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Speaker: The Honourable Jobie Nutarak, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
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Elders and Youth; Minister of
Human Resources*

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(Iqaluit Centre)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, May 18, 2004**

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allan Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Item 1 in the orders of the day. I will ask Mr. Evyagotailak to say the prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Budget address. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 009 – 2(1): Budget Address

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, honourable colleagues, and fellow Nunavummiut. Today I am pleased to table the first budget of this, the second Legislative Assembly.

The first Legislative Assembly of Nunavut had much to be proud of. They created a functioning government with departments, agencies, and processes that deliver programs and services to our citizens. They established a foundation for us to build on. There was much accomplished in the first five years of Nunavut's existence. But there is still much more that needs to be done. We are all honoured to be able to continue the work necessary to ensure a better future for all Nunavummiut.

The first budget of the new territory was delivered in the Iqaluit parish hall over five years ago. It set the stage for the successes and accomplishments achieved over that government's term. This budget will help ensure the success of this Legislative Assembly. Through it, we will continue to live within our fiscal means. Also, it will move us forward in terms of dealing with the challenges which must be addressed in order to provide needed public services.

In this regard, Mr. Speaker, this government will continue to work cooperatively with the other two territorial governments to get a fair and adequate deal from the federal government so we can better deal with our major social, economic, and fiscal challenges.

It will remain paramount to manage all future pressures within our available financial resources. This is a difficult balance for a government to achieve. We need to move ahead in solving problems which require additional and sometimes significant new amounts of funding, without spending money we do not have. We must achieve this balance.

We will continue to look for the best way to do things. We will continue to consider unique Nunavut solutions to some of our pressing social and economic problems. Much has been done in this regard. Over the coming months, the members of the Legislative Assembly will be devoting their energies to the consideration of further policy and program changes to improve the well being of Nunavummiut.

I will now provide a fiscal update for the 2003-04 year before outlining our plans for this year.

Fiscal Performance

Mr. Speaker, as a result of significantly higher than anticipated federal transfers, projected total revenues for 2003-04 have been revised upward by \$49.2 million to \$853.7 million. This increase is mainly the result of increases made to Nunavut's population estimates from the 2001 Canada census. The population adjustments affected the years 1999 through to 2003 and resulted in large prior year increases to transfers.

On the expenditure side, total budgeted requirements have increased to \$909.9 million, or \$66.8 million above what had been originally allocated to spend. Over \$42.0 million of this increase was for capital projects.

Taking these changes into account, an operating deficit of \$29.2 million is now anticipated for the 2003-04 year. This compares to the \$11.6 million deficit originally budgeted. This deficit will be financed out of the government's cash reserves which accumulated during the first five years of operation. The fact that the government did not have to borrow for its operations during the first five years was a significant accomplishment for the first Legislative Assembly.

>> *Applause*

We intend to continue to act in the same financially responsible manner, Mr. Speaker, but first I will outline some of Nunavut's challenges.

Challenges

Our challenges were great when the territory was formed in 1999, and they remain large now as we begin the second government mandate. Government spending has been driving our economy for the last five years. But now that the main functions of government are established, the growth in government spending will slow down. We must change the current heavy reliance on the public sector. We need to develop an

economy that relies also on the private sector to make a more significant contribution, an economy that will support and stimulate development in both the traditional and wage-based economies; one that will provide choices in employment for Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, this can not happen overnight, and the stage needs to be properly set to ensure that we have a reasonable chance of success. We are at an early stage in our development. We still have significant needs in key areas that are critical to building our economy, which are well documented in *The Naujaat Challenge*. One thing that makes Nunavut unique in Canada today is that we are struggling with the early stage of our development. This is a stage that most Canadian jurisdictions, including the other two territories, faced a long time ago.

The serious infrastructure deficit that is hindering our social and economic development is well known. Communities continue to struggle with infrastructure needs. But, Mr. Speaker, we are moving ahead. The Government of Nunavut is a leading partner in the Nunavut Economic Forum. This organization, made up of over 22 organizations including NTI and the federal government, will implement the *Nunavut Economic Development Strategy* which was released last fall.

The recent Federal Budget announced a five-year commitment to a new northern strategy, which will invest \$90 million in northern economic development across the three territories. We hope a major portion of this new funding will be invested in Nunavut's economic priorities. We have started to work with the federal government on several infrastructure initiatives and we are seeking their cooperation on others.

As all members of the Legislative Assembly know, at the center of our challenges is the vital need for more housing. Housing is extremely expensive in Nunavut. Most Nunavummiut live in subsidized housing because they lack the resources to afford their own home. The housing stock in the territory has grown at a rate far below our population growth. This has meant overcrowded homes for many Nunavummiut, which in turn contributes to other social and health problems. Recently the National Aboriginal Housing Association endorsed Nunavut's urgent requirement for the federal government to reinstate a sustainable social housing program for Nunavut. The government is working with NTI to present our case for more federal assistance in dealing with our housing situation.

We must have full authority and responsibility over our resources, through a devolution agreement. As a result of recent discussions between Premier Okalik and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Speaker, we are very pleased that the government of Canada is now committed to such an agreement.

>>Applause

It will give us authority to levy and collect resource royalties and other revenues from our natural resources. It will give us more control over the resource development plans and allow us to maximize economic benefits for our territory. We are committed to getting

this agreement during this current mandate so we can further develop our economy and help provide employment and other benefits to people in Nunavut.

We stand ready to address all of our challenges. We will base our efforts on “pinasuaqtavut” principles and incorporate Inuit societal values through the application of “Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.” We all remain strongly committed to these fundamental principles upon which the territory of Nunavut was created.

I will now move to our fiscal plan for the 2004-05 year.

Fiscal Plan

Mr. Speaker, total expenditures in this budget are \$850.7 million. Over 87 percent of this amount, or \$742.8 million, is allocated for operations and maintenance expenditures. The remaining 13 percent, or approximately \$108 million, is allocated for spending on capital projects.

Taking into account estimated appropriation lapses of about \$27 million, mainly for capital projects, we are projecting a deficit of approximately \$13.4 million for government departmental operations. This deficit will be financed or offset by using most of our remaining cash reserve. While we will not need to borrow to finance this deficit, we have to ensure that we manage our operations in a fiscally responsible manner.

Currently we have approximately \$57 million available of the borrowing limit imposed on Nunavut as part of the federal Nunavut Act. Of the \$200 million limit, the remainder is set aside to cover the \$143 million of guaranteed debt for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Nunavut Power Corporation. Most of this guaranteed debt was assumed prior to division.

Revenues

We are projecting revenues from all sources to be about \$876.5 million this year. About \$74.1 million of this revenue is generated internally in Nunavut from our income taxes, consumption taxes, payroll taxes, and other own-source revenues such as fees and levies. This represents about 8.5 percent of our total revenues. Our tax base is small and will only grow as we move forward in developing our economy. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this budget contains a reduction in property taxes. Effective the 2004 taxation year, the education component of the Nunavut property tax will be eliminated.

>> *Applause.*

This measure will benefit all property owners in Nunavut and will reduce the high cost of maintaining a home. This measure will also help encourage home ownership, and in time help alleviate the shortage of housing.

The vast majority of our revenues come from the federal government in the form of transfers. The single largest of these transfers comes from the Formula Financing Arrangement. Other transfers include the Canada Health Transfer and the Canada Social Transfer. Included in the Canada Health Transfer is Nunavut's share of the recently announced \$2.0 billion increase to provinces and territories for healthcare. Because this transfer is allocated on a per capita basis, Nunavut's share of this new funding is only about \$1.9 million. The Formula Financing transfer is about \$735 million for the 2004-05 year, and represents approximately 84 percent of all our revenues.

Discussions involving the renewal of the Formula Financing Agreement have focused on the adequacy of the transfer to help meet Nunavut's needs. During renewal discussions, a business case was presented to the federal government to underline the fact that the transfer appears only adequate to meet operating and maintenance expenditures in the short term. The recent federal budget did announce a number of changes to the formula which mean a larger transfer to Nunavut. However, the increases will not allow the territory to make the type of significant investments in basic infrastructure which are needed.

Expenditures

I will now outline some of our major expenditures by department, based on allocations proposed in the main estimates and capital estimates. The expenditures presented do not include the \$66.2 million contained in the contingencies for collective bargaining and other anticipated expenditures we have included in our fiscal plan for 2004-05. These amounts will be brought forward for consideration by the Legislative Assembly later this year once details are known.

Education

Mr. Speaker, we all recognize that the provision of quality education is critically important to the territory and its population as we move towards self-reliance. The Department of Education will see an overall increase in its budget this year from \$8.6 million to \$190.4 million. This increase recognizes our commitment to education, including its social and economic benefits, by having a better trained and educated workforce.

The department has increased the grant program under the Financial Assistance to Nunavut Students by about \$2.0 million to meet the increased number of students sponsored by FANS who are participating in postsecondary education programs. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we are enhancing the Income Support Program in this budget. Effective June 1, there will be a 10 percent increase to the food allowance component of this program. This increase will enable people across Nunavut who receive assistance under this program to deal much better with the high cost of groceries.

Health and Social Services

The Department of Health and Social Services will have \$210.9 million allocated to it for the 2004-05 year. Of this, \$182.2 million will be for programs and services delivered by the department, and \$28.6 million for capital expenditures.

Two new health facilities will be opening during this year, one in Cambridge Bay and the other in Rankin Inlet. In addition, we are continuing with the construction of a new hospital in Iqaluit. These health facilities will cost in excess of \$103 million.

Together with a residential care facility in Chesterfield Inlet to be opened this year, and a fully equipped health centre in Arviat which opened in 2001, and the replacement of health centres in Pond Inlet and Igloolik, access to basic healthcare in the territory is being greatly expanded. These projects also provide much-needed jobs and economic benefits within the communities, including job training opportunities.

A plan to expand the scope of healthcare programs and services available within the territory, including training opportunities, will ensure a continued focus on developing self-reliance at the community level.

Telehealth services will be expanded to an additional seven communities in Nunavut, supplied by \$2.7 million in funding received from the government of Canada through the Primary Healthcare Transition Fund.

The Maternity Care Workers Program will be expanded, leading to qualified midwives in a number of communities. In this program emphasis is focused on incorporating traditional Inuit practices.

>>*Applause*

These telehealth and maternity care services will reduce the high costs of medical travel and allow for more services to be provided in communities.

Targeted resources will be provided to the newly formed Nunavut Suicide Prevention Council in the areas of training and prevention, including mental health, addictions and community wellness.

Housing

The Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue its programs aimed at increasing housing supply during 2004-05. The corporation will be allocated a total of \$95.1 million in operating and capital funding from this government. However, the corporation will spend a total of \$170.6 million when contributions from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Industry Canada's Strategic Infrastructure Fund are included. Over the next two years, this \$40 million infrastructure fund project will result in at least 160 new public housing units constructed in Nunavut. At least 80 units will be built in, and-or delivered to Nunavut communities this construction season. Initial staff housing needs for

the new health centres in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay also will be addressed. Ten units will be built in each of these communities, with occupancy slated for early 2005.

Additional operating and maintenance funding of \$1 million is being made available to local housing organizations to meet the needs of these new public housing units.

>>*Applause*

The Nunavut Housing Corporation will continue to introduce proactive, community-led changes to its programs during 2004-05. These changes will include changes to home ownership programs which will make them accessible, increased funding limits to ensure homeowners' health and safety concerns are adequately addressed, and new home maintenance programs for our seniors and persons with disabilities.

Justice

The Department of Justice has been allocated a total budget of \$56.2 million. The operating portion of this budget is \$49.0 million.

In an effort to provide inmates with the opportunity to serve out their sentences closer to home, the Department of Justice has been allocated \$1.5 million for the establishment of the Kugluktuk Healing Centre. This new facility will employ 12 staff, most of whom will be beneficiaries from the community. This facility will also offer healing programs at the community level aimed at helping inmates reintegrate into the community.

This budget allocates \$600,000 for the establishment of a human rights tribunal as a result of the passage of the Human Rights Act. The new legislation requires that the tribunal be in place by November of this year.

>>*Applause*

Before implementation of the act, public information will be provided to ensure that all Nunavummiut have a good understanding of their individual rights and how the tribunal will work. This act will make it possible for the tribunal to consider human rights issues from a Nunavut perspective and include "Inuit qaujimajatuqangit" in its reviews, which was not possible under the federal legislation.

Additional funding has been allocated to address the on-going budget shortfalls for the Legal Services Board, court services, and corrections and community justice. This new funding will address the shortfall that has existed to date with delivering this program and will make it easier to meet the justice needs of Nunavummiut.

Culture, Language, Elders and Youth

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has been allocated \$16.6 million for 2004-05 to preserve and enhance Inuit culture, language, and heritage and to support healthy active living opportunities for Nunavummiut.

Under the guidance of Minister Tapardjuk, the department will place increased emphasis upon the incorporation of IQ principles and values in Government of Nunavut policies and programs.

As a result of the government's recent restructuring, CLEY has assumed additional responsibility for programs and services related to Sport Nunavut, recreation and leisure, and public libraries. This will enhance CLEY's delivery of programs in the areas of active living, culture and heritage.

An increase of \$115,000 in youth programs will allow the development of programs for youth that support culture and community life, instil pride, and develop leadership skills.

>>Applause

The department will be developing a comprehensive elders' strategy that will focus on linguistic, senior, and cultural programs for this very important part of our society. In the 2004-05 year, the department will provide \$4.6 million in grants and contributions to communities to support capacity building in the areas of culture, heritage, language, communications, the arts, sport, recreation and leisure.

Economic Development and Transportation

Mr. Speaker, the economic development and transportation department was established with the clear mandate to strengthen economic development across Nunavut. It will help build a more self-sustaining territory. It will help ensure that Nunavummiut have the transportation, business, and knowledge infrastructure to participate fully in the economic opportunities the government anticipates for the territory.

The department also will help stimulate development in both the traditional and wage-based economies, working closely with the private sector and land claim organizations. The department has a budget of about \$40 million in the 2004-05 year. Of this amount, more than \$12 million will be spent to operate our vital transportation systems, including airports, motor vehicles and roads, coast guard re-supply sites, and small craft harbours.

Implementation of the *Nunavut Transportation Strategy* will be a priority of the department, including acting on the recommendations of *Airport Investment Strategy For Nunavut*.

The promotion of the Nunavut-Manitoba road project also will be a priority, as will be the Bathurst Inlet port and road project. Both of these large projects would result in economic benefits and jobs. These projects, and the development of small craft harbours

and improved airports in Nunavut, depend on the outcome of ongoing discussions with the federal government.

A total of \$14 million will be invested in economic development activities by the department. More than \$1.5 million of that amount will be used to support the development of our minerals and petroleum resource industries. Included is \$450,000 for the Geoscience Program, to help stimulate increased private investment in Nunavut's mining industry. This year, the value of mineral exploration could reach an all-time high of \$120 million in private funding. The department will also invest \$2.7 million in tourism, trade and export development.

>>Applause.

In addition, a portion of the \$14 million will be invested to build our community economies. This includes \$2 million to provide contributions to local businesses and to operate business loan services through the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and Regional Business Development Centres. It also includes more than \$5 million in funding for municipalities to hire community economic development officers, and for the community initiatives program.

Environment

Mr. Speaker, the creation of a separate Department of Environment reflects the high priority this government places on its responsibilities for the protection and promotion of our environment and natural resources through “*avatimik kamattiarniq*.”

>>Applause

For the 2004-05 year, \$16.1 million has been allocated to this new department. Of this amount, \$14.2 million has been budgeted for operations and \$1.9 million for capital projects. This budget supports initiatives to deliver on a wide range of regulatory and program functions, and the implementation of specific statutory and legal obligations, including commitments under the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*.

Funding support to the Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Community Harvesters' Assistance Program and Regional Wildlife Management Boards will continue.

Investment will continue to encourage and support a viable and sustainable fishery and fur sectors through cooperation with key stakeholders. This year we will develop and implement the Nunavut Sealing Strategy and the Nunavut Fishing Strategy. This will provide support for increased economic opportunities in these sectors for Nunavummiut, within the principles of conservation and sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, this new department will enforce the Environmental Protection Act, *Nunavut Climate Change Strategy* and *Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements for Territorial*

Parks. This will help ensure that the development of a strong sustainable economy does not come at the cost of our environmental, natural, and heritage resources.

>>*Applause*

Community and Government Services

The creation of the Department of Community and Government Services will allow the government to maximize the use of resources to support communities and other government departments. The department has been allocated a total budget of \$132.9 million. Of this amount, \$108.8 million has been budgeted for operations and \$24.1 million for capital projects.

It will facilitate improved technical services related to capital infrastructure and information technology. It will increase emphasis on protection services including fire, emergency measures operations, and building inspections. For communities, it will mean improved capital planning, project management, program delivery, and technical services are delivered in a financially efficient way.

The government has demonstrated a firm financial commitment to supporting municipalities, and will continue to do so under this mandate. Base funding to municipalities, through the Municipal Operating Assistance Program, will be assured and the 13 percent increase that communities received beginning last year will be continued.

>>*Applause*

This budget will continue support for municipalities by providing funding for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange. The budget includes \$1.5 million for this purpose, which will bring the total amount of funding provided so far to \$3.5 million.

This year communities will benefit from additional major infrastructure funding in cooperation with the government of Canada. The Strategic Infrastructure Fund will provide \$20 million for water and waste water projects and another \$20 million for housing projects over the next three to four years. This funding, which is matched by our government, will allow us to address some priority needs in communities. In addition, we are involved in negotiations with Canada for the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund which would fund other much needed infrastructure projects in communities.

The government, in cooperation with NTI, has carried out a comprehensive review which has resulted in substantial enhancements to the current NNI Policy. Changes to the policy took effect on April 1. These changes will assist in advancing the goals of Inuit employment and support for local businesses.

Human Resources

The Department of Human Resources has been given a budget of \$18.1 million for the 2004-05 year. Mr. Speaker, the \$4.2 million allocated for the Inuit Employment Plan and the \$1.1 million for training account for almost one-third of this budget. The department is responsible for the implementation, management and monitoring of the Inuit Employment Plan in all departments and crown corporations. Through the newly established Inuit Employment Branch, it can assist departments to develop recruitment, retention and succession planning strategies. This includes the coordination of a government wide Inuit Management Internship program aimed at placing more beneficiaries in coordinating, supervisory and management positions.

The department is planning to undertake considerable effort on reducing barriers to staffing and job evaluation processes. A review of government resources allocated to training and development will further contribute to the promotion and retention of beneficiaries.

Finance

The Department of Finance has been allocated a total budget of \$52.5 million. For 2004-05, the department will continue the electrical power subsidy to help ensure that all Nunavut residents have access to reasonable utility rates. The department also will administer a \$10.0 million subsidy this year to offset the impact on consumer utility bills of the fuel stabilization rider that will be introduced by the Qulliq Energy Corporation, to help offset the increasing cost of fuel. This subsidy will protect all electricity consumers in all communities from the significant increase in rates that will result from the rider.

The department is continuing with efforts to strengthen financial management and capacity across all government departments. This effort is enhanced by the recent establishment of the Crown Agency Council and internal audit committee. Efforts to strengthen financial capacity include the provision of financial training opportunities to 12 beneficiaries through the Financial Internship program and other finance staff.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

The 2004-05 operating budget for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is \$9.4 million.

This department will continue to work in partnership with NTI and the federal government in implementing and meeting the obligations of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Also, EIA will focus on improved opportunities for advancing other Nunavut interests with the federal government, particularly through the negotiation of a devolution framework agreement.

Conclusions

Mr. Speaker, this is the first budget that will be presented during this new government's mandate. It represents a new beginning in which we will build on the strong foundation that is already in place to address the challenges that remain.

Nunavut's economic promise is vast and we are only beginning to explore and discover its real potential. It is only through partnership and innovation that we will be able to fully access Nunavut's promise—the promise that was delivered to us upon the creation of this vast territory. All members of the Legislative Assembly must work together to help achieve this. There is much to be done and only through co-operation and understanding can we get there. We need to come together in order to secure further recognition by the federal government of the challenges of infrastructure, housing, and social concerns within the territory.

By working together with NTI, Inuit organizations, other governments, and the private sector we can create an environment to stimulate economic development and create new sustainable opportunities for Nunavummiut, now and into the future.

I look forward to working with all members of the second Legislative Assembly in our efforts to achieve Nunavut's full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister for Finance, for your address. Orders of the day. Item 3. Ministers' statements. Item 4. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 052 – 2(1): Concern about Education Opportunities

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Finance for her budget address; it is very good. Today, I would like to speak on the issue of education.

(Interpretation ends.) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a concern about the educational opportunities being provided to Nunavummiut. More and more young adults are realizing that completing a basic level of education is their ticket to getting more training and education in the future, to getting a good job and to realizing their potential.

Mr. Speaker, many community-based Nunavut Arctic College learning centres offer adult basic education programs which help adults to learn or improve some basic but important skills. These courses are often seen as the first step to entering other training programs. In order for an adult to earn the equivalent of a high school diploma, they need to pass some sort of assessment or test that shows that they have succeeded in achieving skills that are equal to those of a high school graduate. In many Canadian jurisdictions, the general equivalency diploma, or GED, is presented to individuals who have successfully

completed an assessment and demonstrated skill levels equivalent to achieving a high school diploma.

It is not clear how the adult basic education program offered in Nunavut guarantees that Nunavummiut can earn similar equivalencies. One major concern for adults in the adult basic education program is that the qualifications earned here in Nunavut may not be adequate for them to enter into training programs elsewhere. It is important that our government offer the most appropriate and adequate opportunities for adults to receive education and training and be sufficiently prepared to re-enter the work force. It is important that every effort be made to increase the workforce capacity within our territory.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions on this issue. "Qujannamiik, Uqaqti."

Speaker (interpretation): Item 4. Members' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 053 – 2(1): Thanks to Mamie Oniak and Jacqueline Shouldice

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: This afternoon I want to thank and recognize two individuals. First, I want to thank Mamie Oniak from Kugluktuk who made the kamiks for me; the tradition is to wear new kamiks on budget day. She is a 69 year old elder from Kugluktuk. I also want to thank the individual I had worked with in the past that gave me the kamiks when I left the public service.

The other person that I want to thank called me this weekend and said that she would be making me a pullover for budget day. And so on Monday afternoon, I received this in the mail and she is a very talented individual I know, a very good friend of mine and that is Jacqueline Shouldice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Very nice. Members' statements. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 054 – 2(1): Gjoa Haven Tournament

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to congratulate the volleyball team from Kugluktuk: Pauline Anablak, Melody Kuneluk, Mila Kamingoak, Lashawna Taipana, Pauline Bolt and my daughter, Doreen Evyagotailak. I urge my colleagues to clap their hands for the team that went to Gjoa Haven for a tournament. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 055 – 2(1): Government of Nunavut Summer Student Program

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to congratulate Ms. Aglukkaq on her first budget address and there are many good things in there. Also there is indication of precautionary things that will be have to taken into consideration over the next few years. As well, I look forward to questioning the ministers on those areas.

I rise today to pursue concerns that have been raised with me by a number of my constituents. On April 5, 2004, the government issued a news release in which it announced that this year's GN summer student program would be made more accessible. This program is an important tool in helping our young people gain valuable job skills, while providing support to our departments in delivering programs and services.

The government's own information on this program indicates that the target groups for hiring are land claims beneficiaries and Nunavut students. It has come to my attention that many young non-beneficiaries, who are nonetheless Nunavut students, are being told by the Department of Human Resources that their applications are on hold until some undefined and unclear point in the future. I'm not talking about people who have just stepped off an airplane. I'm talking about young people who graduated from high school in Nunavut and whose families have roots here.

It's simply unfair to young people to tell them that they can apply for a job, and then tell them that their applications are indefinitely on hold. There's a question of fairness and consistency here. On the one hand, the government is telling people who make a commitment to Nunavut that they will be afforded opportunities to make a positive contribution to the territory. On the other hand, they're being told, in practice by the government, that their contributions are not welcome.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time this week, I will be asking questions of the minister on this issue.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 056 – 2(1): Feast and Celebration of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You and myself and some of the members, as well as NTI, elders, community members, and the former Chair of the International Negotiating Committee, Dr. John Bertunni, celebrated the entering into force yesterday of the Stockholm Convention of persistent organic pollutants with a traditional feast of seal, caribou, whale and char.

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference, or ICC, was a key advocate for this international convention to ensure that the security of our traditional food is in place. ICC, in

partnership with the National Aboriginal Health Organization, believed that there was no better way to celebrate than through a feast, here in Iqaluit, of the very foods that once were laden with the chemicals listed in the Stockholm Convention.

Canada was a key participant in negotiating this treaty. Canadian data, mainly produced through the very successful Canadian Federal Northern Contaminants Program, and the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program of the Arctic Council, showed and demonstrated that many of the chemicals dealt with under the convention have been found at levels of concern in people and the environment. Particularly here, with our Inuit. This international agreement ratified by over 50 countries is an excellent example of the work done by and for Inuit through the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. I want to single out the excellent Chair, Sheila Watt Cloutier.

This landmark agreement was the result of very tough and long negotiations. While in Johannesburg, South Africa, Premier Okalik was able to lend support to the ICC and was mentioned last night for that support. Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and this House join with me in congratulating the ICC and Sheila Watt Cloutier for their good work on behalf for all circumpolar people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 057 – 2(1): Belcher Isand and James Bay Issue

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to be here. I know that as members of the Legislature we will be bringing up various concerns and issues. I will want to talk about the Belcher Islands, and also James Bay. For Sanikiluaq residents, with this new technology, we are now able to move around today, more than before.

We hear about the Belcher Islands within James Bay. For that reason Sanikiluaq residents are concerned about the islands that are being argued about, and they will want to have the right of access. Therefore, at the appropriate time I will be addressing the appropriate minister in regards to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Members' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 058 – 2(1): Fishing Derby in Pangirtung

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I rose to talk about turbot fishery development, but today I am very pleased and honoured to talk about the fishing derby in Pangirtung —there was a fishing derby for cod. One of the elders

won the fishing derby and I would like to congratulate the elder. For one cod he won \$3,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Members' statements. Back to the orders of the day, item number 5, "Returns to Oral Questions." Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

Item 5: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 011 – 2(1): Summer Student Program

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question was asked by Mr. Tootoo on Thursday, May 14—question number 011 – 2(1). I would like to provide a response to this question posed to me in the Legislature by the member for Iqaluit Centre.

The question was regarding the summer student employment program and whether non-beneficiaries are waiting for employment. Nunavut land claims beneficiaries are a hiring priority, consistent with article 23 of the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. It is a normal occurrence that there is some waiting time for some non-beneficiary students. The departments who apply for summer student funding are required to consult Department of Human Resources to ensure that all résumés for beneficiary summer students are reviewed and considered first. After beneficiaries have been placed according to article 23, non-beneficiary and other students are considered. This review process, as well as the schedule of the summer student provisions comes to a small but not excessive delay.

Speaker (interpretation):. Item number 5, returns to oral questions. Item number 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Item 6: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Peterson: "Koanaq Ukakti," I would like to recognize Mr. James Eetoolook, first vice-president of NTI from Cambridge Bay. I would like to recognize Mike Vaydik. He's the executive director of the NWT and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, based in Yellowknife. I would like to recognize Pam Strand, she's the president of Shear Minerals, we hear all about them doing work in Nunavut. With her is Doug Willie, he does some consulting work for them. Finally, I would like to recognize my old friend Hugh Wilson from Miramar Mining. Prior to getting elected, that was to negotiate with Hugh on an Inuit impact review and benefit agreement, so it's good to see him here, pun intended.

>>Applause

Chairman (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like recognize Laimiki Kakkik, he's an elder. The elders have been reduced in number, but fortunately he is able to be here. Usually it is very rare that I get a chance to recognize a visitor, and that was my opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Hon. Paul Okalik

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize this individual from Grise Fjord: my older step-brother, Mr. Kakkik. And also, there is an individual here from my constituency: Simon Kilabuk, our Sergeant-at-arms, his wife, Hannah Kilabuk. Welcome.

Also, those two that I've been working with for quite some time for well over 20 years, during the land claim's negotiation—it will be the 20th anniversary this coming February: Raymond Ningeocheak and James Eetoolook, welcome to the Legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although the Premier had recognised this individual, I too would like to recognise Mr. Raymond Ningeocheak. He lives in Rankin Inlet. He is very supportive of Inuit and we'd like to appreciate him. And also, I would like to say that Mr. Ningeocheak, we can learn from him during the election campaign. I think we're all aware Raymond is very well known by all people of Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to introduce a couple of people to the gallery. First of all, sitting behind Mr. Barnabas: the well known international hockey star, we're very pleased to have him in the gallery today. He is well known internationally as well as here in Nunavut, in the capital, and has played with me. And he's a lawyer, an entrepreneur, recently a father, and a member of the Nunavut Power Implementation Committee. We're very pleased to have him today, Mr. Brad Favel.

Next to Brad is one of our well known residents of Nunavut, long serving member of this House, a friend of mine from a long way back. A person I love debating on different issues on this and that: the Hon. Manitok Thompson.

Behind me, to my immediate right, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce to the gallery—no stranger to the members of this House— Mr. Johnny Mike, a person

with a boat bigger than mine, a motor, faster than mine. But he does not have the courage on the water that I have and that's something that he's going to be working on later on this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

I would like to recognise visitors in the gallery. I'm pleased to draw the members' attention to the presence in the gallery of 10 parliamentary interns from the House of Commons. These young parliamentarians are participants in a prestigious national program. They are in Iqaluit this week for a study tour. The participants are, I have to apologize, I might mispronounce your name: Simon Bailey, Shantona Chaudhury, Clare Demerse, Jeremy Geddert, Andrew Macdonald, Chi Nguyen, Cloë Rowbotham, David Sandomierski, Adam Waiser and Eli Walker. They are sitting over there, and I apologize for mispronouncing your names.

>>Applause

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although this individual was recognized earlier by the member from Iqalututiaq. I want to recognize James Eetoolook, from Taloyoak. And Mr. Peterson, I want you to know he's from Taloyoak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Going back to orders of the day, Item 7, "Oral Questions." Mr. Curley.

Item 7: Oral Questions

Question 046 – 2(1): Medical Boarding Home Leases

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

Yesterday we learned from the Auditor General that the government signed not one, not two, but three different lease agreements for the Winnipeg medical boarding home before settling on a deal. We've now learned that the documents continue to be missing, such as the proposals, and that the first two of the three leases signed did not have proper approval. My question for the minister is: what steps has her department taken to make sure that this kind of poor management will not take place again in relation to the Government of Nunavut's arrangements with medical boarding homes?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to Mr. Curley's question, just recently they were negotiated and they were approved. The approval was not proper and the Auditor General did not like the approval process. So, I think that is how I understand it in regards to the Winnipeg boarding home.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, since I understand the government process, the Department of Public Works was responsible for the lease and negotiations, and the cabinet agreed that all the lease agreements go through public works. In the past that was the process, but now it has to go through community and government services. Why did they do that to health and social services during the negotiations?

I would like to ask the minister—I want a commitment or reassurance that this won't happen again. Will the Department of Community and Government Services be responsible for the lease agreements?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes. I will direct them to do so.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 047 – 2(1): Status of Negotiations on the Belcher Islands

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During my member's statement—I would like to ask my question since I asked it during my statement to the Premier. For quite some time we've been dealing with the islands, especially Sanikiluaq residents have been hearing about the concerns about the islands. So, when we were dealing with the islands, I'm sure the Premier remembers, Sanikiluaq residents are still concerned.

In regards to the waters surrounding the Belcher Islands and the islands that belong to the federal government—crown islands—and that Nunavut owns part of those islands, for that reason I would like to ask the Premier about the issue of islands. The Cree of James Bay are now negotiating with the federal government in regards to those islands. What is the status of the negotiations on these islands to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time we are unsure of when the negotiations will be over, but I would like to inform the member that I would like those people negotiating to follow the mandate that they are supposed to follow in regards to their negotiations, and they have to follow through with the guidelines of the negotiations for the sake of the people of the Belcher Islands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the response. thank you, Mr. Minister. But I would like to get some more clarification. Is the minister saying that the people of Sanikiluaq will be signatories as well to the agreement? Is that what the Premier is saying? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was an agreement that they signed in 1993, and it is in regards to the zones one and two, which is the Hudson Bay area and the treaty agreement. There will be a protection of the people of the Belcher Islands. And if the negotiations were to go ahead, I have asked them to have a representative from the Nunavut Government at their negotiating table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Member for Hudson Bay. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I remember correctly that zones one and two in the Hudson Bay area—the people from the southern part on the Salliq area are under, around the James Bay is where the Dene are.

I am asking whether the people of Sanikiluaq are going to be signatories in this agreement so that their hunting area is protected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the agreement, it states that zone two is part of James Bay and all the Inuit hunting areas are protected. It is in the agreement, and like I said, we will make sure that the people of Sanikiluaq have a voice in these negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Peterson.

Question 048 – 2(1): Senior Management at Qulliq Corporation

Mr. Peterson: “Koana Uqaqti.” My question is for the Minister of Energy and it concerns the Auditor General’s report that was tabled yesterday. Mr. Speaker, I spent two or three hours last night reading it before the hockey game. Fortunately, I enjoyed the hockey game.

Most of the concerns in the Auditor General’s report—most of the problems attributed to the Nunavut Power Corporation— seem to be geared to lack of management. I wonder if the minister could commit today to telling the House that he is hiring senior management with expertise in operating utility companies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can say that most of the senior management have changed, including a new president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation who is a former deputy minister of the Government of Nunavut. So, yes, senior management has changed. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House today if Nunavut Power Corporation is continuing to hire consultants to correct their accounting, billing, other areas, and to reconciling its accounts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: I can say that we now have three full time accountants working in the Baker Lake headquarters office. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House if the approved board of directors has an appointed outside director with a strong knowledge of financial management and accounting to advise his members on the board of directors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation): We are going to need many new board members this summer or in the fall. (Interpretation ends.) Many new board members will be recruited over the next several months. That should be in place by the fall of 2004. And yes, experience and skill and technical knowledge will be top criteria for board selection. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 049 – 2(1): GED Course Curriculum

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a member's statement earlier, and I will ask the question that concerns adult education.

Can the minister inform us what kinds of curriculum are in place for GED testing in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GED is a general equivalency diploma. It is put in place for individuals who never had, for whatever reason, the opportunity to

complete grade 12. If you haven't completed grade 12 and you go back to an upgrading program to be able to receive a certificate that demonstrates that you have the academic capability to meet the grade equivalent, then you have to write a battery of exams called the general educational development tests, or the GED.

Mr. Speaker, in that case a person who writes those exams and is successful in getting a GED—that diploma then is recognized by most post-secondary institutions and most employers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify what measures are in place to insure that high school equivalency qualifications earned in Nunavut meet the same standards as similar qualifications in other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can assure that member that any Nunavut resident who writes the GED program—does the studying of tests, and so on, associated with GED—then that GED is recognized across the country. So, the standards and criteria are the same in Nunavut as they would be in Alberta, or British Columbia, or Ontario for a GED. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update this house on what initiatives are underway to improve or increase services being offered to young Nunavut adults who would like to earn basic education qualifications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of things that we've done over the last several weeks is to appoint a new administrative officer for GED. That person will be instructed and entailed to deliver your programs and services throughout Nunavut for our staff in education for the GED. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 050 – 2(1): Senior Management Bonuses - Qulliq Corporation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for energy and the Nunavut Power Corporation.

As my colleague indicated earlier, yesterday in the Auditor General's report, it was revealed that despite the fact that the power corporation has lost millions of dollars and is plagued by severe management problems, senior management received \$670,000 in bonuses during the first two years of operations.

This information—I was looking at it last night too. On exhibit 6.6 on page 40, on unique costs for the first two years, my question for the minister, I guess, is: what are the minister and the board of the energy corporation doing to ensure that people are no longer being rewarded with bonuses for failure. That seems to be what happened here. They're losing millions of dollars and not reporting it accurately, and yet they're still receiving bonuses. So, I would like the minister to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Power Corporation. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can assure the member and the members of this House that we have indeed eliminated excessive management bonuses. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad to hear that. Looking at excessive bonuses, it's too bad that the previous minister and government didn't catch this a little sooner. It could have deleted some of these problems.

Mr. Speaker, one of the other problems that is identified in the Auditor General's report: the power corporation is having problems with accurate customer billing. I've spoken to a number of Iqaluit residents in recent days and it appears that the power corporation has not issued bills to customers for quite some time. As a matter of fact I just today received my first bill in two months. I would like to ask the minister what the problem has been, and what's being done to address it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the energy corporation, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have done is we have put in a whole complete new software package that deals with that and solves all of those problems that we had in the past. Thank you.

Speaker: Second supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General's report also points out the fact that the power corporation was charged \$110,000 in late filing penalties by Canada's revenue agency in 2002. What action has been taken to hold those responsible accountable for this serious loss, and who's going to pay for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister of the energy corporation. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have mentioned earlier, I have three full-time accountants working in the Baker Lake office. Our staff, our accounting staff, have been given more training, a new software package, and all of that is now... (interpretation) yes, this is going to be better. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Last supplementary question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear the minister state that things are going to get better, and I know that that's a comment that was echoed by the government. It claims that work of the crown corporation and the Crown Agency Council will improve matters and make things better.

I would like to ask the minister if he could indicate how many meetings between the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Nunavut Power Corporation and the council have taken place during 2004, and what decisions and directions have been taken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of the energy corporation. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: "Uqaqti," I am sorry, I do not have that information right now, but I can get back to the member. "Ma'na."

Speaker (interpretation): Question is taken as notice. Mr. Alagalak.

Question 051 – 2(1): Incorrect Billing Address

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I would like to ask the minister of Nunavut Power Corporation —last year, we were told that it was going to be getting a lot better, but it is still the same as it was. Especially in the Keewatin region, it seems that they have two addresses: one in Rankin Inlet and the other in Baker Lake. People that have already paid get two bills, one is for Rankin Inlet and one is for Baker Lake. It is the reason why their power did not get cut off, and it is not a very good way of doing things. It seems that a lot of times the payments are just in the basket, they are under the file, because they send them to the wrong address and just stay within that office. It does not get returned to the appropriate place. I would like to know if you have done something about this. Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Energy, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes, now we will be doing everything out of Baker Lake instead of Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Peterson.

Question 052 – 2(1): Auditor’s Report – Leasing Practices

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, and again it concerns yesterday’s report of the Auditor General. The Auditor General’s report raised some serious questions about the government’s leasing and property purchasing practices.

On page 56, one of the unanswered questions noted by the Auditor General is why the government apparently paid \$175,000 more than it had to for the purchase of the Sivumut Building here in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, it should be noted that \$175,000 would pay for a lot of scholarships for Nunavut students to attend post-secondary schools. My question for the minister: can the minister explain to this House why this decision was made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am reading the report, as I sit here. Page 56-7, the issue related to the decision to award \$175,000—I don’t have that information in front of me, myself. The auditors tried to figure that out as well through the Department of Health and Social Services. I would have to look into that. I can assure the members, though, there are a number of serious issues that were raised in the Auditor General’s report that I will take the lead in trying to address and look into corrected measures for addressing how this particular health contract was dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been advised that in the fall of last year the government committed in writing to providing MLAs with a copy of its new leasing policy. This new policy was referred to in public meetings last year. I wonder if the minister could tell the House when the government’s leasing policy will be tabled in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the leasing policy, I believe yesterday in Committee of the Whole I assured Members that I would provide that information under capital projects, and the second part of his question, I missed it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just going to clarify for the minister that I was wondering when will the government commit to tabling the leasing policy in this House. If she could get that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that at the end of today, providing information to the members by tomorrow. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Curley

Question 053 – 2(1): Payment of \$800,000 under a Verbal Agreement – Auditor General’s Report

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister of energy about the corporation. On page 37 it says that NPC paid \$800,000 to a supplier. I would like to ask the minister if he could look into this because there are no contracts and I feel that it is not appropriate that you tell not to do it again. Thank you.

Speaker: Minister of Energy. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have already reviewed this. This was from July, 2002 and we have done this already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister of the power corporation, that when we were reading this, the Auditor General does have a concern that the crown corporation—they have not looked after their finances properly. Now that it is going to be delayed a little bit so that we can look at this carefully, I would like to ask that the Qulliq Energy Corporation, how are they going to get funding? Where is the funding going to be coming from, because we know that supplies are going to be going up at all time. I would like to remind you that you have to think about this very carefully. How is the Qulliq Corporation going to be making money? Or through the PPDs, now that they are running well? I feel that it should be them instead of another power corporation. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues I’m sure will be considered full heartedly in the upcoming month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas

Question 054 – 2(1): Tabling of Public Accounts

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. (Interpretation ends.) It is almost June now, and the government public

accounts are almost six months late. Even the Auditor General has lost patience with the government and delays in tabling these important documents.

My question to the ministers: will the public accounts be tabled before the session of this House is finished? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Finance, Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The public accounts, we have those. Cabinet is meeting on Thursday to review it to approve for tabling on Friday. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is —the government can't seem to obey the law on tabling the public accounts on time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, when public accounts are completed, the first available session is when they are tabled in the House. The reports, from what I understand, in the past have been late, and there are a number of questions or concerns around that. A lot of it has to do with different fiscal year-ends. One example is the Nunavut Arctic College year end ends in June, whereas other corporations have different year-ends. The reporting is different, and it delays the process of consolidating all the public accounts. So, that one being a major reason behind that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 055 – 2(1): Tabling of all Ministerial Directives

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question is for the Minister of Finance. In the fall of last year the government tabled a written response to the report and a recommendation of the standing committee that reviewed the previous Auditor General's report.

One of the committees' recommendations was that the government table copies of all the ministerial directives made to Crown corporations. Although the government's response claimed that no ministerial directives were made since April 1, 1999, yesterday's report of the Auditor General revealed that directives were issued. On page 46, exhibit 7.1 of the report, they were issued on March 16, 2001 and May 20, 2003, to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and another crown corporation that the Auditor General has identified we're in problems with. Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is: when will the government table, in this House, copies of all ministerial directives made to Crown corporations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not knowing the details of what happened prior to this session, I can look into what the written responses and recommendations were for further information on the question that he is posing.

But what I understand, as a government, whether they are directives or not, I'm reading as I go along, whether there is an obligation under the financial administration act responsibilities to table directives for this House... I can look into that; I can also look into whether they were directives for the directors, aside from what was identified in this report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary question, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure that the minister responsible works with the crown corporation's council or Crown Agency Council in coming up with these directives for them. I would like to ask the minister what the government's new council has accomplished to date, and are they looking at any more directives for Crown corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is a Crown Agency Council in place, and I chair that committee. I will be looking at all the recommendations that are in the Auditor General's report as it relates to the financial management practices of the crown agencies and reporting. The Crown Agency Council was established six months ago, so there is much work to be done. It was recognized there were some issues, and we are taking corrective measures to deal with some of the concerns outlined in the report. However, I would also state that in light of the concerns we're dealing with, or issues of this nature, there will be further directives from the Crown Agency Council, in terms of how they report their finances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe to avoid confusion and things getting forgotten about, like those other directives are missed, would the minister commit to tabling a report of some kind that would indicate any actions, or directions, et cetera. that the Crown Agency Council has done on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for finance. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to consider that a bit more seriously—the Crown Agency Council, chaired by myself, involves other cabinet members—to release discussions of the cabinet members to the House. I'm a bit concerned about that. Normally the decisions of cabinet, or the Financial Management

Board, are confidential within the system. So, in terms of how we deal with these issues at that level, I would have to consider seriously before I would consider releasing any information discussed at the Crown Agency Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Last supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not asking the minister to divulge the debate and arguments that may happen, or conversations that may happen within the Council, and to breach cabinet secrecy and confidentiality.

In the spirit of openness and transparency which is something that all members of this House strive for, and this government is supposed to be working towards, I don't see anything wrong with providing and tabling information on the action and direction after those conclusions are made by that council for direction and things that the Agency is putting forward. So, again, I ask the minister—you know, I'm not looking for the debate on different issues but on the decisions and the actions—that once things have been agreed to, at that level, they be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to the issue of the Auditor General's report. There are a number of issues and concerns she raised related to a number of agencies. Each of those agencies will be focusing their energies on trying to address those. In some cases they have already started that process.

In terms of going back to your question in getting cabinet decisions tabled in this House, I will not put those forward in this House, nor will I put Financial Management Board decisions into this house. That is normal practice of government in any other jurisdiction. The Crown Agency Council decisions are at the cabinet level, but I think within that we should respect the confidentiality of those discussions. Having said that, in terms of what is addressed in the Auditor General's report, you will look to each department responsible to address some of those and report on them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 056 – 2(1): Power Bill Payments

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct this to the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

We've been experiencing problems from all the communities. And when my colleague asked a question about Keewatin people sending their payments to Rankin Inlet and Baker Lake... How about in the Baffin region? How are we going to be paying for our bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for energy, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no idea at the time how the Baffin region processes to pay bills, but once I get that I'll relay that information to my colleague.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk, your supplementary.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you for the response Mr. Speaker, but I would like to remind the minister that some individuals' power is cut off even though they paid for their bill monthly. At times we don't know what happens to the payments because some clients' power bills have been cut off. The reason why I'm asking that is usually in Baffin there are two payment locations.

I would like the minister to reassure me that they will be considering this. And about the 48 hour notice: this 48 hour notice for power cut off is insufficient time. It is too short of a time. Will the minister commit to me that he can extend the 48 hours to longer hours? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my colleague's statement: yes, we are now considering this as we speak and I expect to see improvements on it.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Peterson.

Question 057 – 2(1): Decision on Fuel Rider Issue

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister of energy. The government's response to the Auditor General's report on problems associated with the Nunavut Power Corporation states, and I'll quote here, it is on page 42, "the Corporation is developing a plan to resolve the present financial situation. The general applications re-establishing the fuel rider, the consolidation of existing short term debt into a new long term debt issue, and an understanding of the Corporation requirement to earn adequate return on equity are integral to the resolution".

I was reading the Minister of Finance's budget address and she said the Power Corporation will administer a \$10 million subsidy this year to offset the impact on consumer utility bills of the fuel stabilization rider that will be introduced by the Qulliq Energy Corporation to help offset the increasing cost of fuel.

My question for the minister is: has a decision to re-establish the fuel rider been approved by cabinet and when will it come into effect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Energy, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I assure the member that cabinet is working on the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Supplementary: the law requires that the Utilities Rates Review Council review applications for rates for tariffs such as the fuel rider. Has the Utilities Rates Review Council reviewed an application to re-establish a fuel rider; if so, will its report be tabled in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Minister responsible for energy. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we have not approached the URRC yet, because there's no application from Nunavut Power Corporation yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's almost the middle of May and a new fiscal year. I'm wondering if the minister is anticipating an application very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Energy. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Like I said, the Corporation is looking at whether a general rate application is the best way to address revenue shortfalls, and that review should be done very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Final supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the minister could give us a specific date as to when we could see that information in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): The information can be tabled, Mr. Speaker, once the cabinet has reviewed it. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 058 – 2(1): Tabling of Information on Directing Crown Corporations

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance with respect to the questions from the Auditor General's report. They are very important and very serious in regards to the Crown corporations.

The Auditor General stated that they have not had any good reporting, and that the information was not adequate, even though the money was not controlled properly. And there was no good direction from the government, as well. For that reason, I would like to continue on from the Member for Cambridge Bay's question: would the minister table in this House how the Crown corporations can be directed to do better reporting, because the Auditor General has already stated that there was no adequate reporting system from the Crown corporations. I would like to ask the minister: even if you don't table the directives, can you kind of give us information that these kinds of things will be corrected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for finance, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of responding to the issues that were raised by the Auditor General, there are some responses in the report, from the government, on the issues raised. In terms of trying to address the immediate concerns on the direction given to Crown Agency Council, a Crown Agency Council within the government was established, which I chair, that will oversee the implementation of the issues that have been addressed.

As well, an internal audit division was established within Finance to provide interim audits of corporations, or any other department, or to provide assistance to departments to address some of those, and I don't mind presenting or providing updates to these issues as they are dealt with by the Crown corporations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for her response that she will be able to give us a bit of information. The Crown corporations, the entities of the Government of Nunavut, they are not minister's... It states in the Auditor General's report that they have to be given adequate information — they are not private clubs and the minister is the chair of the Power Corporation.

Will you be considering to report to the members of the Legislative Assembly on the goings on of the Crown corporations, because we as private members cannot ask her questions.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my earlier response I mentioned that I have no problems in providing periodic reports to the regular members. I have made it a practice since being in this portfolio to update, informally, members on main estimates or sub-bills. In a similar fashion, I will continue to do that and provide the information to the regular members.

I can assure Nunavummiut and this House that Crown corporations are not private clubs. They are corporations that are given public funding and the information provided in the Auditor General's report is serious and we are looking into the matter. Immediately, we had addressed some of the concerns by changing the management of the Power Corporation and putting in financial staff to oversee the concerns reported. Again, I said the Crown Agency Council within cabinet, chaired by myself, is looking into these on a regular basis. So, as information arrives, I will present that to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the minister for her response. Perhaps if you cannot answer this question the Auditor General will answer the question for us. This is not just the regular members' council here in the Legislative Assembly, but it is for all the members. So, for that reason, I would like you to report to the Legislative Assembly instead of just to the regular members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Finance. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue to provide the information to regular members in an informal fashion. The appropriate ministers for those portfolios can update the House as to what corrective measures are taken to address the Auditor General's report. Each minister is assigned a portfolio and their responsibility is to present an update. Through them, you will receive the update as to how the Auditor General's recommendations are being addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 059 – 2(1): Tabling of URRC Review of the Fuel Stabilization Rider

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the Power Corporation and I want to follow up on the questions posed by my colleague from Cambridge Bay on this fuel stabilization rider.

The budget address by the Minister of Finance had indicated that there is going to be \$10 million in the Department of Finance for subsidized implementation or the cost of the implementation of the fuel stabilization rider by the Power Corporation. The minister indicated, when asked about it earlier, that they are looking at a general rate review application in there, but separate than the rider. And that was done and looked at last year by the former minister for that, then rejected by cabinet, and it is quite obvious they have come up with the \$10 million number. They know, and you know what they are looking at bringing forward.

When does the minister plan on providing that information to the Utility Rate Review Council for them to review? It is quite obvious that the information is all there already if

they have a number already plugged in to the budget. So, when is that going to be brought forward to the URRC, and when will the members of this Assembly be made aware, as required by law, of that application and that request? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for power, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All I can say at the moment is that, no, we have not received an application from Nunavut Power Corporation yet for a GRI. Once that application is received then it will go through the appropriate steps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister seems to be taking advice from the former minister responsible. You may want to caution him on that and say look at what was passed on to him.

Mr. Speaker, I wasn't asking about a general rate increase. I was asking about the Fuel Stabilization Rider. That money has already been appropriated. It is in the budget. That was announced by the Minister of Finance today, —there is \$10 million there to subsidize that. So they obviously know, the Corporation knows that everything is all set up. He must have done something to come up with the number.

When is the minister planning on requesting that the URRC review the Fuel Stabilization Rider application? And when will the minister advise members of this House, as required by law, of when that will happen? That is all that I am asking. I am not asking about the general rate application, I am asking about the Fuel Stabilization Rider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister responsible for power, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to make sure I explain it very clearly to my colleague, let me get back to my staff and get the correct answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate the minister wanting to get the accurate information to the members of this House. Can the minister indicate to me, and to the House, if he is aware of that application coming forward, and has he seen the working documents on that yet? Or is it still something that he is not aware of at all? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister responsible for energy, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I add that information to the information that I will be giving to my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Last supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, earlier the minister indicated that the application was going to be reviewed and approved by cabinet. He had indicated that already. Can he tell me, and the members of this House, when he plans on bringing that to cabinet for approval? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister responsible for energy, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, Mr. Speaker, I cannot give a date at this time. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Oral Questions. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12..Item 13. Item 14. Item 15, "Tabling of Documents." Mr. Barnabas.

Item 15: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 009 – 2(1): Letter from the Federal Government to Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Interpretation ends.) I would like to table a letter that was received by the senior administrative officer for the hamlet of Arctic Bay from the federal department Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Mr. Speaker, this letter is regarding the Arctic Bay sewage lagoon and I would like to draw the members' attention to the final paragraph stating that a failure to comply with the inspector's direction could result in the fine of \$100,000 or imprisonment of 1 year, or both. Mr. Speaker, I think all members should be concerned when hamlet officers receive such a letter from the federal government threatening jail time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day, tabling of documents, Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 010 – 2(1): Letter from the Federal Government to Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: I'm tabling a similar letter, as my colleague Mr. Barnabas did. From the Department Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, dated September 10, 2003, entitled *Depost, (99) and Conservation of Water Licence NWB3CAM0207*.

The letter and inspector's report threatens one of my constituents with a hefty fine of \$100,000, or one year in jail, or both. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 011 – 2(1): Letter to Minister Kilabuk

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling a letter dated May 13, 2004, to the Hon. Peter Kilabuk, Minister of Community and Government Services.

The letter concerns the dumping of contaminants of the metal waste dump site in Cambridge Bay and determining legal ownership with respect to whom federal regulators should charge in the event that federal regulations are broken. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day, item 16. Item 17, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Item 17: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 2 – Appropriation (O&M) Act, 2004-2005 - Notice

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on May 20, I shall move that Bill 2, Appropriation O&M Act for 2004-05 be read for the first time. Mr. Speaker, I will seek consent to deal with the motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 18, “Motions.” Item 19, “First Reading of Bills.” Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 19: First Reading of Bills

Bill 2 – Appropriation (O&M) Act, 2004-2005 – First Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I request the consent of this Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement for the first reading of Bill 2, Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act, 2004-05. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive the two day notice under Rule 52(1) for first reading of bills for today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 2, Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act, 2004-2005 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 2 has been read for the first time.

Item 20. Second Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 20: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 2 – Appropriation (O&M) Act, 2004-2005 – Second Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Amittuq, that Bill 2, Appropriation Operations and Maintenance Act, 2004-05 be read for the second time. The purpose of this bill is to provide operations and maintenance funding for the fiscal year April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2005 to enable departments to deliver their programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. The bill has received second reading.

Item 21. Consideration of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a bit of a tradition in this House that we not go into the business of the Committee of the Whole until the day after budget day. Being the traditionalists that we are, Mr. Speaker, starting tomorrow I know that we'll be working long, hard hours as we proceed through the scrutiny, line by line and detail by detail, of the main estimates —something that I know the members on this side of the House are looking very much forward to. And keeping that in mind, Mr. Speaker, and pursuant to Rule 46, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqalututiaq, that the Assembly adjourn for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. The motion is in order, and it is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

We'll now proceed to Item 24. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 24: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder for the two meetings tomorrow with the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability at 9 o'clock in the morning, followed immediately by the Standing Committee on Health and Education in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday, May 19, 2004:

1. Opening 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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): We will come back May 19, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:41*

