



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

1st Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 7

Wednesday May 19, 2004

Pages 218 – 279

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Pond Inlet, Tunnunuiq)

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(Akulliq)

Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

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Housing Corporation*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, May 19, 2004**

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allan Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Patterk Netser, 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. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 2 Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 010 – 2(1): Clyde River Seniors' Four-Plex Project

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that the Housing Corporation will be participating in an exciting initiative to build a seniors' independent living facility in Clyde River. In response to community input, the corporation had dedicated Clyde River's 2004-05 capital allocation for new construction to this locally-designed and locally-delivered project.

The four-plex initiative is a combined effort of the hamlet housing association, Clyde River's two construction companies, several local businesses, and many other community members. Project management will also be at the local level as the Clyde River Housing Association will undertake 100 percent of the management of this initiative. The companies doing the construction will employ up to six trainees to learn carpentry, mechanical, electrical, and project management skills, helping to build long-term professional capacity in Clyde River.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Government, through the Housing Corporation is pleased to support this innovative project which is backed by community leaders and provides many benefits to the local community.

The project will provide four new residential units for elders which will be connected by a common area that will provide secure space for elders to gather, socialize, and share

their wisdom. The common area will also provide an environment for health and wellness activities, educational initiatives, and other important activities for the elders.

The Clyde River seniors project is an excellent example of a community-driven initiative supported by government that has both immediate and long-term benefits for local people. In line with the Corporation, it is an ongoing commitment to support an increased responsibility among its local delivery partners. These valuable skills will open the door for training to work on future projects and gain further experience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister's statements. Ms. Brown.

Minister's Statement 011 – 2(1): Community-based FASD Programs

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that Kugluktuk has been chosen to participate in the community-based pilot program for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, FASD.

The goal of the program is to establish community teams that will act as leaders in the community around the subject of FASD. Community members will receive training to help the community identify what types of programs and projects will work for them and what initiatives they should focus on.

Mr. Speaker, the FASD initiative in Nunavut is funded by Health Canada's First Nations and Inuit health branch and is delivered by the Department of Health and Social Services in consultation with the FASD steering committee.

The steering committee includes representatives from the Inuit organizations Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, Kitikmeot Inuit Association, Kivalliq Inuit Association, Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Education, Department of Justice, Qullit Nunavut Status of Womens' Council, and community members.

Earlier this year the FASD steering committee sent a letter to all of the Nunavut communities inviting them to indicate their interests and to participate in the development of a coordinated community approach to FASD in Nunavut. And the number of possible responses reinforced the need for community-based culturally relevant approaches to building their health communities.

For communities that have indicated interest but have not been selected for the first pilot, a number of territory-wide activities will be taking place over the next few months. I encourage all communities to participate in these awareness and prevention activities.

Mr. Speaker, through gathering our resources and working together at the community level we can increase and strengthen the prevention, intervention, care, and support of individuals and families affected by FASD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Minister's statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 012 – 2(1): Completion of A Nunavut Fisheries and Sealing Strategy Framework

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During last year's Sivummut II, Economic Development Strategy Conference in Rankin Inlet I committed to developing both a fishing and sealing strategy for Nunavut.

I would like to advise the members of this House that the framework documents for both the Nunavut fisheries and sealing strategies have been completed. The completion of these initial framework documents signals the beginning of the consultation phase. This consultation process will be conducted over the next several months to allow Nunavut stakeholders input in the final strategies. I think that we will be completing this some time in the fall.

(Interpretation ends.) The sealing project raises a number of issues including a need for more training for designers and seamstresses in Nunavut. In cooperation with other partners it also makes recommendations on a long-term policy to respect the Marine Mammal Protection Act and refocuses our limited resources on adjusting northern markets for sealskin products, our greatest market. We are also working on a new method of ensuring a reliable supply of dressed and dyed sealskins for Nunavut producers that are over par.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the fishery strategy will assist in addressing five key areas for the fishery's involvement in Nunavut. These are: increased access to the Atlantic fishery; increased quota allocations; investing in the infrastructure required to run and practise our resources within Nunavut; and the training and development of our people so that they may increasingly participate in the fishery. In addition, this strategy will highlight the need for investment in science and exploration to determine how they next intend to stabilize the sustainability of our resources.

"Uqaqti," my department is working hard to complete this process by the fall of 2004 and will continue to do so for the benefits of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 013 – 2(1): Reform of Education System

Hon. Ed Picco: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. In the progress of reform of many components of preschool, K–12, and secondary school, offerings are beginning and we will be in full commitment this fall.

This would include the redefining of school funding formulas, completing Inuktitut first language materials, strengthening our curriculum resources, the tabling of the language of instruction modelled in this House, standards and criteria reviews, as well as the beginning processes for a new made-in-Nunavut education act.

Shortly, an external review of Nunavut Arctic College and programs will begin. This overarching external review will encompass course offerings, direction, budget, and preparations for emerging programs and technologies delivered by the college.

We will also begin the consultative process of delivering a made-in-Nunavut education act. The act will be tentatively scheduled to come before this House for first reading in February 2006.

All Nunavut communities, parents, teachers, students, and district education authorities will have an opportunity to help us put this act in place. In order to meet the February 2006 time frame, later this fall I will release the Nunavut Education Act processes.

I have also heard the district education authorities address the need for a consistent level of education across the territory. Two key components will be the language of instruction and culturally relevant curricula.

The Department of Education will complete the Inuktitut Development Strategy for K–12 and the language of instruction model and implementation strategy by June of this year.

We have seen more grade 12 graduates in Nunavut. We have seen more Nunavut students complete their secondary schooling and receive their bachelor of education, and Mr. Speaker, our first students receive their university degrees in nursing.

It is anticipated that these proactive measures will help increase our graduation rates and decrease our current dropout rate. “Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.”

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Evygotailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 059 – 2(1): Member Absent from the House

Mr. Evygotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As chairperson of the regular members, I would like to advise them James Arreak will not be in the House this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 060 – 2(1): Nunavut's Economy

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recent encouraging statements of intent by the federal minister of DIAND, and the Premier of Nunavut regarding the devolution of resource management and control to the territories is not only applauded, it is urgent.

Exploring for minerals in Nunavut is complex and expensive. Nunavut's economy needs all the support it can get including investment by the mining industry to explore for minerals in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, there is a positive relationship between Nunavut Tunngavik, the Government of Nunavut, and the mining industry. We all share the goal to strike positive results from exploration programs that are being carried out in various parts of Nunavut.

There exists a complex, unacceptable, arcane approval process for the various licences required by the industry before proceeding to a production stage. We are a party to this outdated colonial system, which is not acceptable in this generation.

This government must not just sit and relish the federal government's intent to eventually devolve resource management to the territories, but call Ottawa today and tell that the approval process, production, and other processes must be streamlined now with our support. That would be showing our support to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 061 – 2(1): Five Year Capital Plan in Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with respect to the five-year capital plan for Igluligaarjuk, Chesterfield Inlet.

(Interpretation.) I think it was in Broughton Island that the ministers made a commitment to start prioritizing the have-not communities. In respect to the five-year capital plan for Chesterfield Inlet, which is a non-decentralized community, members are all aware that the cabinet recently announced its commitment to economic development in non-decentralized communities. I am concerned that the priorities of the communities are not addressed by the Government of Nunavut's five-year capital plan. I am concerned that the community has not been consulted about the plan.

Of several projects that were in the plan, three or four have been dropped. For example, the community was supposed to have funding for snow fencing in 2007-08, but this item has disappeared from the plan altogether. In addition, the fire truck was supposed to be replaced in 2005-06, and that has been delayed until 2006-07. Recent findings about the lack of firefighting capacity in the community... This is particularly worrying.

The hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet has also been requesting funding for a new community freezer and this has not appeared on the capital plan. I believe that there needs to be more communication between the Government of Nunavut and the hamlet council. The process should be fairly informal regarding any changes to their capital plan.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking questions on this issue. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

Member's Statement 062 – 2(1): Capital Plans for Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk

Mr. Mapsalak (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a written member's statement, but I would like to make a statement regarding the communities that I represent, Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk, particularly Repulse Bay.

When I made my initial speech I stated that there has been a lot of money spent in the decentralized communities. For the upcoming years I don't anticipate any changes in this approach that the government has taken. When we had the budget speech yesterday it was very pleasing to hear that they would be focusing more on the have-not communities, but there is absolutely nothing for the smaller communities in the five-year capital plan, especially for Repulse Bay.

Mr. Speaker, since the government of Northwest Territories days, Kugaaruk was included in the five-year plan, but from then on and since the creation of the Government of Nunavut everything has disappeared today. I don't see anything yet again for the community of Repulse Bay. I am assuming that Repulse Bay will not be getting any new capital projects or equipment for the next four years while I'm member of this Legislative Assembly; it seems kind of bleak for that community.

The hamlet council would prioritize which was most needed, which was the breakwater, the improvement on the airport and the terminal, and also roads, or community infrastructure. Also, to improve the roads with gravel. We also lost the biggest building in Repulse Bay which was a multicomplex building where we had a gym, the radio station was housed there, the post office was there, and they also had a cable company housed under that same roof. Since the fire demolished that multicomplex unit, no government representative ever came to see what was required. Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statements.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is requesting unanimous consent to conclude his statements, any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Mapsalak, go ahead.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. As that is the case for Repulse Bay, we have to work extremely hard to replace what was lost and they would like to see a multicomplex unit to replace what has been lost or destroyed by the fire. We have been removed from the capital plan because I'm sure the money has been reprofiled to some other departments or projects. It is something that the communities do not want to see. There should have been a backup plan for communities that lose large buildings.

Most of the time you feel like you are being left out by the government. During my term here I will work extremely hard and lobby for all the other have-not communities, not only Repulse Bay but also other have-not communities, and I will be directing my questions to the appropriate ministers in order to get something going on this particular problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 063 – 2(1): Educational Days in Chesterfield Inlet

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce the fact that I went to school in Chesterfield Inlet last week. It's been 35 years since we last went home from Chesterfield Inlet. Usually we go home in the springtime, but the last time the students went home was 35 years ago.

I know there were some concerns about the students because they had to stay away from home for nine months; they had to stay away from their parents for nine months. And they were trained and educated, which is foreign to our culture and tradition. We were not allowed to speak... . We were not taught how to read and write Inuktitut or Inuit culture or traditions. I'm not rising today to talk about my concerns. I am very thankful for my educational days; the hospitality was really good at that time.

Present to us, before going to school, there were some individuals who had gone to school before me. They stated that Levinia Brown's hospitality was very nice, and on behalf of them, I would like to thank her and also the Member for Igluligaarjuk. On behalf of all the students, I would like to thank the Igluligaarjuk community. I'm sure we have heard of some problems, but I did go to school with Steve Mapsalak. We were given some strength to deal with hardships and I'm sure that we can overcome these issues.

We heard in the Minister of Education's statement that they are planning to have the curriculum more geared towards Inuktitut values. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Chesterfield Inlet students, I would like to thank the Chesterfield Inlet people because we have now an opportunity to deal with issues and least we can now utilize Inuit culture and values. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 064 – 2(1): Canadian Rangers' Dedication

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the dedication and commitment of all the Canadian Rangers who serve our country and territory.

Our communities appreciate their dedication and commitment. One member in Cambridge Bay was serving the Canadian Rangers for 24 years. He recently stepped down as a sergeant. While I was the mayor, Allan Kitagon would regularly meet with me and update me on matters of importance to my community and Canada. This unit of Rangers also represented our community with honour at official events.

The Northwest Passage is opening up. We've seen an increasing number of foreign vessels over the years. There is everything from cruise ships, adventure sailing ships, and other ships traversing Canada's waters. The Department of National Defence assigned Mr. Kitagon and the Rangers the responsibility to board and inspect those vessels when they were in Cambridge Bay. This is a very important duty to Canada.

During the Governor General's visit to Cambridge Bay in May 2002, the Rangers provided the honour guard as Her Excellency de-planed on a very cold day. We were very privileged by her visit, the more so that the Rangers welcomed her. It was a very proud occasion for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kitagon is not retiring. He will continue to serve our community as a regular member to provide support to the new sergeant, Johnny Avalok. Nunavut and Canada will continue to be well served by Canadian Rangers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 065 – 2(1): Environmental Protection

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about environmental issues. As a member of the Legislative Assembly, I will work hard on the protection of our environment.

Yes, we are very concerned about the environment, for pollution can travel anywhere in our North, by water, by air. The concern that I have is that in Nunavut we do not have anything to do testing on the environment. We have no form of identifying, or we have no laboratory, as at times we are now seeing different species and animals with diseases and sicknesses.

So, at the appropriate time, I will be addressing the minister in regards to environmental issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 066 – 2(1): Kugluktuk Issues

Mr. Evygotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to encourage my constituents in Kugluktuk. I am pleased that the hamlet council has chosen Peter Taptuna as mayor.

I am sure that the members are aware of the problems that the hamlet of Kugluktuk has been having. I have stood up in this House to speak about the fire at the church, the Catholic church. This fire touched many people and was made more tragic by the death associated with it. The community gathered together and refused to give up. The community celebrated the coming of spring with the Nattiq Frolics. The games brought people together and reminded everyone that there is hope in spring.

My community has also had difficulties with crime. I look forward to the opening of the new healing facility in Kugluktuk. I believe that officially it will lead to healing and that people can be rehabilitated so that they will not become repeat offenders.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working closely with Mr. Taptuna and encourage him to contact me with any concerns that he or the council has so that I can pursue them in this House. "Koanaqutit Uqaqti."

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 067 – 2(1): Transparency and Accountability in the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of transparency and accountability. The quainter phrase that my retired colleague from Qamanittuaq would use, it that it is no secret that during the first Legislative Assembly I may have been somewhat of a thorn in the side of certain cabinet ministers who were in no hurry to make information readily available to the public or to this House.

Yesterday, I urged our new Minister of Finance to table in this House copies of ministerial directives that have been issued to Crown corporations. Frankly, I was surprised and disappointed by the new finance minister's apparent eagerness to embrace the old style of secrecy.

Mr. Speaker, it is instructive to remind ourselves of what the Financial Administration Act says. Section 77 of the law is very clear and I will quote it: "A public agency is ultimately accountable through the appropriate Minister to the Legislative Assembly for the conduct of what it serves..."

Interestingly, in that the very next section says, "...for the appropriate Minister and the Executive Council are of the opinions that if it is in the public interest, the Minister may

issue a directive to a public agency respecting its financial management and financial administration...”

Mr. Speaker, I fail to understand how it is in the public interest to keep secret the details of directives that are supposedly made in the public interest in the first place. It’s like saying, we’re going to make a decision but we’re not going to tell you what that decision was. You’ll have to try and figure it out later on by yourself.

I want to contrast this attitude with what is going on in our national parliament. It is no secret again that I’m not necessarily a Liberal. I have to say that I was impressed with comments made in the House of Commons on February 18 this year by the Prime Minister in relation to work being conducted by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. He said, and I’ll quote, “Mr. Speaker, the government is quite prepared to have those cabinet documents pertinent to this matter released.” And he went on to say, “As far as this Government is concerned we are prepared to be totally open, totally transparent, and to lay everything on the table that can be laid on it.”

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to ask unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed to conclude your statement, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues. Nobody is asking our government to compromise the integrity of its internal discussions. However, the decisions of the government should not be taken and kept behind closed doors. However, when the government issues important directives to Crown corporations, the public has a right to know the details of what is being done in their name. The government is not handcuffed in this matter; it has the ability to make a decision and to do the right thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member’s Statement 068 – 2(1): Long Weekend in Pangirtung

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to state that this coming weekend, I will now be able to go home for the long weekend. I’ll be home from Friday to Monday, just so that I can inform my constituents ahead of time and also send my greetings to my Kevin in Qikiqtarjuaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 069 – 2(1): Docking Facilities Required in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the breakwater or docking facilities in my constituency.

One of the members was talking about the five-year capital plan and I really am in support of that. We really feel the effects when these five-year capital plans are no longer being used, especially in the non-decentralized communities and in the smaller communities. It is because they take away all our basic needs.

The two communities that I represent have no docking facility or breakwater and they are the most expensive places to live; if you want to bring something up it is very expensive to do so. Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay require a docking facility or breakwater in the five-year capital plan. Yet, these breakwater and docking facilities have been deleted in the previous years when I was a member of the Legislature, and it is still the case today.

There are a lot of problems encountered. They have to clarify for us what is the problem in trying to construct a breakwater. The reason why I stand today is the breakwater that was constructed in the High Arctic... . They tried to build a breakwater in Grise Fiord and they had to stop the construction. And that is why I rise today on behalf of the two High Arctic communities that have a dire need to get a breakwater. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Members' statements. Hon. Ed Picco.

Member's Statement 070 – 2(1): Bishop Paul Idlout's Retirement

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Member's statement: this past Sunday a service was held in the St. Jude's Anglican Cathedral to honour retiring bishop, Paul Idlout. Bishop Paul was the first Inuk and the first Nunavut-born resident to be elected bishop in the Arctic. Bishop Paul was honoured for his service to the people of Nunavut and to Iqaluit.

The special church service and celebration at the parish hall were very well attended by many of the members of this House and the Premier. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bishop Paul for this service and commitment to Iqaluit and Nunavummiut, and wish him and his wife Abigail the very best in their retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Hon. David Simailak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 009 – 2(1): Nunavut Mining Strategy Report

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to respond to a question that was asked by the Member for Cambridge Bay on May 13, 2004. I am pleased to provide the following information. This is regarding the Nunavut mining strategy.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is currently working in partnership with NTI and the regional office of INAC to develop the Nunavut Mining Strategy. The work plan and the consultation process is being defined by the department, NTI, and INAC.

Among others, we will be consulting with industry, regional Inuit associations, and other stakeholders including impacted communities during the development of this strategy. It is expected that the approved strategy will be completed and released by the end of December 2004. We fully intend to table the strategy in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to oral questions. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 060 – 2(1): Environmental Protection Testing

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask regarding the wildlife within Nunavut, in the communities, that is in danger from contaminants. I would like to ask the minister if there could be some testing done in labs, to do some testing for contaminants on wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Hon. Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have put out a booklet package on which wildlife are touched by contamination. We would suggest that if you see an animal or if there is something wrong with the animal, it go to the wildlife officers. Most of the communities are aware of this, that there are contaminants coming to the arctic. If you see any animals that have something wrong with them, go to the wildlife officers if there are contaminants in the wildlife. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I will say that last winter, I caught a seal that was not normal in the liver, the blubber, and the skin. You could tell that there was something not right with that seal and we need to let the public know that

there will be a department in place for hunters to go to when there is something wrong with wildlife.

Yes, we do not get aircraft coming into our communities every day, so it is very difficult to send samples out. But I would like to thank you and remind you again that my community, Sanikiluaq, would be an ideal place to have a laboratory to test this wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is a very important issue that we will definitely support because we need to make sure that every single country food that we get is not contaminated.

I am aware of your concern, Mr. Kattuk, but I would like to say that we have to work together because we do have our concerns, because Mr. Kattuk's community is the place where the wildlife are coming to Nunavut; they go through Sanikiluaq first. Any animal that is coming to Nunavut goes through that certain area. Yes, we will be working together and reviewing and studying them together, especially in the case of Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is more of a comment, but I would like to say that I am very pleased to hear the minister stating this. But just to clarify that in my community, we do have concerns. Also, we are getting our water from the lakes of Ontario, Quebec, and Manitoba, and the waters are going to start getting contaminated through the Hudson Bay waters. This is going to become a serious problem in the future that I will speak on again in the future in the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 061 – 2(1): Status of Chesterfield Inlet Five-Year Capital Plan

Mr. Netser: "Qujannamiik," Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. Earlier today, I raised the issue of the Chesterfield Inlet five-year capital plan.

My question today is: what communications has the department had with the hamlet of Chesterfield Inlet on this capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, our department is working on these issues right now, and right now we are working with the mayors and

the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. We have been communicating with the people of Chesterfield Inlet up to today. I will direct my staff to see what status is right now on that issue. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser. Supplementary.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is all. Thank you.

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

Question 062 – 2(1): Status of Five-Year Capital Plans – Docking Facilities

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement that we need to get docking facilities in my communities of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay... I am asking the minister responsible for transportation: where are we at right now for the five-year plans within the communities? This is my question, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take that as notice. I will now direct my staff to look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister has taken that as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 063 – 2(1): Education Tax Deductions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Yesterday in the minister's budget address she was pleased to announce that the budget contained a reduction in property taxes and that effective in the 2004 taxation year, the education component of the Nunavut Property Tax would be eliminated.

I would like to ask the minister: how many communities pay that school or the education component of that tax? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All communities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my understanding of the past, Iqaluit is the only tax-based community in Nunavut that has that tax that is in there, and I was just wondering how many other communities that were going to follow them did? I look forward to seeing the breakdown of the numbers by community of how much is collected on that.

Mr. Speaker, my next question to the minister is: as a result of this announcement of the elimination of that component of the tax, when does the minister plan on bringing forward legislative changes to allow that to happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will not be putting forward any legislative changes under property taxes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister could explain why there won't be any amendments coming forward. Of course, I understand the current process; within the Property and Taxation Act, within the Education Act, there are references to that education tax and that the education body has the ability to set an act for those taxes within the legislation. One would think that if that's going to be eliminated that there would need to be a requirement to do some amendments to those legislations to actually take those powers away from the education bodies in the communities.

So, I would just like to ask her if she could explain how it's going to be done without any legislative changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance in Nunavut has the authority to make the changes related to education components of the tax. We're not making any amendments to the property assessment and taxation act. As the minister, I have the authority to change the rates within the legislation through to regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, again, it hasn't been the practice in the past, but I know that the district education authority here in Iqaluit was looking forward to discussions with the Minister of Education on where that education component of that tax would go. According to the current legislation, they have the right and the ability to determine what they need and request that the taxing body, in this case, it's the municipality, collect that tax for them and provide it to the education body.

Now, we inherited that from the Northwest Territories, when the divisional boards of education were in place, and that money would have gone to the divisional boards of education. Given that they're not there anymore, and we dissolved them, one would think that if they have the right to ask for that, what's going to happen. Are they going to get told, no, you can't ask for that now, if they determine that they need it?

I know there is no money in the budget for forced growth in the education budget. If they determine that they need more funding and that it is there for them to be able to ask to do that, is the minister saying that she's going to turn down any requests, if from an education body they decide to ask for it and exercise that right that they have under legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education is the source for district education authorities to request for the funding.

When we collect taxes in Nunavut, whether it be payroll tax or whatnot, it's not for a specific purpose; it's collected, it goes to a general revenue. The Government of Nunavut provides funding to departments, to the appropriate minister.

If the district education authority here is lacking funding, then that type of issue should be addressed through the Minister of Education. The reason why we eliminated the tax for education, part of the property tax is to support home ownership in Nunavut, to encourage more people to build homes.

Within my mandate as minister, or as my authority, I can eliminate the mill rate to zero, which we've done in this particular case. The savings of that will go to the general revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 064 – 2(1): RCMP Emergency Phone Calls from the Communities

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

It is in response to the emergency phone calls that are made in the smaller communities, where the RCMP is not responding. I don't think that only happens in Rankin Inlet, but in a lot of the smaller communities. The phone calls are directed to the detachment here in Iqaluit. Can the Minister of Justice assure that there is going to be a change in the system? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard of this concern in the majority of the communities and there has to be a change. From what I know, the hamlets are involved in the review process and it is still under review. I have heard of this problem way too many times and I would like the RCMP to look into this matter, if they are going to be re-routing these phone calls to the local detachments instead of having them directed to the headquarters here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister, because of course the people who are calling the RCMP are in an emergency situation. The dispatcher has to make that split second decision, whether it is an urgent matter or if it can be re-routed.

I think the RCMP work in shifts and usually they do the administrative work during the slow times. The RCMP deal with bootlegging. They deal with drug dealers. And the RCMP usually know that they are going to have a slow time during the graveyard shift.

In the communities, I think that all detachments will have to be reviewed. I would like the Minister of Justice to work with these bodies. Are you going to be doing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the RCMP work on a 24-hour shift, or are on call during the graveyard shift. They don't work just during the day. I would like to tell the member that the RCMP are on call 24 hours a day and they deal with emergency situations as they arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 065 – 2(1): Tabling of New Leasing Policy

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. I was just sitting here reading the Blues from yesterday and I was doing some math; \$175,000 was overpaid to someone to buy the Sivumut Building. One year of tuition is \$4,000, \$175,000 is 44 years of tuition for one student. I look forward to getting the answer of who made that decision to spend that kind of money.

My question for the minister is, yesterday she stated that she would provide a copy of the Government of Nunavut's new leasing policy today. I am wondering, Mr. Speaker, will the minister table that document today? Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I checked on that this morning. The document is in translation. As soon as I have it, I will table it in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the information. Will the minister commit to a date that she will table the policy? Will it be in this session, before June 4? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as I have the document back from translation, I will table it in the House, and I hope that it will be within this week. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister will get a copy, have it translated, and table it. If you have a supplementary question, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping that I could get a specific date that she will table it. I am hoping that she will say that she will table it during this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will table the report this session. Hopefully, by the end of this week, but during this time the translation bureau is very busy in Kugluktuk. As soon as I have it back from them, I will table it. I will follow up this afternoon the urgency to table that report in this House; maybe I'll have it by tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 066 – 2(1): Trained Police Dog

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Paul Okalik.

I don't ask many questions, but I would like further clarification from the time I was the mayor of Arviat. We had a lot of problems with our detachment and the instructor at that time told us that they have dogs that not only sniff out drugs, but that are specialized, entering to sniff out bombs or drugs. And what I was told was that these dogs are very expensive and they have to be trained.

I think when the communities take the initiative, usually what they do is do some fundraising in order to get what is needed or required at the community level. My question to the minister is: is it possible for you to find out whether the communities in Nunavut would like to use dogs and if it is possible for your department to purchase a dog for that specific purpose, to get it trained and to have it landed here in Nunavut. And how long it would take. We need the help of outside agencies. But I would like to know if you can train and purchase a dog. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have a dog that is fully trained to sniff drugs and dangerous goods, for example, guns or bombs. And they are specifically trained to search for humans also.

The dog is used when required and the training component is very long. Usually they have an RCMP handler who has been trained specifically to work with a dog, even though the dogs are available they need specialized trained RCMP dog handlers which slows down the process. The dogs are expensive and they have to be fully trained. The dog we have is available to all communities and I would like to know from the communities if they would like to utilize this dog.

But then again, we can't say on what specific day it would come to the community, because, of course, we don't want the communities to know that we're going to be coming in on a particular date which would ruin the whole plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. You did make a minister's statement on that issue. But my question is if it would be possible to purchase one; what kind of process we have to go through in order to purchase one that would be locally based, or based at the community level. I am well aware that they have to have specialized, trained handlers.

I think that utilizing canines in the enforcement fields would make a big difference in what's happening at the community level, and there are more and more communities requesting dogs. I would like to ask the minister if he would like to be able to compile some information and make it available to the communities so that if they would like to purchase one, that would be community-based that they could do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Justice, Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: That is very impressive and shows that the communities are involved. I could have a discussion with the RCMP to see if it is possible to purchase another dog. Thank you.

Speaker: Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 067 – 2(1): Property Assessment and Taxation Act – Issue on Education Tax

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is again to the minister responsible for finance. I would like to read a section of the Property Assessment and Taxation act and in 75[5], "...where an education body makes a request under paragraph 135[3b] of the Education Act of the amount it requires for education purposes, the Minister of

Finance may, by order, establish an education mill rate for the education district to raise property tax in the amount required by the education body.”

Mr. Speaker it also states that when an education body makes a request, that paragraph section of the education act, the amount that it requires has to provide that requested from the taxing body council, the municipal taxing authority, in this case the city of Iqaluit. Shown by bylaw an education mill rate for each property class in the education district is to raise the property class in the education district, to raise the property tax in the amount required by the education body.

Mr. Speaker, it makes it pretty clear that it is a municipal tax and it is up to the local education body and the municipal council to come up with that rate. I would like to ask the minister: if that were to happen, and the district education authority requested that of the city council of Iqaluit, would the minister not allow them to put that in place by setting a zero mill rate, is what she's indicated by regulation. Would she not allow to take the authority away from the district education authority and take that authority from the city and not allow them to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a point I wanted to raise as well in terms of the document that he is reading. I think that should be tabled in the House so that I could also have access to what he is reading.

To answer his question, the education component of the property tax appears to be designed to allow the district education authority access to that funding within Iqaluit, and it goes directly from ratepayers to education.

However, under the Education Act, not all district education authorities have been given the authority to receive any revenue. Would I allow the district education authority to request that mill rate be increased; the district education authority can approach the city and ask the city to set a rate, but that will have to through the process of setting property tax through the city.

It is totally up to the district education authority to approach the city to impose a property tax, or the education component of the property tax to be increased. However, we set it at zero to promote home ownership in this community and it would be up to the city to put forth a recommendation and weigh the pros and cons.

Having said that, the Department of Education provides funding to all district education authorities, including the one in Iqaluit. If they are short on funding, then they should approaching the Department of Education to seek additional funding.

Perhaps going through the property assessment component is not the best avenue to address the district education authority. But there are other district education authorities as well in Iqaluit, the French Association being another committee, so what happens to

them? Those types of issues are concerns that the district education authority here has to consider when approaching the city to again increase the mill rate from zero. But the intent of that increase is to promote home ownership across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): The document that Mr. Tootoo was referring to has already been tabled in the House and there is no requirement to table it. Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for clarifying that. I'm just quoting legislation approved by this Assembly.

The Education Act that the Minister of Finance is referring to does clearly indicate that the education body has the authority to do that. So, again, I'm asking the minister if the education body has the authority to do that; it's already established in legislation, and they're saying no, you can't do it. Are they taking that authority away from the city, away from the district education authorities and arbitrarily setting a zero rate forever?

I'm questioning the reason or the rationale or for whatever reason it's being done, but the fact is that it was a decision that affects the tax payers in this community, the schools in this community. Was the community consulted and asked if that was something that they wanted to have happen? Or, would they have preferred to keep that tax of 2.5 mills on the education tax in place to go toward to the eroding education funding that's been going on in this territory over the last few years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Removing the tax, yes, affects everyone. I would think that's a good news story for property payers in Nunavut and nobody's authority is taken away. The city has that choice. If they want to increase the tax for education components, they have to go through the consultation process of rate payers and present that for approval. They still have that as an option. They have that power to do that as a government. As minister responsible for finance, we put a mill rate of zero to promote home ownership. Were we consulting the communities? It's within our mandate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not saying it's not a good news story. I'm talking process here. Why I ask, is that the government arbitrarily decided that the tax was no longer needed. The property tax, the property class of the mill rates is considerably higher, anywhere from 19.39 to 9.76, and it's up there. The education component here in Iqaluit is 2.5 mills. If they were serious in wanting to make a dent in property taxes to make things easier for home owners and tax payers, why didn't they

look at the property tax component of it and leave the money that could have gone towards education alone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of process, I believe the process was followed in setting the priorities of this government to the budget address through the main estimates.

The Department of Education's budget this year has increased. It didn't decrease. So, that's something that when the minister appears before the Committee of the Whole, you can address that.

DEAs in the past have asked that it be removed as well, but I think the message here is whether it passes or not, it is a break for home owners in Nunavut. It is a good new story. If regular members want us to increase taxes throughout Nunavut, I mean of course I don't believe that is good news towards Nunavut. It is a break for people that are homeowners who have to pay high costs of leases, mortgages, and what-have-you. So, in terms of practice, I think we follow the process of trying to meet some of those demands of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is shameful that someone asks questions and then they just get turned around and twisted on members. I like to be the thorn in the side of some people because I know that the tax payers, parents of children that do go to school in this community, would have loved to have been given the opportunity to have been asked if they would prefer to have that 2.5 million in place to go towards the schools here in Iqaluit, as opposed to it not going, and not that decision made arbitrarily by the Department of Finance or the Government of Nunavut on their behalf.

If the municipal... . It is a municipal pass and under what authority does the minister... . Can the minister indicate that they went in and just changed it without even consulting with the tax payers, without even consulting with the city of Iqaluit that collects that tax? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe in twisting or turning the issue around. We reduced to zero for Iqaluit to address the issue around home ownership. As the Minister of Finance, I have the authority under that Nunavut Property Assessment and Taxation Act to set the rates. In Nunavut, Iqaluit has the responsibility for debts, rates or property owners in the city.

The Minister of Finance, however, sets the education component of the city property tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 068 – 2(1): Consultation Process on Reform of Education System

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education in regards to the tabled statement he made.

It states that, and I'm very pleased, they are going to do a study on K-12 and Arctic College programs. It's trying to do that, but it states here that we will use the consultation process. Who will you be consulting with? Who will be going through this consultation process? Will there be independent consultations or will they be your senior executives at the government and senior level? We would like to know what the consultation process is going to be, and I'm sure they will want to know who is going to be coming. So, who is going to do the consultation?

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the member. This fall I'll be tabling the education process for the strategic involvement of people in Nunavut on the Education Act. Mr. Speaker, the review of consultation will be led by the Department of Education. I would hope that the members of the Standing Committee on Education would also play a part right at the beginning, so members of this House would be involved.

As well, there is an education advisory report appointed by the minister that I just recently set up. Members of that Education Advisory Committee, which includes people, educators, from across Nunavut would also have an opportunity. And then, in the strategic process that we will have tabled this fall, each community in Nunavut will be visited and each district education authority will be asked.

A lot of good work has gone into the act already. There has been quite a bit of consultation. The reason why I am waiting until the fall is to go through what has already occurred, review that documentation. I had an opportunity to see it. It is thicker than four binders. Take the good out of that, Mr. Speaker, and move forward with the made-in-Nunavut Education Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Different question? Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 069 – 2(1): Mining Projects

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I was very encouraged by the reply to my oral questions about the Nunavut Mining Strategy.

I noted that he made a reference to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. Last night many of us had the honour of attending a get-together with nine mining companies that came here to Iqaluit to meet with us. We had some good discussions. Everybody knows that mining contributes a lot to our gross domestic product in Nunavut, creates a lot of jobs. I think this year they probably are going to invest \$80- 90 million in exploration.

But the Tahera folks were there last night and they mentioned to some of us that they are waiting for the minister of DIAND, to get his approval for the project. The Nunavut Impact Review Board made a recommendation to approve the project in February of 2004. The key deadline is to get DIAND approval for this project and keep it moving forward in the next 7-8 months without setting the project back a year.

So, my question, Mr. Speaker: what is the Government of Nunavut doing to urge DIAND to approve the Tahera project this week to avoid missing deadlines, or canceling projects altogether? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier and I have just written a letter to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans urging them and DIAND to speed up their process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is the small matter of the federal election coming up, rumoured it would be soon. But we would hope that the deal is made before then. Could the minister tell me, or tell the House, if the Premier has asked the ministers of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and of DIAND to make the decision this week or, at the very least, early next week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier tells me he will table the letter in the House tomorrow. “Koana, Uqaqti.”

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just commenting on a related note, we just recently went through a lengthy review process on the Bathurst Inlet road and port. We have regulatory regimes here in Nunavut that make recommendations on major resource development projects here in Nunavut. When the recommendations go to Ottawa, they delay us and it takes as long as 18 months for approval as a result.

I am wondering if the minister could tell me what the government is doing to encourage the federal government to make timely decisions on recommendations on resource projects for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could tell the member that I will be holding discussions with the various ministers in Ottawa and will try to encourage them to find ways to speed up the process. “Ma’na, Uqaqti.”

Speaker (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the minister is aware of how many jobs, how much investment, how many contracts and subcontracts, how many training opportunities would be lost if the Tahera project does not proceed on the timelines that they have set for developments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: I do not have actual numbers right now. I have not seen the Tahera proposal, but I can just imagine how many it will be: way too much. It would be way too much of a loss for Nunavut. “Ma’na, Uqaqti.”

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

Question 070 – 2(1): Amount Collected from Education Taxes

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Earlier she indicated that the education budget is increased this year, and we know that after looking at it there is actually less direct funding going to the schools and the Department of Education; it is much more than just schools. And we know that the school enrollments are going up.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister about that education component of the tax that the city collected from its tax payers. Is the minister aware of how much was collected here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of the amounts. In total for all of Nunavut, because this act applies to all of Nunavut and not just Iqaluit, the dollars collected was about half a million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, as I had indicated, that tax is collected by the city of Iqaluit from its tax payers. Could the minister indicate if it is paid to the city of Iqaluit, and under what agreement or whatever does it fall under in order to end up in the government's general revenue account? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The city collects the taxes and remits the education components of those taxes to the Government of Nunavut, and that funding goes in the general revenue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask the minister why it follows that process when that seems to be contrary to what the legislation with the Education Act and the Property Taxation Act indicates, that that is where most dollars are to be collected by the municipal taxing agencies and be provided to the education body. In this particular case, here in Iqaluit, it would be the district education authorities, specifically for the purposes of education in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker, the process of filing and collecting taxes is no different than any other jurisdiction. Iqaluit is not treated any differently than that. Why doesn't he go to the district education authority; the district education authority receives funding through the Department of Education.

When we collect taxes for the district education authority, it comes, not district education authority from rate payers in Iqaluit or anywhere else for the education component, it goes to the general revenue. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your last supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my interpretation of the Property and Taxation Act and the Education Act, it clearly identifies where those dollars are supposed to go and to whom. Again, I'd like to ask the minister: doesn't the process that is in place seem... Does it contradict and contravene the act, where it is supposed to be applied within the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no contradiction. Like I said earlier, this a good news story for rate payers in this community. In Iqaluit, the last few years, we know that there has been a number of peoples' homes being sold by the city.

That is your riding, you community, I would think that this would be a good news story for members from Iqaluit before we do the cost... .

>> *Applause*

We encourage home ownership and we have been dealing with the situations of buying and selling off peoples' homes. We have to weigh the pros and cons of what we are doing, have people homeless; we sold peoples' homes. By reducing this portion of the property tax, the education portion, it would go a long way to homeowners across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Question 071 – 2(1): Tax Savings

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance about the property tax issue and I would like to thank you for the information on taxes. It is a lot better when we do not see too many taxes; there will be more money available to buy groceries for our children.

The question that I have for the Minister of Finance: there are \$2 million that will be collected through general revenue and after that they will be going to the communities for home ownership?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in my budget address I announced that there would be about 160 new units built in Nunavut.

In terms of the \$2 million, I'm not sure what \$2 million you are referring to. Earlier in the questions I had mentioned that the education component of taxes that we collect is a little over half a million across the territory so I don't know the \$2 million through that. However, when the funding is collected through taxes it goes to a general revenue, and through budget on development and exercise, the funding is divided up by departments and presented to this House for consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is \$500,000 that you are talking about. It was my mistake.

Yes, we do understand the savings that we get from Ottawa. If they are directed to health and we have this through the Consolidated Revenue Fund, the question that I have is: under your authority, the tax savings will definitely go to the home ownership; it will not go to the local housing organization who will maybe allocate it to home ownership?

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: The tax saving items are eliminating the education tax; that funding goes back into the general revenue. When we make tax cuts it's not specific to one particular project or not. You can collect taxes, it goes back into general revenue, and is distributed based on required needs of departments, and we try and balance across the border.

Will it go into home ownership? It will benefit homeowners' reduction in taxes; it will benefit the homeowners but it will not... I can't say that it will go strictly to the home ownership program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 072 – 2(1): Other Decentralized Communities

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

I am representing non-decentralized communities, and some of the other members represent non-decentralized communities. Can the Premier direct me whether apart from the Government of Nunavut, the decentralized government, are there any other Canadian cities or regions that have governments such as this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, well we are the most decentralized. The federal government does have offices in place for that.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Canadian government started decentralizing when they started building hospitals in the provinces, but they had to start closing hospitals because of the lack of funding.

Right now we are using a lot of funding and we are not finished decentralizing yet. The question that I have is: are we going to be decentralizing forever, or what is happening? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was very important when we first became a government, and now it continues to be very important to the communities. And also for Inuit employment; we have more Inuit employed within the government. This is starting to run a lot more smoothly, and we'll be going into the smaller communities next. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know that the smaller communities are mentioned many times by the Premier, but some of the communities are not... . Even though some of the decentralized communities are in place now, we have to get more employment for the communities.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, a lot of Inuit are starting to finish their education and this is falling into place when people are finishing school. It is not just the decentralized communities, and we still have a lot of places to fill. This is being used by all the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Final supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the non-decentralized communities, especially when you are an elder, it is very difficult. Where to go to? Especially since Iqaluit is the capital of Nunavut. For the decentralized communities transportation is Baker Lake, and finance is in Igloolik, and it gets very difficult to know which direction to go to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very good comment. We will be getting a toll-free number to one of our headquarters offices that we phone. Toll-free will be available shortly.

Speaker (interpretation): Question period is now over. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14. Tabling of documents. Hon. Ed Picco.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 012 – 2(1): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report, 2002-03

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure to be able to table today the 2002-03 annual report of Nunavut Arctic College. In accordance with section 18 of Public College Act, the board of governors of Nunavut Arctic College is required to publish an annual report describing the activities of our college each year.

This report supplies a snapshot, a snapshot of programs provided by the college in each region and of the activities of the Nunavut Arctic College and the NRI during the academic year of 2002-03. It also includes financial statements for 2002-03. I am very pleased to present the annual report of the college to the members for their information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day, Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Mr. Evyagotailak will take the chair after we take a short break.

Sergeant of arms...

>>*House recess at 15:15 and resumed at 15:43*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak) (interpretation): I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 2. Does the committee agree to deal with Bill 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we in agreement first of all with the Department of Health and Social Services? Are we in agreement?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services to make her opening remarks. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): You are not required to stand while making your opening comments.

Hon. Levinia Brown: I apologize, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2004-05 main estimates and business plan for the Department of Health and Social Services. Before I begin, I would like to introduce Deputy Minister Bernie Blais and Assistant Deputy Minister for Corporate Services, Victor Tootoo.

(Interpretation.) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for the development and delivery of services and programs addressing the physical, mental, and social health of Nunavummiut. (Interpretation ends.) Our vision of bringing care closer to home is a holistic Northern-based approach to meeting those responsibilities.

It means strengthening our primary healthcare. It means training Inuit, such as our recent two Inuit nursing graduates, to deliver culturally sensitive healthcare and social services in Inuktitut. It means the development of a plan to increase the number of birthing centres. And it means changing our status from an economic drain to an economic driver. These efforts reinforce our continued commitment to “Inuit Qaujimagatqangit.”

For 2004-05, the Department of Health and Social Services has been allocated a budget of \$210,879,000, of which \$182,244,000 is dedicated to operations and maintenance and includes funding for six months of operations and maintenance for the new healthcare facilities in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. An additional \$28,635,000 of the department’s budget is for capital projects.

Mr. Chairman, a number of factors contribute to the continued operational deficit of the Department of Health and Social Services. Cost drivers like agency nurses, medical travel, and out-of-territory care continue to influence our already burdened budget. A newly negotiated lower hourly rate for nurses contracted through private recruitment agencies is a short term success in addressing our care delivery costs.

With a projected nursing shortage in 2006 that will put Nunavut in direct competition for nurses with the rest of North America, we are focusing on retention initiatives. Retention, combined with the training of nurses in Nunavut is hoped to significantly decrease our dependency on agency nurses. A retention and recruitment steering committee with the partnership of the Department of Health and Social Services, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Education, and the Nunavut Employees’ Union has met to discuss what is working and what we need to change.

Short-term goals include continuing education and training through the use of telehealth. The Department of Health and Social Services has repatriated a number Nunavummiut living in long-term southern care facilities. Reuniting patients with the families and their communities has become a reality with the care-closer-to-home vision. Money once channelled to southern facilities can now be used to train Nunavummiut.

This is just one example of how the Department of Health and Social Services is transforming an economic drain into an economic driver. I am proud that this example of community capacity building will be supported by the addition of two health centers in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

Contracts with First Air and Canadian North for scheduled medical travel on jet routes is projected to save \$500,000 per year, but more importantly, these new agreements stabilize the per-ticket price for scheduled medical travel.

Our increased focus on public health reflects the connection that Inuit value between health and the environment. Like our environment, our health is a complex system that we must take care of. We know not to pollute the waters because the fish and seals and

whales will be affected. In turn, our food will be affected. We know this through Inuit Qaujimagatunangit. The highs and lows in any system need to be in balance; when one is out of alignment, the system crashes.

As a territory we face many challenges, and many of those challenges are directly related to the health and social status of Nunavummiut. Every day, lives in this territory are affected by suicide, poor nutrition, and respiratory illness. We have a high birth rate and low life expectancy. Through public health initiatives, we will be better able to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life. Investment in this area can eradicate diseases, like those affecting dental health among Nunavummiut children and significantly lower cases of other diseases. Through public health programming and health promotions the Department of Health and Social Services supports Nunavummiut in their growth to become healthy individuals.

We celebrate healthy individuals making healthy families and we recognize that healthy families build healthy communities. I am pleased with the progress of my department, but recognize that we continue to face financial and human resource challenges. Operating in deficit with serious staff shortages, my department deals with life and death. Our job is to improve health delivery and health status, and I believe that starts at home with the improved health of each and every Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the members for the opportunity to speak to you today, and I welcome any questions regarding the Department of Health and Social Services' main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. (Interpretation ends.) If you would like to go to the table. Do you have a witness that you would like to bring to the table? Sergeant-at-arms, if you could please escort the witnesses. Madam Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize, but I did not hear you. Could you repeat that again please?

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I have to rise. It is all very confusing, I apologize. On my right is Deputy Minister Bernie Blais, and on my left is Victor Tootoo, the assistant deputy minister.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the standing committee have comments? Please proceed, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Education have reviewed the budget estimates and business plan of the Department of Health and Social Services for the 2004-05 fiscal year and I am pleased to provide you with opening comments.

The standing committee notes that the operations and maintenance budget for health and social services for the 2004-05 fiscal year represents 25 percent of total proposed government operations and maintenance spending. Mr. Chair, the committee understands that despite an increase from previous years' allocations, the adequacy of the base funding for the Department of Health and Social Services remains a concern.

Members of the committee recognize that this department faces ongoing challenges, especially when dealing with uncontrollable costs related to events such as sudden outbreaks of viral infections or other crisis situations. However, the committee feels that there are a number of areas where costs are more predictable and more progress could be made to economize or better plan expenditures.

In the area of staffing and employment, members have noted an increase of over 200 positions within the department. Members encourage the department in its efforts to recruit and retain full-time staff. Members have noted that the department's reliance on casual staffing is one area where projected expenditures are frequently overspent.

In the case of nursing staff, for example, members encourage the department to continue to develop initiatives to recruit and retain full-time nurses. The committee is fully supportive of the training of Nunavut residents as nurses and other healthcare professionals, as well as involving community individuals, such as elders, in healthcare issues.

While the committee understands that it is often necessary to employ professionals from outside of Nunavut, members strongly recommend that the appropriate orientation be made available to these individuals so that they can better respond to the unique circumstances in which they are working.

Members have noted that expenditures relating to medical travel continue to represent a large proportion of the department's projected budget. The department's new focus on bringing care closer to home is a promising direction for reducing costs related to accessing healthcare outside of Nunavut. However, members continue to have concerns about a number of different aspects of medical travel.

While there have been recent announcements of certain new travel contracts with air carriers, the results of other negotiations have not been made public. Members recommend that the department table reports and contracts relating to medical travel both within and outside of Nunavut. Members have also raised some concerns regarding the department's medical travel policy, specifically with respect to patient eligibility for escorts. Members look forward to hearing further detail on the plans for the decentralized medical travel office and its operations.

Mr. Chair, committee members have been given to understand that some of the operations and maintenance costs for the three new health facilities in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit have been included in the projected allocations for this

department, especially with respect to staffing. Members look forward to hearing details on realistic operations and maintenance costs for these facilities.

Members caution the department to ensure that the lack of accommodation for new staff does not delay the opening of the new facilities. Further, members would not wish to see brand-new multimillion dollar facilities being under-utilized due to a lack of physicians and nurses to actually staff the facilities.

Members are of the view that the involvement and empowerment of community members is the key to reaching the objectives of healthy communities and self-reliance. On this note, committee members are pleased to support the department's plan to focus on developing midwifery services at the community level.

Mr. Chair, members encourage the department to develop a more comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of Nunavut's under-represented population groups such as women, children, and people with disabilities. Members have noted a lack of coordinated policies and support for family violence workers and facilities. Similarly, there is a lack of coordinated support services at the community level for individuals with disabilities and elders.

Members await with interest the minister's formal response to the Qullit Status of Women Council's recently-published report on abuse and violence against women in Nunavut.

Finally, members of the Standing Committee on Health and Education look forward to working with the minister on future initiatives relating to public health. Members recognize that a number of factors, such as overcrowding, lack of employment, and unhealthy lifestyle choices influence the spread of disease and affect community and individual wellness.

That concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following. According to rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak. And according to rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion, but not until every member who wishes to speak has spoken. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask detailed questions during the page-by-page reviews of the department's estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I also would like to thank the minister for her opening comments. I would like to talk about how in my constituency, in the smaller communities when government is decentralizing programs and services, the health centres have been lacking funds to improve the buildings. For

well over five years we have been lacking funds. It has deteriorated the health centres in the non-decentralized communities.

Also, once those health centres, especially in the smaller communities, were constructed, the population increased. We have been experiencing some problems in the communities where the patients have no waiting room. They lack space in a waiting room, they lack office space, and the sewage intakes are out of code. Also, the patient treatment rooms are way too small. Although the chairperson of the standing committee has touched on those issues, yes, we need more funding in the non-decentralized communities. If they are left alone, and if there is no funding to make improvements to the health centres, the problems are going to increase. It's going to get more expensive to rectify the problems and to maintain the health centres.

Also, the lack of doctors visiting my constituency... . There is a large concern in regards to the doctors visiting the communities. In that way, if there are more doctors visiting the communities there will be fewer patients having to be flown out of the community. Currently, there has been an elder going back and forth to Iqaluit. These patients need to be treated because they need treatment. The patients with terminal illness end up having to be flown back and forth to the hospital here and if they can't be treated here they are sent down south to Ottawa for treatment. If I had a terminal illness it would be very tiring for me even though I am a young person. I don't blame these elders who have to travel for long periods of time and who must get exhausted.

I know that this can't be rectified overnight, but at least you have to be more sensitive to our elders when you have to transport them for long hours. Yes, they're being treated, they are sent out for treatment, and some of the patients have to be treated with chemotherapy.

We have also been experiencing problems in my constituency where an individual who had accompanied me was complaining about a lack of interpreters at the health centres, for the doctors and the escorts. It creates problems between the doctors and the escorts; when the doctor has to give the diagnosis they end up using the escort as an interpreter for the patient. This creates hardship, and I experienced that myself. I had to break the news to a patient, to my mother, about her illnesses when the doctor told her how long she is going to live. This is a great concern to the escort because when you are an escort you hear all these words, the diagnosis. And even though you are not an interpreter you have to interpret for the patient whom you are escorting.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard that we need to come to a decision about health interpreter-translators; health interpreters will have to be given more terminology workshops in regards to naming of the illnesses. We are still learning about new illnesses such as AIDS. Although we had terminology made up for AIDS, we need more terminology for some new illnesses so that the patients can have a better understanding of what is being said.

Also, the continuing problem in the High Arctic we experience, especially if the patient is having to go to for operation, whether it be optomology or physical: I know that we lack resources, but they need these services, especially when the patients have to go for an operation, especially when they are elders.

Elders need escorts because they need help in caring for themselves. They don't know the southern way when they go down to Ottawa. Sometimes the elders will just sit at the airport in Ottawa and they won't know who is going to pick them up. They've never been to a city before, especially our elders. We have to be quite sensitive to our elders.

Although there are a few problems with Larga-Baffin House, many people go stay at the boarding home, Tammaattaavik boarding home. They lack space and they end up being billeted out to the peoples' homes. This has to be rectified, especially when you have various illnesses; if you're housed in one one house, they all have different diseases. There are patients, too, who are on maternity, and they're all housed in one house. They have various diseases, and that becomes a concern for us. Therefore, I believe that we need to improve Tammaattaavik here so that we can have appropriate boarding homes for the patients. I'll conclude with that for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to talk briefly about the confidentiality issue.

In the health centres, I have been told many times, and also many people have complained, that for many years some patients go to the health centre and they have an interpreter, and this confidential information is very rarely leaked to the public. That's what I have heard. Also, there have been individuals who have been requesting support and help on this issue. I'm requesting the minister to commit.

I know the interpreters have a confidential agreement and that they should keep everything confidential. There should be a policy, or the health centre should be made aware of the confidentiality policy because we lack interpreters, we need interpreters; it is urgent. At times we have to get an interpreter just for a moment. I think there should be a policy stating the process for the interpreter so that they will not leak confidential information. We have no policy for the interim interpreters about keeping the information confidential. I don't know if this is an oversight, but I would like to encourage the minister to be sensitive to the confidentiality of the interpreters.

This is one of the very important parts of it because there are various diseases that people are sick; whether you are an elder or not, their illness should be kept confidential. Even if it's minor information, it's leaked out to the public. There should be some kind of process or some kind of something that you could do when the information is leaked out. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to welcome the minister and your officials.

The general comments that we're making, it's not a personal statement, but I would like to make a statement in regards to health. As Minister of Health and Social Services, we are very pleased that you are responsible for this department and there is a high expectation of the public out there, and the public is very pleased to hear what comes out of you. That is the first thing that I would like to state.

In the past, we could not really understand the process, and I am sure the minister was working very hard in Keewatin, and the continuing concern is the use of the airlines. I am going to be asking questions in regards to this issue a little bit later on when we go to the questions.

There were some concerns with the department of health. We have heard in the past that the previous medical officer in the Keewatin who was in the Baffin region previously, we have heard that he did not have the appropriate licences even when he went to Yellowknife. I know that the medical officers have to deal with very critical issues. He did not have the appropriate licences and he was the chief medical officer in Baffin and then he went to the Keewatin region, and then when he went to Yellowknife. He was caught for having an inappropriate licence and we have not heard about that from the Nunavut government previously. But I am sure that Nunavummiut will want to hear about why they did not find out about the medical officer's credentials.

Do we investigate to make sure that the medical officer's references are checked? His references were never checked by the minister's officials. When he was sent to Yellowknife last winter, they found out that he had inappropriate permits even though he was the chief medical officer here in the Baffin region. Here, I thought somebody was going to have to make a comment in regards to that issue.

Also, the concern in the Keewatin region in regards to the airlines that have been chartered for medical travel services: it seems to be done inappropriately and they use the same airline. It has been like that for some time now; Skyward Aviation had to get out of the airlines because they were not being chartered. These small airlines were chartered to the smaller communities, and it really helped with the things that you had to bring. But the medical services were not in support of that and we have some idea of why it that was the case.

In the health department, the department of travel referral, the Kivalliq area's pilot's wife was working in transportation. When there is a referral to charter a flight, the pilot's wife was always ready to make the referral for the airline. According to the policy, I do not think that should be conflict of interest. For that reason, that is why it seems like they did not want to service Kivallirmiut for many years. I have heard that Skyward Aviation would do the investigation when Kivalliq Air would complain to Transport Canada. When they were going to quote a charter they would make a complaint, and when they do

a complaint, and then they do an investigation every time they try to charter Kivalliq Air, the other airline would complain.

The Skyward Aviation stopped after they talked to Transport Canada, they were investigating for nothing, for no reason at all. Once they found out that Kivalliq Air and Skyward Aviation were investigated by Transport Canada, that is when this was stopped. I'm sure that they believe that there was a problem, but they were complaining about their transportation and this has to stop. The Kivalliq region is in support of that airline because it really helps to transport goods and services at a cheaper rate. If they were used, the health department would have saved a lot of money and so that is going to be part of my question later on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to welcome the minister and her staff here to the Committee of the Whole and our Legislature. It's the minister's first appearance at the witness table so I wish her luck. I'm sure she'll do fine.

Mr. Chairman, this department and I think one of the key things and one of the most important things that this department deals with is the health and well-being of our families and our children and our friends and constituents and the people that are care-giving, such as the doctors and the nurses in the community and the health facilities here in Iqaluit, at the regional hospital through agreements that we have with other more specialized areas in the south, where we don't have those services available here in the North.

I noted in the minister's opening comments on the whole group recruitment steering committee: I know that the department reacted quickly a few weeks ago after the announcement from the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut that they felt that they weren't being made aware enough of what they were getting themselves into. So, I know that the department has moved quickly in that area to try and address some of those issues and I congratulate them on that.

I think that we have to try and find ways; if we have someone that is willing to come up here, we don't want to fool them, get them here, and then they're going to leave right away again. Then they're going to pass the word around, "No, no, you don't want to go there," because it's turned out that they had a bad experience. We need to find ways so that once people show an interest in coming here, we get them here and they want to stay here.

I think we need to look more proactively at maintaining some of the levels of nurses within the regional hospital here and throughout the communities, because I know over the last few years it sometimes takes them months and months to recruit one nurse. If there's a way that we can find to try to expedite that whole process to be able to find and recruit someone, a nurse to work anywhere in Nunavut, we should try and find ways to do that. There always seem to be shortages. I hear they're shutting beds down because

they'll find out all of a sudden someone leaves and it takes a long time to hire someone. That mean time you have the nurses that are left behind; they are short-staffed. You have to shut beds down. It's a snowball effect on the rest of the staff that are left behind. I don't know if anything can be done to expedite the process or start earlier so that you don't have to wait until someone says, "Okay, I'm gone," before you look for some more people.

We're always looking for more nurses. There should be always some that are in works, looking for people to come up here. I think that is something: if we could get a quicker turn around time it is going to be much more beneficial for the staff that we do have left here, make their lives a lot easier if they are not doing the jobs of people that aren't there.

So, I think that is something that, hopefully, can be looked at to try and help them out because I know the long hours they work. Someone works double shift or triple shift. It can be pretty tough at times on them and on their families. So, we should find ways. We need to try to find ways to expedite and speed up that process so that we can have a slower turn-around time when there are vacancies in the system, as with both nurses and doctors.

I know that there has been finally work started up there on the new hospital. It's good to see that coming and I'm sure that we'll be able to reap some rewards of repatriated services as a result of the new facility going up there. But again, staffing-wise, to make sure that we're ready when that happens. It takes time, and especially with the crisis of shortage that is projected for the next couple of years. You know, if we wait until then to get people signed on it might be a lot tougher to do. So, you may want to find ways to beef it up now so that when the shortage comes we are not trying to find people at that time. Then we have the people that we need to work in the new facility when it is ready instead of having it sitting there empty with not being able to hire staff to fill it.

On the facility itself, I know that there have been some concerns; I've been up to the hospital here a number of times for different reasons and a couple of times I've seen the fire department people going in there and checking some detectors or smoke alarm, or some kind alarm that has gone off. There is just a really wear-and-tear system because of the age of it.

They are a good indication as to why the new facility is needed. But in looking at some of the upgrades that were done to the reception area, it allows for a little more privacy and that. But I'm just wondering if there are any requirements that we may need to look at to make the whole emergency area more practical and usable and suitable for the growing demands; I mean how long ago was that built for? How many people were here? How many people are going through there now as opposed to when it was first built? And does it have the ability to accommodate that under the current demand?

There was an incident a few years ago that one of my colleagues talked about where an individual was wheeled through the lobby area on a gurney and that's it. These types of things, I think, need to be addressed and looked at, to try and make it more appropriate to

suit the current demands on the facility. And keeping in mind if anything is going to be done to look at trying to make it more multi-purpose because there is going to be a new facility come on. So, space is something that is always at a premium and could always be greatly appreciated.

I think you know that these are some of the things that are going into the capital planning process pretty soon. Hopefully, that is something that is something that is going to be looked at in there. That's about it for now, Mr. Chairman. I'll have some more questions as we go along through the budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo. (Interpretation.) Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short comment to make. I spoke on this in my opening remarks. The people that go to the hospitals... First of all, when we were growing up we did not really think about doctors or nurses; in those days people used a lot of traditional medicine, but today we have to go see doctors and nurses in hospitals when we are not well. These days, it goes for everybody because we want to have a healthy lifestyle and we want to be believed when we are not well and we go see the doctors and nurses. This is what we would like to have. We depend on the medical people even though we weren't like that in the past, but we are used to utilizing more doctors and nurses these days.

Also, the people who escort to the hospital. When the people have to be told the escort does not really have good knowledge and he or she has to interpret for who is terminally ill and even to go so far as to how many years or months that this individual has left; in the future, when we get Nunavut, the Inuit will live a lot better.

Right now, this is not happening, especially on the health issues. I would like to say that I am very happy that the patients are very well looked after once they go to the hospital, although there are problems at times. I am very happy that our patients are looked after well by both the doctors and nurses when our patients go to the hospital. Also, the interpreters, for the future, we should start stabilizing them so that they can become professional interpreters through their communities on certain subjects. If an interpreter is not taught or trained or doesn't have any skills, they make mistakes. I feel that it is very important that they are taught on certain different subjects such as health, just to take courses on health issues. I am sure that if they have proper training in place that the future would be a lot better. Mr. Chairman, this is all that I would like to say for now, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome Minister Brown and her witnesses to the Committee of the Whole meeting today. When I was campaigning for MLA, there was one constant in my campaign when I was going door to door and talking with people about health issues. I had a long, long, long list of health issues. It was too long to discuss today, but I promised my constituents that I would raise some of

the concerns with the minister and my colleagues. I have been doing that through letters and meetings with the minister.

I couldn't help but note that when you are on the outside looking in, you don't know how these things work. But when you are on the inside now, looking at the numbers, it is quite a daunting challenge that we have ahead of us. I am looking at the numbers from the first year, and over five years the increase was almost 100 percent in health costs.

That is going to be down this year. It is projected to be lower but we are not getting a whole lot of new monies in to Nunavut from the federal government, so the challenge ahead of us is to somehow keep the costs down. Otherwise, you will wait three or four years that we'll be spending 35-40 percent of our available monies for health, which is very important to all of us. There is no doubt about that.

We have to look after ourselves and live healthy lifestyles, but if we are spending a lot of money on health, then other areas will suffer, and that could be education. We want to educate our youth. We want to put money into housing because all the health issues that we talked about, starting with the homes and crowded housing, which we also all saw on the campaign trail, contribute to that.

I am encouraged by the minister's main estimates, that they are bringing the costs down this year. I will have some questions later on; I will focus on just exactly how the minister and her officials will keep the costs down, control costs so that you don't spiral out of control for this year and for the future years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Any more general comments? We will now proceed to a page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting on page 5. Page H-5; 2004-05 main estimates. You may also refer to the business plans. This department's business plan starts H-1. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is just a general overview section. It is not specific to any particular page on here. Mr. Chairman, I noticed it shows it in the main estimates, on page 2 where it has the total number of PYs, it is 784.9. In the business plan, on the financial summary on page 31, it shows that same amount for this year's main estimates. And then last, it showed that there was 572.4 PYs. That is a significant increase of over 200 PYs.

I am just wondering if we can get an explanation from the minister how come when, all is said, there are over 200 more people in the department than there were last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to your question... . But I would first of all like to apologize. I introduced my officials and I

made a mistake: I said Tony Blais; his name is Bernie Blais. I apologize. I will give the question to Mr. Blais.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The way of comment in regards to the PYs is that last year when I took over the department in July, the department took a major review of all of its positions, basically a line-by-line review, and what we found to some extent is that there were a lot of positions for casual staffing that were being used. Basically they were not recorded as PYs. So, we did make the major adjustments for that in the fall and I think they have numbers now that accurately reflect our expenditures, but also the numbers of people that are actually in place today.

So, I would suggest to you that this is probably the single most important factor that has shifted. It is not that they were not there, but that they were not being recorded because we were using casual staffing patterns to address some of the shortages that you are seeing across the department, which is in the order of about 20 or 30 percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. I am just a Chair, just to let you know. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You could ask for the Speaker's Chairperson, and his office, with his paycheque.

Mr. Chairman, then I guess Mr. Blais is indicating that the 200, about 212, PYs that increased over the last year were actual positions that were within the department prior to last year. But just because they were vacant and being filled by casuals, they were not recorded on the other chart. Is that the correct indication of what he is saying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will once again ask Mr. Blais to respond to Mr. Tootoo's question in regards to the actual number, and what the present status is as of today. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the coming on board of the two new health centres, currently I think we are forecasting 724 PYs for this year. I also wanted to mention as well that my department was in a deficit of \$34 million last year. So, again, when you look at the deficit, it is clear that the PYs were not reflected in the real budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was kind of getting to my next question in that if the department had all these people working for them that they did not know about, or did not record, it is no wonder that they were so overexpended in their previous budget.

I guess it leads to the next thing on this current. I know that there is a significant base increase to the department this year. One: does that cover off all the funding for the additional new PYs that they've discovered were there? And two: does the minister feel that they have a sufficient base now, so that maybe finally this year the Auditor General won't give us a hard time about the Department of Health and Social Services' overexpending again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to those questions, we don't have enough PYs in the Department of Health and Social Services. We had a severe shortage of employees, and starting from last year we have increased the number of employees. I will have my deputy minister make a supplement my answer.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The question was, do we feel that we have enough of a base this year to achieve a balanced budget. I guess that's what I'm assuming you've asked me so far, and I will respond accordingly. We're expecting to finish this year with about a \$6.5 million deficit. Given what we know already, it would be clear in our minds that the base we currently are looking at is not sufficient enough to provide the services that are currently being provided.

The second piece to that is that if you take away the increase for the two new health centres, which is about \$3.5 million for a balance of this year, as well as the \$400,000 that was transferred for the status of women to our department, basically our department is looking at a zero percent increase for the rest of the budget. So, we are not getting any increase and we know that we're finishing at about \$186.5, even with all the measures that we have put in place so far.

The other contributing factor for that is when you look at the expenditure for out-of-territory care, that's hospitals, medical travel, boarding homes, our estimates that we're looking at right now are at about \$71.5 million on basically a \$186 million budget. So, there are some factors; as the out-of-territory component increases, we are facing cost increases which are well beyond what other provinces and territories are facing today.

Given what we know, I think realistically we know that we will not be achieving that goal this fiscal year, the way current system is configured at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Blais had indicated that they're doing a thorough reviewing of the line by line and that's when they discovered these 200-and-some people.

Can you indicate if there were any other reviews done that identified any other things that might have led to some of the possible over-expenditures or additional costs within the department in the last year? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): In response to your question, there are a lot of factors involved. We have a high cost of expenses. For example, medical travel outside of Nunavut is one of the major factors of the high costs. Another factor is housing patients outside of the territory. I'll give the supplement to Victor.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The remaining part of the question that I understand the member is asking is about any reviews that were undertaken in the last year. The Financial Management Board director for the Department of Finance and the Department of Health and Social Services undertook a review of expenditures of the Department of Health and Social Services sometime, I believe, in the 2002-03 fiscal year that work began.

There were a number of initiatives that were taken. And there was a report done up for FMB on the progress by both departments of the work that was done by Financial Management Board, and that report was made available to the members today, I believe, as a result of the questions in the regular members' caucus.

In short, some of the things that the two departments looked at were staffing levels and the use of casuals, control over the expenditures that were mentioned by the minister and the deputy and the level above those, and a look at the revenues and the outstanding audits that hadn't been completed at that time. I think in the last fiscal year that there were five audits that were completed, in the last year-and-a-half were completed, that brought in additional revenues to the government; that was one of the main concerns as well, of that report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to move on to something else that I talked a little bit about in my general comments and that is on retention of nurses and the recruiting of nurses. I'm sure that we all know in our communities times when someone leaves and it takes a month to fill the position. I am just wondering if the minister's staff is going to run it through the process that they use right now when someone leaves to hire someone else; are there any thoughts at looking at shortening or quickening that whole process to allow for shorter vacancies between staffing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will reroute my question to our deputy minister, Mr. Blais.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of things that the department is doing and has done to address the issue of recruitment. The most important thing that it has done is that it is focusing now on retention, that the best recruitment you could achieve is by keeping the people you have now.

The whole direction has shifted quite dramatically, as we have not done reasonably badly in terms of recruitment. Where our challenges are is in keeping people here once we do recruit them, so that the whole energy that is being expended is really on that part of it. The second piece of that is we do not really have a good inventory of what our vacancy rate was. So, we undertook that survey in each of the regions, first of all to capture the numbers of vacancies that we really had, not only in nursing but in all of the other disciplines as well. And I can tell you today that we need to recruit about 146 people this year with the two new health centres as well, which is extremely high.

The other component that we've achieved is in cooperation with Human Resources, that we used to have to match each posting with a number, always knowing that we would have vacancies. Now what we've agreed to is we will have continuous advertising for positions without the need to always match that number because we always know we need to recruit. So, that's another piece of what we are currently doing as well.

At the end of the month we hope to finalize... . We sent out a request for proposals about a month ago or so and we are currently in negotiations for hiring an international recruitment firm to help us recruit 146 positions that we need this year, or so. And as well, we have four recruiters in the department, and we are sending teams now to different parts of Canada as well to recruit nurses into the territory. In the last trip that we did we were successful in bringing three new nurses here. So again, we're pursuing quite a lot of different strategies in order to bring that about.

Last, but not least, the retention and recruitment committee, which actually had its first meeting in February of this year and subsequently a three day workshop a few days ago, met in order to develop a strategy or some short term goals on how we could improve both our recruitment and our retention this coming year.

Those are basically the highlights of what is happening right now, as they related to that particular question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly wish your retention and recruitment committee all the success, because I know the strains of vacancies put on the staff that are there. I want to try and limit that as much as possible.

In the minister's opening comments she talked about a newly negotiated hourly rate for agency nurses. I know that is something that I had asked quite a bit about in the past to the former health minister. I'm just wondering if in regards to the nurses, physicians, and other professionals: what agreements with respect to compensation or contract payments does the department have in place with these professionals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is an agreement, and it is used for the nurses, but it is going to lapse. Since it is going to lapse, I'll ask my deputy minister to respond to that.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They vary according to the various disciplines. The physicians, basically... . In the last year or the last six months or so, we have been able to standardize all the contracts so that they basically are all earning fairly about the same thing. We've achieved that level, finally, and the contracts are all identical to some extent, so they are all under contract.

For the agency nurses, we have eight agency nurse companies that provide services to Nunavut. We have basically negotiated what we believe are rates that are very similar or very, very close for all eight agencies, and they are all down as well. We are presently just finalizing that process right now. But, we are very confident that when we finish that negotiation we will be able to get services that not only reduce costs, but where our nurses that are currently working full-time won't be upset with people coming into Nunavut earning higher salaries than they do. So, we think we're as close as we're going to be in helping resolve that issue.

As for other contracts, we do get some people through the northern medical unit and, for example, we have a physiotherapist and an occupational therapist in the Kivalliq region. We fund them through that contract. Basically, it's something that we negotiate up front with them at the beginning of the year. It varies from one area to the other. But the other aspect of that, of course, is that we have an out-of-territory contract committee which is currently negotiating with all four referral centres again to see whether or not we can obtain a better agreement that is more sustainable and reflective of our needs as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chair (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to let the minister and her officials know, your department is very, very important because the nurses at the medical health centers work very, very hard. I would like to recognize them for their hard work.

When you work hard, you have to, you also work hard with them. I'm sure your department and the nurses need to get together more often. This is so they could feel that there's a sense of belonging to the community. At times, we only hear complaints about the nurses. We have to overcome that stage. I was very pleased about those two nurses that graduated; I'm very pleased and I duly expect to see more graduates from the nursing program.

The issue that I raised in my statement is that I'd like to see some responses in regards to the referral centre to Winnipeg and Kivalliq. I believe that there was a lack in supervision when there was a conflict of interest. One of the referral staff for many years where that individual was working, starting from the 1980s to the 1990s... . When her husband was working for the competition, Skyward Aviation, they won the contract. Can you assure me that this won't happen again? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to my colleague's comment, perhaps my assistant deputy minister will be able to respond to that question. Although I do want to respond, I'm sure my officials have more detailed information; I'm still in the learning stages and still am not fully familiarized with the department yet.

Chair (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of conflict of interest, the department and the government takes quite seriously. If there exists a situation where any of the members feel that it's a conflict of interest, we would most welcome that information forthcoming from the members, and would address the issue through the conflict of interest guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the minister: you committed to making sure that there is no conflict of interest in the staff. If you want to find out, you can look at the records. The individual who was working at the referral centre is the wife of the pilot. She has no signing authority, but she evaluates the referrals for the chartering of the airlines. That is how the case was. There were not too many people working in Winnipeg at the referral centre. And I am sure you know that there has been some correspondence in regards to that, the other airline was writing a letter, not to address the conflict of interest issue as a correspondence that exists. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue we are dealing with, I have looked into that personally and have reviewed the correspondence. It seemed adequate and it is the first time that I have heard that the wife of the pilot was working at the referral centre. This has never been brought to me in the past until now. If there is such a thing happening, if there is conflict of interest, I would like to be notified. Perhaps my assistant deputy minister can make a supplementary response.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member, I believe, is referring to a letter from Skyward Aviation to the Department of Health and Social Services. My understanding is that the letter and the issues addressed in that letter were responded to by the department, signed off on the letter by the deputy minister. I do not have the dates, and if there are further outstanding issues that the airline feels are not addressed, we would welcome any correspondence or communication on those issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you. I am not sure if we are getting off track a bit, but I would like to get to the 2004-05 main estimates. I suggest to the members that each of you answer your questions through detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: (interpretation): Thank you. I believe we are still on "Directorate;" we still have Bill 3 to go line-by-line. There were decisions. For that reason, since we are on the page of directorate, that is why I made that comment to this issue.

If it is not in this, perhaps I can contact the Speaker. It is a fact and it is not a rumour. I am not talking about a rumour. If we are going to be evaluating contracts, that the spouse, my spouse, is not allowed to work, whether it be Mr. Blais or Mr. Tootoo's wife, should not be working there, and that's in the guideline practices. I believe that's why the other airline went bankrupt, because she was evaluating the referrals and she's still working at the referral center but her husband is no longer a pilot for the airline. Her relative is a pilot, so I'm just trying to state that this should not be a practice. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. The issues that we're discussing right now are very, very important. As the Minister of Health and Social Services, I will review them and look into that. Perhaps, starting from now, there is going to be a directive for this not to happen again. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have another question. When there is a request for proposals for the charters, for the medivacs... . As, I think, the contract

ended for Kivalliq Air not too long ago. The contract is not renewed yet; I believe the contract ended around 2003. The department of health wanted to invite Skyward and the competition Kivalliq Air to go through a request for proposals that... I think that the issue started around March 2004. The closing date, it was very confusing. It was dated for February. Requests for proposals were in March and the closing date was in February. I would like to know the reason for this.

Chairman (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are two issues that we are talking about.

We are talking about emergency medivacs and also the contract in April 2003 that was awarded to Kivalliq Air, that was last year. The question that my colleague is asking, one of my deputies will answer that question. This was for the contract for medivacs; the contract was awarded in 2003, in April 2003.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary to the assistant deputy minister, Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I must say that I'm not aware that the department sent out any RFP or requests for proposals in March or February. Having said that, we'll have to go back and check to see if that is the case. At this point in time, I'm not aware of that.

Chair (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like you to check into this. It was for Sanikiluaq.

We asked for quotes before it was evaluated. Both of the airlines were asked for quotes, and before they reviewed it, it was cancelled. The referral centre in Winnipeg on April 2... It was awarded to Kivalliq Air.

I think there are just too many signing authorities by the Financial Act. The young people that are working there are not in the health department offices. I would like to know the reason why the request for quotes was not dated.

The contract for Sanikiluaq was given to Kivalliq Air. It opened April 1. I would like to get more information on this so that it wouldn't be so confusing anymore. I am saying that the request for quotes becomes legal. They definitely have to be fairly evaluated, and there should not be any conflict of interest. Before they were evaluated in April they cancelled the request for a proposal. I would like to know the reason why it is like this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): We will do a complete report on the department so that everyone will understand.

Chairperson(interpretation): Thank you, Hon. Lavinia Brown. Thank you, Mr. Curley. Page H-5, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question regarding telehealth. One of my communities, Arctic Bay, has used telehealth. First of all, I would like to know what is the status on telehealth in Nunavut. That is my question.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Regarding telehealth, I will giving it to my assistant deputy minister, Victor Tootoo, for him to explain this.

Chairperson: Thank you, Hon. Levinia Brown. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The telehealth current status in Nunavut: we have 15 of our communities that are connected to the telehealth network. It's a very effective tool, and it is welcomed by most of the people in Nunavut. There have been no patients or clients who have tried using the telehealth system who were unhappy with it or didn't want to use it. I think that's a very important factor.

Currently, the department has plans and has received some funding from the federal government to add an additional seven communities to our telehealth network. Plans are underway, although funding has not been received for us to address the remaining three communities.

We've become the first and only jurisdiction in Canada to have every single one of our communities connected via the telehealth network. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What things are being considered for getting the maximum usage from the telehealth technology? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Again, I would like to have good answers; I will give it to my assistant deputy minister once again. Thank you.

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

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The network itself is not a network that we can use 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Currently, we are paying for line costs and connection fees in order for us to use the network. We have discussed with our partners in this program, Articom, Northwestel, Tanburgh, Health Canada Information Way and Health Canada, the federal government, to address the infrastructure needs that are required in order for us to have a network that is dedicated to us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for communities in Nunavut. With the current system, we can have only five sites on at any one time. The utilization rates are just starting to pick up as the the 15 sites were only added this last year. There were fewer sites before then.

The kinds of activity that are seen on the network today are clinical, with physicians discussing with patients their healthcare needs. Education, that's a huge component in order for us to retain and recruit qualified healthcare professionals. We provide education to them in their isolated communities within Nunavut through the telehealth network with professionals here in Iqaluit and other areas across Canada.

Visitation is the last one we talk about, but it is certainly not the least important. We have, in a number of cases, had family visits over the telehealth network which are over and above what is paid for in terms of face-to-face visits for people in care, for children in care, for families that are in hospitals in southern Canada.

The department has met on a number of occasions with the past Department of Public Works and Services and currently the Department of Community and Government Services in order for us to determine what the other government departments' requirements are for access to the network.

We continue to develop that; the main departments that have come forth thus far are the Department of Justice and Department of Education who have expressed a need to use the network for their different purposes. And we continue those working group arrangements; in fact, I believe we have one next week. And those are the kinds of things that we're discussing in order to ensure that we can get maximum utilization out of the network. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I know you are representing Kugluktuk. I am not trying to take your place. Can the minister tell me: the staff in Kugluktuk for the medical affairs office, what is the status today? Thank you.

Chairperson: Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy, Bernie, to answer that question.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think what we were talking about is the professional practice unit. The role of the professional practice unit is the licensing of professionals and to look at risk management issues that could arise in any of our health centres.

Right now, I believe we are sitting at around nine people at the professional practice unit, and there are a number of vacancies which we have had difficulty recruiting. That remains open at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. This is going to be my last question. (Interpretation ends.) Contractor services under the directorate has historically increased in the revised main estimates. What steps has the department taken to ensure that the proposed budget will be adequate for the upcoming fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to his question on the year 2004-05, for example, for housing patients and for different hospitals and treatment centres there are quite a lot of costs involved. There are also communications and the current status of our licenses, those are some of the contract services that go through our department.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that you didn't get my question. My question is in regards to the health departments at the regional level. Are we going to have enough financial resources in order to operate and maintain these facilities? Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try and budget accurately for all our operations and maintenance for the facilities that we have and for patient treatment. For the staff of our department, we are trying to keep our estimates as accurate as possible to the actual costs.

Chairperson: Page 5. Health and social service branch summary. Directorate. Total, operations and maintenance, \$17,869,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Page 7. Health and social service branch summary. "Healthy Children, Families and Communities." Total, operations and maintenance... . Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Interpretation ends.) My question is to the health minister regarding the dental program for our communities.

(Interpretation.) We used to have a dental therapist in Coral Harbour, but we haven't had one for a number of years. There has been a large increase in the number of children. My question to the minister is if she will be reinstating the dental therapy program in Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this issue, we have to look at how much the program would cost. I'll direct this question to the deputy minister.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current program that we have is funded under the NIHB agreement, and that agreement is under negotiations as we speak. The challenge that we have with the whole dental therapy area is there is only one school in Canada, situated in Saskatchewan. We have not been successful, I think we have about seven vacancies currently, in recruiting dental therapists to fill both positions.

We are looking at the possibility of using some of our current graduates from CHR and developing, hopefully with cooperation from Health Canada, and we've had several meetings on that, our CHRs, our community health representatives, developing a dental assistant course that would allow us to fill these vacancies and provide some of the support services that are required to provide the service that is required in some of the regions currently.

It is an area of great concern for the department. I believe that we have about 700 kids and adults on the waiting list for surgery. It is an area where in the rest of Canada you just don't see that kind of problem. It is an area that we want to refocus our attention of prevention on over the next five to ten years, because we believe that we could probably eliminate or reduce that particular problem in Nunavut quite significantly.

But at this time the recruitment of these professionals is, first of all, very difficult. There is only one school in Canada. So we will be looking at alternatives to address that particular issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one of the possible solutions that we might have is to... . We hear that some of the water reservoirs that we have in Nunavut are added to with fluoride, and of those communities I hear that they

have better teeth, or better dental care, or better teeth than the have-not communities. Is that a fact, Mr. Chairman?

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this has been discussed, but I don't know whether adding fluoride to the drinking water is better for the teeth, or not. There are some people who like the addition to the water, and there are some who don't. I'll direct this question to my deputy.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an excellent question. I must admit that I don't have a good answer to that. But I will come back with an answer through our minister by contacting our chief medical officer of health, who is very familiar with this issue, and we'll get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: I forgot to turn this off.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this reorganizing of the government departments there is the division of, it is called, Advocacy for Initiatives, for people with disabilities. It was a transfer from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. So, I was wondering, where is the base for that advocacy office, and where would it be located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: So far we have hired an executive director for the Status of Women Council, and that position is stationed here in Iqaluit. As for people with disabilities, we are focussing in those areas because that is something new that has been added on to my portfolio. Maybe my assistant deputy minister could answer further to that.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The transfer of services of the Status of Women, basically there was one PY, or one person attached to that portfolio, and that person was not accounting and has been transferred over to health and social services headquarters. So, at this point in time, it is a position that is based here. The people-with-disabilities portfolio, basically represented no transfer of staff; it was zero positions. So, it is basically a portfolio but without any staffing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the deputy minister clarify again; a portfolio without staff, what does that mean? Just for, I will need it as process.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If it is possible, I would like to redirect this question to the deputy minister.

Chairperson: “Koana, Uqutit,” Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It means that the overall responsibility for people with disabilities is the responsibility of the health and social services department. We were transferred \$90,000 of resources which have been used, historically, to provide to plans of communities or funding for specific projects. But at this point in time, it is not an area that has evolved as compared to other provinces and territories. It has no staffing attached to it, other than a \$90,000 sum.

We are still responsible for any development of programs in the future. For example, currently we are looking at using the \$90,000 to conduct a survey to determine, once and for all, how many people with disabilities there are in Nunavut.

So, that will be the kind of thing that we will be able to achieve with that. Hopefully, that gives you a good sense, at this point, of what that portfolio entails. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad the deputy minister mentioned that, because in my riding there are a lot of people with disabilities. I was leading on to my next question: what priority exists in your department regarding where to assist these kinds of folks, because they are important parts for our communities, and so I am glad to hear that.

Which will lead into my next question; I brought this up during our regular members' caucus. I have been advocating for our child advocacy legislation for several years. So, I am wondering if you could comment, Madam Minister, on whether your department would entertain or put forward legislation on child advocacy in this session. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will direct that question to my right; my deputy minister would like to answer your question. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that is an excellent question and again an area that the department is very concerned about, not only for children but also for status of women, and other areas as well. What we have looked at currently, because we are such a small territory, and the population is not such a large population, we are hopeful to come forth to cabinet, in the very near future, where we have identified the need for what I call a client representative, a person who would be responsible and accountable to the deputy minister directly to deal with issues having to do with children, women, and other patients or families who may have complaints or issues they are feel are not being addressed.

In essence, I am trying to answer the question somewhat differently, but our view is that because of our limited size we need to create a position that would address all Nunavummiut. This is the direction that we currently are leaning in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With all due respect to the deputy minister, the population statistics of Nunavut: there are 28,000 people and 50 percent of them are under the age of 22. It's a very large population group, that. I think, and perhaps all of my colleagues agree, that they need a representative devoted just to them and their issues, and not lumped in with adults who have in all groups to represent them. So that is my comment on that.

I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the minister might give us an update on the kind of activities and initiatives that they are going to be implementing to address issues relating to family violence in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qullit women's council wrote a report on the issue of violence, and from there they will take a direction on what we are going to be doing on these types of initiatives by the government.

That is a very good question and its something that has to be dealt with in Nunavut. And for your information, this was one specific portfolio that I requested to have under my department because of its importance. I would also like the deputy minister to supplement my response.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is an area where I think a lot of work is being done by the various government departments, mostly the departments that represent the social components: CLEY, health and social services, justice, and education. We have three senior-level DM committees that are looking at that. We have the Nunavut's

Promise for Child and Youth, which is a secretariat that's looking at issues dealing with children. Hopefully, in the foreseeable future we will be bringing forth information on some of the activities of that group.

The other one is the violence against women committee, which is another high-level deputy minister committee. We have spent a fair amount of time looking at trying to gather enough statistics, because one of the challenges that we face in Nunavut, not only in my department, but in other things we are looking at, is that there are very limited amount of statistics to assess the scope, or the size of the challenge, but also to determine where we should focus resources and our energy.

We are undertaking a number of initiatives to help address that. The committee has also identified a series of activities in that regard in terms of the violence against women portfolio. So, we are developing an action plan, and hopefully we'll be able to present that in the foreseeable future here as well.

The third piece of that is the senior officials' suicide committee, which is very active. We have requested from each department what I call the three-point plan. I co-chair that committee as well, and I'm on the other two. We have asked each department to identify three specific objectives. We didn't ask for ten or fifteen. Three. Three things that we could do that we think would have an impact on reducing suicide over a period of time.

This is the first time that we've ever had such a committee. This represents all the departments in government. Currently, we are reviewing those three-point plans and we hope to bring a document to cabinet on that issue, again, in the foreseeable future. Once we've done our review, hopefully a report will be forthcoming to you as well. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm glad you mentioned suicide. It's an important issue to us here in Nunavut. There is a formation of a suicide prevention council, is that the same as your senior-level, or is that separate? Are you providing resources to that council to do the work in the next year?

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. In regards to my colleague's question, this suicide prevention of Nunavut is separate from what we're talking about.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering if, well, obviously there is a council formed, so they're going to need some resources from somewhere. I'm wondering if your

department is going to provide those resources to the council that is doing that important work. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy minister respond to that question.

Chair (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My department is doing a number of things to support the council. One of them is that we've recently allowed one of our directors of policy to be seconded on an interim basis as the interim executive director for the council to help set up the structure and the whole process that's required to move it forward. So, that's one of the contributions that we've made and continue to make.

The second piece of that is that we've had a number of meetings, including this morning, with the president of the council. We are looking at a contribution of about \$220,000 through the Brighter Futures funding, which is a vote for funding. We're basically in the final stages of achieving that.

We're also helping the council look at other sources of revenue as well. We're looking at the possibility of secondments to support the council as it moves forward in the future.

So, those are currently the activities that we have, I would say, put in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm wondering, just to switch a bit here, about social workers. Could the minister describe the different levels of social workers we have in our communities and the specific, not too detailed, kinds of duties they do? Some work with children, some work with women, some work with men. There are levels, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10; I don't know, there are different levels and qualifications. I'm wondering if the minister, or one of her assistants there, could outline what a social worker does in the communities for us. Thanks.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is true that it varies. There are different levels of social workers. They go all the way up to level four, and each level has different training requirements. I cannot go into detail for that, so, I am going to ask my deputy minister.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Sorry, Mr. Chairman, but the minister has asked her deputy minister to explain.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Sorry, I was talking to Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must say that I cannot really answer that question at this point in time. I am not as familiar, having been here only 10 months, with all of the functions and responsibilities of all the different levels of workers that we do have, but I would commit to hopefully finding that answer for you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Perhaps I could provide some clarity: I am wondering what qualifications would a person require to become a social worker, and with those qualifications... . Could they be obtained in Nunavut, or would they have to go down south to university and then come back and be hired up here? Would it require a bachelor of psychology or social worker's degree, or could you get a certificate from Nunavut Arctic College? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remember when I took part in the social worker program back in Fort Smith. Nunavut Arctic College was responsible for the training program, but I cannot tell you what levels there are and I do not want to guess, so I am going to give the response to my deputy minister.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, currently a social worker-1 and -2 can be attained, that level can be attained here in Nunavut. Beyond that, my understanding is that you still require a university degree to reach that professional status, if you are a -3 and -4.

But again, as part of building forward, we are looking at an education and training strategy to see if something could be done differently here in Nunavut, not only for social workers, but for other disciplines such as the rehabilitation field. But at this point in time, I think the only level that a social worker can attain is a level CSW-1 and CSW-2. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that clarification. I think in 2001, or maybe it was 2002, there was a graduating class in Cambridge Bay that graduated with social workers' certificates. I know one, and he has told me of a couple of others who are having a difficult time getting... . You know, they want to work as social

workers and they are in their communities; they would like to work as social workers and help their fellow citizens; they are having a very difficult time getting their jobs.

I know it is a problem passing their interviews, or there is a problem with their qualifications, but it seems to me that if it is Nunavut Arctic College training people, these social workers level-1 and -2, then we should make every effort to try and hire those people, whether it is in their home communities or elsewhere in Nunavut.

Perhaps you can look into that and talk to your colleagues at human resources to see how that could be done. It seems like a lot of money invested in training. If we do not train them, then we have to bring people in from down south, and it is very hard on the communities when there are no social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree wholeheartedly with my colleague, because we need Inuit social workers in the communities, and we need more Inuit in the social work-training field. I agree with your statement. There are levels of community social workers and I know that CSW-3s are required at the local level and also CSW-4s. We have to follow the levels. As the deputy stated, they have to go down south to go further in their training for psychology if they want to become a psychologist. I would like to thank the member for asking those good questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be dealing with this department for this week so I'd like to report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: All those opposed? Motion is carried. I will report progress. Thank you, Madam Minister and your witnesses.

Speaker (interpretation): Back to the orders of the day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Chairperson (Mr. Evyagotailak)(interpretation): The committee has been considering Bill 2 and the main estimates, and I would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Who is the seconder? Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order. All those in favour?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 22. Item 23, Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a reminder for tomorrow: all members are welcome to attend a presentation from the Worker's Compensation Board of the NWT and Nunavut. It takes place tomorrow at 10 o'clock in the Nanuq boardroom and it will be chaired by the Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, May 20, 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

Speaker (interpretation): The House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 20, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 18:02*

