



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

1st Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 8

Thursday May 20, 2004

Pages 280 – 325

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)

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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	280
Ministers' Statements.....	280
Members' Statements	281
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	287
Oral Questions.....	290
Tabling of Documents	299
Consideration in Committee of the Whole in Bills and Other Matters	300
Report of the Committee of the Whole	324
Orders of the Day	324

A.

Daily References

Thursday May 20, 2004..... 280

B.

Ministers' Statements

014 – 2(1): Department Reorganization (Kilabuk)..... 280
015 – 2(1): Increase to the Income Support Food Scale (Picco) 281

C.

Members' Statements

071 – 2(1): Member Questions Procedural Matter in the House (Okalik) 281
072 – 2(1): Kugluktuk Search and Rescue (Evyagotailak) 282
073 -2(1): Resolve Issue of Former Speaker (Alagalak)..... 282
074 -2(1): Technical and Trade School Initiative in Kitikmeot (Peterson) 283
075 – 2(1): Aging Health Centre in Arctic Bay (Barnabas)..... 284
076 – 2(1): Recognition of Constituents (Brown)..... 285
077 – 2(1): Tribute to Community Volunteers (Tootoo)..... 285
078 – 2(1): Upcoming Nunavut Arts Festival in Rankin Inlet (Curley)..... 286
079 – 2(1): Annual Toonik Tyme Celebration (Picco)..... 287

D.

Oral Questions

073 – 2(1): Allocation of School Funding (Tootoo)..... 290
074 – 2(1): Investigation of Abduction (Curley)..... 293
075 – 2(1): High Cost of Air Travel (Barnabas) 295
076 – 2((1): Insurance for Outfitters (Peterson) 296

077 – 2(1): Emergency Calls from the Communities (Kattuk) 296
078 – 2(1): Fuel Resupply to the Communities (Peterson) 297

E.

Tabling of Documents

013 – 2(1): Arctic Bay Health Centre Photographs..... 299
014 – 2(1): Letter to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans 299

F.

Committee Motions

Committee Motion 002 – 2(1): Tabled Quotes Issued for Charter Airline Requirements for
Sanikiluaq (Curley)..... 323

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, May 20, 2004

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allan Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, 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): I will ask Mr. Curley to lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day for today. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 014 – 2(1): Department Reorganization

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about how things have progressed with the formation of the Department of Community and Government Services. It involved a very large change in a short period of time. Because of the hard work of all the staff, the major reorganization is now complete and the new structure is in place.

(Interpretation.) The Department of Community and Government Services emphasizes support for communities for a range of services, funding, and training. We will focus on improved technical services related to capital infrastructure, information technology, and in other areas. We will place emphasis on protection services including fire, EMO, and building inspection. The priorities of the new department include our ability to operate using Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit principles and to attract and retain Inuit staff.

Community and government services has the lead on advancing the government's overall approach to infrastructure planning. We will work closely with communities and other departments on that.

We also place a priority on training and continued support to the hamlets through the Municipal Training Organization. My department will emphasize quality service to communities and other departments. We will continue to build our IQ skills to find ways to make things happen in a way that most benefits departments and communities; that is

part of our mission to use partnerships to support economic growth and social well-being for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Item 2. Ministers' statements. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 015 – 2(1): Increase to the Income Support Food Scale

Hon. Ed Picco: Good afternoon, "Uqaqti." I would like to take this opportunity to speak about the recent increases announced to the food scale rates paid to income support recipients.

Every year, nearly \$21 million in benefits is paid to Nunavut residents through the income support program. On average, nearly 2, 800 households per month receive some level of income support.

Effective June 1, 2004, the social assistance food rates will be increased by 10 percent for every community and household size in Nunavut. It is expected that this will result in an additional \$1.6 million in benefits being provided to those in most need of financial help. This initiative will be of particular assistance to those residing in small communities.

This increase shows our government's continuing commitment to assisting individuals by providing support as they seek to become more self-reliant. In the coming months, other aspects of the income support program will be reviewed and updated to address the needs of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements. The Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Members' Statement 071 – 2(1): Member Questions Procedural Matter in the House

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was flabbergasted through the sitting yesterday as I listened to one of the members complain about procedural matters, over matters clearly intended to benefit the hard-working, tired homeowners of this wonderful territory.

Last year, I was troubled by the elderly and hard-working families that were facing the loss of their homes due to taxes owed to the city of Iqaluit. I found that we could not do a whole lot as the government, so I began to look for ways to try to aid in avoiding these types of problems in the future. I found that we had actually contributed to this problem through the homeowners' education tax. When the election was called I made this an

issue as a part of my campaign, that I would look to see if this tax could be removed so that we could lighten the burden of the homeowners of this territory.

I am very pleased and happy that my colleagues in cabinet were supportive of this very positive initiative. Yesterday, we saw that some of the members of this House also supported this very positive development. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

This tax was collected by the city and was provided to our general revenues at the government and treated like any other revenue. It generated about \$500,000 for our government and does not come even close to our expenditures that we spend on education. If we even attempted to use this to finance our schools in Iqaluit, it couldn't even pay for one school year's operations.

Every single tax payer of this territory should be doing their part in supporting our education system. The hard-working homeowners of our territory should not be asked to carry an added burden just for our students. We want to express our appreciation to our homeowners in their efforts to try and meet the high cost of living in this territory.

We will continue vigorously to support education and support our students in trying to get the best education possible. This initiative in no way whatsoever is trying to decrease the amount of support that we provide to our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 072 – 2(1): Kugluktuk Search and Rescue

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank the residents of Kugluktuk. I am also very thankful that search and rescue did a very good job in searching for the missing person; the person's name is Martin Roland. They found this person May 19, at 10 o' clock in the evening.

I would like to encourage my colleagues to congratulate the search and rescue people in Kugluktuk. We all know that it is very frustrating and tiring work, so I would also like to thank the search and rescue team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 073 -2(1): Resolve Issue of Former Speaker

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue that needs to be resolved once and for all. I sincerely hope that this is the last time that I will have to raise this matter in our session.

For some time now, the residents of Arviat have been concerned about the questionable leases entered into between the government and the former MLA for my community. Mr. Speaker, I need to be very frank today. It is absolutely critical that the public has trust and confidence in the honesty and integrity of their own government. Over the past couple of years, the people of Arviat have had their trust in the government shaken by what appears to be an unfair and unjustifiable leasing deal with the former MLA. Questions have been raised in this House over the past week with respect to this issue.

At a time when our government is lacking resources in the areas of health and education, a deal to lease houses that aren't fit to be lived in is completely wrong and completely unacceptable. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge the minister responsible to do the right thing and instruct his officials to immediately terminate the leases in question.

This decision would be a step in the right direction, and clearly demonstrate to the people of Arviat that their government makes decisions for the public good, not for the benefit of any one individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 074 -2(1): Technical and Trade School Initiative in Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I arrive today to share with the House a good news story and show you a private-sector initiative underway in the Kitikmeot. The Kitikmeot Corporation has taken the lead role in pursuing an opportunity to open a technical and trade school using the old Lupin gold mine, once in operation.

The Lupin gold mine began production in 1980 and for over two decades significantly contributed to the Kitikmeot and to Nunavut as a whole by providing employment training to residents and contract opportunities to our businesses. Kitikmeot Corporation and the Kitikmeot Inuit Association met with Kimmber gold mine last November to tour the Lupin gold mine to talk about how they could acquire the assets. The conversations, I'm told, were very productive.

Within two years Tahera Corporation will open Nunavut's first diamond mine and Miramar Mining will open their gold mine.

A lot depends on the decision makers in Ottawa who control much of Nunavut's destiny when it comes to a non-renewable resource. The Kitikmeot will have two operating mines and will be on the threshold of unlocking the mineral potential, despite the geological problems of Nunavut, as the Bathurst Inlet port road looms closer to reality.

In addition to its promise as a technical and trade school, the Lupin gold mine site is strategically positioned in the Kitikmeot and is at the end of the loop of winter road situated south of Tahera's diamond mine and east of its world-class slate deposits. Furthermore, in addition to its trade shops, foundations, and classrooms, it has a winter observation system and a six thousand-foot runway that can handle large aircraft.

The Kitikmeot Inuit Association has benefits agreements with Diavik diamond mines and BHP Diamonds; Tahera Corporation is close to signing an agreement in principle with Miramar Mining. To benefit fully from those agreements our communities require a trained and skilled workforce. Otherwise, the best jobs will go to people from the south.

The trade and technical school at the Lupin gold mine will train people from the Kitikmeot and Nunavut so they can start their careers with mines or hamlets in private-sector companies. Kitikmeot Corporation will be seeking the support of the Government of Nunavut for this exciting initiative in the Kitikmeot and Nunavut, and I will be supporting them fully in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 075 – 2(1): Aging Health Centre in Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas: "Qujannamiik, Uqaqti." Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to a very difficult working condition at the Arctic Bay health centre. The Arctic Bay health centre was built many years ago and it is showing its age.

The conditions at the health centre affect the delivery of healthcare. Extra stress on nurses and staff, in turn, risk the quality of health care available to patients.

There are two main areas of concern regarding this facility. First of all, there are serious deficiencies in the building itself; many windows cannot open and others cannot properly close. There is only one door that will allow a stretcher to go through, and it does not have a doorbell to signal for the available stretcher. The oxygen storage room does not have a proper lighting fixture. One staff member has already suffered an accident while trying to get equipment out of the stock room. There are difficulties securing the doors, both the emergency doors and those between the offices and the staff apartments. There is a constant problem with heating and ventilation, and the reinforcement on the bottom of the building is decaying and becoming exposed.

Another area of concern is that there is overcrowding in the building. There is a lack of office space and lack of space for examining patients. Almost all of the rooms are being used for two or three purposes. There is no longer room for a group of health promotion activities, which are important for the prevention of illness and diseases. When specialists

come to visit, other programs may be delayed or cancelled. Even though the health centre has purchased two storage containers to store some materials, this is not the best solution.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Arctic Bay deserve to have a decent facility. Their healthcare should not be put at risk by decaying standards of local healthcare delivery. At the appropriate time I will be tabling some photos which show the conditions of which I speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, Ms. Brown.

Member's Statement 076 – 2(1): Recognition of Constituents

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today to recognize some individuals who are from my riding of Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove.

I would like to recognize this young woman, this young lady who is only 10 years old and who won a prize for her drawing. Her name is Caila Bruce and she is the daughter of Judy and Tommy Bruce from Rankin Inlet. There were 7,000 people who entered this competition and her drawing was selected. She is only 10 years old and we are extremely proud of her. Her drawing was released as stickers or temporary tattoos. Her younger sister Isabella should be named also, because she is very, very young.

I think that we should take the initiative of recognizing young people or children in the House because they make up a large portion of our population. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 077 – 2(1): Tribute to Community Volunteers

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to volunteers who make our community a better place in which to live.

Over the past few years I've made statements in this house about the consistently high level of donations that Nunavummiut make each year to registered charities. National statistics prove that Nunavummiut are a generous people. That generosity also extends to time, energy, and commitment. Every day hundreds of residents across the territory freely donate their time and efforts to worthwhile community activities. Whether it is a parent coaching hockey, or a high school student volunteering at a help line, every volunteer makes a difference.

In November of 2003, a volunteers of Nunavut network initiative began. This initiative brings together volunteers and volunteer groups. In March of this year, the network helped a major workshop here in Iqaluit during which many valuable ideas and strategies were shared.

I am delighted to salute the efforts of people like Sheila Levy, who pulled this workshop together. I think that everybody should volunteer at least once a month, and I am pleased that the government recognizes the role that the volunteers play in our communities.

I'd also like to congratulate, at this time, the winners of the annual volunteer award. There was a luncheon held here with them not too long ago. I would like to ask all members to join me in a well deserved salute to Nunavut volunteers. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 078 – 2(1): Upcoming Nunavut Arts Festival in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to rise today to make a comment about the people who carve and who do handicrafts in Nunavut.

This is a very important part of the economy of Nunavut and because of that there are going to be many individuals who will be going to Rankin Inlet to participate in activities at the arts festival. Prior to that, I would like to say that the individuals who carve, paint, and participate in the arts can't do it on their own; they work together and they contribute economically to the community and to Nunavut as a whole.

As one of the members stated earlier, it is something that is an achievement and it is a sustainable development for Nunavut. We have to give support, as members of the Legislative Assembly, to these individuals, and we have to increase the marketing and the development of carving and arts.

I will read the following. This is from Tiriisi Tungalik and it reads, (interpretation ends) "Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform you, the members of the Legislative Assembly for Kivalliq region, that the Nunavut Arts and Crafts Association will be conducting a Nunavut-wide arts festival next month in Rankin Inlet. The festival will take place from June 18 to 25, 2004. In support of this important economy for many of the Inuit in your riding, we at NACA would gratefully appreciate any free advertising and encouragement of participants from your constituencies."

Please feel free to direct to me any concerns or questions you may have. (Interpretation.) If at all possible, please participate in that gathering or give them a little support. Offer free advertising for this gathering that we're going to have. It is our show of support for the carvers and the handicraft people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 079 – 2(1): Annual Toonik Tyme Celebration

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few weeks ago, we celebrated our annual Toonik Tyme here in Iqaluit.

When Toonik Tyme first started in the 60s, it was held around the end of May, and games were held at the present Aqsarniit School on a small pond. Times have changed. We have pushed the start of Toonik Tyme from the middle of May to the middle of April. One headache every year is the hill climb, but again this year, there was not enough snow for the climb. Our climate, our weather has changed. Toonik Tyme this year featured many excellent activities for all of the residents.

Our honorary Toonik this year was Elisapee Davidee-Annirmiuq. Elisapee was an excellent honorary Toonik. Toonik Tyme featured a concert for the well-known fantastic Arviat band: the Arviat Band. Local performers included drum dancers and the amazing Vinnie Karetak. As well, we were also very fortunate to have a well-known singing star and actor, Mr. Tom Jackson, perform during Toonik Tyme.

Mr. Speaker, I too, like Mr. Tootoo, would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizers and the volunteers, and especially Elisapee for being an excellent Toonik and making Toonik Tyme another success here in Iqaluit. “Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.”

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize, from my riding, the elders sitting right behind me. They are from Hall Beach. The Inuit have a tradition of not saying the names of people who are older, but there is my “arnaguttaasaaq,” my aunt. I have yet to know her name, I just know her husband’s name. I cannot say the name of these elders. My aunt from Hall Beach and her husband Saakuluk. These two are well known in Nunavut and are respected.

I would also like to remind the members that my department, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, has no elder employees. We are a department owned by the elders. I had mentioned this in the House, but I would like the people of Nunavut to know that we will care for the elders. They do not work for us.

I would like to also remind the elders, and as we know, my “arnaguttaasaaq,” my aunt... . We recall the time when her relatives disappeared. It is said that they were abducted by people from other countries. She is one of the individuals who remains of that family. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual from Baker Lake: David Aqşarniq, who is sitting behind Levi Barnabas. (Interpretation ends.) David is the newly elected president of the Keewatin Wildlife Board. (Interpretation.) Welcome to the House.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize, and I'm very pleased, an individual: my wife, who is here, Sally. And my son, who is not here. I won't be going home for the weekend; I'm here with my family instead. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to recognize an individual from my home riding of Kugluktuk: Piaqallut, the president of the Kitikmeot Hunters and Trappers Association. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to rise to recognize Sally Curley who is one of my relatives, and I would also like to make a short comment on her grandmother Atuat.

She was well known. I don't know whether Mani was the younger or the elder, but these two women were very good seamstresses and bead workers. I asked my grandmother where she used to get her beads a long long time ago. My mother said the beads were brought in from European countries by ship.

I'm very pleased to see you here in the gallery, Sally. It will keep me occupied while you're here.

Also, another individual I would like to recognize is Jimi Onalik, who used to be a young child in Rankin Inlet, and his sister is Nanasi. They were just children when they lived in Rankin Inlet, and Jen was the therapist for the dentist at that time. It's been approximately 20 years and they are now grown up and have excellent teeth. I think of Jen, who is Jimi Onalik's mom. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to recognize an individual who already has been recognised, Jimi Onalik. I would like to recognize him; he owns an airline business and he is a pilot. We are very very proud of Jimi. He used to work for me as well. He does own his own business right now and we are proud of it and him. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Mr. and Mrs. Siakuluk to the gallery and welcome Mr. Onalik.

Mr. Speaker, over 40 percent of Canada's children live in communities with less than 100,000 people. All children and adolescents in Nunavut, the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and PEI fit into this category.

I am very pleased today to welcome to the gallery members from the Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs that are meeting here in Iqaluit. I had an opportunity this morning to meet with them and I would like to introduce them. First of all, from the Government of Nunavut: Margaret Joyce and Shirley Taqalik.

>>Applause

You may know that Shirley has a nice tan there from fishing in Arviat. Also, Margaret Bone from the national office, Terry Bart who is a consultant, and we also have several universities represented. Alan Boyd from Lakehead University, Patricia Canning from Memorial University, Larry Courage from Memorial, Margo Greenwood from the University of Northern British Columbia, specializing in substance abuse, Kim Cadaferal from Mount St. Vincent University, who is in intervention, and we also have Julia O'Sullivan from the national office and the national director or chair.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the gallery and continue their good work on the Centre of Excellence for Children and Adolescents with Special Needs, especially here in Nunavut. "Qujannamiik."

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the House. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I think I would like to recognize one person; I feel this is very important, if everybody agrees. I would like to recognize another individual.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Go ahead, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, this is very important. I am standing again to recognize... I would like to say the names. Nujatsiakuluk, can you please stand up, from Hall Beach, and also the husband, Siakuluk. I would like to recognize, also, Eva, their granddaughter.

In 1945, Ruth's parents vanished. They left by an aircraft. We cry for a number of years when we lose our parents. Ruth is still crying today. She has lost her mother and father. They were stolen, they vanished. She was 16 years old. They were taken by the Russians; a lot of people were taken. There was an airplane traced there, and I will be asking the government, what can we do? I think they are still alive. According to a lot of people at that time, Ukinnguq was 14 years old, the sister, and also Qaunnaq, the brother, were 7 years old, and they had a 2-year-old brother.

This individual is still alive today, and think it is about time that the government starts looking at this because Eva is still looking for her parents. They are here somewhere in the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 073 – 2(1): Allocation of School Funding

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I would like to direct my question to the minister. I know that he has been biting his tongue over the last few days, feeling left out. So, my question is for the minister responsible for education.

It is my understanding that there are 43 schools in Nunavut that are funded through 27 district education authorities. The district education authorities are made up of locally elected community representatives who do their best to determine the needs for funding the schools in their communities based on the numbers of students, operational costs, and so on.

I would like to ask the minister to explain in detail how the funding is allocated to each DEA for the operations of the schools in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to go into a lot of detail on the funding formula and the way that is arranged and therefore and thus how the schools and the DEAs are funded.

Usually, when you do that type of response it would be in a written question so that you could actually not give away the House. The short answer: as the member knows, the funding to the local district education authority is based on, number one, the school enrollment, and number two, the STE. So with that the equivalent of the school, the number of employees at each school and, for example, maybe extra funding is placed to each DEA, depending on, for example, if they have a busing contract and so on.

There are other reciprocals in those agreements. We could get into some details again. That was, I would take the allowance of the House to do those types of explanations. It probably would be better later on in the day or indeed early next week when the Department of Education's budget is being reviewed. But, we have an opportunity to go into long detail of how the funding formula is arrived at and how the DEAs throughout Nunavut are funded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister clarify, what, if any, kinds of powers and abilities does the DEA have in negotiating amounts allocated for school operation funding in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member and the House know, the amount of monies that are involved for the DEAs is based on the enrollment and the formula that is in place. And, again, there is some leveraging available based on, for example, if the local DEA has extra contracts that are in place.

For example, a DEA that would have a local busing contract would have more money available to it in its allocation in the community; if they have a busing contract, for example. So, those types of allocations would be in place depending on the amount of the administrative, the logistic, as well as the financial aspects of the local DEA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the minister could go into a lot of detail on the formula and the shortcomings of the formula that he had indicated which are something that his departmental people are looking at reviewing.

Given the current situation, can the minister confirm to me that the formula that is used currently, whether it is good, bad, or indifferent, for determining the school funding allocations that apply to the DEAs, is done equally for all the DEAs throughout Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would depend on the allowances inside the funding formula. For example, the funding formula uses a sliding scale to calculate the number of school staff, usually expressed as a PTR for K-9 and 10-12. These two areas have different rates. For example, the K-9 would have higher rate than the 10-12. Therefore there would be some difference in the funding allocations based on that number. As an example, if community A has less students in 10-12, then the allocation based on the same formula would be less for that community because of the numbers involved.

Overall, there are concerns, as the member indicated, with the funding formula. One of the first things I did when pursuing a new portfolio was ask the department to review the funding formula and the allocation, the way it is mad, and actually come back to me in the fall with a better allocation. I've already spoken about that a little bit in the House, to have a better school funding formula that actually reflects the needs of the community, as well as the school, and have that in place hopefully in the budget coming up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the differences that the minister is talking about and the rates that are applied for different age groups or grades, I believe the minister is indicating that all that formula is applied to all schools evenly. So, basically, everyone, the minister is of the view that all the schools are treated the same with the formula and how they receive their funding. Can the minister indicate to this House whether or not, based on this formula, the schools have been funded to formula? Or have they been funded under the formula? If they've been funded under the formula, for how long? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member makes a good point. There are some inequities in the way the school funding formula works. For example, it is my understanding that the department has attempted to staff schools by the formula and indeed, that has indicated an over-allotment of about 20 teachers across Nunavut.

Now, that's based on the formula and based on the number of students involved. When you look at a school, and I'll give you an example.... That's why the answer is a long answer. In a given school for example, from K-9 there are 160 students in the school; 160 students and according to the formula, there may be 10 teachers for those 160 students. It does not affect the actual enrollment per class. So, for example, you may have 160 students from K-12, or maybe 100 students, and then from 6,7, 8, 9, there may be only 20 or 30 students. So you could have the same allocation in place.

So, from K-3, as an example, if it was enrolled at 40 students per class, the school would still only get the number they would be allocated, 10 or 12. And that's why some schools

may receive more than the formula, because at the lower grade level there may be higher school enrollment. The pupil-teacher ratio may be 30 or 40 and therefore such schools may get a little bit more. So, that's one of the reasons the formula has not undercut the schools. In some cases it may have over-increased the number. But it is based... . Again, I'm trying to keep the pupil-teacher ratio lower. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 074 – 2(1): Investigation of Abduction

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is... . First of all, I would like to address the Minister of Justice and Premier in regards to what we heard earlier in this House.

As parents and children, if there was an abduction of the parents today, I think we would have to want to understand and investigate what happened to them, and do it as best as we know how. It would be open until the people are found. Like we heard earlier on today, there has never been an investigation on those people who were supposedly abducted. I'd like to ask the Premier if he could talk with his federal counterpart to see if this abduction can be investigated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, we have tried to understand or tried to get some information on abductions that happened years ago.

In some ways, we have come to a standstill. Perhaps, if we can get some more information from the communities, that way we will be able to find out more of what happened. I would like to ask the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to get more information from the public, where the abduction took place, so we can do more to investigate those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Nunavut and the people listening out there and children of those parents must be still alive. Either the Russians or the Germans, during the Second World War about 59 years ago... . I think they were abducted. Those people that were abducted, supposedly a lot of people recognized them.

We have to get more information. This is a criminal investigation, and because of that the government has to get more facts with the RCMP and the federal government, to open the investigation because the Cold War is over.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can do whatever we can, because this happened years ago. It happened before Nunavut came into place. Perhaps it was never even brought up to the people of Northwest Territories at that time. Perhaps we can investigate if the government of the Northwest Territories had already done the work.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's embarrassing when our Premier is responding about the people that were abducted. As soon as I found out about the abduction I spoke with these individuals. I also talked with the MLAs from the Baffin region because I was elected in the Kivalliq, and it was up to the Baffin region MLAs at that time to ask questions and to ask the federal government to open the investigation.

I am saying right now that there should be an investigation today. We are not trying to compete with each other, but we have to make sure that if you could talk with the minister of culture and get the facts, after that talk with the federal government so we can open it up again.

The individual's grandchild is listening and I know there is some information at the Yellowknife museum about the abduction and artifacts that were left behind when the plane came to abduct them. So, I think we have to be able to try and open up the investigation again. Will that happen, Mr. Premier?

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I said earlier on that this has taken a long time, and if it was done a while ago, perhaps we could understand more so that we could help the family of those abducted individuals. Maybe they wouldn't have had to wait a long time. I feel for the family. We don't know, because there were no bodies left behind. I will have the help of the minister of CLEY and we will look at it and see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Premier, for wanting to investigate this event. There are the families of those individuals and some of the people, or the priests, that were there know and about what happened at that time. It was not too populated, but if we can go and ask those people, we can find the facts and find out exactly what happened to them. We can do it. We just heard it not too long ago; if we can begin investigating it with as much information gathered and if we can go ahead and do it... .

I would also urge the Premier to do his best and to do his utmost to find out what happened, what took place, and to open the investigation so that Nunavummiut can know what is happening. It should be done right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has been compiling the information. I will work with the minister, and we will do what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. If you have any questions, please raise your hand. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 075 – 2(1): High Cost of Air Travel

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was campaigning I was told by the people up in the High Arctic about the high cost of transportation by air, and the routing not being adequate. If I were to go to Resolute Bay or to my other constituency of Grise Fiord, I would pay a little over \$700. Today if I were to travel the same distance from Iqaluit to Kingait on the same plane, which is a Twin Otter, I would only pay a little over \$400.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister responsible for transportation is: why is the cost so high? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister responsible for transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could respond to the member that the airlines themselves are operating their private company and they have to pay for their gas. I cannot really answer at this time.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why I am asking the minister of transportation is because I would like him to be able to support the people of Nunavut, especially the communities that are further away. Perhaps the government would give us a little bit of a subsidy on the price of airlines.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is the Northern Air Transport Association in the North and we have been working with them to try to make transportation a little bit cheaper. We will be working with them again to try to get lower transportation costs.

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

Question 076 – 2((1): Insurance for Outfitters

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, in his capacity as minister responsible for Nunavut Tourism. It is concerning the licensing of outfitters.

We all know that tourism is a large and growing industry in Nunavut; the most recent number I have seen is that it contributes over \$60 million annually to our territory. We all appreciate that, while keeping in mind that safety for tourists is a priority.

I would like to ask the minister if he could tell the House what process Nunavut Tourism uses to ensure that guide-outfitters are properly insured and licensed to take sport hunters out on the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister of economic development, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I don't have that information with me right now, but I can certainly find the information and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the minister is looking for that information, if he could provide information about whether the Government of Nunavut can be held liable for sport hunters who are injured or die while in the care of licensed outfitters. And if he could provide information on how many incidents per year, on average, where guide-outfitters are sued in Nunavut. And if you would commit to ensuring that all guide-outfitters are licensed, insured, and trained to take sport hunters out on the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: “Ma’na, Uqaqti.” Yes, I will certainly provide information for the member on those, on the three points also. “Ma’na.”

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister has taken that question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 077 – 2(1): Emergency Calls from the Communities

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Justice. This has been a concern for some time by the communities in regards to the RCMP that have been on call.

When there is a call made by the community, Iqaluit gets the call. Why is it that Iqaluit answers the telephones for emergency calls coming from the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been a question asked by many people in Nunavut. I have told the RCMP that this has to be resolved, because it should not be tolerated by the people of Nunavut.

What the RCMP is doing is trying to get a better system to help the people of Nunavut. The RCMP have stated to me that beginning last week, they will not be answering from Iqaluit, but directing it right into the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the communities be given the RCMP answer service in the communities?

Speaker: “Sivuliqti.”

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): It started last week when we first started this session. They will no longer be an answering service from Iqaluit, it will be based right from the communities. So, it is now in effect and it will continue to be in effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 078 – 2(1): Fuel Resupply to the Communities

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services concerning the fuel resupply.

The government is responsible for ensuring that Nunavut communities are resupplied each year for fuel for one year. We also read that some of the communities that ran out of fuel had to be resupplied before sealift via aircraft. My question for the minister: would the minister explain to the House how his department calculates the amount of P50 heating fuel, gas, diesel, naphtha, and other petroleum products that the community requires each year. Is it based on information available on previous years and actual requirements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fuel bulk is estimated by using the last year's numbers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if you used last year's numbers if it would help in the future. Communities are growing.

Can the minister tell the House how many communities in Nunavut were or are in danger of running out of fuel in the past six to eight months or in the next couple of months. Will, or have they ever, had to be re-supplied by aircraft? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are two communities that ran out of fuel because the tanks are too small for the size of the communities. Last year, the communities of Pangnirtung and Repulse Bay had concerns with consumption because of the small size of the tanks. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems to me that rather than running out annually, they should invest money in new tanks. When a community has to be resupplied by aircraft, it must be a significant cost to the government. Can the minister provide us with the actual dollar figure that it costs the government to resupply communities by aircraft when they run out of fuel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get the information and provide it to the members. I can get copies of the figures. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that the minister is saying that he will provide that in this session.

And while he's doing that, could he answer the question if the government has a policy to provide emergency resupply to communities. And if so, would the minister table the policy in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to his last request, yes, when I provide this information to my colleague I will definitely provide as much information as I can. Because in the past, where we have had to, we have transported fuel. I can assure the member, the times when those were done, it was not at

additional cost to the community per se, but I'll definitely provide that information to my colleague. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to orders of the day, Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 013 – 2(1): Arctic Bay Health Centre Photographs

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document in regards to the Arctic Bay health centre. It has 14 photographs that depict the shortage of space, the size of the office and also the waiting room. This petition shows you the deterioration of the health centre that we have in Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 014 – 2(1): Letter to the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe he might have been wrong. What he was talking about sounded like a petition, but apparently it is the tabling of documents.

A letter to the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to expedite the inventory process regarding the Tahera Corporation, Tahera Codana Project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. 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. Bill 2 – Appropriation (O&M) Act, 2004-05.

Mr. Evyagotailak will chair Committee of the Whole and we'll take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 14:40 and resumed at 15:09

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

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): The committee will come to order. In Committee of the Whole, you were dealing with 2004-05 main estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. If the committee agrees, we will continue with main estimates for the department. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services and her officials to go to the witness table please...

Thank you, Madam Minister. For the record, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Deputy Minister Bernard Blais and to my left, Assistant Deputy Minister Victor Tootoo.

Chairperson: Thank you, Madam Minister. We are on Page H-7 at the main estimates. I am now taking questions on page H-7. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to see the optometrists who come to the communities at times; are they included in here, optometrists?

Chairperson: Mr. Netser, "mamianaq." Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do hear about the optometrists that come to the communities before paydays. At other times, they go by contract. I will ask my deputy to speak on this issue.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Most of the non-direct healthcare providers such as nurses and other employees, for the most part, are contracted out to the private sector. This is one area that typically is not included in here other than under contract services, and some of these services as well are NHIB-funded services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser: "Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq." Is the department looking into including the services that they provide to our communities regarding eyeglasses, because some of them, I hear complaints about not receiving eyeglasses for two years at a time. The waiting list is so terribly long, and it is quite important that we have our vision, our eyes looked after. "Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq."

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be asking Victor Tootoo to explain this.

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

Mr. Victor Tootoo: “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.” Eyewear and the provision of eyewear services is a contract that we have only recently renewed for a six-month period. Part of the concern was exactly what the member raised, that there was a considerable length of wait for patients between the time that they are seen by an optometrist and when the glasses, or whatever eyewear, are provided, and that is part of our concern.

The company that we contracted with talked about the idea of providing a performance bond with a minimum number of days between the time a person is seen and when the glasses will be received in the communities. This is one of the areas in which we are funded by the federal government to provide this service.

So, in consultation with the federal government’s Health Canada we will discuss with the contractors provision of the service that meet the clients’ needs and is economical. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Victor Tootoo. (Interpretation.) Mr. Peterson

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk to the minister and her deputy minister again today. I have a question on grants and contributions, funding formulae, and \$430,000... . There’s no increase this year. It’s for alcohol and drug crisis shelters and all those sorts of important things.

I am wondering... . Problems seem to be increasing in Nunavut. Alcohol and drug crisis shelters don’t seem to be increasing in funding. My question, Mr. Chairman: how many crisis shelters are there in Nunavut that receive funding from your department? Crisis shelters for women.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Baffin region there are seven, in the Keewaitin there is one, and in the Kitikmeot there are three. That is it.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: I am just wondering how the minister and her officials calculate how much funding each womens’ shelter receives on an annual basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will give the question to my ADM, Mr. Victor Tootoo.

Chairman: Mr. Victor Tootoo.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department meets with the agencies that are funded for these types of services, the shelter program, and discusses their needs with them through our regional operations. Obviously, we can't always fund everything that each society or group requires.

One of the things that we've begun to do is to standardize our contracting processes to ensure that our contract for a womens' shelter in Igloolik is fairly the same as the one in Kugluktuk, so that the end of the day when we are going through and reviewing the types of services we are providing to our citizens through these third parties... .

So that we have a common basis to review them, we are attempting to ensure that when we do our contracting we stagger the time frames between the types of contracts so that we are not having to renew them all at once. That's part of the initiatives that we are undertaking in our contracts section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall from my time as mayor in Cambridge Bay... . We have a crisis shelter in Cambridge Bay, and every year without fail we'd run into a situation where we'd run out of money and we'd have to come to the government and ask for help.

The crisis shelter isn't open six months, we are open 365 days a year. We'd always be in danger, in earlier January, of having to close the crisis shelter, and at a critical time of the year. So, I'm wondering Mr. Chairman, if the minister could explain how their department deals with situations where crisis shelters are in danger of closing in a community if they run out of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we do have a concern about the crisis centers because we've run out of funding. It is the same in the Kivalliq region. It is difficult to find funding. Yes, I do feel what you are talking about, that it is very difficult to get more money. I will ask Victor, my assistant deputy minister, to supplement my answer.

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

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chair. When different societies or groups come to us with funding concerns, there are times when we can and do provide more funding. Sometimes we can't within our existing budgets, and we have to apply for a supplementary appropriation to the Financial Management Board for that.

But, one of the things that we always do with each organization is to try to make sure that they are aware of an attempt to access other sources of funding. As you know, with most community groups, they look at a number of different types of funding and we have people in our department who help these organizations to access other external sources of funding. They also look at other fundraising mechanisms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that answer.

The minister gave me a number here; there are 11 crisis shelters in Nunavut and I think there are 25 communities in Nunavut. So, those other communities that don't have crisis shelters, how do you help the ladies that are in need of a shelter? Do you transport them to another community or do you put them up with billets? How would you help them? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my knowledge, the communities that do not have crisis centers, they go to other communities where there are crisis centres available. For example, here in the Baffin region, if there is not a crisis centre in their community they would come to Iqaluit.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, the minister is saying that there is policy in place, a crisis shelter policy, that covers accommodations? What to do when a lady needs help? And your department pays for the transportation and the accommodations for the lady that needs the shelter? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have met to check to see if it's a policy, yet this is the knowledge that I do have.

But some of the communities that are in serious need to be in a crisis centre... . Bernie Blais will supplement this.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if there is a consistent policy at this point in time. The Violence Against Women Committee, we are attempting currently... . We've done a review of all the various shelters. We're looking at the reasons why people are going to the shelter and why the re-admission rates for the shelter are very high.

As well, I know the Department of Health and Social Services does have a number of established protocols to deal with that particular issue. And again, collectively, all the social services departments, health, education, justice and culture, language, elders and youth, are attempting to look at this whole issue of shelters.

Shelters are a symptom of other issues in communities. So, the hope in the future is that we will be able to accommodate the types of services that are required, not always to looking to shelters as the end goal. I think that's got to be part of the what the this community is attempting to do at this point and time.

So, all I can say is that I don't believe there is a consistent policy, but there is a process in place currently that is attempting to review all of the issues surrounding shelters and violence against women, and that is that committee I talked about earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Cambridge Bay our shelter is for the community, but we had a situation a few years ago where communities would go... . A lady from another community needed shelter and she was transported to Cambridge Bay to our crisis shelter. And then what happened there is... .

Our hamlet runs the municipalities under tremendous financial pressures. Our hamlet ended up buying significantly more on our budget and on funding than our shelter received on an annual basis. So, it did jeopardize the crisis shelter. It jeopardized all our clients in our communities that we had helped. But it is pretty hard to say no to someone from another community when they need help. So, when we asked if there is a crisis shelter policy we didn't really get an answer. And when we sought funding, the extra funding from your department, we ran into difficulty there as well. Because as the former mayor, I was well aware.

So, my question is on alcohol treatment. Where is there an alcohol treatment centre in Nunavut, or do folks have to go down south? Or are there alcohol treatment groups in communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not exactly sure; I haven't been given any information as to where those clients go. I will get my deputy minister to elaborate on that to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no additional centre in Nunavut at this point in time. We have a working group, a committee, that we've established a few months ago with NTL. A joint committee with the Department of Health and Social Services and NTL, and one of the core objectives of that committee is to look at the development of an addiction centre for Nunavut.

We do have addiction programs and services in a number of areas. And we do have people, social workers, who deal with that issue. But there is no organized addiction centre at this point. So, all the individuals who require services basically are sent out-of-territory currently, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall a couple of years ago reading a story, and the news was that there was going to be an alcohol addiction centre opened somewhere in Nunavut. It didn't say where, but it said somewhere in Nunavut. It was the former government that made that announcement. So, we were all waiting with anticipation where it was going to be located.

Cambridge Bay, a couple of years ago, proposed an alcohol addiction centre in our community, because what we noticed is that a lot of our residents, when they were sent for counselling to Edmonton for a three- or four-week course program, it was costing \$30- 35,000. And individuals would come back a short while afterwards saying that without the family support, they were having alcohol problems again.

So, it is a very costly thing. So, I am wondering what plans you have to open an alcohol or addiction centre somewhere in Nunavut. Thanks.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member that there should be one in Nunavut. It is very expensive when you have to send out clients, down south.

I am not exactly sure when there is going to be an alcohol treatment centre in Nunavut, and I do not know which community it will be located in. So, I cannot really answer him at this time.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to dental health here in Nunavut, it must be very expensive. I would like to see if the department of health could have a better preventative system. Before they have to have any work done, they

should have their work done more often, especially the smaller children who are brought to Iqaluit to get their dental treatment done. Will there be more dental treatment being done by the department in the near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good question. I feel that dental treatment is very important, and we have had a lack of dental professionals here in Nunavut. There is some treatment done by the dental therapists with their grade school children but we have a lack of those professionals at this time.

What we are planning right now is organizing our department to bring them closer to the people of Nunavut, because we feel that it is very expensive to send our patients down south. We would like to be able to assist them here in their own community and to help the professionals. We feel that care closer to home should be the priority of our department rather than sending them down south. We will be looking into it to do more planning on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like the minister's response. In regards to tobacco products, there always are people trying to tell people to quit smoking or using tobacco products. You see nowadays a lot of people, young people, adults as well, still smoking, and we should be preventing the people of Nunavut from starting smoking.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am in support of the member's question. It just seems like there are quite a few people who have quit smoking or using tobacco products. I am very proud of them. Even in the wintertime they go outside to go have a cigarette so that they will not smoke in the house.

If you see more people are still smoking, it would be nice if we could make them quit. But there are some posters and ads that we have brought about in my department that are trying to scare the public from starting to smoke, or to quit smoking. Some people that want to keep on smoking tear the posters down, but the people that want to quit would put the posters back on the wall to try to get the people to quit smoking.

I was one of the people who were selected for some of the commercials that are on TV. Perhaps that will help people to quit smoking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): That is it, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page H-7 of the main estimates, under contract services, there is \$15,610,000. I just want to get a brief clarification as to what kinds of contract services you provide or are provided with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under “Contract services for residential care,” and for the foster services for children, and the group home for the challenged, those are what we use the contract services for in the amount of over \$15 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister stated the three services that are provided under contract services. Do you have any information on the breakdown of the contracted services, because she only stated three categories. Can she have them broken down in a written form? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be able to provide them in a written form. It is mostly for data entry, health promotion, the media, new initiatives, foster care payments, foster parent mutual aid, education, group homes, residential care, janitory and miscellaneous services, and mental health and addictions.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister... I understand that these are done by contractors in the amount of \$15,610,000; not done by the government, by contractors only, such as the group homes. They have release arrangements with those contractors, is that the case?

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Curley. I am the Chair, not the Speaker. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to get Bernie Blais, my deputy minister, to explain it further. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that all of the group homes currently... The buildings themselves are owned by the Government of Nunavut, but the services that are provided in them, the people that provide the service, are the ones that are under contract.

So, basically we contract out either to non-government organizations or to the private sector the provision of those services, but the buildings, I believe, are all ours at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the deputy minister and the minister.

In Rankin Inlet there is a group home for mentally challenged individuals, and the employees over there at the group home do their job to the best of their ability. I see them quite often helping the young mentally challenged people, and they care for them very much.

But I would just like to find out, is that a public tender process when you are going to contract, when the contract expires? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just this year, that is what we were putting through the tender process. But before that, I did not know how they did it. They recently awarded the contract for the group home provided on a contract basis in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): That is it.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regional hospitals that will be built in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet... . There is also need here in the Baffin region to provide services for the mentally challenged as well as expectant mothers. I just wondered whether those regional hospitals, will they have provisions for them in those regional hospitals to care for those individuals? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The three regional hospitals in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and here in Iqaluit... . I saw the plans of the hospitals and they are sort of similar. They will have various provisions or various clinical areas, or rooms, but I am not exactly sure whether... . I am sure that the hospital that is going to be built in Iqaluit will have those kinds of provisions as well. They will have room for wheelchair access and there have been considerations to provide those services in the regional hospital. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Hon. Levinia Brown. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: What absolute changes are being planned for the way the department addresses mental health issues? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my deputy minister to respond to your question. I only outlined what I had seen of the outline of the health centre that will be built in Rankin Inlet. I will have to go to Cambridge Bay to see the layout of the facility that they are building, and also the one here in Iqaluit. In order to respond to your question I will direct you to my DM, but of course this facility meets all the requirements. I will get Bernard, our DM, to make a supplement.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The two facilities in Rankin Inlet and in Cambridge Bay... . The one in Rankin Inlet will have 11 beds which will be operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That will also have staffing available in the hospital 24-7 as well. We are also recruiting for physicians.

The types of services that will be offered there: there will be some accommodations for mental patients, but anything that's acute or serious will still have to go out-of-territory in those two locations. Facilities in both of these communities are basically both regional and territorial facilities, because there is an opportunity for us to look at moving patients within the territory as much as we can to ensure that we're using the capacity that's here. Again, just to reaffirm, these will be both territorial and regional facilities.

In Iqaluit it's a bit different. The Akausisarsarvik mental health centre which is here is currently being operated by the elders' association, and soon the Department of Health and Social Services will be taking over that centre. We will then begin to operate the mental health facility here. So, we will have a high degree of ability, in this particular community, to be able to service clients, possibly from all parts of Nunavut, as well. That process has already started. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Nunavut communities, there are mentally challenged individuals, in our areas and of course in the High Arctic riding. There is not enough support or services provided to those individuals, especially in the smaller communities.

Do you send your counsellors up to those smaller communities so that they can have the required support? I know that we have our elders, but it seems that in the smaller

communities, or in the have-not communities, those individuals are not given the required support or services that they should be receiving. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I consider this issue very important. But it seems quite clear that there is a shortage of counsellors in Nunavut. The member asked if they get counselling or assessment, but we are well aware that we have a shortage of resources, both financial and human resources. But, we are making progress, and once those facilities are erected and utilized, we will be increasing the support or the services. I will ask our deputy minister to supplement my response.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of initiatives that we're looking at currently. The whole concept of closer-to-home involves the development of an education and training strategy for things like mental health workers in Nunavut.

We know that there is a serious shortage of professionals in the country, in North America, and the world, currently. Therefore, the only way to improve the services in both the smaller communities and larger communities is to look at what kinds of programs we could develop in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College and other colleges and universities in Canada, so that we can develop mental health workers in Nunavut that would be able to provide a certain level of service to both mentally and sometimes physically challenged people. This is both for children and adults. We are working on a plan that hopefully we will bring back to the cabinet for consideration that will involve that kind of a moving-forward strategy.

We recognize at this point in time that many of these services are not available in some communities, and our hope over the next few years is to significantly improve that level of service by developing, in Nunavut, the types of people that we need to provide a certain level of service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy minister for responding to my question.

Of course we're not going to solve this problem overnight. We're going to have to work on it over time. I do have another question regarding the Nunavut Suicide Prevention Council that was established just recently in January 2004.

Could you give us an update on what's been happening on that issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is progress. We now have one employee and it's called... There has been some progress and we do have one employee. We would like to see this established and well on its way, as it's very important. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have nothing further.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Any questions? Page 7. Health and social services. Branch summary. "Healthy children, families and communities." Total, operations and maintenance, \$36,348,000. Do members agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 9. Health and social services. Branch summary. Health insurance programs. Total, operations and maintenance... " Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask a question on page 9?

Chairman: Yes, you may, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: I was looking at "Department" on page 14; they talked about a medical travel coordinating centre for all of Nunavut.

So, I'm wondering, Mr. Chair, if the minister or one of her staff could explain how the medical travel coordination centre will be staffed and where will it be located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our deputy, Mr. Blais, will respond to your question.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The notion of the establishment of a medical travel coordination centre involves basically creating a center where all the calls, the coordination of flights to and from communities, the booking of boarding homes or hotels, the transportation to and from airports, to and from hospitals, to and from specialist offices, and also interpreter service... .

As well, it would involve a quality-assurance process where clients who travel in and out would be followed up, maybe three days after returning home, to find out what kinds of

experiences they've had in regards to the whole travel envelope of services that are required. The current travel process is a very complex one, one that is not easy to manage because of all the locations that we refer patients to.

So, what we're looking at currently is the establishment of a central coordination bureau. And the location at this point and time I don't believe has been determined.

It would require good infrastructure in terms of information technology in order to be able to provide the level of services that is required. We will be working with the Department of Community Government and Services as well, as I talk to my counterpart deputy minister about the possibility of joining forces to also do all staff travel. Because again, if you are going to develop a very sophisticated centre, you might as well extend that possibly to do staff travel as well.

So, that process is just about ready to get underway. The reason why we have been delaying it is that we haven't been having any information. If we're going to go out through our due process we need to identify for those people who would be submitting proposals what the level of activity will be. How many trips will they be booking? How many boarding homes will they be working as well? That information, I think, now is secure. I think we have enough reasonably good information to be able to go out to the market to solicit proposals, hopefully from people who might be interested in establishing that kind of centre in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It sounds like it is a good idea. I noticed that one of the costs that seems to be going up, it went up significantly last year, was the travel one. I think he budgeted \$28 million, and then it jumped one year to \$49 or 50 million. Yet, this year you're now projecting an increase, it's the same as last year.

So, I was hoping that if you put this medical travel coordination centre in place, we would actually be able to effectively bring that projected travel cost down. And of course, if we can control our costs, then we can put that money into other important areas of health.

I'm wondering if the minister can commit, Mr. Chairman, to tabling the results of the department's recent medical travel review. Is that possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are more patients that go out to the hospital or go to get a check-up. It is beyond our control how many people go to the hospital or have medical travel. We do not like to see too many people go on medical travel. Like I stated, it is beyond our control to know how many patients will be on medical travel.

I am very proud that this spring, Canadian North has signed a contract. This is going to be very helpful. We have cut \$500,000 dollars from medical travel because of the contracts with the two airlines. Canadian North and First Air are the ones that have the contract to do our medical travel to the south. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister committing to tabling the medical travel review? Is that what you're committing to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your question, I will let my deputy minister answer.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The review was done already, several years ago, of all the medical travel by a consultant, KCG Consulting, I believe. So, our direction is basically to follow through on that review and to explore the opportunity to develop a medical travel centre. Currently that's what we're doing. We have done a fair amount of analysis.

I can tell you that in total, between airlines and all other costs, we spend about \$71.6 million in out-of-territory care. That's hospital, special service, medical travel, and all of the other supportive stuff that goes with that.

So, what we're doing currently is one of the things that we didn't have. We didn't have good information on the traffic, the volume, of people in boarding homes, or the number of airline tickets we awarded previously. That has been the part that we've been working on: getting the data required to develop the request for proposals.

The next step that's anticipated, the review has been done before my time, is to look at hiring a consultant, because it's a very complex proposal. This is not just an airline contract; it involves many components, the medical travel process. To hire a consultant now that we've got enough information is to get their help to develop the RFP itself.

So, the next step that we're looking at is the development of the RFP, using the information that has already been done previously and the information that we have currently done in terms of the data analysis and collection. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that explanation of the work that you're doing on medical travel. I'm wondering, can we get copies of that information so that we can review it at some point? I would like to read it because medical travel is a big chunk of the budget; \$71 million is quite substantial.

I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the minister could provide us with some assurances that the money they're projecting for travel needs in 2004-05 will be adequate for your needs. After last year, you projected \$29 million, and we ended up at around \$48 or 49 million. So, could you provide us with some kind of assurances please?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your first question: there is a review going on right now. As soon as we find out, we will come with an answer to you for this review. As soon as we know, we will let you know.

Second question: about that, I will ask my deputy to answer that question.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report itself is available in our office. But we are making sure, first of all, that the report can be released. And secondly, under the ATIPP rule on third party information, we are also currently investigating whether or not that information can be released as is, without some disclosure. So, we will be in a position, hopefully shortly, to give you a direct answer on that. But again, we are making sure that this report that was done previously... . Whether the KCG, as the third party, has any objections to us releasing that information. Again, under the ATIPP rule, as you know, there is a requirement for us to do due diligence. That is what we are currently doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would hope that as the government, if we are paying for a consultant to do work that we own, then we shouldn't have to ask them if we can release it. We are legislators there for public information, so I hope when you talk to them that you make them understand that.

I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, during our regular members' caucus we got a copy of the health and social services client-travel codes for eligible recipients and escorts. It was dated April 2001. I am wondering, has it been updated? Has there been an evaluation of it done in the last four years to see if it is successful or needs to be improved? Can you comment on that Madam Minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is a task force that is doing a review on this. As soon as they are finished with their review it will come to you. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked is because this policy seems to be a problem in my region, in the Kitikmeot. More people come to me with complaints and issues related to client-travel policy; who is an escort, and who is not, and nobody really understands it.

When people don't understand it, it leads to problems. I am looking at all kinds of charts and graphs and categories; it's almost as if you need a lawyer. Was it written by a lawyer? I don't know, but we should try and keep things simple, keep some of the policies that we have simple, so people can understand and make them work for our territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do try to use the policy as much as possible. We know that when a person is an elder, or if you have cancer, terminal illness, or are unilingual, or require an interpreter, they are able to bring an interpreter. If they are too young to travel on their own they can have an escort.

Care-close-to-home will be working a lot better in the near future because we are giving three hospitals in Nunavut, and we will also be using the care-close-to-home. I am sure that we could run things a lot smoother. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: That is it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question, Mr. Chairman, is in regards to the minister's statements. How will the central referral service be implemented? Has the evaluation been done on that? Has there been a consideration by the management, and where would that be located?

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

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

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the location, I do not think that has been determined. I believe this will be part of the next steps moving forward to look at where would the ideal location be to provide services of this nature. I do not think we have come to any conclusion at this point. I guess that is the process that we are undertaking.

As far as how will the coordination centre work, I can give you my vision as to how that might work at this point in time. If you can imagine right now, we have three smaller centres like that, that coordinate services for each of the regions. A central coordination centre means that we would have a 1-800 number that as soon as we have to book a patient to go anywhere, that call would be made to that coordination centre. We would have people that speak in all languages as well, to ensure that the services can be adequately provided.

The call would then be registered and a determination of the date and the location would be entered into a computer, as an example, and then the arrangements would be made: a ticket bought at an airline, boarding homes, hotels, and also transportation to and from the community that they are being transferred to.

The opportunity here is that we can begin to cluster or look at how, by looking at the activity and how it is occurring, we might book our travel for special services differently. And possibly, through that process we could look at, rather than putting people on regularly scheduled medical travel flights, grouping charters and flying people in the morning, getting them to their service and then flying them back at night.

So, there are all kinds of opportunities, I believe, to improve the whole service. Often people are happy to be sent to a community early, for one or two days before their appointment. And given the current system that we have, there is an opportunity to try and shorten that trip and to shorten the amount of times that they have to stay or the length of time they have to stay in boarding homes.

So, I think this would provide to us, I guess, a really good overview of what is happening at any given time, by hour, with all of the patients, where they are in every community. And I think it would give us an opportunity to improve the service quite dramatically.

What we hear from the patients and their families is they do not necessarily want to go out of territory. So, every time that we can improve that service, even by reducing the length of time that they are out of their communities... . We can provide that service within Nunavut.

Remember, as I said earlier, all of two health centres and the new hospitals, these are territorial resources as well. So, there may be an opportunity for us to refer a patient to another community where that service is available, and a travel centre would be able to coordinate that. The current system right now is extremely difficult to manage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The same as the response that I got from the deputy minister... I kind of feel that it is not going to be done that way. I talked about it in the committee stage.

We heard from the RCMP that they have a 1-800 number, and the call is answered in Iqaluit but not in the community. There are various time zones in Nunavut. There's a two-hour difference from Kitikmeot to here and the Kivalliq region. They don't have any coordinated time or whatever. I feel that it could be kind of the same way as the RCMP is running right now. The consultants have not completed this report, and you mentioned that there has to be more work done.

If there is one central place where it's going to be coordinated, I don't think it will work properly. It just seems like it would be better, for instance, in Rankin Inlet. I think the problem is they have junior employees.

They're not following the contract regulations. The Auditor General stated that if they don't have a contract... If you look at the Auditor General's report, they advised the government... It's not really specific, but I would like to... If there is going to be a travel resource service, it should be located in the Kivalliq region or Rankin Inlet.

There is no accountability, although there is an executive, a deputy minister. But there's never really been an answer. The travel clerk writes the names down and requests a quote, and they have a deadline. Even before the deadline is over, they cancel. (Interpretation ends.) Six months' service for one airline without a contract... (Interpretation.) The contract regulations are breaking the Financial Administration Act as far as I'm concerned. It is going to do that.

You should not give it to one airline but leave it open, because Canadian and First Air are not the only airlines in Nunavut. In Kivalliq, there is Calm Air, Skyward, and Keewatin Air. In the Kitikmeot region, there are probably different airlines as well. So, you have to consider that.

All the letters that were received by the hamlet were advising they should be all put together. There was also a petition given by the five members of the Legislative Assembly. There's also the chamber of commerce that made a resolution last year. Please do not give one airline the contract for medical transportation.

Will you be considering that? We don't know the consultant, whether he said or not if it's going to be put to an RFP.

Chair (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, we would like to hear those concerns from the members of the Legislative Assembly, so we can be assisted, or

provided with some support, or some other consideration that we can provide for the people of Nunavut. So, I feel that the comments by Mr. Curley are very helpful. The only way we will be completely finished or satisfied... . What we're doing is to get some feedback from the members.

Perhaps, if I could say again that the previous contract for medical travel came from, I think, Baffin region. Canadian North and First Air were the airlines that transport to Ottawa and Montreal. In the Kivalliq region, which airlines there are... . But I'm not too sure about the Kitikmeot region. So, I know that there's an emergency medical transportation but I'm not really sure how it is in the Kitikmeot region. Perhaps Victor or my ADM could elaborate on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Victor Tootoo.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is correct that there is a medivac contract in place in the Kivalliq region. We have to meet with the three airlines that the member mentioned, as directed by cabinet, to discuss the medical travel contracts. Once we are done with the activity associated with the main estimates, one of the first things we intend to do is to meet with the three different airlines and discuss the contract of scheduled medical travel in the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and her officials for the responses.

June 5, 2003: this was written when Hon. Ed Picco was Minister of Health and Social Services, to the five members of the Legislative Assembly. Ovide Alakannuark, Jack Anawak, James Arvaluk, Glenn McLean, and Kevin O'Brien's letter states, "We urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to ensure that the Government of Nunavut's contracts for scheduled medical travel and medical evacuation are not awarded to only one carrier." I would like the minister and his officials to consider that letter. There was also a motion or resolution from the chamber of commerce as well.

I think it would be a lot cheaper if they did not award them to one airline. So, that is why we want it done that way. I would like the minister and her department to consider that. As well, comments made by Mr. Peterson... . The public funds that were spent should be reviewed by us as well; it's not going to be the end of the world if we see them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Curley. Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe my ADM would like to make a supplementary.

Chairman: Mr. Victor Tootoo.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was specific direction given to the department from cabinet to negotiate with the three different airlines for the scheduled medical travel contracts for the Kivalliq region. The department is following that direction.

With regards to the medivac contract, that was also the direction. That contract's been signed. It's in place, and if it's directed to us to look at changing that contract then that's what we would do. But in the absence of that specific direction we would continue with that contract, unless there are concerns the department has over the concerns of the safety of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask another question. When did you get that directive from the cabinet?

Chairman: Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get our ADM, Mr. Victor Tootoo, to respond.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The cabinet directive was three days into my employment with the department. I cannot remember the date off the top of my head, but that can be provided for the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is in regards to the contract that was awarded in the Keewatin and that was awarded to one airline. Did you go through the request for proposal process? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have our assistant deputy minister, Mr. Tootoo, respond.

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

Mr. Victor Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is my understanding, that the department did go through a request for proposals for medical travel in that instance. Again, that was prior to the any of our history with the department. When I started with the department we were in the process of finalizing the contract after the proposals had already been reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): On the same subject, I think it was in March, they had a quotation on medical travel in regards to the medivac services contract in Manitoba. What they did was they extended it to February, which would have been used in March. That was on the Sanikiluaq case. Has that been awarded also? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Mr. Blais respond.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the member asked that question yesterday, and I stated that at that time that we would, I wasn't aware of any major RFP in regards to charter travel there, that our department would be looking that issue, and we would have to bring that information back. I don't have that information at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can't seem to get anything clear on the Keewatin medivac services contract. Has this been awarded, and has there been one made for the Sanikiluaq case also?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy, Bernie Blais, respond.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Bernie Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to talk about the three different issues that are being discussed here because it is confusing.

At some points we're talking about medivacs, other times we're talking about scheduled medical travel, other times we're talking about charters.

The medivac contract has been awarded and was awarded, I believe, in November of last year, or in late winter. And that went to Kivalliq Air, as directed by cabinet.

The regular scheduled medical travel component: the direction was that we were to proceed, the RFP was cancelled, and we were to proceed to negotiate with the three airlines from that region. And after we finish this session, that is exactly what we will be

doing, negotiating with the three airlines in order to obtain services for regular scheduled medical travel.

As it relates to the charter issue when there are people charters in the Sanikiluaq area, at this point in time I am not aware of any. They have sent out RFPs for that service, in the way that I understand it at this point.

So, I have asked my staff to follow that up, and then hopefully we will be able to bring back an answer on that particular issue. So, there three different issues, if I am understanding the member correctly at this point in time, that were discussed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it does make things a lot clearer if you are explaining the three cases. If you have said that the first time, I would not have asked this many questions.

But in reference to the medical charters from Sanikiluaq, the patient referral services in Winnipeg... . There was a quote request that time. The deadline was February 12, but this was cancelled. What I had heard from the referral service in Winnipeg, I will read it, it is very brief. Now I will read it in English.

This was written to Skyward: (Interpretation ends.) “In the letter awarding the charter for the month of March 2004, you were advised that Kivalliq regional health and social services anticipated having the RFP for this service issued prior to the end of March to be effective April 1, 2004. This letter is to inform you that the development by the RFP by the Department of Health and Social Services offices in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit has been delayed and that the March charter awarded to Kivalliq Air will be extended until the RFP is awarded. This extension is not to exceed six months and is consistent with the managing of the existing contract that expired in March 31, 2004.”

(Interpretation.) So, my question is: was there a provision in the Keewatin whether there was an offer to extend the six months and not to have it go through competition?

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I appreciate the member raising different issues around the awarding of the contract. However, one disadvantage is that file is that thick and I could be selective of what documents I table and so on.

So, I would ask, are the rules of this House that any documentation that is being provided, that they are tabled for the advantage of all of them, for the House to be able to look at them and so on? If the member tabled the documentation, then we could speak to them. But I do not have copies of the letter, informed to me, and I am sure the minister does not have a copy of it, and so on. So, I am wondering if the member could give us... .

I can sit here and read it right now. I do not know what you are reading from and what part of the file.

So, I would ask the member to please resist reading documentation that the minister does not have copies of at her disposal, nor the members here in the House I am speaking to. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The former minister of health is probably trying to be supportive, but if he knew exactly what was happening with those contracts and RFPs he would have responded right away. The deputy minister responded to my questions; I was referring to the Sanikiluaq place, which the deputy minister is well aware of.

Just three months ago, there was a request for quotes issued technically. It was an open quote. Prior to that, and without being evaluated, it was cancelled, and the deputy minister knows exactly what I'm talking about. They said that they were going to go through an RFP, and Kivalliq, who has the contract, will be extended for six months. They say that it's consistent with the contracting purposes, but my question now is whether it was an option or not.

I think the present minister can respond better than the former minister. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not disputing what the member has said. All I'm saying is that I'd like the Chairman, yourself, to rule on the admissibility of letters that are not before the house.

All I'm saying is that if you're going to quote from letters, I haven't got a copy of it right now. It could be from last year, or yesterday, or six weeks ago. As you were reading earlier and know quite well that it should be before the House so that members would be able to pick them up and see what you're talking about.

Anything about the contracting, what the deputy minister has said, I'm not disputing any of that stuff. All I'm saying is that if you're going to raise some letters, or documentation, or whatever that is not before the House, then that's not the procedure of this Legislative Assembly and I would ask that it not be used. Or if the member will not cease and desist, then I would ask that the Chairman would make that rule. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. As the Chairman, we are just learning these processes. Mr. Curley, are you prepared to table the letter that you are referring to?

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I can move a motion now that the Department of Health and Social Services table the medical charter services to Sanikiluaq request for quotes that was issued in February. That is my motion.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This should be in written form and translated in both languages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on a couple of things. Mr. Picco's request, I believe that refers to stuff more when we're in formal session and question period.

This is Committee of the Whole. I think that the rules are a little different there. A member can refer to different... . And if it's a correspondence coming from the department, it should be the knowledge of the department to have that information. I'm sure the minister is quite aware of that.

And also, for motions, Mr. Chairman, it's my recollection... . I believe that in Committee of the Whole, you don't have to have a written motion. It's just formal motions in the House. We have motions in here to report progress. Do we have to have that in both languages, written down? I don't think so. So, maybe we can take a break and check with the Clerk and find out on this before we move forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Okay, I apologize. We will take a 15-minute break to get your motion out and translated too.

We'll take a 15-minute break.

>>House recessed at 16:41 and resumed at 17:19

Committee Motion 002 – 2(1): Tabled Quotes Issued for Charter Airline Requirements for Sanikiluaq

Chair (interpretation): Do you have a copy of the motion? The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in agreement? All those in agreement, raise your hand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: All those opposed, raise your hand. Those opposed? One. Those abstaining, raise your hand. One, two, three, four, five, six. The motion is carried. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to move to report progress.

Chairperson: There is a motion on the floor to report progress and it's not debatable. All those agreed, raise your hand.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Eight. Opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to Item 21. Orders of the day, report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 2 and the main estimates and 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. Is there a seconder? Seconded by Mr. Kilabuk. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Going back to Item 22. Item 23, Orders of the Day, Mr. Quirke.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Friday, May 21, 2004

1. Opening Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motions
16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 2
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): This House stands adjourned until Friday, May 21, at 10:00.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 17:26*

