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Speaker: The Hon. Levi Barnabas, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Amittuq)
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(Kugluktuk)
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Hon. James Arvaluk
(Nanulik)
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Uriash Puqiqnak
(Nattilik)
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(Pangnirtung)
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Hon. Manito Thompson
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, October 27, 1999

Members Present

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): At this time I would like to ask Mr. Iqittuq to say the opening prayer, please.

>>*Opening Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Item number 2 in our orders of the day, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Ng.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 23 - 1(3): Adoption of the Inuit Employment Plan**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker it is a pleasure for me to rise today to inform members of the Legislative Assembly that the Inuit Employment Plan developed by the Office of the Interim Commissioner, has been adopted in principle by the Government of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, as established in Bathurst Inlet, our government is committed to its obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to ensure we build an effective, functional and skilled public service, which is responsive to the public it serves and increasingly representative of the population of Nunavut.

In keeping with the priorities established by our government, the Inuit Employment Plan ensures that we have a plan in place to help the government in creating a representative public service and, over time, lead to the development of a public service that is representative of the population of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is a very important article for Nunavummiut. It stipulates that the Government of Nunavut is required to increase Inuit participation in the public service to represent the ratio of Inuit in the total population of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, as a newly formed government we have already made progress, but we do realize that we face many challenges in achieving our goal of a representative public service. Mr. Speaker, the IEP developed by the OIC contains a number of strategic initiatives to make it easier for Nunavummiut to gain positive employment with the government. Such initiatives include working with the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth to develop on the job training and mentoring,

a Nunavut Orientation and Language Skills program and developing Nunavummiut in every profession.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the initiatives proposed in the Inuit Employment Plan will have a key role to play in achieving our goal of a representative public service for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Arvaluk.

Minister's Statement 24 - 1(3): Nunavut Literacy Council

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I would like to inform the members of the founding of the Nunavut Literacy Council. Their first meeting was October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The Council held its much anticipated founding conference in Rankin Inlet and featured plain language workshops as well as a gala evening hosted by Peter Gzowski. New board members from across Nunavut gathered on Friday evening for the first annual general meeting. Congratulations to the newly elected Board of Directors.

The Board was pleased to welcome Yvette Sokay from the National Literacy Secretariat, Human Resource Development Council to the conference to say a few words about the beginning of the Nunavut Literacy Council. The Nunavut Literacy Council promotes reading and writing in the official languages of Nunavut through literacy programs and resource development as well as support to literacy projects and practitioners.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage members of the Legislative Assembly to become members in this valuable volunteer organization and support the council's community based literacy projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 25 - 1(3): Polar Bear Management

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I rise today to speak on an issue of great importance to our harvesters in Nunavut; the responsibility we have in managing two thirds of the world's polar bears. Polar bear management is a responsibility we share with the hunters of Nunavut and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

Two primary principles by which polar bears are managed in Nunavut are conservation and sustainable harvesting. These principles are enshrined in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and they are principles by which our ancestors ensured we would have polar bears to hunt today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the statistics I am quoting from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board are based on information that my department collects from hunters and from scientific research

on polar bear populations. The results of these studies are discussed with communities and used along with our Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as a basis for making management decisions.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, the handling of bears during research has raised questions about the impact of such activities on the bears themselves. I take these concerns very seriously and I have directed my department staff to ensure our handling methods are closely monitored during each field session. My Department of Sustainable Development has commissioned an external review of the effects of handling polar bears and the results of this review will be made public as well as my department's responses to it.

Mr. Speaker, since becoming a minister, I have heard concerns from members of this legislature and individual hunters about the terms of polar bear management agreements between communities and the government that were first developed in 1996 and set out in memoranda of understanding. The memoranda of understanding are now four years old and it is time to start examining their success. Where necessary they will be revised to reflect the new information available to us. This is a task that I expect will take several years to review properly.

I also want to say, while recognizing these memoranda of understanding are in need of complete review, these MOU's are extremely important for the joint management of polar bears. The memoranda of understanding serve to demonstrate to the rest of the world that Nunavut as a whole is committed to the sustainable use of its' wildlife resources. But there are concerns about these memoranda of understanding amongst our hunters and I want to say today that these concerns have not gone unheard.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we also must not forget that many of our bears cross provincial and territorial boundaries and international borders. We cannot effectively manage our polar bear population without co-ordinating our activities with our neighbours. So I have asked department officials to begin pursuing the development of formal management agreements with these jurisdictions.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I have also asked Department of Sustainable Development staff to begin working with the communities and Hunters and Trappers Organizations on developing a strategy to increase our public education on bear behaviour and to increase research on development of bear deterrents.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I reiterate my commitment to incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into my department's decision making. Managing our polar bears in a sustainable manner can only be achieved by using a blend of the best practices of modern science and the extensive knowledge of our hunters.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and honour to be this government's first Minister of Sustainable Development and to have the opportunity to put in place a management system for polar bears that is made in Nunavut by Nunavummiut. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Ministers' Statements.

Minister's Statement 26 - 1(3): Y2K - Government of Nunavut is Ready

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you are aware the millennium is coming in a few months and we all have concerns about the effect of the millennium bug, also known as Y2K. Nunavut Emergency Services, under the Department of Community Government and Transportation have been working with the Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments since early in 1999. At that time the Territorial Emergency Response Committee, TERC, was formed with representatives of the Government of Nunavut departments and agencies and other concerned organizations such as the NWT Power Corporation, Northwestel, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Department of National Defence.

On April 1, TERC moved to include Nunavut Government representatives as well. Deputy Ministers have assigned staff to ensure each Government of Nunavut Department is represented on TERC. Each month they meet to discuss their progress on Y2K compliance. The Federal Government along with the provinces and territories have produced several information packages. Public information is also available through the internet. Website addresses and other detailed information are available through Nunavut Emergency Services in the Department of Community Government and Transportation or one of the designated departmental representatives.

Nunavut is better prepared than many other jurisdictions to deal with any disruptions that may occur due to the millennium bug. Due to our isolation, Nunavut is supplied annually with non-perishable goods and fuel. The power corporation has assured us that there will be no unexpected Y2K related power interruptions. Nunavut Emergency Services, the RCMP, the Department of National Defence and Northwestel have community contingency plans in place or being finalized.

The contingency plans include regular time communication checks with each Nunavut community to ensure no disruptions occur. Although we anticipate no disruptions, the Territorial Emergency Response Committee will ensure we are ready in the event of any unforeseen problems.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of this committee for their hard work and for giving up their New Year's Eve plans to ensure the safety of other Nunavummiut. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Havioyak.

Minister's Statement 27 - 1(3): Council of People with Disabilities

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to advise the House today about the Council for People with Disabilities and the disabilities initiatives taken by our government. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has been working very hard in support of people with disabilities and we feel that there are several issues that should be brought to your attention.

(interpretation ends) People with disabilities continue to find themselves without equal access. This causes isolation, lack of self-esteem and contributes to poverty. People with disabilities want to benefit from the programs and services that government has to offer and want input into how these services can be best delivered.

(interpretation) A council was formed to provide a unified voice for people with disabilities and act as a lobby group for equal access. This Council for People with Disabilities has also recently applied for society status. There is not a high degree of public awareness in Nunavut about people with disabilities. The Council for People with Disabilities and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth are working together towards a number of goals.

The council has provided us with a number of recommendations I would like to mention.

(interpretation ends) These recommendations are to increase awareness and accessibility. These recommendations are that government should work together to provide information, education, training, and employment opportunities for people with disabilities; to ensure access to housing is available for people with disabilities; to develop public awareness programs; to help eliminate barriers that people with disabilities experience in schools, work and community life; to make our public buildings and transportation accessible to people with disabilities; to provide government information in multiple formats and languages to ensure the maximum participation of Nunavut residents with disabilities; to ensure the provision of technology training and information in multiple formats for participants with disabilities in the Nunavut education system and workplace.

(interpretation) Presently the Department of Culture, Language, Elders & Youth has provided an initial contribution of 90 thousand dollars towards the formation of the council. We have also initiated policy development to create programs and services for people with disabilities.

(interpretation ends) These initiatives are essential to avoid duplication and to ensure the most beneficial programs and services. Culture, Language, Elders & Youth will work in co-operation with the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure increased access to employment and training for people with disabilities. I would also like to point out that as housing continues to be a concern for this territory, that people with disabilities are also included in the discussions.

(interpretation) Culture, Language, Elders & Youth is committed to using the advice and information provided by the council. This will pave the way for ensuring relevant and cost-effective services, funding and access for all Nunavut residents with disabilities and we will do our best to help in this area. Thank you for listening to me.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Minister's Statement 28 - 1(3): Team Nunavut Clothing for Arctic Winter Games 2000

Hon. Jack Anawak: Thank you. I would like to ask the House to bear with me as I have never run a modelling agency, so bear with me.

(interpretation) I am very excited about the first Nunavut team that will participate in the upcoming Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory in March 2000. Close to 300 athletes, coaches, officials, and cultural performers representing Nunavut will attend this circumpolar event in Whitehorse.

This is our first chance to showcase an all Nunavut team at the Arctic Winter Games. Our participants will wear items designed and produced especially for these games by T. Fox Graphics Limited of Iqaluit. Today I am pleased to unveil the clothing that Team Nunavut will wear as they represent us at the upcoming Arctic Winter Games.

>>*Minister displays clothing*

(interpretation ends) These designs and colours are very symbolic and representative of our flag. Let's all wish our athletes, coaches and volunteers across Nunavut success and fun at the games. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. I am sure that the athletes, coaches and officials will be proud to wear these uniforms. Ministers' Statements. Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 39 - 1(3): Single Time Zone

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Premier of the Nunavut Government tabled a document on the single time zone. Today Mr. Speaker I rise to thank him on behalf of the Kitikmeot and Natillingmiut. I would like to appreciate and acknowledge the fact that we are going to have a single time zone.

Mr. Speaker, we felt that we needed a single time zone, Iqaluit was quite far from us and it being the capital, we now see that our concerns were considered. We are happy to see a single time zone proposed. Mr. Speaker our hours are so staggered in Nunavut it is hard to work together. It is evident that once we get a single time zone, the regions will not all be happy, especially the Baffin Region. I would like to acknowledge the fact, Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Territory will now have a single time zone and this will help all the staff to work together.

On behalf of the Kitikmeot residents, I relay their appreciation of this, even though we live in a far away region at least the government can now understand our needs and we are so proud of the government and it is evident that Nunavut Government will consider communities, large or small, and will treat all of the communities equally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Members' Statements. Mr. Havioryak.

Members' Statement 40 -1(3): Recognition of Kugluktuk Volunteers

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today on behalf of the people of Kugluktuk, the volunteers there. They work towards improving the community and we recognize them for their hard work and the fact that they take their own time to help the community.

There are 36 people there that do volunteer work and they do all sorts of volunteering, in search and rescue, fire department, in recreation, and for the Hamlet of Kugluktuk. I just want you to recognize them for their volunteer work. Every year in Kugluktuk there are going to be awards given out. Thank you very much.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Havioyak. Members' Statements. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Member's Statement 41 - 1(3): NTI AGM Relocated to Iqaluit

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to make a statement about Nunavut Tunngavik who was going to have their annual general meeting in Clyde River but, due to weather factors, they weren't able to make it. I would like to thank Nunavut Tunngavik for planning to have their annual general meeting up there.

This morning I went to see the NTI annual general meeting and there were a lot of people there. Clyde River's name was on the written documents and I was very proud that they recognized Clyde River. Due to weather problems they weren't able to go up there and I am sure that they will be having an annual general meeting there some time in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Members' Statements. Mr. Irqittuq.

Member's Statement 42 - 1(3): Reconsideration Time Zone Change

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker this is an issue that I brought up earlier but I would like to do so again. I am very glad the people of Kitikmeot are going to have one time zone. I am happy for the people of the Kitikmeot area.

I am also glad that we are proposing one time zone, but I would like the members of the Legislative Assembly to reconsider because the people of Baffin are going to have a difficult time. We would at least like to propose moving one hour back so there would be uniformity across Nunavut.

There is a large population in the Baffin area and the reason I am bringing this up is because there have been quite a lot of petitions sent to the House regarding the proposal for the one time zone. Some of the cabinet members I know are supporting this issue because they were told to. I know that we will go back one hour because of the daylight saving time. The people out there are not confused about going back one hour because of the usual daylight saving time. This is very well understood by the people.

But the problem we have in the Baffin is that we are going back two hours, one hour for daylight savings time and one hour to create one time zone. The people are very well aware of that, we are getting a lot of documentation, there are advertisements, notices and so on going to the outlying communities.

I would like to be given enough time to consult the people of Baffin because I am very well aware that people out there were not consulted. This issue was brought up by the Association of Municipalities but the communities themselves were not given the opportunity nor were they consulted about this proposal.

I am very glad that we will have one time zone but I would be more pleased if we would go back one hour and the Kitikmeot would go ahead one hour to create a single time zone for the whole Nunavut area. We are not opposed to this idea, it is just the two hours that I am opposed to.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Irqittuq. Before we make any further comments and before we go to the next statement, I would like to remind the members that you have two and a half minutes to make members' statements. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 43 - 1(3): Sanikiluaq's Opposition to Time Change

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't want to be talking about this same issue forever but I feel the need to say something about the single time zone.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Sanikiluaq, that I represent, do not want to go on to central time because in the community many of the residents are harvesters. We also have a lot of school children. If we go back by two hours it is going to effect the harvesters, the hunters and the students.

The people of Sanikiluaq are opposed to going back two hours. We are not opposed to the single time zone proposal but there has to be a compromise. What we are proposing is that Keewatin stay on the same time, Kitikmeot go forward and Baffin go back one hour. That would be a compromise that would suit everyone for the whole of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Members' Statements. Mr. McLean.

Member's Statement 44 - 1(2): Support for Time Zone Change

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. It is with great pleasure that I stand today and speak about the time zone. Finally, we are going to be truly united in Nunavut. Rather than having three different times in Nunavut, we are going to be able to pick up the phones and call our friends in the Baffin and in the Kitikmeot at the same time.

There will be no more confusion for the older people when they want to contact the capital and have to worry about times. So today Mr. Speaker, I truly applaud the one time zone for Nunavut. Ma'na.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ma'na Mr. McLean. Members' Statements. Mr. Nutarak.

Member's Statement 45 - 1(3): Recognition of Elder Archaeologist

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could talk about the single time zone too but I would like to touch upon another issue. An elder from Pond Inlet used to be involved in searching for archaeological artifacts. This person would go out with an archaeologist for many years on digs and I am proud to say that this evening this elder will be recognized by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. during their AGM. If you would like to see the presentation I invite you to go to the ceremony. It is about time this elder is finally recognized.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. We will be writing a letter on behalf of the Legislative Assembly and this House. Members' Statements. Mr. Anawak.

Member's Statement 46 - 1(3): Appreciation to Elders

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud because we talk about elders and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and implementing those into the government. But we never seem to fully recognize the people who have worked extremely hard, for example the elder that the member for Pond Inlet was talking about.

In my riding there are two people I would like to recognize and I am sure I will be making statements now and then in the future about recognizing these volunteers and the people that worked so hard with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the Inuit languages, their hard work and efforts and they never seem to be properly recognized.

They have worked very hard for many years in advancing and teaching Inuit traditional skills and learning. I would like to recognise Ollie and Lizzie Ittinuar who have worked extremely hard to date in preserving and promoting the Inuit traditional activities and languages and we never seem to give them proper recognition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. I will write a letter to the two elders who were mentioned. Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 47 - 1(3): Appreciation to Kimmirut Residents

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the people of Kimmirut. When I was there for four days they were very receptive and very welcoming and I will take every opportunity to go to Kimmirut now and then. I just wanted to make that statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Members' Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 48 - 1(3): Innamariit Piqusingit Society

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this year, 1999, which is the year of the elder persons, I rise to recognize an organization from my community. There is an elders council called Innamariit Pijasiniq Society. This society has been operating for a number of years now without guaranteed operations and maintenance budgets.

They have elders who sit on this society and they produced learning materials for the schools and I know this personally, because I used to work for them and learned a lot through that experience and now I can apply what I learned from them. I would like to rise to recognize those elders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Back to the orders of the day. Item number 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Ms. Thompson.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**Return 01 - 1(3): Difference between Tenders and RFPs**

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a return to an oral question that was asked by Hunter Tootoo on October 21, 1999. I would like to make a reply (interpretation ends) to define what the difference between a tender and a request for a proposal is.

My apologies to the members for not responding verbally at the time the question was asked. I misunderstood the question that was posed by Mr. Tootoo and thought he was looking for a formal, legal definition of an RFP or tender.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise Mr. Tootoo and all the members of the legislature that a request for proposals is a request for proposed solutions to a defined need or problem. It is not an offer, but only contemplates an offer. The receipt of a proposal is not an acceptance and does not result in a contract.

On the other hand, a call to tender, is the beginning of a contract and must result in a contract. When the government tenders, they know what they need and are shopping for the best price for the goods or services they require. If any member of the Legislative Assembly would like further examples or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be pleased to expand or help in any way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Returns to oral questions. Returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Arvaluk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was making my statement about literacy and people working on a volunteer basis, the reason I raised this was that the executive

director is here and I want to show you this autographed poster that was signed by Peter Gzowski and the other people.

I will put it out here and if it is okay with the Speaker, I would like to put it somewhere where it is permanent. The executive director, Mark Tindall, if you would rise.

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. Yes, you have my permission. Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I stand up to recognize people in the gallery, I don't want to leave out anybody in the Nunavut area. I always feel like I am missing some people that I should recognize.

Even though this is the case I would like to recognize a person who used to live in my community, Phoebe Hainnu. She is here in the gallery. We wanted to keep her in our community but she relocated to Iqaluit. I believe she is still working for the Department of Education. Phoebe if you would rise please. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize these youth who are the pages. They will be our future and they are our future leaders. I would like to recognize the pages, the youth. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Havioyak.

Hon. Donald Havioyak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you see the people coming in I would like you to recognize them and I want to let you know that they are here.

(interpretation ends) Our special visitors, friends, neighbours from Sisimiut Greenland. The elders from Sisimiut are here to meet the elders from Iqaluit as part of the international year of older persons. Mr. Speaker, coincidentally, Sisimiut and Iqaluit are twin communities. I would like to thank the citizens of Iqaluit for hosting the elders and welcoming them to their homes.

There are 24 elders here and representing them is the chairperson, I would ask him to stand up, Martin Brezellson. (interpretation) Please give him a warm welcome.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. I think you understand Inuktitut. The Canadian Inuktitut. Welcome to the gallery. We also have elders seats and you are welcome to sit in the elders

seats if you would like to. They are on the inside part of the gallery. Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize all the people in the gallery who weren't recognized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item number 6, in the orders of the day, oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 59 - 1(3): Disaster Compensation Policy

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. Over the last year or so we have heard from numerous hunters and trappers about their losses, through no fault of their own, those who have lost equipment due to acts of God and natural disasters. The effect on these people is devastating because a lot of them don't have secondary incomes.

My question today is to the minister responsible. Does this government have any kind of disaster relief program to compensate hunters, trappers and fishermen for acts of god. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. McLean. Minister Responsible for Ikupiktullirijit Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have inherited from the GNWT the disaster compensation policy. It is at this time that these policies are under review and I will be making the results of the review known once they are available. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. It is reassuring to hear that. I am sure the honourable minister will bring that forward quite soon. But in this policy will there be a compensation package to replace snowmobiles or boats or motors, things like that. Will that be looked at and will that be in this compensation package. Ma'na.

Speaker (interpretation): Ma'na Mr. McLean. Minister of Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, as I indicated, we are reviewing all of the policies and as a matter of fact we are reviewing the compensation for lost snowmobiles, lost equipment due to environmental hazards, or unforeseen, unpredictable events where our game or the bigger mammals may damage equipment.

One of the things we are looking at is probably a blanket policy to cover this area and be able to compensate the hunters of Nunavut for their lost equipment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 60 - 1(3): Financial Services in Smaller Communities

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked this question last spring to the Minister of Finance. I asked this question in the earlier session because we are lacking financial institutions, in the smaller communities especially.

Therefore, even though only six months have gone by, I would like to ask the appropriate minister what the status is with providing financial institutions to the smaller communities of Nunavut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, officials from the Department of Finance have approached the financial institutions and I understand that the banks are interested, they are looking at developing some proposals to see what kind of services they can provide for the communities of Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since you stated that you have approached the financial institutions and your staff are working on it, how long do you expect to wait for the announcement and will you be announcing it in the House before Christmas. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify that it isn't the Department of Finance that is working on any proposals, it is the financial institutions that are doing it themselves and are looking at what options may be available. We have merely passed on a need. As you know, I indicated in my past responses to this question that the availability of financial services outside of the regional headquarters and the capital were a component in the evaluation of banking proposals for the Government of Nunavut.

We did sign off on a two year deal with the Royal Bank, but obviously there are other banking institutions that are interested in our business and once again, when the proposal calls for banking services for the government comes up for competition that certainly will be a key criteria for the evaluation of any proposals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Third supplementary Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, I apologize, I did not understand your first response. I thought it was your staff doing that work. As you have stated that you have given this responsibility back to the financial institutions, do you expect they will be making their results known by Christmas or before Christmas. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess just to clarify again, it isn't a government responsibility to provide private financial services to constituents throughout the territory we represent. However, we do recognize the importance of it and are trying to facilitate expanding the financial services that are available in our communities.

I can't say definitively when the banks will report back. I know, as I indicated, there is an interest and we can follow up with them to see what kind of time lines they would be looking at. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Question 61 - 1(3): Sealskin Ties

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Sustainable Development. I would like him to respond appropriately because when you don't get the appropriate response it is not very pleasant.

Since you are wearing a seal skin tie, that is the very first time I have seen somebody wear a seal skin tie. My question is where did you get it. Thank you.

>>*Laughter and applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister for the Department of Sustainable Development, the one with the seal skin tie, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank you for recognizing the tie I am wearing. I am not going to say where I bought it from but I can only say that it was made here in Iqaluit by an Inuk person. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. Could he get that person to make those ties for us so that we all could get one.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. Minister for Department of Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is a very great idea and I appreciate his idea, however I can respond by saying that I ordered this myself personally and I encourage you to do it personally as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 62 - 1(3): Dead Bowhead Whales

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question for the Minister of Sustainable Development. As we have heard in the past around the Hall Beach and Igloolik areas there have been Bowhead Whales killed by killer whales and nobody has been voicing that concern. Perhaps if these killer whales were human beings it would be viewed by all the people of the world.

I was wondering what you are going to be doing with these whales that have been killed. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister for Sustainable Development.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to explain that marine mammals are not under the jurisdiction of the Nunavut Government. The Federal Government Department of Fisheries and Oceans have that jurisdiction.

The information I have received to date is that killer whales have been killing Bowhead Whales. I can tell you our department has no jurisdiction.

Speaker: Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the Nunavut Government should write a letter making a recommendation to get killer whale numbers reduced. We use those animals for our subsistence, and we do not like to see them depleted by another animal.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point in time I cannot say much without direction from the communities, but what I can say to you right now is that the Federal Government Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the NWMB, we work together on co-management and after working with them and getting clear direction from them, I will have a response for the Inuit. That's why I cannot talk on this issue because we don't have jurisdiction, only the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Question 63 - 1(3): Consultations with Communities

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Premier or the Minister of CGHT. In Baker Lake we said we would consult with the communities first to find out their priorities before anything is initiated. I would like to know if you are going to consult with the communities first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Premier...or Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I apologize Mr. Speaker, I didn't get his question.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. I will give you an opportunity to rephrase your question Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, when the communities are making a request are you going to be consulting with the communities first to find out what their priorities are before you make any capital purchases or buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister Responsible for Community Governments. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): I apologize I didn't understand your first question. When Nunavut was established we worked very hard to be more people friendly for the people of Nunavut. Because we wanted to do that we are going to be doing our budget session for 2000/2001 and prior to that we will be going to each of the Nunavut communities, which will be a show that we are closer to the people of Nunavut.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Oral questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Question 64 - 1(3): Vacant Positions in Igloolik

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure who I should be directing this question to. There are a lot of unfilled positions in Igloolik and I would like to know if there have been any changes to the number of staff positions that were allocated to Igloolik.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to be building offices in Igloolik and we now have some staff in place and we will be staffing the vacant positions. Next month we will identify which jobs will be going to which individual community in the decentralization plan.

The numbers have not changed to date, especially Qamanittuaq and Pangnirtung where there were too few positions. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Mr. Premier. Could I get a signed letter that says that there will be no changes to the number of positions slotted for Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I could do that very easily. We first brought out the numbers in the spring and using those figures I will give you a letter. I will probably wait until next month because I want to identify which jobs will be going to Igloolik and when they will be filled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Premier. Oral questions. Mr. O'Brien.

Question 65 - 1(3): Contaminated Fuel

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the minister responsible for petroleum products. Mr. Speaker some time ago my colleague from Gjoa Haven raised an issue about bad gas in their community and the effect it had on their snow machines and other vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I use my colleagues example for the reason that if this situation has not been resolved it may effect other communities such as mine. I am wondering if the minister can explain to us the outcome of the study that was done on the fuel and what the proposed solutions were. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Public Works, Telecommunications and Technical Services, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was a concern in Gjoa Haven and we dealt with this issue for a long time and did some tests. My staff have had discussions with various snowmobile owners and looked for some solutions to the problem.

They were also asking the users what kind of modifications would be needed on snowmobiles. The reports are back and we have heard this on the radio also, we are working on it and there are no other concerns in regards to the problem that we had earlier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell the House about the gas that was purchased or used in Gjoa Haven, where this gas came from and has it been shipped to other communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister responsible for Public Works, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitoq Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The gas was brought to Uqsuqtuq and there is some going to Taloyoak and Cambridge Bay. I believe it came from Alberta, but I don't have my paper in front of me. This same gas went to three communities; Gjoa Haven, Cambridge Bay and Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 66 - 1(3): Polar Bear Management

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Sustainable Development in regards to the statement he made on polar bear management. You said that it would be at the communities discretion and since there are a lot of rules and regulations, does that mean the MOU with the communities will give more discretion in the management of the polar bears. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To respond to that question, I think we have to have a clear understanding. We are not going to make changes on our own, it will be through consulting with the communities. We will include the communities through consultations with the public so that we'll have a better understanding. I would also like to say Mr. Speaker, that the wildlife regulations which we inherited from the Government of the Northwest Territories are quite old. They will have an effect on us and we are having a review done Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This spring in June, I asked a question about the harvesting of male polar bears only, which effects our lifestyles and the polar bear species. When the male population of polar bears is overpopulated, when the young male polar bears become overpopulated, it's not going to be too good for the polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the regulations and the MOU as they stand are still in effect. Possibly if we hear some suggestions for changes from the communities when we're reviewing the *Wildlife Act*, we can make some amendments.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. McLean.

Question 67 - 1(3): Cost of Living Increase for Income Support

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. This morning I was listening to the radio and there was an interview with the Minister of Education on CBC radio and in the conversation, it was brought up that 50% of the residents of Nunavut are on income support. It's a statistic but it's not a healthy statistic for Nunavut. It's a fact of life for a lot of people. My question to the minister responsible is, has there been a cost of living increase for social assistance recipients in Nunavut in the last couple of years. Ma'na Uqaqti.

Speaker: Ma'na Mr. McLean. (interpretation) Thank you Mr. McLean. As this is an issue from our previous government, I will give the Minister of Education, Mr. Arvaluk, the option to respond to the question or not.

Hon. James Arvaluk: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes there have been increases from what I've heard from the past government. Since the Nunavut Government was created there have been no increases and I cannot tell the member exactly how much of an increase there will be to social assistance due to cost of living increases. Thank You.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: Ma'na Uqaqti. That's reassuring to hear. Does the minister responsible plan to do another study over the next year on income support and the cost of living and groceries, because we know groceries tend to increase significantly whereas maybe social assistance doesn't. Thank you.

Speaker: Ma'na Mr. McLean. Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement on the mandate for the review committee said that it will allow significant review and recommendations to my department. Some of the review I hope will focus on community involvement through the one window approach to program delivery, including employment counselling.

Moving from dependence to self-sufficiency from the government; priorities; addressing the social needs of residents of Nunavut; and fiscal responsibility of the government budget. All these have to be looked at before we can commit on what changes they will be contemplating and how much they're contemplating increases. Because it's a Canadian standard we really don't know if in fact it reflects the reality of social requirements in Nunavut.

All that will be reviewed and in the meantime, I have no plans to automatically make cost of living increases until we have reports done by the committee that I proposed this morning, this afternoon rather.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Arvaluk. Oral questions. Mr. Alakannuark.

Question 68 - 1(3): Lack of Aviation Fuel

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of POL. The two communities in my riding don't have aviation fuel available in the community. I was wondering if you could make aviation fuel available in my communities. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't quite understand your question. Thank you.

Speaker: (interpretation): Perhaps rephrase your question. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is about aviation fuel. This fuel is available in most communities but Pelly Bay and Repulse Bay don't have it available. The reason I'm asking this question is because when we were coming from Baker Lake last spring, we chartered a plane going to my riding. We could not land in Uqsuqtuq and Pelly Bay because they did not have aviation fuel. We had problems because although we wanted to land in Repulse Bay, we could not because there is no aviation fuel available there.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Manitok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for not understanding your question at first. In Repulse Bay, I know that we worked on aviation fuel but in Pelly Bay I'm not too sure what happened there but I remember that we left aviation fuel in Repulse Bay. I'll take your questions as notice. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Ms. Thompson. Your question is taken as notice and she'll reply when she can.

Question 69 - 1(3): Housing for Social Worker

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community Government and Transportation. Although I asked this question two days ago to the Minister responsible for Housing, I was wondering if you now have a response in regards to a social worker, if you can provide housing for the social worker perhaps then, we can get a social worker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Akesuk. Minister responsible for Housing, Ms. Thompson.

Hon. Maniok Thompson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We worked on this issue as I stated before, and I was supposed to respond and I apologize for not giving you a response right away. In Kimmirut the social worker doesn't have housing available. I was asked if I could provide housing for the social worker.

The health centre has three units. That person might have room there, so we could ask this question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. The government unit is so old they can't use it at this point and it requires a lot of repairs. Perhaps the Minister for Health and Social Services can respond to your question because we believe that there is space available at the Health Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Thompson. Oral questions. Mr. Irqittuq.

Question 70 - 1(3): Health Board Deficit

Mr. Irqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday during oral question period, I asked a question to the Minister of Finance. I will be asking the same question as I did yesterday. The Health Boards are running in a deficit situation and once we dissolve the Boards of Health and Social Services, we will inherit their deficit. But in the year 2000, in the main estimates, will you be making proposals to pay for the deficit. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have yet to make a final decision on how we're going to deal with the current needs of the three Nunavut Health Boards and how we're going to deal with the accumulated deficits they've carried over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 71 - 1(3): Management of Polar Bears

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Sustainable Development. This morning you made a statement about polar bear management. For five years, our agreement was in place and sometimes we ran into a problems because Inuit traditional knowledge was contrary to some of the management plans. The communities would prefer to use their

knowledge and their culture and traditions and I was wondering if your department is going to use traditional knowledge. That's my question to Mr. Kilabuk.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Just a reminder that I don't want you to mention the ministers' names. Minister responsible for Sustainable Development, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in regards to the question, if we look at Nunavut, if we look at the north, south, east and west in Nunavut, we have different populations in Nunavut. For example, these communities do manage the populations in their zone because we have a memorandum of understanding for the different polar bear management zones. We have heard about the problems and that they want to review the MOU with the communities. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I need to rephrase my question. I'll use an example. In the James Bay area during the polar bear study, the Sanikiluaq residents' quota was reduced after the polar bears were surveyed. There is a lack of employment, and we depend on the polar bear hunts, and since they reduced the quota for the community, will you be making your quotas using the communities needs. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister responsible for Sustainable Development.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These MOU's are very important. The Department of Sustainable Development will have to consider these and NWMB will have to be involved too because we have co-management. We look at all of the results from the studies and after the results and the findings have been agreed to, they make a report and when that happens again, we will utilize the needs and requirement of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Question 72 - 1(3): Credit Unions

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Finance. I know I'm always talking about money, as I'm really in dire need of it.

>>Laughter

Mr. Speaker, can't we start utilizing credit unions to establish banking institutions in the smaller communities. Have you considered credit unions in the smaller communities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Puqiqnak. Minister Responsible for Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe in answering this question earlier, not today but in a previous session, I indicated to the Honourable Member that we were aware that the Arctic Co-operatives were looking at the possibility of establishing a credit union or some credit

unions across Nunavut. We were waiting to see whether or not they wanted to pursue that possibility but to date we haven't heard anything from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you for your response but the reason I'm asking this question, is there something that the minister can do to make the establishment of these credit unions or financial institutions in smaller communities easier.

Speaker: I don't hear a question, but if you'd like to respond, Minister of Finance, Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am also aware that, I believe it's the Arctic Coop is revisiting the possibilities of establishing some kind of financial co-operatives to provide some services as a pilot project to test that out. They may be seeking some Government of Nunavut assistance in that regard but to date we haven't seen anything on paper. We're just aware that there might be a possibility of that happening. If that were the case, we'd have to evaluate it and see what we can do to possibly assist them. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Question 73 - 1(3): Deficits of Health Boards

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. I have another question in regards to the Health Board deficits. I hear three things now following the responses you have made.

The first response you made was that we might not inherit the deficits and the next one I heard is that once there is a dissolution of these boards we would inherit the deficit and now I hear that FMB has not looked into this issue. Are you just responding to our questions without reviewing it further or doing a review on it. I wish that you would give me a direct response to the question I have been asking you about the Health Boards' deficits.

Speaker: Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, I'll try to be as direct as I can. I believe I said yesterday and I'll confirm today that yes on April 1st, or March 31st, whenever the actual dissolution date of the Health Boards is, the Government of Nunavut, Department of Health, will assume the ongoing deficits that are carried over from the Health Boards as we are taking over their assets and liabilities. What we're doing now, as I indicated yesterday in respect to the current year funding for our Health Boards, is working with the Department of Health in trying to analyze and make some recommendations to the Financial Management Board on how to address the current year's needs for funding for the boards, recognizing that they may not have sufficient funds to get them through this fiscal year. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Minister of Finance. Oral questions. Oral questions. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7, Written questions. Written questions. Item 8, Returns to written questions.

Returns to written questions. Item 9, Replies to opening address, replies to opening address, Item 10, Petitions.

Item 10: Petitions.

Petition 05 - 1(3): Opposition to Time Zone Change

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In accordance with rule 43(1), I am tabling a petition filed with me on behalf of a member. Mr. Speaker, the petition is Change in the Time Zone and it contains 44 signatures from the residents of Nanisivik. They request that the government of Nunavut rescind their decision on the time zone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Clerk. Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. O'Brien.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Bill 4 - An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two Bills to report to the House today. Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 4, an Act to amend the Legal Services Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development and that the Bill is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to waive rule 68 (5) and have bill 4 moved to Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking consent to waive rule 68 (5) to move Bill 1 to Committee of the Whole for today. Do we have nays? We have no nays. Mr. O'Brien, you have unanimous consent to deal with bill 4 in Committee of the Whole today. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. O'Brien.

Bill 3 - An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the second bill I wish to present is Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act. It has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development, and although not all members of the committee are in support of the bill, we wish to report that it is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole at the appropriate time.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Asking for consent from the house. Thank you. We'll put that on our agenda so we can deal with it on Friday. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Akasuk.

Bill 1 – Loan Authorization Act, 1999/2000

Mr. Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 1, Loan Authorization Act 1999/2000, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services and that the bill is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive rule 68 (5) and have bill 1 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akesuk. (interpretation ends) The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive rule 68 (5) and move bill 1 into Committee of the Whole for today. Do we have nays? Mr. Akesuk you have unanimous consent. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Thank you. Item 13, Tabling of Documents.

Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills**Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I move seconded by the Honourable Member from Pangnirtung, Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

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

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to give second reading to bill 6 today. Thank you.

Speaker: The Minister is seeking consent to deal with the second reading of bill 6. Do you have any nays? There are no nays. Minister you have consent. Please proceed.

Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 6 - An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT passed the Access to Information and Protection to Privacy Act in 1994. The Act came into force on December 31, 1996. The Act was then inherited by the Nunavut Government

on April 1st of this year. When the GNWT passed this Act in 1994, they included a provision under Section 4 which made privacy clauses in other Acts prevail over the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act until December 31st 1999. On December 31st of this year, Section 4, Clause 1 ends and Section 4, Clause 2 comes into effect.

Clause 2 states that the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act will prevail over all other Acts unless specific amendments are made to state otherwise. The GNWT took three years to determine which Acts require changes to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This fall they passed an Act to amend the Act which amended 10 separate pieces of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut feels strongly that this assembly should not just automatically copy what was done in the Government of Northwest Territories. We believe that this Assembly and Nunavut's Access and Privacy Commissioner should be involved in the process of determining what Acts should prevail over the ATIP Act and which should not.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately as the Act is now written, these decisions must be made and amendments enacted before December 31st, 1999. Bill 6 will extend the December 31st deadline by one year. Mr. Speaker, it's for these reasons that our Government is asking this Assembly to pass Bill 6, an Act to amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act in this session. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. To the principles of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 6 has had second reading and accordingly stands referred to the Standing Committee.

Second reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 1, Loan Authorization Act 1999/2000; Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act # 1, 1999/2000; Bill 4 an Act to Amend the Legal Services Act; Minister's Statement 22-1-(3), with Mr. Irqittuq in the chair.

(interpretation): At this time I would like to ask the House if you would like to take a brief break for 20 minutes before we go into Committee of the Whole. We're having technical difficulties and since we opened the House officially we have yet to use the Members' Lounge. It is now available for your use. You can go through here and proceed over to the Members' Lounge for coffee. 20 minutes.

>>*Short recess*

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

Chairperson (Mr. Irqittuq) (interpretation): What is the wish of the committee?

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): We wish to consider the bill as our committee has dealt with it. I would like the minister and his staff to sit at the witness table.

Chairperson (interpretation): I apologize I wasn't using my receiver, can you please repeat yourself Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Government Operations committee dealt with this bill and recommended that we proceed with consideration of the bill in Committee of the Whole and have the minister and his officials go to the witness table. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Akasuk. Perhaps Minister Ng would like to go to the witness table or would you prefer to sit on your seat there?

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Perhaps I'll just give the opening comments and then move to the witness table and bring forward the witnesses that are appropriate. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Go ahead Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the Loan Authorization Act is to facilitate lending to municipalities. It will benefit municipalities which may not have the ability to borrow from commercial lenders. The Loan Authorization Act sets the upper limit for municipal loans for the 1999/2000 fiscal year at 10 million dollars.

To date we have committed 5.2 million dollars to two municipalities; Iqaluit \$5 million dollars for the construction of a new sub-division and Clyde River \$200 thousand dollars to meet on-going commitments until the fiscal review of that community is completed.

Mr. Chairman, the government is requesting a loan limit of \$10 million dollars to ensure that we may be able to meet the needs that may arise in other municipalities. If requirements do not materialize loans will not be made. Loans are advanced only after careful scrutiny by the Departments of Community Governments & Transportation and Finance and Administration. Only applications from mayors are recommended to the Minister of Finance and Administration for approval. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Minister Ng. Are you in agreement. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just so you know, Mr. Akasuk recommended that the Minister and his officials go to the witness table. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Iqaqrialu. Minister Ng would you introduce your officials please.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. To my right is Mr. Bob Vardy, Deputy Minister of Finance and Administration, to my left is Mr. Roger Perchard, Director, Expenditure Management, Department of Finance and Administration. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Bill 1, we'll deal with Bill 1. It is in your white binder. In the first tab in your white binder. Perhaps the Minister would like to make his opening comments. I apologize, the Minister's opening comments are done and we are on general comments. Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have a question if that's ok. The reason I want to ask this question is that you say you have lent to a couple of municipalities, do the municipalities themselves have to ask for the loan, or can individuals or carvers get a loan through this act? I would like you to clarify the Loan Authorization Act for me, Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alakannuark. Perhaps the Minister can re-phrase his opening remarks.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman this Loan Authorization Act is specific, it's only to allow the government to lend to municipalities not to direct individuals or businesses under this act. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Alakannuark.

Mr. Alakannuark (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. At least now I understand. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. It states here that you have made a loan to Clyde River to meet on-going commitments and here in the Inuktitut translation it says for the construction of a new sub-division. When you were reading your presentation you stated it was to meet on-going commitments until the fiscal review of that community is completed. So could you elaborate on that because in the translations in Inuktitut it states otherwise.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman there are two items where we indicated that commitments had been made; 5 million dollars was for the Town of Iqaluit for the creation of a new sub-division; 200 thousand was for Clyde River for cash to meet on-going commitments. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Arvaluk.

Hon. James Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Even though I read the Inuktitut version of it, it does not state a new sub-division it only states there is a loan for 200 thousand dollars to Clyde River until a fiscal review of that community is completed. It's states that in Inuktitut, I don't see any new sub-division.

Chairperson (interpretation): James, when we were listening to the interpreters it said Iqaluit for the construction of new sub-division. There's a misunderstanding here now. I apologize. The next speaker is Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. A question to the Minister of Finance. You have already committed funds of 5.2 million dollars and we are trying to put a cap of 10 million dollars so that it won't go beyond 10 million on March 31, 2000. 5.2 million dollars, is that the remaining money, have you already committed the remaining money?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Nutarak. I have to apologize for the Inuktitut document here. For the construction of a new sub-division, Mr. Iqaqrialu had a question on that because of the Inuktitut document. Mr. Iqaqrialu just wanted to make a point because the translation on the document is missing. I just wanted to make that clear. If you understand now we'll get to Mr. Nutarak's question. Perhaps the Minister can respond.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I apologize if there is a misunderstanding as a result of the translation, but like I indicated in my comments that I think that it is quite clear that the sub-division proceeds loan commitments was for the Town of Iqaluit and the \$200 thousand dollars is for on-going commitments for Clyde River.

In respect to Mr. Nutarak's question. This Loan Authorization Act sets a ceiling of 10 million dollars as a maximum amount that Government of Nunavut could lend at any given time in total for this current fiscal year of 1999/2000 to municipalities. As I indicated in my opening statement if there is no need then the money won't be lent. It's based on specific requests that may come from municipalities and it goes through a formal review process of a committee of officials before it's recommended whether or not to loan funds to municipalities. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. Nutarak.

Mr. Nutarak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Sometimes I can hardly see my button here. Thank you Mr. Chairman. The remaining 4.8 is left over from the 10 million dollars? Is the remaining money, the 10 thousand 4.8 million dollars already committed prior to March 31?

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Ng

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. No it isn't, sorry, 200 thousand dollars of that 4.8 million dollars is committed the rest isn't. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Are you finished. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Just a few comments Mr. Minister. The ten million dollar ceiling that your department has placed on this Loan Authorization Act, can you tell the members for example, the last year of the NWT, what the amount was that they stipulated and put forward in reference to this Loan Authorization Act. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I can't, I don't have the information in respect to what their ceiling amount was, the GNWT ceiling on their Loan Authorization Act. I can tell you the amounts they advanced last year; they advanced 1 million dollars in all to municipalities under their loans. And I can also use an example of '95/96 where they advanced 9.1 million dollars, so it fluctuates in different years depending on the needs of municipalities at any given time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman given our tight financial situation or our almost embarrassing financial situation here in Nunavut with the health care and education and housing and so on. How can the Minister justify expending ten million dollars for these various projects given the financial bind that we find ourselves in. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman for the record, first of all this isn't a grant or contribution, this is a loan authorization. The money has to come back to the Government of Nunavut. It's to assist municipalities because of various reasons for their financial needs they may not be able to access commercial lending for whatever circumstance that the application would come forward from municipalities. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman what is the time-line or the time-frame for these, for example in Iqaluit there's 5 million dollars committed. What is the time-frame for this money to be returned to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien. Perhaps the Minister would like to respond.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman each loan application includes a repayment schedule that is worked out based on negotiations with the municipality and the recommendations that come from the official that screened each of the applications.

In this case it is my understanding, because it is a land debenture using the Town of Iqaluit scenario, it's generally because of their capital projects with long repayment periods, generally a 20 year time-frame for repayment. And one has to remember that these are interest-bearing loans as well because it is not interest free. By and large when the capital projects are completed they're flexible enough that they can advance payments and repay it outside of the minimum terms outlined for repayment. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: I just find it difficult to comprehend that we can't seem to find money for health and in particular housing, where we have overcrowding and 700-800 people on a waiting list for homes. But we can find 10 million dollars to loan out and it may not be for the 20 twenty years but I'm sure it will be at least 10 years.

I'm just not sure this is the best use of our money given the fact that we're in a bind financially and this is not a slight on Iqaluit or anybody else. I just think that our money could be better spent at this time. If we were in a flush situation where there was a lot of money and we were well established, I could see it. But I do have difficulty with this and my question would be how is the minister going to allocate the second 5 million dollars? If he could give some guidelines on how the projects will be selected and whether the regular members will have any input into this selection process?

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to reiterate, this isn't an expenditure, this is a loan that the government is putting out. There is a big distinction between giving out money like a grant or contribution versus lending out money to the municipalities. Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to stay away from the broader issue of Government of Nunavut financing based on the member trying to expound on health needs.

I think we've recognized that and I've said in the House previously that we're trying to rectify that situation by putting together first of all an analysis of what the exact needs are and bringing forward a plan of action to correct that through the Financial Management Board. He also knows that the Minister of Housing through the Task Force is quite actively trying to find some possible solutions, make some recommendations on how to proceed in the specific area of housing.

Going back to the merits of this bill, which is what we're debating, Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, the Loan Authorization Act, I would say on his question about what allocation would take place, possible allocations for the remaining 4.6 million that's uncommitted at this stage. Again, I would say that it has to go through a screening process of officials. There are representatives, specifically, it has to come forward from Community Government and Transportation which deals primarily with municipalities; Finance is involved obviously because of the analysis of the risk and repayment schedules.

There's criteria in respect to conformance with the Towns and Villages Act to authorize municipalities to borrow. There's repayment terms that have to be specified. There's assessment, as I indicated, on the repayment ability of the borrower and the security as well. Those issues of security have to be looked at and taken into the evaluation and it has to be approved by debenture bylaws in certain circumstances and the ability of the municipality to provide repayment as well.

I have to say that on this specific issue, again trying to stay away from the specifics of the application because we're talking about the Authorization Act, not the Iqaluit Loan Act here Mr. Chairman, but the Honourable Member, because it is a significant amount keeps referring to it. It was tied specifically to the land development needs of the Town of Iqaluit because it was growing at such a quick pace because of Iqaluit becoming the Capital.

They were in a crunch of not being able to secure reasonable private commercial lending to deal with trying to develop a subdivision to meet their housing needs because of the fact, we know, I think all members know in their personal situation of trying to find reasonable accommodation, that there's very limited accommodation here in the capital because of the growth that's taking place right now.

So land development is an issue that allows for more housing in the capital. It allows more people because of more private development, it actually takes some of the pressure off some the Government of Nunavut needs for staff housing. It takes some of the pressure off public housing as well, because some of the individuals that might get Government of Nunavut jobs might have the availability of private housing or to move out of public housing if they were to get new jobs as a result of all the economic activity that's taken place here. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Ng. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Mr. Chairman, it's not my intent to agitate the minister. These are serious questions and I have some concern with the logic behind the 10 million dollar ceiling itself and whether the money be spent in Iqaluit or Cambridge Bay, it really wouldn't make a difference to me. To me the issue is that we have needs and you say it's not a grant or a freebee. I understand that, but it's still 10 million real dollars that comes out of the pot of money. We have 10 million dollars to be divided up in three or four different areas but there's only one pot of money.

If it were 10 million dollars that is not in the pot for example, to spend on housing, and it's hard not to bring these different issues or areas into the fold but they're there, they exist. And again going back to my earlier comment, I feel that it could be better spent elsewhere. That money's going to be tied up for 10 or 15 or 20 years so it's money we can't spend.

You talk about the situation you brought up about Iqaluit and the need for the expansion of land development, there's certainly many communities that have that similar situation. They certainly are not at the level of Iqaluit unfortunately but my point is I just feel that's a large sum of money to be taken out of the pot at this point in time when we're in such difficult financial state. I question the rationale at this point in time. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I think it's important to remember that this is available to all municipalities. There have been in fact, past municipalities that have borrowed with the GNWT in respect directly to land development. I know that for a fact and this a standard government procedure for our municipalities primarily because, except for the Town of Iqaluit, none of them are tax based and that restricts quite frankly some of their borrowing abilities from conventional commercial institutions because of not being tax based municipalities.

So Mr. Chairman, it could be for land based development, it could be for municipal needs because of deficits or financial difficulties that the municipality is encountering, such as Clyde River, but I think that the onus is on this government to support our municipalities needs in trying to assist them and that is what the intent of this legislation is Mr. Chairman.

I can say that if we were to have the money all lent out and there were additional needs for the Government of Nunavut, for whatever reasons and I won't get into the specifics again, the Government of Nunavut has significantly stronger borrowing powers than a smaller municipality so it more than offsets what may be out there in respect to loans to municipalities. If we required some borrowing for the Government of Nunavut, certainly that can be done. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, my final comment and question would be, given the fact that this document, the Loan Authorization Act has not been passed, we're discussing it now, it also annoys me I guess, to hear that we've already committed 5 million dollars of it or 5.2 before it even being passed. I guess I just see this as another form of capital projects that are being

given out without going through this assembly, without going through the caucus, the house and to me it just doesn't seem overly fair. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): I think that was just a comment. Did you want to make a response Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, first of all let me reassure all members of this house that it's not the intent of the government to circumvent any of the processes here. When the legislation came forward as you all know, from the Government of the Northwest Territories to Nunavut, there was an assumption made that the Authorization Act was one of them. We found out subsequently, after our session in this past spring, that wasn't the case, that we required legislation on a yearly basis because this is a loaning authority and it has to come back on a yearly basis for approval to this House.

So that was an oversight and that's why we're here today. But by the same token, we knew that these municipalities required assistance, so we made that decision to go ahead, recognizing that we would have to bring in the legislation subsequent to that. Now, obviously, I can't dictate what the committee wants to do.

If they were to decide for whatever reason not to pass this legislation it would impact on all our municipalities, not just the ones that we've made commitments to, then as a government we would have to revisit it and see what remedies we would be able to put in place to assist those municipalities where we've made commitments and to assist those municipalities that will be coming this fiscal year for additional needs. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, in regards to this Loan Authorization Act, I would like to approve it because the Nunavut Government will be helping out the Hamlets in the Nunavut area. I can use my community as an example where we were in dire straits with money and it gives the authority to help the communities and since we were elected as Members of Legislative Assembly, we have heard about Clyde River who went into a deficit situation so I would like to state my support for this Act. That was just a comment.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. McLean.

Mr. McLean: We realize, and I don't want to sound like I'm picking on the capital, but there's unparalleled economic growth in this community. I can attest to the homeless shelter here and the people that are in it because they can't find affordable housing in Iqaluit. That could be for different reasons and I know probably that Iqaluit is stretched for dollars to build a subdivision this year. And we all know that Iqaluit will probably double in population in the next four to five years. We know that.

It's growth, it's the capital and there's going to be more pressure put on this government to bring them up to the standards that other capital cities have. And that gets into where we're going next year, and the years following. Is Iqaluit going to be constantly coming to this government and looking for a

loan and is this government going to say yes or are they going to say enough is enough we lent you 20 or 30 million dollars over the last five or six years.

I have no problems with this Loan Authorization Act, I think it's a useful tool in communities and I've lived in them for the last 28 years. I have seen the financial difficulties at the hamlet level where you get an SAO that's really good, and I experienced it in my community a couple of times in the last 20 years, where you get a real good SAO, he's fiscally responsible and then he leaves and things fall apart. And that's happened probably in more cases than enough. Then this Loan Authorization Act will come and appease the banks and the municipality gets a debt reduction plan back on line with the help of Municipal and Community Affairs.

My reluctance on this one, and it's general reluctance, and I'm not picking on the capital, but when does it stop. Is there going to be a point where we say no to Iqaluit if it's 10 million dollars next year, 5 million and 5 million. I know they're paying it back but it's coming out of general coffers and yes you will get it back, I'm sure you will because there's a vehicle there to get it back. But, I think we can utilize that money in different areas and housing seems to be one.

If this community is going to double and triple in the next 10 years, more people are going to move in, there's going to be more of a tax base and I think in a few years and I'll be here for the next couple of years, and I'll echo this next year, is that this municipality or this town should start utilizing the banks with us maybe guaranteeing the loan. That way we don't have to give them money out of our general coffers. And there's nothing wrong with the government guaranteeing a loan for a municipality if we go that far.

But I know of people's borrowing power, mine is probably different from yours Mr. Ng, but what I'm saying is that yes, this Loan Authorization Act is good for communities that do get into trouble financially through no fault of their own. But my fear is that this monster could get out of control in the next few years and much needed capital dollars will be used on subdivisions and streets and pavement and things like that. That's my fear. I want it to be used where the need is most. And we hear that all the time. Put the money where the need is and I'm not begrudging Iqaluit, I think Iqaluit's got to grow up and go to the banks and start utilizing them with us guaranteeing them. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman, just to reiterate again, this isn't a direct cash expenditure from the perspective of coming out of our operating and maintenance funds. It shows up that you advanced it, it's out there as a loan, is outstanding which is a receivable. I want to stress that this is a loan. It's all repayable and I can appreciate the members comments about when does it stop.

Obviously if a municipality, a taxed based municipality such as Iqaluit, were to get to the point where it was thought that the possibilities of repayment were to be jeopardised, where we're assuming too much liabilities, too much long term debt, then that would be one of the factors that would have to be taken into consideration at that time. But right now I can't speak about what their future needs are or any municipalities future needs for that matter. We can only deal with what comes to us in this current fiscal year Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Listening to the comments from the Members of the Legislative Assembly, I'm very envious that they're financially well off. I'm very envious that they make comments like that. Listening to the comments around the table, I think that there's something wrong when we hear comments made around the table pointing at communities. As Mr. Minister was saying, we have to renew this act every year. I believe the fiscal year end is March 31st and that's what I understand. Is that correct Mr. Minister? I'll make another comment afterwards. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Yes Mr. Chairman, the member is correct, March 31st is the government's fiscal year end. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In regards to the loans, I'm sure they'll be up to 15 to 20 years to pay off their loan but the Nunavut Government will be reviewing this act every year. Is that going to be the procedure, where we have to renew the act every year and the communities will have 15 to 20 years for re-payment of their loan.

Chairperson (interpretation): Minister Ng.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman, yes the member is right in that I had indicated that this Loan Authorization Act would have to be repeated every year because it's a spending authority requested by the government from the House. He is correct in that any loans that might be expended or authorized under this act with repayment schedules spread out over 15 to 20 years, that's where the accounting comes in on a yearly basis in respect to a loan outstanding and a receivable because of that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Again, I have another question. If we approve this act, will the Nunavut communities or hamlets be given a copy of this act so they know that there are loans available from the Nunavut Government? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't think we'd necessarily give them a copy of the act but through Community Government and Transportation, their staff would deal with the municipalities. Once they identify a need from a specific municipality, they'll assist them in putting together an application, and evaluating and taking part in the evaluation of how that need can be addressed for each municipality based on case by case basis. Thank you.

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

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. When we were still under the GNWT, the Department of MACA never got that information out to the communities. If we're going to be submitting this to Community Government and Transportation and if that information isn't given out to the communities, they won't know that this loan is available. Are we going to be getting this information out there so that they'll know there's money available. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Just for further clarification, we're discussing Bill 1 and we're not going to be getting into the fine details. The question here now is the Loan Authorization Act and sending the information out there is not part of the discussion. I would like to go back to Bill 1. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, I understand exactly where you're coming from and I'm glad that you made that comment. During my term, I know that I'll be a part of reviewing these acts. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any further comments or questions? I believe that we may not have a quorum. Nancy, if you could count the members. We'll take a ten minute break because we don't have a quorum.

>>*Short Recess*

Chairperson (interpretation): We can proceed with our session. Mr. Iqaqrialu do you have any more comments. Go ahead.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make another comment. I know that our community has been running in a deficit situation for quite some time now. I especially want to say that when you pay part of your loan or your deficit, only part of it, your deficit starts to accumulate. On top of your deficit the interest starts building and your deficit starts building up if you don't pay the bill in whole.

If the municipalities would prefer to pay for their loan all together, perhaps after the bill has been enacted, would it be possible for the communities to repay their loan in full if they wanted to. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Mr. Chairman as I have indicated, once the repayment schedules have been worked out there is a lot of flexibility in the loaning or the lending of funds to municipalities and like I indicated earlier we are trying to support them. So if there is a desire to prepay or pay in advance, or accelerate the payments that is certainly something we would be more than happy to accommodate. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I will try and elaborate again. If a municipality gets a loan and they get another loan on top of it they would have to repay the first loan and if they get another they also have to pay for that, the previous deficit and also the loan. So in my community we were in a deficit situation and on top of that we got a loan. So the interest accumulates when we don't pay for our loan according to the procedure.

When the municipality proposes to pay back the loan all at one time it is easier and it is not as dangerous. So perhaps I made myself clear for now.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Minister would you like to respond.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just to advise members that when the government lends out money under this Act we charge a lower interest rate than the commercial institutions would. In the case of municipalities, to meet whatever needs they have based on specific proposals that they have for loans. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I don't want to be the only one taking the floor and I apologize for having the floor. I am sure that the interest rate is lower than the commercial banks but then again, they might have a loan at the bank and they have to make those payments and they have to pay that loan to the Nunavut Government.

That is creating the problem for the Hamlet Council who owe money to financial institutions and also to the government. I hope that is clear. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): I believe there is a response, Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. I know exactly where Mr. Iqaqrialu is coming from. When we help the Hamlets, of course we give out loans to some of the Hamlets, that was the policy of the Government of the NWT. We have to help the communities because they might go bankrupt. We give financial support to the Hamlets and the Nunavut Government and the Hamlet Councils work together so that they can repay their loan. It would be good if they could keep up with their loan payments, but possibly through mismanagement or if there is breakage in their equipment, they could very likely come back to the government and ask for another loan.

It is good when they have one loan but then there are always unforeseen expenditures that might come up. So we might possibly review their loan again. We want to work closely with the Hamlet when we give them a loan but there are unforeseen circumstances that might arise and if that particular community wants another loan because of unforeseen circumstances we will review it again.

Chairperson (interpretation): I have no more names on my list so if there are no further questions, we'll go clause by clause. Is that the committee's wish.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 1, clause 1, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause two, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause three, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause four, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause five, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause six, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause seven, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause eight, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause nine, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill as a whole, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Bill 1, Loan Authorization Act, 1999/2000, do you agree to the bill as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for making your presentation Mr. Ng and your staff. You did the responses all by yourself without the help of your staff. Do you have any closing remarks to make.

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I would like to thank the committee members and thank the staff that came today. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. We have completed bill 1, what is the committee's wish. Mr. Akesuk.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): I would like to go ahead with the next item. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk would like to go onto the next item. Bill 4, Minister of Sustainable Development.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. We can't hear you very well without the ear aids.

Chairperson (interpretation): Would the minister like to make a presentation regarding bill 4. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you. My colleague is having a hard time finding his paper. It is bill 4. My colleague can't find his pages, could you wait one minute please.

Thank you. I am going to be saying the same thing that I said this morning. This is in regards to the Legal Services Board. There is one and they work for Nunavut, but their present name is the NWT Legal Services Board. The purpose of this bill is to amend the Legal Services Act to provide for a Nunavut Legal Services Board to start on April 1, 2000.

The staffing process for the executive director position is currently underway and once that is done other staff will be hired and the office itself will be set up in Gjoa Haven. The plan is to have the office staffed and operational prior to April 1, 2000. The Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development made certain recommendations to alter the draft legislation prior to its introduction to the legislature.

The first recommendation was to have a lawyer appointed by the minister on the nomination of the Law Society of Nunavut and for each region one person appointed by the Minister on the nomination of the regional committees, when the regional committees exist. I have made those changes to this bill as requested by the standing committee.

The standing committee's second recommendation refers to the clause that enables the minister to appoint up to two additional members to the board. The recommendation states that there be up to three additional members instead of two. We did discuss this but I didn't include that because the regions will be represented through the regional committees who will each be nominating a representative for appointment and Nunavut's practice of widely consulting and advertising for

appointments to boards and agencies will ensure that the appointments of these additional board members would fairly represent Nunavut. Those are the reasons I didn't make those changes.

This bill to amend the Legal Services Act is very important because it is a reflection of our governments commitment to take full responsibility for our affairs. Nunavut needs it's own Legal Services Board. Finally, bill 4 is consistent with our commitment to put in place structures that meet the needs of the people of Nunavut. Thank you Mr. Chairman. I can move up to the witness table if you would like.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak, you can continue and if you have staff that you would like to invite. Thank you for going to the witness table. If you introduce your staff first of all. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you, on my left is Nora Sanders, she is my Deputy Minister for the Department of Justice and on my right Mark Spakowski who reviews the legislation.

Chairperson (interpretation): Welcome. I now open the floor for comments or questions. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. In your opening statements you said that a lawyer would be appointed on the nomination of the law society of Nunavut. My question then on this issue is in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. We have stated that we were going to start implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is not well known by lawyers. We would like to start implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. How are you going to implement Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into the legal system.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. This could be used to start implementing Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit but we need one lawyer from the Nunavut Law Society to nominate a lawyer to sit on that board. The rest of the board members would be from the communities and they don't necessarily need to be lawyers. They won't be lawyers. This Legal Services Board, for example, the NWT Legal Services Board has some Inuit and a lawyer. There might possibly be four or five board members who would be from the Nunavut communities. Not necessarily lawyers, we would appoint these persons with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in mind.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Anawak. Questions or comments. If there is nothing further. Mr. Puqiqnak.

Mr. Puqiqnak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sure that it is in your opening comments, but with the NWT Legal Services Board, Mr. Chairman, now that the NWT has been divided into two, there is now the NWT and Nunavut. Because we are two territories now I am sure that there will be a reduction in staff. How much reduction will there be.

I am sure that there was a lot more staff when they represented the whole NWT, but since there was division, is there going to be a reduction in the number of staff. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Yes, our staff, I apologize, our staff will stay in Nunavut even if we split up on April 1, 2000. There's going to be no change in the number.

Chairperson (interpretation): That's it Mr. Puqiqnak. Mr. O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the Minister for considering the recommendations that the standing committee made regarding this particular issue. Even though the minister didn't totally accept all of the recommendations, he did go half way. We appreciate that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Anawak.

Hon. Jack Anawak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. With the Legal Services Board we will think about your recommendations but we will always give you an opportunity to make your comments before we make appointments.

Chairperson (interpretation): Any further comments. If there are no further comments we will go clause by clause. Is that the committee's wish. Bill four – An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act. Clause 1, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 2, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 3, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Final page, clause four, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Going back to the beginning, bill 4, do you agree to the bill as a whole.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Agreed. Thank you for making this very brief, I would like to thank you Mr. Anawak and also your staff for taking the time. Thank you. I don't know if I mispronounced your name, but I would like to thank Sue Cooper. At this time, what is the committee's wish. Mr. Iqaqrialu.

Mr. Iqaqrialu (interpretation): While we are waiting for the Speaker I would like to take a brief break and when we find him we will come back.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Iqaqrialu was that a motion. The Speaker is coming.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20, report of the committee of the whole. Mr. Iqittuq.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that your committee has been reviewing Bill 1 and it has been concluded and the Bill is ready for Third Reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Iqittuq.

Speaker: Mr. Iqittuq.

Mr. Iqittuq (interpretation): I was just reading through what I have in front of me, Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and Bill 4. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you Mr. Iqittuq. Is the motion seconded. Mr. Ng seconds the motion.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

Speaker: Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Ng.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 2 - An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act

Hon. Kelvin Ng: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West that Bill 2 - An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the Third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Ng. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had Third Reading. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22 - Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Services at half past five today in the Nanuq Boardroom. Tomorrow morning, meeting of full caucus at 9 o'clock in the Nanuq Boardroom. Orders of the Day, Thursday October 28, 1999 at half past one:

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 5 - Supplementary Appropriation, Act No. 1, 1999/2000.
Minister's Statement 22- 1(3)

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole.
21. Third Reading of Bills:

Bill 1 – Loan Authorization Act 1999/2000;

Bill 4 - An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act.

22. Orders of the Day.

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Thursday October 28, 1999 at 1:30 p.m.

>>*House Adjourned at 5.13 p.m.*

