level of staffing at FANS and we had technical problems with the computer.

We just had casuals who were not trained but very dedicated staff and in cases we had to do bridge financing and help the students as soon as we were aware of it. A lot of times the students are not applying on time for FANS. That's one of the big problems.

I think we'll have to have our staff, the adult educators help with the application process in the future to improve the service so that we can have students that are being paid. A lot of times, the application has not even been done on time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that staffing levels and technical problems are a couple of the reasons why students are not getting their cheques on time.

I would like to ask the Minister to commit, to make sure that these young people, not just young people, but older people who are making the commitment to go back and educate themselves, better themselves, making the sacrifices, in a lot of cases, that is indicated

that they are leaving home, that the issuance of their cheques will be made a priority by her department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already had my staff meet with the FANS group, to try to make sure that applications are filled on time and given to my staff in the Education Department and to make sure that students get paid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is good to hear that, because in the past I have gone out hunting with some students just because they have no food to eat, just for them to be able to have some meat to be able to eat at home.

I know over the last five years, and longer, that they have faced these challenges and it seems inconceivable that they are still having these problems of making sure that students get paid on time.

The Minister indicated that the College is at arms length from her department. Is there no cooperation, or communication between the College and the Department, specifically, the division that handles Student Financial Assistance. To ensure that students know what they have to do in order to achieve or obtain their funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess that I can say that there needs to be better communication between the two parties, the Education Department and the Arctic College staff.

When Arctic College Adult Educators have students, we have to make sure that their applications are being filled. Maybe that should be the responsibility of the Adult Educator, so that my Department, the Education Department is notified before the course starts.

Many times the course starts and students have not even filled out the application that is one of the problems. So we need to improve our communication with both parties. Mr. Speaker, one of the suggestions that can be made is that we need one-stop shop for adults who are trying to get education or training through the College, so that they can get help with their application, and help and assistance from one person instead of two different people, from two different departments, even though they are both under education.

We need to improve on our communication. We are working on that. I have met with the Board on the weekend; I met with the President, and have also met with my Deputy

Minister and staff to improve the communication between the two. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 641 – 1(6): Support Local Businesses for Contract

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in response to the Member for Baker Lake, the Minister of Housing, recently said last week that in terms of shipped supply and erect, and because of a pilot project in the Kitikmeot, we could do all that.

Can the Minister elaborate on his statement saying that they can do all of Nunavut. Can the Minister elaborate on that comment a little more that they're going to be giving the contracts to local contractors in all of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Housing. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I indicated that we would do the construction phase for 2004 in two parts; supply of the material is one package and the erecting of the housing units as a second contract.

So, that would make the contracts a bit smaller, more manageable and it would give local companies more of an opportunity I believe to bid on the projects. I'm not saying that it's guaranteed that it will go to a local company but it gives more opportunity for the smaller companies in our communities to be competitive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the problems that the local communities, local contractors always have is the bid bonding.

They're asked to put in a certain amount of money in order to ensure that if they somehow screw up on the building that somebody would be able to rescue them. Can the Minister ensure that if there are contractors in communities that are willing to try for the contract but don't have the means to put a bid bond in; there will be some assistance in some form? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do understand that for some companies the issue of bid bonding poses some difficulty.

In the past, we have had an opportunity where we pass on the responsibilities to the Local Housing Authority, or the local municipality and let them tender out the projects and let them use some of their guidelines in respect of allowing opportunities for those companies.

That could be one of the avenues to look at. In addition, Mr. Speaker, we would be willing to look at trying to assist local companies that may not be able to obtain the necessary bid bonding providing that we still have to ensure Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that we still have ensure, we're confident that the contractor is able to carry out their work. I think, we all in this Assembly, would recognise that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question would be, so is the Minister saying that out of the 116 new public housing units, at least 80 of those units, the contracts will be divided into the supply, ship and erect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, have supply and ship on one side of a tender and for construction on the other side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 642 – 1(6): Income Support Workers Policies and Guidelines

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked about in my Member's Statement the income support workers and whether they have policies or not because they have quite a bit of power. Are there a guidelines or rules that they follow? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is the Member talking about? What does the Member mean, authority? Could the Member clarify that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irgittuq would you please clarify the question for the Minister?

Mr. Irgittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I made my Members' Statement earlier, I talked about the authority of Income Support Workers having too much authority. Even if they do not see a receipt, or a paper, they should be able to give out income support to an individual. They do not have the right to tell an individual that they have received money already from elsewhere, without having any proof. Do they have the authority to do those kinds of stuff? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Income Support has guidelines and they have to follow their guidelines. That is the way they work. So, individuals who receive money from elsewhere, cannot be given income support in excess.

The only thing that they use is the guidelines that they have to distribute, or give out income support, because they have to be able to have the information from the individual what other monies have been received.

Whether they can not give out income support just from hearsay, and if he or she sees somebody receiving money, the Income Support worker has the authority to not give out money if they know that they are receiving money from elsewhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that, but there is always a but, my Members' Statement was true, Mr. Speaker, the Income Support worker's authority is very powerful.

Can you provide us with the guidelines that the Income Support worker has? Saying that they can give a certain amount of money when they have seen the individual receive money from elsewhere, because they do not even know how much the individual got when they see them get some money.

Can you provide us with the guidelines that the Income Support workers use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regulations that are used by the Income Support worker, I can provide those. They have the regulations to work by, that is why they pay the individual a certain amount of money. If an individual is not satisfied with the amount of money that they receive, there is also going to be a Committee, which is called the Appeal Board, that an individual can go to if they feel that they have been wrongly assessed. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Irqittuq.

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister says that she can provide the regulations of the income support workers.

I wonder if the Minister can provide those regulations before the end of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes I will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 643 – 1(6): Justice Services in the Communities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under Members' Statements, I talked about probation officers and inmates who come home, if there are probation officers in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency, I have been given some questions that I have to ask, so I would like to ask the question. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister provide some detail as to how many communities have independent probation officers providing probation services and how many communities still rely on social workers to provide services in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there are about 10 probation officers in the communities who provide probation services for people who have just come from facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understand this properly, there are about 10 communities with probation officers. Which one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, 10 at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

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

Some of the Members of the Legislative Assembly here probably think that there are no probation officers. In some communities, there are none. So for this reason, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary question whether the Department has any plans to provide additional rehabilitative and healing programs with a cultural base and with community elder participation.

Can the Minister update us as to where this is at the present time in the communities where they don't have probation officers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The individuals who need to be looked after like, we want to provide those services in the communities, although there are no services of that kind in the communities; social services is the department that provides social workers.

There is not really a permanent position at this time to look after rehabilitative and healing programs for those ex-inmates. What we're trying to do is get a service of some kind in the Kitikmeot Region so there would be a healing place and additional preventative measures against crime. At this time, we don't have permanent staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this has been the concern many times and we try as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we try and get information from our constituents and I was told that this was a concern by some of the people in the community.

Mr. Speaker, what types of programs are offered to offenders while incarcerated that are geared towards the prevention of re-offending. The Minister said that there are ten community corrections officers but there are 27 communities in Nunavut.

There is a lack of those officers under the Department of Justice and I would urge the Minister that there should be more things done to help the offenders who are going back home to their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree with my colleague.

We would like to see these officers in the communities and I am in support of how they could deal with them at the local level and also deal with the outpost camps and we can provide support.

We tried to do it with community correction officers but the funding is insufficient to get all the Nunavut community corrections officers. So, we're utilizing the funding where it's needed the most.

They do provide corrections officers too, in the communities through social workers. Usually the social workers provide those services when they have to deal with not too many offenders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Mr. Havioyak.

Question 644 – 1(6): Wind Generator Repair in Kugluktuk

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to Minister Picco and to the Energy Corporation.

As you know, he stated yesterday in the House, in regards to wind generators because it would be more of those that we'll see in the future, because perhaps we'll be using more of these wind generators for electricity and what not.

As you know in Kugluktuk, there are two wind generators that were built by the NWT Power Corporation. One is down at the moment. Would there be any repairs for the one that is down already so that we can utilize these for energy and electricity? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut expends about 36 million litres of fuel a year to provide electricity to Nunavummiut. 36 million litres and we wonder sometimes where the costs come from.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut spend \$121 million, or almost 20% of its total budget in providing energy in oil, fuel, gas, in providing electricity to Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, we have a very serious addiction to oil, and we need to get off it. Mr. Speaker, on the horizon, one of the opportunities that we have is wind power. Coming through the foyer here in the building we can see fans that are in operation.

Mr. Speaker, that same principle would be in use with the windmills. Mr. Speaker, in Kugluktuk's case, these are some of the old windmills that were installed by the previous Northwest Territories Power Corporation, did not have the logistics, as well as technical ability to produce wind in the climate, generate electricity in the climate.

Mr. Speaker, we are currently reviewing, as I said in my Statement yesterday, a request for proposals on actually bringing into force a number of windmills and examining those projects.

Mr. Speaker, I can also add that at the end of the month, we would hope to be in the position where NRCAN has completed a wind map for Nunavut, where we would be in the position as a Government to be able to say where the best locations are for possible

wind generation with wind turbines, that is what the technical phrase that should be used, is wind turbines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister for your response. As you know the two wind generators were put up, and I have not forgotten that, as you are probably aware that the two windmills are very expensive. Perhaps for one, at least \$250 thousand dollars. That is just an example, perhaps it costs more. Would it be less cost effective if you would have the other wind generator put up?

As you stated that you are reviewing that, while we wait, we can utilize the one that is already in operation and then we can repair the other one, so we can save costs of running just one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the past, under the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, the windmills were put in haphazardly. Meaning, Mr. Speaker that they chose a community, and they stuck a windmill in a given community. They did that in numerous communities, a number of communities. Mr. Speaker, there was no funding for O and M, continuing operation. They were done on an experimental basis.

Mr. Speaker, under the RFP, what we would like to do, as the Member pointed, and he is making a good point, if you have that critical mass, for example, we believe that it is five and ten wind turbines, and then you would actually have a person on the ground who would do O and M maintenance on it. And also with that number, they would actually create at the end of the day, the generated power from the wind turbine, it would help alleviate some of the costs.

So the capitalization costs, or the costs of putting those wind turbines in place, would be able to pay for themselves on a shorter amortization schedule. So that is plan right now. The turbine that was in Kugluktuk is old technology; it did not work, and for us to go back in and spend several hundred thousand dollars it could be to replace it or to fix it, it would be better to install the newer windmills.

It may be, Mr. Speaker, that when the NRCAN wind map is complete, that Kugluktuk could be identified as one of the better sites for the wind turbine farm that we spoke about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear your response that you are thinking of Kugluktuk as a good place to put up the windmills.

I'm very please to hear that. You talk about the scope of work (Interpretation end) includes the design, financing, construction and ongoing operations and maintenance of the wind generating system.

In that you also mentioned further down, saying that you have an evaluation criteria. What type of criteria do you have? If you don't have it, can you commit to making it available to the Members in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, wind energy and wind turbines are not new. However, the application of it north of 60 is something that different companies and jurisdictions have been dealing with. What we have done is we have our own evaluation criteria for the five RFPs and also Mr. Speaker, I asked that the Minister of NRCAN, I met with the Minister of Natural Resources Canada in Ottawa and they are also doing an independent review of the five RFP proposals that we received for the wind turbines.

They will also be using their independent criteria to judge to see which is the best fit for Nunavut. So, instead of just going ahead and picking the cheapest design and sticking it up and in two years falling down, we're hoping to be in the position where with NRCAN, our federal partners, to have something in the long terms that will actually generate good dependant electrical power for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Final supplementary. Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can you make the criteria that you use to get these available to the House for us to review? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 645 – 1(6): Disability Services

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little bit confused as to which Minister I should direct my question to.

I would like to direct my question to the Minister for Community Government and Transportation in regards to my Members Statement. There are young people out there who are jobless and they have to feed their children and they're not used to eating country food and they would rather eat store bought food. especially the young children

who have no jobs. Are there any programs and services to provide them more support?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I would ask that either Minister Thompson or Minister Akesuk address that question. I know they are overlapping but you can chose amongst yourselves. Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way I understand the Member is that the people with children who have physical disabilities, that they be given more support.

If the Member could clarify his question; it seems like his question was directed towards transportation. I apologise, but I did not quite understand his question, Mr. Speaker.
Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Alakannuark, further clarification on your question please.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank you. I made a mistake.

I was supposed to ask a question to the Minister Responsible for Income Support. Some parents have physical disabilities and at times they can hardly manoeuvre around. And some parents have physical disabilities and they have no means of making money except that they depend on income support.

They have to wait for a whole month for their income support money. How can we give more support to the physically challenged people with children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Physically disabled people are given support as well.

I'm looking to give more support to those physically challenged people. I have met with Federal Government officials, with Minister Stewart. I spoke to him about this issue of physically challenged people.

Yes, we have to provide more support to the physically challenged people and I'm looking for ways to provide them with more support. We've tried to provide them with additional funding through income support programs, especially those who are physically challenged. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral Questions. Supplementary. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to thank the Minister for providing me with the information.

Are there regulations for providing support to the physically challenged people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Physically challenged people, yes, we have considered them. There is no act or regulation to that but we provide additional funding on top of the income support that they receive.

The legislation was implemented back in 1978 in the Northwest Territories days. For that reason, I'm trying to work with my federal counterparts and I'm requesting additional funding to be used for Nunavut for the people who are physically challenged because we have to provide additional support to those people.

We pay close attention to these individuals who have physical disabilities and our income support workers have that knowledge. 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 her response.

Is it possible for the Minister to tell us about what other additional programs might be accessible? Thank you.

Speaker: Minister Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already informed the Member that Section 3 (B) applies and that's in regards to the physically disabled and their eligibility for interim support.

I have already given the information to the Member and the other Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Members will note that Question Period is now over. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause and Laughter*

Speaker: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Are there any nays? Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My little brother is here, I would like to recognize him, Samuelie Iqaqrialu, and also his two friends. I know them all and they are in the Gallery. Again, I thank my little brother for taking care of my mother, and for hunting for her, while I am in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Moving on to Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report 018 – 1(6): Bill 37 an Act to Amend the Liquor Act and Bill 43 an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act – COW Review of Bill

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 37, an Act to Amend the Liquor Act, and Bill 43, an Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, have been reviewed by the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Services, and that the Bills are ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 135 – 1(6): Nunavut Housing Corporation Public Housing Unit Allocation for 2004-2005

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you. I wish to Table the following document. The Nunavut Housing Corporation Public Housing Unit allocation for 2004-2005. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Tabled Document 136 – 1(6): Letter to Member Rebekah Williams

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to Table the following document. It is a letter addressed to Ms. Williams, the MLA for Quttiktuq, dated August 25, 2003, in response to her letter in relation to corrections, and amongst other things, which she wrote to me on June 26th, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 137 – 1(6): Co-op Briefing Note on Nunavut Government Policy
Commercial Accommodations**

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to Table a document from the Arctic Co-ops Limited regarding the Nunavut Government's policy on commercial accommodation dated May of 2003, in regards to Edmonton Companies using bunk houses for large construction projects in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Bill 12, Bill 33, Bill 44, Bill 45, Bill 46, Bill 47, Bill 48, with Mr. Irqittuq in chair.

Before we proceed, we'll take a short break. Mr. McLean has asked if any members wish to have their photo taken with our special guest and have books signed, they can do so here in the chamber during our break time.

We'll take a short break and we'll try to get the Members in a short while.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>House recessed at 15:41 and resumed at 16:11

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

Chairman (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. Order. The committee will now come to order. We're dealing with Bill 12, Bill 33, Bill 44, Bill 45, Bill 46, Bill 47 and Bill 48.

What is the wish of the Committee? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee would like to continue with Capital Estimates for 2004/2005, starting with Housing Corporation and if we have extra time, we would like to deal with Department of Public Works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Agreed. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2004/2005, the Government of Nunavut has allocated capital funding of \$15.9 million to the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation continues to provide funding of approximately \$4.3 million for modernization and improvement projects. In addition, Mr. Chairman, we're now finalizing the recently announced \$40 million social housing infrastructure cost shared program in partnership with Infrastructure Canada and Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation.

Included in this federal funding of \$10 million in 2004/2005, the total capital for housing purposes is \$30.2 million. New public housing units will be constructed in all 25 communities, ensuring that all Nunavummiut benefit from these funds.

Investment will continue this government's commitment to addressing over crowding in public housing and as well, introduce advanced energy saving initiatives through increased insulation values that exceed the national building code by at least 25 percent.

Also, 10 percent of the units will be barrier free. The Housing Corporation will continue to address the needs of our growing seniors and special needs populations. To ensure the availability of mapping funds for the strategic infrastructure fund investment, this year's modernization and improvement funding has been decreased to \$2.4 million of Government of Nunavut funds.

With the addition of the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation funding for MNI, a total of \$6.7 million will be used to improve 599 units during 2004/2005. Home owner repair and renovation programs continue to be a key capital spending area for the Housing Corporation.

As in previous year, dollars will be block funded to district offices, giving them the flexibility to respond to community and district specific program demands. In addition, the Housing Corporation is working with Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation to finalize an agreement to deliver its nearly revised residential rehabilitation assistance program in Nunavut.

We expect that these negotiations will be completed shortly providing an additional \$404 thousand per year in funding. Overall equipment funding is a recurring capital requirement for the Housing Corporation.

Local Housing Authorities are block funded for maintenance vehicles, based on a minimum 8 year replacement policy. \$400 thousand is available for this program.

Fire damage replacement funding is allocated at the headquarters level. The corporation does not carry insurance on its single homes and duplexes. A recent increase in fires has required the corporation to increase funding allocations to this line from \$600 thousand to \$1 million.

Mr. Chairman, we look forward to your comments and questions in reference to our capital plans for 2004/2005. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, I am pleased to be able to provide the Opening Comments as we begin the review of 2004 and 2005 Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation earlier this month to review the 2004-2005 Capital Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to congratulate the Minister on the recent announcement of strategic infrastructure funding for new public housing in Nunavut. The Committee has consistently advocated for unique solutions for the housing crisis in Nunavut and applauds the Government of Nunavut's efforts to work with the Federal Government on this never ending issue.

Committee Members caution the Minister to ensure that adequate ongoing Operation and Maintenance funding is made available. As every homeowner knows the cost of maintaining a home can be more expensive in the long run than the initial outlay.

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members are aware that this new injection of funding into public housing will not address all the needs in the Territory. Members continue to urge the Minister to seek opportunities for partnerships with the private sector and other Government of Nunavut Departments to increase the housing stock.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee realizes that homeownership programs are an important way to encourage people to move into private homes and out of public housing.

However, Committee Members continue to urge the Minister to provide more transparent, detailed information to the House as to the Corporation's allocations of homeownership funding.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee recognizes that our meeting with the Minister preceded the recent Federal funding announcement and therefore, information on community housing allocations was not available.

However, Members are disappointed that draft community allocations were not provided to the Committee for review. Sorry, on that, we had them today. So, thank you Minister for giving them to us.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee noted that Government of Nunavut jobs in many communities, not just in Iqaluit, continue to be advertised, but do not offer housing. In addition, there are no Capital Dollars in the 5-Year Plan for staff housing.

Committee Members are concerned that positions will be increasingly difficult to fill and urges the Minister to Table in the Legislative Assembly a long-term staff housing plan and a report on the access of the Condominium Ownership Program.

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members realize that the Corporation is undertaking a review of the current staff housing rent scale and look forward to discussing this with the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Committee Members recognize that reliable vehicles are necessary to enable Local Housing Organizations to properly maintain the housing stock.

However, the Corporation's plan spending in new vehicles in coming years represents a significant amount of money, \$2 million over the next five years and Members urge the Corporation to develop a Vehicle Usage Policy that will curb the perceived personal usage of Corporation vehicles.

That concludes my comments of the Capital Estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Individual Members may wish to raise questions or make comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng, do you have your Officials here with you? You can go to the Witness Table with your Officials. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, can you please escort them to the witness table. Thank you. Minister Ng, if you can introduce your staff for the record. Thank you.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: The one to my right is Mr. Peter Scott, President and to my left is Mr. Chris Darcy, Director of PPD being Policy Planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We have 10-minutes for General Comments to the Minister of Housing for his opening. First person is Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my comments will not take 10-minutes, I don't think, but I would like to welcome Peter Scott; Mr. Scott goes way back in the Housing Corporation. He has a vast background in Housing Corporation policies and procedures and it's a pleasure to work with Mr. Scott. So far, he's been very, very good to me as a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Darcy has been around for a long time too. It's good to see experienced staff at the helm of this important department.

It doesn't have as much money as it should have. I would like to see it double and triple to satisfy the needs of Nunavut. But on that, Mr. Chairman, there is always going to be a shortage of public housing in Nunavut. There always has been.

We try to address that and the Government tries to address that. They're very vigilant on that. I don't think the Minister has not taken the responsibility of public housing issues in Nunavut seriously. He's been working at it and he takes it seriously.

On that issue, there's another issue that I'd like to bring up and we don't seem to be talking about it enough and that is private home ownership. It's a very good program that we've got that someone gets 25 thousand dollars for a down payment on a new home and there's 15 thousand dollars existing out there for a used home.

In my community, with decentralization, all the government staff houses are full. It took a while but they're all full now, I can gladly say because I was harassed quite a bit in the last couple of years with them being empty.

There was pressure on me to turn them into public housing. And at this point I was saying, well, if we turn them into public housing, there will be no government jobs in Baker Lake. So, it's nice to see them all full.

But, on that issue, there is still a large group of people who are in public housing in Baker Lake who are government employees and issues like that and they're scared of the idea of home ownership.

They would sooner pay the one bill a month and then they wouldn't have to worry about water, sewer, garbage, fuel, electricity, all those bills and land leases and stuff like that. But what I'm getting to here is that being a private home owner in Nunavut, on one income, is a really scary proposition today.

It's very scary and I don't know what the answer is. I know people are consoled into becoming private owners, home ownership and they're encouraged to get into it and stuff like that but in the last five years, I've seen a lot of people in my community have to get out of private home ownership because they couldn't afford it.

So, I don't know if private home ownership in this territory is going to get down to what you need or you must have two incomes, but I'm starting to detect that unless you have two incomes, it's very difficult to get into private home ownership in Nunavut.

Probably, especially more in Iqaluit because the housing costs here are probably a lot more than they are in communities like mine. I don't know what the issue there is. Maybe raising the thresholds of the down payment, maybe giving more money to buying a used home.

But on that front, when people go to buy used homes, there are a lot of people in the smaller communities who buy a used home who don't exactly know what they're getting into. The home may need major renovations and repairs down the road.

And I'm saying down the road three or four years. And doing minor renovations in a community like mine is a major renovation. I would encourage your department, and like

I say, Mr. Scott there has a background in housing and he knows many people who are private home owners.

So, if there is some kind of federal program out there that people can access, outside of the corporation for re-insulating windows, doors and stuff like that, the corporation has a great reputation of fixing up houses in my community with doors and windows and stuff.

But, the more private home owners are getting into the market, the more pressure there's going to be on the Housing Corporation to provide funding for home improvements. I would look down the not distant road to providing, if it's possible, no interest loans for home owners who want to fix up their houses.

I don't know if that's possible to do in this Government, but I'm sure if people could get no interest loans, and I know they do it in provinces to renovate their homes, or make them more energy efficient to fix them up, would probably be received.

With current interest rates today being at an all time low, I don't think the government would lose a lot of money on it. But for a home owner, a private home owner and I'm talking about under a certain income, to go to the bank and get a loan to fix up their house, is very difficult.

The banks may caught carrying their mortgage saying you know, you're already in over your head now and I don't want to lend you anymore money. So, it's just something to consider, because I know in some provinces they will give you no interest loans to fix up your house, and that might encourage more work in the private sector, etc., etc. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is all that I have.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The next speaker is Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for coming, as well as your officials. I just want to make a brief comment right now in regards to elders.

They used to provide homes for elders when we were under the GNWT. I think that it would be beneficial for the elders if we could find some kind of subsidized housing for these elders.

We all know that the Government of Nunavut does not have all that much money to try and provide housing for the elderly people. If we can find some way to help and make some room for these elders in each community so we can provide some adequate housing for the elders.

Also the other comment that I wanted to make for those homeowners. I would like to encourage the Minister and his Officials, to remember, and as Mr. McLean mentioned earlier that we have to try and encourage people out there to give them information about the housing that is available for purchasing, because some people have questions, or they say, "What am I going to do for housing, I do not have any income, I am not working."

The Government should provide information to the public and to those people out there who might be interested in getting their own homes.

(interpretation ends) The business owners, the business people of the Chamber of Commerce members, where they have members who are interested in building, not only office space, but also apartment buildings.

I am sure that the Minister and the department encourage businesses to build apartment buildings where they do not have enough units, for example, staff housing, maybe.

I am sure that you made some contact with the local Chamber of Commerce; this is the route that we want to go in the future and work towards local businesses building apartment buildings to meet the needs of the Government for not only in de-centralization, but also in other communities. That is going to make a difference.

Again, you are making some room for the people who are on the waiting list, if they move to an apartment building? When I say they, I mean the Government of Nunavut staff moving to the staff housing.

That is all that I have for now, but I will be asking questions on this later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have names on my list. Mr. Netser, Mr. Anawak, Mr. Alakannuark, and Mr. Iqaqialu. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my campaign, part of my platform was that there are many private home owners in Nunavut communities.

It's very nice to see private home owners. In the past, there was a HAP housing program back in 1985, which had started in about 1980. The units that were built with HAP housing and these units were deteriorating.

(interpretation ends) When you filled out the application, they said come next year, come back next year.

(interpretation) That continues to happen. It's not very nice to be told come back next year. It states here that the private home owners have access to funding for renovations and Mr. Chairman, I have questions in regards to that when the appropriate time comes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Anawak.

Mr. Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk about housing, and how we can have more economic opportunities at the local level, when the local construction workers build a unit at the local level, I believe they could have cost savings

there because when the construction workers come to a community from the outside, they end up including the cost of airfare in the mortgage because you have to ship those construction workers.

For example, if they're constructing a unit in Cape Dorset, they have to pay the travel costs of getting the construction workers there. They pay for the airfare, accommodations and meals.

If there are many construction workers, I believe that is one of the major costs. This has to be rectified. The Minister of Sustainable Development has been working very hard in regards to the Naujaat Challenge in order to economically develop the communities themselves.

How can we get construction material at a cheaper rate? If we get our materials at a cheaper rate, then we can construct more units. Right now for example, if there are three units being built in Repulse Bay, or Pond Inlet, or three units allocated to Cape Dorset, then there would be three different RFPs. One for the construction of three units in Repulse Bay, and construction of three units in different communities.

They would require three different RFPs for that. I wonder how your department would feel. It doesn't necessarily have to be for the whole communities. These are just examples. If these units are going to be allocated to the Baffin Region, who would supply the materials before the actual contract is awarded?

If one company is awarded to do the supply, the material to the Baffin region, for 20 units, wouldn't it be cheaper to RFP the 20 units instead of doing it separately for each community because each community is going to receive three units and they're request for proposals for contract bidding is done separately.

I believe that you have to consider this area if we really want to build units that are going to be rented for public housing. How can we look at costs savings so that we can construct more units?

They could be constructed at the local level. And if we cannot do it for Nunavut-wide, and one supplier, one company could supply the material and then the contract could be split up after the fact.

Also, some communities who would like to receive units, for example, a young couple, or a single family cannot get into a unit, even if they are given \$25 thousand in assistance, they are unable to afford it.

How can we build a small unit with room for expansion in the later years so that the private homeowner can at least put an addition to it, after they has paid off the mortgage?

I think that these are some of the things that you could consider, or at least focus on. In the beginning they could get a two bedroom home, and then leave room for expansion in

the later years, so that they can just expand the small unit when the family grows. That is what we could do.

Also, the Member for Nanulik had just alluded to the HAP housing units that could be paid off within five years, with the five year mortgage, where they live in their unit for five years. Yes, that is very good to use, and it was a very good system.

Nowadays, currently, some of those homeowners are no longer working, or the family had split up and they cannot afford to pay the mortgage. How can we provide more support to these individual homeowners? Even though they want to maintain their home, they cannot afford to pay off their bills.

Or perhaps, if no one is working within that family home, perhaps Income Support could pay for their mortgage. Those are some of the ideas that you can look into. If we are going to be encouraging homeowners in Nunavut, how can we provide them with more support?

In regards to what Mr. McLean had said that perhaps have an interest-free loan for the homeowners, one thing that I have considered often is that is in Nunavut, there are many economic opportunities out there. One of the major economic spin-offs is to have construction of units built by the communities themselves.

If the unit is built at the local level, I know that it could take a little bit longer to complete the construction. Since they are from the local community, they would put care into the construction of the unit, whether they are family members, or their brothers would move into that home, because they live in that house. At least they could put in more care into the actual construction into the unit.

When we get outside construction workers, they rush to complete the unit, because of course, they are homesick. That is why at times they do not really put care into the construction of the unit.

So therefore, I am urging your department to look into this. If we really want to have economic opportunities at the local level, we could at least try it on a trial basis for one community and allocate the supplying of material to one, perhaps, if Housing cannot bid on it, or the Hamlet Council, or the local Housing Association can take on that contract so that they could get construction workers.

If they do not have any electricians, yes, they could bring in electricians, but at least money could remain at the community level, if the money remains at the local level, then they could generate more economic opportunities and there could be more capacity building at the local level.

So, these are some of the things that I would like to see. If there are barriers in the community, to give the local contractor a contract, let's get rid of those barriers. I'm sure

they would say that the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation has criteria and regulations that we have to abide by.

If there is room to go around it, let's put the majority of the units to the community so that they can construct it at the local level and keep the money in the community so that the local people can benefit from it rather than just depending on income support. Those are some of the things I wanted to point out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to say that I have a lot of friends out there all over Nunavut.

When they're not meeting the needs of the people of Nunavut, it's just as if they dislike just like my friends. I would like to know if that applies to the whole of Nunavut. When there are too many things happening and application of rents and so on, this is something that I've been concerned about since the first assembly.

It seems like all the money we make goes out to expenses we don't have any pocket change left. In regards to the capital estimates, I have no problems with those but it's the expenses or the rents that I'm concerned about.

Many people of Nunavut are unemployed at the community level and even if we try to start up a small business, it takes a long time to get it going because you never have enough for start up because the expenses take up all your money.

As, I agreed with what Mr. McLean was saying, there is revenue coming into the Housing Corporation by way of rent. If they paid for corporate taxes then they try to get it back through their rent revenue.

So, that is how most of the Housing Authorities go into deficit situations. I think it's possible to relocate the expenditures in the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I'm glad that the Housing Corporation is here. As we heard earlier, it's an experienced entity but I don't see that.

From that point and as was discussed in the Capital Estimates, we were also talking about the homeownership programs and the subsidies. Once a person gets a house under the homeownership program, they have to pay for all of the expenses.

We also heard that there was a \$25 thousand Down Payment Assistance Program and there is nothing in the House at all. There is no other financial assistance for these homeowners.

Some of the homeowners in the smaller communities are working, but they do not have any money left at the end of the day. Some of them make about from \$25-45 thousand and some of them are casual workers and when they are casual workers the money that

they make is usually between \$18 to, \$17-18 thousand. I think that we should factor all those in.

As people of Nunavut, we are finally learning about these programs. I think that there should be assistance programs through the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I am sure that we are not going to be all pleased, but there are programs that we can set up.

I have no problems, but one thing that I also wanted to mention is that we are given money from the Federal Government and the Nunavut Government provides the housing to Nunavut.

What other monies can the Housing Corporation access in order to increase the number of houses that are being built in Nunavut? We have a severe shortage of housing and there is, in my household, there is myself, my wife and I have six children and when they are all over 20 it will have an effect on the rent that we are paying.

So, we have to think about those household expenses. I wanted to make those general comments and I can tell you that everybody is my friend except when they are working. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And Mr. Chairman, I understand where everybody is coming from and I agree with everybody. It is quite hard when we have a significant shortage of housing. I believe that there are approximately 28 thousand people in Nunavut in 27 communities that all have a shortage of housing.

I am sure it must be pretty hard for the Housing Corporation's staff when you have problems and because of course, you have to look at all of the communities.

I would like Members to know that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is doing it's very best to decrease the shortage in housing. In our goal as a Government and through the Bathurst Mandate, we have to make sure that we look at health and safety issues.

That is exactly what we are trying to do, but at times, it is quite hard when you do not have enough housing for the people of Nunavut and that is why the conflict comes in between the communities and the Government. There is overcrowding in a lot of the communities and sometimes there are two or three nuclear families living under one roof and it is usually people who are related who live under the same roof.

At times it is quite hard, I am sure, for the staff, but here we are still smiling because our stomachs are full, we eat good, we are living in heated homes, but when you hear about the problems or the concerns at the community level, it is extremely hard at times.

The previous Government, when they were not getting enough money, they cut away, they did away with the homeownership programs and got into access housing where the

clients had a 15-year mortgage and their monthly payments were based on their income, if I remember correctly.

At times, after I was elected as the Member of the Legislative Assembly, there were times when people approached me about their not being able to pay, make their monthly payments and sometimes it is quite hard to make your monthly payments and we also have to factor in the increasing price of fuel and an increase in their salary does not happen very often.

With that, there are many expenses that have to be paid by the homeowner. Since we became Nunavut, we now do not have any money for public housing, although it is something that was initiated by the previous Government.

We feel for the people of Nunavut, and as a homeowner, I know exactly where the people of Nunavut are. As a homeowner you have monthly expenses that you have to keep up with.

Mr. Chairman, another issue that I have talked about quite often during the Standing Committee meetings is I am familiar with the previous Government and when they went into a deficit situation, they made a decision for private businesses to build houses, any type of houses, apartments, duplexes, and so on. The Government promised that they would pay for the O and M costs. We have been going through very hard time up to today.

The homeowners have helped a lot and they have decreased the lack of housing; they have freed up some of the public units when they bought their own houses.

In 1999 when we became a Government, the Housing Corporation, did not seem to be able to meet the demands. Probably in the future if we work hard, and if we access more monies from the Federal Government, we might solve our problem.

Mr. Chairman, I will have some questions at the appropriate time for the Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I will give you the opportunity to ask questions later. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the Chairman for allowing me to speak on my general comments. I will just talk briefly.

Perhaps if I could go back a few years. At that time when we first started getting houses in our communities, I remember when we started settling into the communities, the first time from the camps that we used to live in, and later on, when we had some houses built by the Housing Corporation.

I will just use it as an example; when I first received a house, I used to pay \$12, I think, \$12 a month, but how it is a humongous amount today per month. Everything costs a lot of money, and I know that it costs a lot of money to ship those materials to the communities. Everything costs a lot of money nowadays.

There are people who we have to pay wages to the people who build houses; there are different kinds of people who we have to pay. I just wanted to mention that today, we can't really make houses for ourselves; we have to rely on the construction workers and contractors because there are various things to building a house such as putting in the heating system and the plumbing and the electrical work; they have to be up to code and there are various ways of heating a house, whether it be through electricity or by other means.

However, there should be some people trained in the communities to be able to do plumbing and heating and other things that are involved in building a home. I know there are plumbers out there and electricians, but we do not have them in our communities.

We have to import them from the south and depending on where they come from, we have to pay for airfare and we have to go up to code while building a house and if it is not up to code, then they do not want to touch it.

I am not trying to belittle them, but I am just saying that it involves a lot of money to build a house. And also, I believe that there is overcrowding because there is not enough money for housing.

Even though there is a sickness in a family and some of the family members have to occupy the same house and it makes them all sick. The issue of overcrowding has to be resolved, even though they are trying to get some more housing, they do not have any houses open for those people who are in the overcrowded situations.

I am just trying to, when I talk, please try to listen to me because I really mean what I am talking about and when I am speaking I do not want any interruptions because I want you to consider my thoughts as well, too. That is it for this time and I will ask questions later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concerns that are voiced by the Members of the Legislative Assembly, especially when we deal with housing, their concerns come up over and over again and I support my fellow Colleagues because they are trying to voice their concerns from the community.

But I am especially concerned about elders' homes in each community because I think they're not thought about too much because they have some other things to do and the elders are forgotten about in the communities.

If they were to build elder's homes it would be better for those elders so they can live by themselves and have things provided for them and for those communities, without the elders' facilities, the Housing Corporation should be able to provide those communities with elders' facilities.

I just wanted to be able to talk about that at this time. Mr. Chairman that is it for now. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few comments to make on this. It's nice to see something in there. There's a lot of new capital for social housing. And we desperately need it all over the place.

But I think what should be made note of is the fact that the Federal Government has given us all this money to build new houses but no money to operate them. As my colleague from Baker Lake would say, it's no secret that the majority of the costs for housing is an ongoing Operations and Maintenance of those units and that's something that now, it's great that we've got all this money to build new houses and thank you very much but we're going to have to dig into our own very limited resources and our Operations and Maintenance funding to fund and maintain those units.

I think a strong case needs to be made to the Minister's counterparts in Ottawa to recognise that fact of the significant costs of social housing and the maintenance of it and that's something that they might be able to take us through the lock in the lily pad.

Again, that's something we desperately need, but it's just like a band aid if there's no money to go along with it to maintain those units. So, I would encourage the Minister and his staff to continue to try and lobby his federal counterparts to make sure that those needs are addressed as well.

The other thing that I wanted to mention is maybe I didn't hear, is over the last couple of years, the capital dollars in the budget for staff housing and I know the Minister had indicated that he wanted to focus on social housing this year but there's a huge shortage of staff housing out there as well.

I'm just wondering what kind of game plan is being put together for that. You look at some of the other projects that we have been approving in capital budgets, things like infrastructure, going into communities with no thought for staff housing.

We don't know if the Minister had indicated and we're still waiting for the list of the staff housing units that are vacant and how long they've been vacant throughout the territory. There are only 38, I think that's what the Minister, I think 38 or 48, and I think is what was indicated last week.

Some of those are existing positions and some of the new stuff that is going in there is going to require more housing as well. Again, I don't see it in there. So, I'm probably looking for some kind of a clarification as to a game plan to address that you know, if not this year, over the next couple of years so that we're not in the bind that we were in, in 1999, when we had no staff housing at all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I have no more names for general comments at this time. Any questions on Nunavut Housing Corporation, on details of capital estimates? We will now go to the capital estimates.

Nunavut Housing Corporation. Department Summary, 12-5. I think we're on 12-5. Questions on this branch summary of 12-5. 12-6. Detail of Capital, Headquarters. \$11 million, 158 thousand. Questions. Baffin Region, Qikiqtaaluk Region, Total. Agreed? 12-6. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Arctic Bay, that there would be two units built, and looking at the other information item that we got today, it says that Arctic Bay would get three units, but in here in the Capital Estimates there are two units.

So in the Public Housing unit allocation, there are three for Arctic Bay, and in the Capital Estimates there are only two. I just want to get clarification on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You will note Mr. Chairman that for the Public Housing units listed in every community is actually last year's delivery. The current year's delivery, as Members know, there was an issue with the Infrastructure Funding not being finalized yet and announced publicly, out of the federal funding.

That has consequences, the preparation of these documents that have been announced, that is why I tabled today the new Public Housing Units Allocations that all Members have before them, which shows Arctic Bay, pretty well, every community three public housing units with the exception of Kugaaruk, Clyde River, Repulse Bay, Arviat and Hall Beach being four units. All the rest are three. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same topic, on the same page, on page 12-6, Mobile Equipment. Is that \$8 thousand for last year's, and this year's? I just need clarification as to what amount it is really. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Member is correct. The amount is \$8 thousand. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this to purchase a vehicle? What is this for? It states mobile equipment, is this a vehicle? It is quite cheap. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I apologize. On page 12-6, Total Headquarters, \$11 million, 158 thousand was not approved. Do you agree? Do you approve the \$11 million, 159 thousand? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): To the Member's comment. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is based on a formula to provide a vehicle replacement reserve funds to each local Housing Authority for their own use, and they pool it depending on what they feel their needs are, when it needs to be replaced, and make that decision themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Qikiqtaaluk Region, 12-7, 12-8, 12-9. Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Arctic Bay in the year 2003-2004, it was \$319 thousand. The amount has decreased for the next fiscal year. Why is the decrease? Is there is less construction?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated in my Opening Comments the Housing Corporation reduced the M and I (Maintenance and Improvement) funding overall across Nunavut to meet our contribution to the Public Housing Program in order to match the funding from Infrastructure Canada to maximize the access of federal funds for Public Housing units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to ask a question on page 12-11, or are we strictly dealing with page 12-6?

Chairman (interpretation): They are part of page 12-6, 12-7, 12-8, and 12-9; we still have not reached 12-11. Comments? Questions? Do you agree? Total Qikiqtaaluk Region, \$2 million, 432 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 12-9, 12-10 for Kivalliq Region and 12-11, questions? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The private homeowner programs, we are provided \$15 thousand to purchase existing homes and this is quite cheap. I was wondering if you are going to increase that amount or is it going to remain the same in the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now it is going to remain the same. There is a review of our existing homeowner programs and it is good to know that there is going to be some changes to the programs and it may be changed in the future, but right now it is still \$15 thousand for a pre-owned unit and \$25 thousand for a new construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): When? It may be very questionable, may be changed, but it is not quite concrete and (interpretation) I would like to get clarification as to when he will actually start.

Yes, there are many private homeowners and their house requires maintenance. Especially in Chesterfield Inlet, there are homeowners, their homes are deteriorating and when do we expect to see the increase for this homeowner program?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I did not say that there would be, I said that there may be in the future, but I mean, obviously our new Legislature, our new Government have to review the Policies that we have to see whether they are adequate and make adjustments that they feel that is not the case.

There are renovation programs, emergency repair programs, and other programs that we have for clientele who may require repairs on their current houses. The Nunavut down payment assistance program that the Member referred to earlier is more specific to purchasing than those programs in respect to repairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Any further questions for the page? Page 12-10 and 12-11, Total Kivalliq Region, Total \$1 million, 232 thousand. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Detail of Capital, Kitikmeot. Page 12-12, 12-3, any questions? Mr. Haviyok.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you. My Opening Comments, as I had stated earlier in the Capitals, but when I look at the 5-Year Capital Plan in regards to the Housing Corporation's estimates, when will we begin to see Elders' facilities in the communities in regards to elders' residences as I had stated earlier, during our Northwest Territories days, while we were under the Government of the Northwest Territories. As we know the elections are coming up in February, would you consider this request? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we have been able to accommodate some requests, but with our limited funding through the existing public housing program that we have, right now, for example, again the Members are aware, that Baker Lake, we partnered with Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation and the municipality to build an elders' residence there to meet some of the demands there. And, of course, the Department of Health and Social Services contributed as well from their savings that they have on a regular basis.

Mr. Chairman, right now, also, Pond Inlet has expressed an interest for an elders' facility and we're working with them based on our current public housing allocations that are available to try to address the things in that community.

So if the Federal Government has a specific request for those communities, then we'll work with them to try to address those needs if at all possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak: The community has to request it directly through the district office. I know the association itself is interested in putting a proposal together or can anybody, like the hamlet, request that rather than having the Housing Association? Is that what you're saying here, because you mentioned Baker Lake as an example before. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would say to the Member that certainly the Local Housing Association would have to have significant input given it's the capital dollars based on their requests for need within that community.

So, I would say if it is a big enough issue the community, would need all organizations to be supportive and would work together and make it happen and we would work with them to try to make that happen as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the Kivalliq and Qikiqtaaluk Regions, I need clarification.

Can I ask questions on page 12-13 Mr. Chairman? Home owner programs are providing funding for 2004/2005, \$450 thousand dollars. That's one.

2003/2004, and \$550 thousand. Homeowner program, and if they wanted, could this be used to renovate or maintain the home that is privately owned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I indicated not only for persons, but for homeowners' repair programs, emergency repair programs, and senior citizens' home owner repair program.

So, there are programs that the Housing Association has just for private home owners. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Any further questions. Total Kitikmeot Region, 1million 17 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Total grants and contributions, 15 million 939 thousand dollars. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Going back to page 12-5. I'm sorry 12-4. Department Summary, Total Capital Expenditures, \$50 million, 939 thousand. Do you agree? Mr. Havioyak.

Mr. Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought that wasn't on. Thank you. I apologise.

\$15 million, shall we say, plus with the federal infrastructure, is that what this is? Just for the record because it's the \$15 million, so it must be in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: You may be a finance Minister in training. Mr. Chairman, the additional \$10 million dollars from Infrastructure Canada will be added to the Housing Corporation for the Public Housing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Are you finished? Mr. Havioyak. Total capital estimates \$50 million, 939 thousand dollars. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree that the Department of Housing Corporation capital estimates is completed? Thank you for coming, Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I would like to thank the committee and also my officials. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Would you like then to move to the Department of Public Works? Ms. Williams.

Ms. Williams (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to start with the opening comments or the speaking notes for Public Works and Services. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Hon. Peter Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the five year capital plans for the Department of Public Works and Services.

Mr. Chairman, over the next five years, the Department of Public Works and Services has budgeted \$27.7 million dollars for capital projects. The necessary projects of these capital dollars are the petroleum products division.

From increasing tank farms and underground pipe inspections, we recognise the need for safe and reliable petroleum products storage in Nunavut communities. Mr. Chairman, the Public Works and Services is cognisant of Nunavut's rapidly growing population.

Projects to improve the territory's existing infrastructure are addressed in the five year capital plan. As I have stated before, we are working with our means to achieve a broad range of capital projects guided by the Bathurst Mandate. We're improving infrastructure to the benefit of Nunavut. For 2004/2005, we have a signed target of \$7.7 million dollars. With this funding we are proposing a variety of projects from vehicle replacement to major expense of fuel bulk storage facilities.

We will continue community consultations to identify needs and to provide for the identified projects. In closing, I would like to thank the Members for their attention. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have regarding our 2004/2005 capital estimates or five year capital plan for Public Works and Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Community Empowerment and Sustainable have any comments? Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As chairman of the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development I am pleased to be able to provide the opening comments as we begin the review of the 04/05 capital estimates for the Department of Public Works and Services.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this month, the Standing Committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Public Works and Services to review the draft 2004-2005 Capital Estimates.

Mr. Chairman, by April 1st, 2004, responsibilities for the Department's Petroleum Products Division will be transferred to the Qulliq Energy Corporation under the umbrella of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

However, the vast majority of the spending for the Department Public Works and Services and 2004-2005 Capital Plan is on initiatives related to tank farms.

Committee Members remain unclear as to what the Capital Planning and approval process will be after the April 2004 transfer and our concern for the public accountability for spending in this area may be weakened.

Mr. Chairman, Members also noted that many of the tank farms in Nunavut do not meet the increasingly stringent Federal Regulations and that its significant financial commitment is necessary to bring the tank farms up to code.

Committee Members urge the Minister to work with his Federal counterparts on funding agreements to assist Nunavut in complying with the new regulations, especially with respect to tank farms that were not up to code when they were inherited from the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, Members note that new vehicles are being purchased in five different communities. Members recognize that vehicles are necessary to allow the maintenance of Government of Nunavut assets. However, we would like the Minister to ensure that a Vehicle Usage Policy is in place.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my Opening Comments. Other Members may wish to ask questions on individual basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister can go up to the Witness Table with his Officials. Sergeant-at-Arms. Thank you, very much. If you would introduce your Officials, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right, our new Deputy Minister, Robert Gunn and on my left, the Assistant Deputy Minister, Mr. David Akoak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): As the usual procedure, we will open up the Floor for 10-minutes, General Comments. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you. I move to Report Progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): There is a Motion on the Floor to Report Progress. There is a Motion on the Floor. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Opposed. Carried. Thank you, very much for appearing before the Committee.

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

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 46, Capital Estimates for 2004 and 2005. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion? Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Nutarak will second the motion.

>>*Laughter*

I was concerned that if I didn't make him second the motion, that he would have jumped out of his Chair. 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. Quirke.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for tomorrow morning, Wednesday, October 29th, the meeting of the Management Services Board in the Tuktu Board Room at 9:00 and a meeting of regular caucus at half past nine in the committee room Natsiq.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday, October 29th 2003:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 12
 - Bill 33
 - Bill 44
 - Bill 45
 - Bill 46
 - Bill 47
 - Bill 48
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Before we adjourn for the day, just a reminder to the Members that there is an event scheduled, I believe by Hon. Akesuk's office at 6:00 in the foyer. Members are all invited.

This House stand adjourned until Wednesday, October 29, 2003 at 1:30 pm.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 18:03*

