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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Hudson Bay)

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(Pangnirtung)

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(Amittuq)
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	504
Ministers' s Statements	504
Members' Statements	508
Point of Order.....	510
Returns to Oral Questions	515
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	516
Oral Quesions.....	518
Tabling of Documents	536
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	536
Report of the Committee of the Whole	565
Orders of the Day	566

A.

Daily References

Thursday May 27, 2004..... 504

B.

Ministers' Statements

025 – 2(1): Nunavut Economic Forum (Simailak)..... 504
026 – 2(1): Nunavut Municipal Training Organization (Kilabuk) 505
027 – 2(1): Respecting Our Elders in Traditional Place-Naming (Tapardjuk) 506
028 – 2(1): Community-Based Wrap Around Process (Picco) 506
029 – 2(1): Made-in-Nunavut Language Legislation (Tapardjuk) 507
030 – 2(1): Final Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Ratified (Okalik) 508

C.

Members' Statements

107 – 2(1): Inuit Employment in the Communities (Mapsalak)..... 509
108 – 2(1): Student Financial Assistance (Okalik)..... 509
109 – 2(1): Congratulate Nunavut Students (Barnabas)..... 511
110 – 2(1): Housing Crisis in Nunavut (Netser)..... 512
111 – 2(1): Birthday Greeting (Tapardjuk) 512
112 – 2(1): Recognize Kugluktuk Youth (Evyagotailak)..... 512
113 – 2(1): Congratulate and Recognize Two Inuksuk High School Students (Picco)..... 513
114 – 2(1): RCMP Emergency Telephone Line (Curley) 513
115 – 2(1): Gjoa Haven Preschool Program Graduates (Aglukkaq) 514
116 – 2(1): Recognition of Youth (Kilabuk) 514

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 017– 2(1): School Safety (Picco) 515

E.

Oral Questions

115 – 2(1): Vacant Staff Housing Units (Tootoo)..... 518

116 – 2(1): RCMP Changing the Emergency Telephone Numbers (Curley)..... 520

117 – 2(1): Issue of Chesterfield Inlet School (Netser)..... 520

118 – 2(1): Aging Arctic Bay Health Centre (Barnabas) 521

119 – 2(1): Broughton Island School Issue (Arreak) 523

Question 120 – 2(1): Status of Community RCMP Telephone System (Kattuk)..... 523

121 – 2(1): The Federal Northern Strategy Fund (Peterson)..... 525

122 – 2(1): Status of the Hardship Program (Tootoo)..... 527

123 – 2(1): Departmental Responsibility for the Nanisivik Mine Closure (Barnabas) 528

124 – 2(1): Broughton Island Air Terminal (Arreak)..... 530

Question 125 – 2(1): The Annual Nunavut Municipal Performance Program (Curley) 531

126 – 2(1): Options for Economic Benefits from the Nunavut Fishery (Tootoo)..... 532

127 – 2(1): Support for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord (Barnabas) 534

Question 128 – 2(1): Employees at the Qulliq Energy Corporation 535

F.

Tabling of Documents

025 – 2(1): Next Steps Toward Made-In-Nunavut Languages Legislation (Tapardjuk) 536

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, May 27, 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): Mr. Curley, can you please say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the orders of the day. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Simailak.

Item 2: Ministers's Statements

Minister's Statement 025 – 2(1): Nunavut Economic Forum

Hon. David Simailak: Mr. Speaker, on May 3 and 4, 2004 the Nunavut Economic Forum held its first annual general meeting. This important new organization has now begun its work on the implementation of the Nunavut Implementation Development Strategy.

Last week, we heard the Minister of Finance refer to the Nunavut Economic Forum in her budget address. Our colleague stated at that time one of the greatest challenges for this government will be to support and stimulate economic development and to ensure the private sector plays a greater role in our economy.

The government alone cannot drive the economy. We can move forward only when we work in partnership and allow others to play leading roles. The Nunavut Economic Forum makes this collaboration possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any other jurisdiction in Canada that has brought together many different organizations, including the Inuit Organizations, all three levels of government, and the private sector, for the development of the economy that we have now done for Nunavut. The Nunavut Economic Forum puts into practice what many before us have only been words, that we must all work together to support economic growth in this territory.

I believe that we can build an economic powerhouse in Nunavut, but this will be possible only if everyone with a stake in the development of our economy joins together to work towards this goal.

I would like to welcome Monica Ell as the first president of the Nunavut Economic Forum. Also, I would like to recognize the rest of the board: George Bolander; Steve Cook; Johnny Ningeongan; Doug Workman; Alex Campbell; Hagar Idlout-Sudlovenick; Alex Taylor; and Pauloosie Keyootak.

I have every confidence that they will provide valuable leadership to move Nunavut's economic agenda forward. In the weeks and months ahead, I look forward to reporting on their progress to this House, because together we will build a strong, self-reliant territorial economy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 026 – 2(1): Nunavut Municipal Training Organization

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to provide an update on the progress of the Nunavut Municipal Training Organization.

As members may know, the MTO was incorporated in February 2003 in response to municipal requests for more direct involvement in the delivery of training for their employees across the territory.

I am pleased to announce that in its first year the MTO was successful in fulfilling its mandate to provide municipal staff with the skills and knowledge that will ultimately contribute to excellence in program and service delivery across the territory.

Mr. Speaker, year-one accomplishments included:

1. The delivery of 65 training events in 21 communities, for 626 participants;
2. The signing of a memorandum of understanding with Nunavut Arctic College and Community and Government Services;
3. The publication of the first annual Nunavut Municipal Performance Measurement Report;
4. In co-operation with Nunavut Arctic College, the design for the municipal government program;
5. The design and development of the Nunavut Municipal Knowledge Network Web site launched in April of this year.

(Interpretation ends.) The MTO has been an excellent example of how much can be accomplished when people and organizations in Nunavut work together in partnership to accomplish common goals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 027 – 2(1): Respecting Our Elders in Traditional Place-Naming

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all recognize the enduring relationship between Inuit and the land, and the importance of traditional names to the language, culture, and history of Nunavummiut.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is working to preserve traditional names for geographic places in Nunavut through its toponymy program. There are lots of recommendations coming forward from communities, and we are working with elders committees and other stakeholders to identify traditional place names across Nunavut.

In a demonstration of our commitment to work with communities, we listened to the recommendation from the Cambridge Bay "Eniknigit" elders committee and will be submitting "Ekaloktotiak" as the traditional Inuinnaqtun name for Grenier Lake to the Geographical Names Board of Canada.

It is important for government to be receptive and have an open dialogue with Nunavummiut, especially our elders, when it comes to protecting our heritage and traditional names. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 028 – 2(1): Community-Based Wrap Around Process

Hon. Ed Picco: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the Department of Education is looking at programs and services to support individuals and families, such as the wrap around process. Yes, Mr. Speaker, a wrap around process. This is a process designed to build on existing strengths and enhance the capacity of community support networks.

The Department of Education received positive recommendations from aboriginal communities in both Canada and the United States to consider a community-based process known as the wrap around process. The first step in our collaboration will be a meeting with representatives from government departments and experts in the wrap around process, on today and tomorrow here in Iqaluit.

The Department of Education recognizes the need for programs and services to be family-centred and community-based. Community and family members should be invited to seek the solutions and care that allow individuals and families to heal.

The Department of Education is collaborating with the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Justice, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and the RCMP to find solutions for individuals and families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 029 – 2(1): Made-in-Nunavut Language Legislation

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the protection and promotion of Inuktitut is one of the most important priorities of this government. At the same time, being a territory within Canada, we are working toward protecting the rights of our English- and French-speaking Nunavummiut.

The Official Languages Act that Nunavut inherited from the Northwest Territories was not designed for the unique needs facing our new territory. Nunavut needs new language legislation that recognizes Inuktitut as the majority language in the territory, while protecting the rights of English and French speakers.

A special committee of the first Legislative Assembly conducted a comprehensive review of the Official Languages Act we inherited. They consulted with stakeholders and visited nine communities in Nunavut. In December of 2003, the special committee issued its final report. It contains 18 recommendations regarding made-in-Nunavut language legislation.

The Government of Nunavut wishes to thank the special committee for its extensive work reviewing the language legislation Nunavut inherited from the Northwest Territories. The special committee's final report provides the basis for the government to begin developing legislation that reflects the needs and aspirations of Nunavummiut.

The Government of Nunavut wishes to develop legislation that protects our languages and ensures that they continue to be spoken by our children, grandchildren, and the generations that follow. At the same time, the government must balance the protection of our languages with other urgent issues, including health, education, and housing. The pressures on the territory's budget demand careful planning, with spending targeted on initiatives that will have the greatest impact in maintaining Nunavut's languages.

To do this, the government requires a detailed analysis of what it will cost to implement the various recommendations of the special committee. The government must also

determine the staffing and training that will be required to make these recommendations a reality.

The Government of Nunavut would like to strike a working group with Nunavut Tunngavik to review the special committee's recommendations. This working group will be charged with conducting a detailed feasibility study of each of the special committee's recommendations. The working group will also be able to get input from municipal governments and the private sector on Nunavut's future language legislation. The special committee noted in their final report that there was little participation from these sectors in their review.

The government's intent for the working group is to complete its work and table its final report by the spring of 2005. This will form a major step toward made-in-Nunavut language legislation.

Later today, I will be tabling a document containing the timeframe suggested by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Mr. Premier.

Minister's Statement 030 – 2(1): Final Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement Ratified

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the Inuit of Labrador on the ratification of the final Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement. The federal and provincial governments have yet to ratify the agreement, but have committed to doing so. This was the last outstanding Inuit land claims agreement in Canada.

With the signing of the agreement, the Labrador Inuit, like Inuit in Nunavut, can take control of their lives and their environment. It is a great accomplishment, but this is not the end of the road. The signing of this agreement will mark the beginning of building strong and healthy communities, self-reliance, and control and protection of the land that sustains Inuit lifestyles.

I want to again congratulate all Inuit of Labrador and wish them a healthy and prosperous future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 107 – 2(1): Inuit Employment in the Communities

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Interpretation ends.) I rise today to address the issue of Inuit employment in our government and communities.

I would like to begin by saying that we have made progress since the days when we felt that our lives were completely under control of outsiders. We have come a long way since the days when we had no say whatsoever in our own future. Since Nunavut was created in 1999, progress has been made. We now have Inuit in positions of senior responsibilities in our government and we are proud of that fact.

However, more work needs to be done. For example, when my constituents travel to the medical boarding home in Winnipeg, they want to be treated with dignity and respect. They want to be able to communicate with the staff in their own language. They want the assurance that the services being delivered were developed by the people who come from our culture.

In our communities we should be doing all we can to provide training opportunities for local residents to assume positions in government. The services that are provided to our residents should be delivered in the language spoken by the people receiving them.

I am pleased to see that the government is supporting the work of such boundaries as municipal training organizations. We need to do everything possible to ensure that our municipal and territorial governments are staffed by Inuit who have been provided with education, training, and experience to do the job.

The government's own statistics show that we need to do more. In two communities that I represent, Inuit represent less than half the total Government of Nunavut positions. Mr. Speaker, we can do better. "Qujannamiik."

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Iqaluit West, Mr. Okalik.

Member's Statement 108 – 2(1): Student Financial Assistance

Hon. Paul Okalik: "Qujannamiik, Uqaqti." I feel I should speak out on the issue of student financial assistance, which we offer to our students throughout our territory.

The added assistance that we have created for Inuit is in response to a lack of resources that we as Inuit have received in the past. I do not, in any way, shape, or form, feel any guilt whatsoever for trying to help my fellow Inuit to catch up with the rest of the population in getting the best education possible.

We need look no further than our own government for this very apparent discrepancy. We are Inuit. We represent 85 percent of our population but make up 45 percent of our workforce.

I am committed to making a difference, particularly for Inuit. We are so far behind in employment and education levels in our territory. That is what we are trying to do by supporting them. We are trying to make it part of the contribution to our territory.

By the numbers of Inuit students that are choosing to study and improve their education levels, we appear to be heading in the right direction, and I am very proud of my fellow Inuit who are taking on the challenge of pursuing a higher education.

To somehow twist this very positive effort that we are trying to carry out, or say that we are discriminating, is not an accurate reflection of this wonderful program. Non-Inuit students in Nunavut that choose to pursue post-secondary studies receive more support than they would if they were studying in southern Canada. The students are provided with forgivable loans that are not available to other students in southern Canada.

As the Minister of Education stated yesterday, the amounts could perhaps be reviewed for this program. However, Mr. Speaker, as long as the Inuit in this territory remain behind in employment and education levels, I can be counted on to make sure that we will continue with these positive programs that will truly make a difference in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Point of Order

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to raise a point of order on Mr. Okalik's member's statement. He is implying that some members of this House are saying that we are twisting and implying that the program is discriminatory. That is something that is a rule for the debate of this House that the members cannot do. And, if the member would like to refer to the Hansard or ask the Speaker to refer to the Hansard, in no way, shape, or form was any implication made as far as discrimination on the program, just for clarification on how it works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): A point of order has just been made in the House in regards to the member's statement made by Hon. Paul Okalik. Did you want to make a comment, Hon. Paul Okalik?

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there were some issues around that we were discriminating against non-Inuit by having more support for Inuit students, so that is what I was referring to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): We'll make a ruling on the subject after reviewing the Hansard. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 109 – 2(1): Congratulate Nunavut Students

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the efforts of some of Nunavut's finest students and to congratulate them on their successes. Student teams from both Arctic Bay's Inuujaq School and Resolute Bay's Qarmaktalik School participated in a recent bridge building competition that was held across Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

I'm very proud to announce that the Resolute Reactors who came from Resolute Bay, including Peter Amarualik, Cathy Idlout, Dennis Idlout, Solomon Idlout, Leia Kadluk, Pillipuusi Iqaluk, and Norman Nunngaq, took first place in this very challenging competition across the north. I would also like to recognize their coach, Earl Grother, for his support. I think we should all be impressed at what these students can achieve when they put their minds and effort into it.

Earlier this school year, a group of students from Resolute Bay's Qarmaktalik School went on an expedition trip to Ottawa and visited the company that specializes in building boats. Using their traditional knowledge and demonstrating traditional technology, those students designed and built a 15-foot "qajaq" during their visit. The "qajaq" was then shipped back to Resolute Bay and presented to the district education authority for display in the newly renovated school building.

The students of Qarmaktalik School are no strangers to the most modern technology, either. In March of this year, students had an opportunity to meet and speak with a group of scientists that work in Canadian space research and were on their way back from Eureka.

Reports from these scientists show that they're also impressed with these students. I hope that there will be future jobs from this interaction. I would like to recognize the hard work from the school principal Brian Manning and for his support and dedication to his students. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. (Interpretation ends.) This hard work has provided many varied and different learning opportunities for the students at Qarmaktalik School. Most of all, I would like to praise the students for their approach to learning and encourage them to keep working hard to follow their dreams. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 110 – 2(1): Housing Crisis in Nunavut

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It does not look like we are going to be heading home on time, but that is okay. (Interpretation ends.) Many of my colleagues have raised today the issue of the housing crisis in Nunavut, and today I want to rise to add my voice to that.

I am encouraged by the recent efforts of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to lobby the federal government on behalf of Nunavummiut. I believe that all Nunavut organizations need to work together to make the federal government truly aware of the severe housing crisis in Nunavut.

The federal government seems to be blind when it comes to our housing needs. Inuit of Nunavut are losing out on federal payments because we do not qualify for funding under aboriginal initiatives. I am frustrated, and my colleagues are frustrated, and Nunavut people are frustrated as well.

It is estimated that more than three thousand Nunavut housing units are required to meet the current needs. This big figure does not address continued growth. This figure does not address the number of housing units that require extensive renovations and-or replacement.

I urge the minister of housing to continue working to bring this issue to light with the federal government. "Qujannamiik, Uqaqti."

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 111 – 2(1): Birthday Greeting

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I became a government minister... . You cannot do your job properly unless you have some good support from your staff. It is Diane Iyerak's birthday today, and I would like to say happy birthday to my staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 112 – 2(1): Recognize Kugluktuk Youth

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate a couple of boys from Kugluktuk who are going to Philadelphia. The two young students

were asked to play in lacrosse league in Philadelphia and they will be coming home at the end of July. I want to recognize a couple of individuals: Adam Kikpak and Kyle Aviak. They will be travelling today to Philadelphia.

Other individuals that are going to play lacrosse in Edmonton are Randy Hinarnuk, Luke Ayaligak, and Kenny Augona. They will be going to play lacrosse in Edmonton and will be returning to Kugluktuk in July. I am seeking support from the House to congratulate these young people who are participating. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 113 – 2(1): Congratulate and Recognize Two Inuksuk High School Students

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two Inuksuk Highschool students and constituents of mine in Iqaluit East have been named as the Nunavut recipients of the 2004 Millennium Excellence Awards. Mr. Brendan Doherty is the territorial award laureate and Alex Solski is the local laureate.

This year, the Millennium Foundation received over 7,000 applications from across Canada. Applicants are judged under leadership, community involvement, innovation, and academic achievements.

Brendan and Alex are co-presidents of the Inuksuk student council. Both are volunteers on the help-line. They serve on the youth advisory panel and are both active in sports and music in their school.

This winter they, along with their rock band Ivory Hail, held a benefit concert in which they raised over \$2,000 for the Stephen Lewis AIDS Foundation. This past weekend they helped organize the 30-hour famine to fundraise for World Vision. This fall Brendan will be attending Trent University to study international development, and Alex will be studying criminology at the University of Windsor.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and this House join with me to congratulate these two young people on their recent successes. "Qujannamiik, Uqaqti."

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 114 – 2(1): RCMP Emergency Telephone Line

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the CBC's reporting in regards to the RCMP telephone emergency system.

It states in the computer that the telephones.... People calling from smaller communities.... It seems like the communities are concerned that the only changes to the telephone system.... If it's not an emergency they have to ring 0123, and if it's an emergency the community's prefix would be used and then dial 1111.

That is the only change, and emergency calls are still being received by the Iqaluit RCMP. This is not a change at all, and it does not improve the telephone system for callingg the RCMP.

According to CBC reporting, they said it's going cost half a million dollars.

I don't think we as members should learn of this through the CBC news.

It is not something that is improving the system. I will be asking a question to the Minister of Justice during question period on this issue.

Speaker (interpretation): Member's statements, Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 115 – 2(1): Gjoa Haven Preschool Program Graduates

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce to the Assembly that we've recently had a huge graduation in the community of Gjoa Haven. On May 20, we had 22 graduates from the Gjoa Haven preschool program. As you know, Mr. Speaker, these are the first steps on the road to knowledge for these young graduates.

I would like to read out the names of those individuals. They are: Rudy Aaluk; Andrew Ameralik; Ryan Angotittaruq; Claudia Apiana; Brendan Porter; Samson Kaloon; Vicky Ann Kirnik; Johnny Kununak; Jennifer Tavalok; Jeremy Ukuqtunnuq; Johnny Keanik; Wilma Magaknak; Danny Nalungeak; Devon Pauloosie; Jimmie Jr. Pauloosie; Breanna Pooyatak; Brent Puqiqnak; Donovan Qingnatuq; Courtney Takkiruq; Cory Putuguq; Alice Kogvik; and Anika Lafitte; Keith Putuguq; Desmond Hiqiniq; Bradley Qierngnuq Makkittuq; Melissa Arqviq; Marla Rose Porter; Michael Eleeheetook; Brad Tiriganeak; and Sergei John Jr. Tucktoo.

I wish to wish them all congratulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 116 – 2(1): Recognition of Youth

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to say hello to some kids. First of all I would like to say hello to Kevin who is from Qikiqtarjuaq.

I am impressed with the children in Nunavut because they watch us on live TV as we debate issues in this House, and it is good that they are listening to us and looking at us on TV.

I would like to say hello to my son, Josephie, who brought me this tie from Ottawa. I would like to say hello to my daughter, Jenna, as well and Kadlak, Christa Kulluarlik, who is the daughter of the individual I talked about who capsized their boat recently. I would like to tell them that I will be seeing them in June.

And I would like to say hello to my sister, Mary Kilabuk. When I was supposed to be visiting her, she was always doing the Hansard. So, I would like to also say hello to the rest of the Hansard people at Innirvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Going back to orders of the day. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Picco.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 017– 2(1): School Safety

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Tootoo on May 14, 2004. The oral question is in regards to school safety.

In response to the member's question, I am pleased to provide the following information:

- The Department of Community and Government Services perform routine maintenance and inspections to schools, through their settlement maintainer, in all communities except Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, and Pond Inlet.
- Cape Dorset, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Baker Lake, Repulse Bay, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Kugluktuk, Kuugaruk, and Taloyuaq have community transfer initiatives, so hamlet employees maintain the schools. Baker Lake recently terminated their agreement with the Department of Community and Government Services.
- Iqaluit schools are maintained and inspected by a combination of Government of Nunavut employees and as-and-when contractors.
- Snow build-up on school roofs was checked on the seventh of May 2004 in all communities.
- The roof of Qaqqalik School in Kimmirut was shovelled on May 7, 2004.

- Snow was removed from the roof of the entrance-way of Ataguttaaluk Elementary School in Igloolik.
- A visual check of schools in Iqaluit is done on an ongoing basis.
- Snow was removed from the roof of the Aqsarniit School on May 15, 2004.

I will also file with the return a schedule of daily inspections on all schools, weekly inspections, monthly inspections, and yearly inspections.

Just for example, on the weekly inspections the fire pump is tested as well as the generator; on daily inspections, outside air temperature, in-service boiler pressure, boiler fluid gas temperature, flame check visual, heating systems supply temperature and supply return temperature, all pumps, heat systems, adequate accommodation air, glycol levels, AHU-supply air temperature and return sprinkler systems, fire alarm panels, fire pump status and attends that they are also part of the daily inspections, and I will file those with the Clerk. "Qujannamiik, Uqaqti."

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Going back to orders of the day. Item 5.

I would like to recognize for the House Daniel Lavoir-Degamme, who is an ambassador for Belgium.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Curley.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual who is the mayor of beautiful downtown Rankin Inlet, Lorne Kusugak. Lorne is our mayor in Rankin Inlet and works very, very hard.

I would also like to say that our municipal council is running very smoothly, even though we have a lack of funding. The new senior administrative officer, John Hodgeson, stand up, please. I would like to welcome them to the House. The new SAO used to work for MACA as a manager of property assessment, when we had MACA at that time, also, as director of public safety in Yellowknife. He has a lot of experience and he recently came in from Ontario from a First Nations community. He had worked there for 11 years. I would like to welcome him. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the House. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize for the House someone who everybody knows, Simeonie Amagoalik. Simeonie Amagoalik was a High Arctic exile. Akpaliapik Arnakallaq, Japitie Amagoalik included... . Simeonie was recently recognized during the Baffin Leaders' Senate by Ivaluarjuk because he was the first mayor of the hamlet settlement council. Simeonie is an elder in Resolute Bay and has supported the community of Resolute Bay, and I would like to welcome him to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the House. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a Mr. Steve Mercer, who is sitting behind me. Mr. Mercer is from Ontario, but he used to live in Cambridge Bay with his wife Brenda for many, many years. He is still considered.... When you're from the Kitikmeot you're from the Kitikmeot. Steve is in town doing research for a book he is writing about us. If you have any interesting information to provide him, I'm sure Steve is quite willing to listen to your stories. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley already recognized the person that I was going to recognize. Also, I would like to recognize Mayor Quassa Kusugak, also John Hudson, the SAO. Also, next to Quassa is Emily Irniq. I would like to recognize her. Please, let me be the first, next time. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Peterson has beaten me to that, but I also want to recognize in the gallery today a good friend of mine, former colleague. Steve Mercer, welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your colleague in Rankin Inlet has tried to take the pleasure every day of being able to recognize a family member in the gallery, and it's not that often I get to do it here in Iqaluit.

I would like to recognize my cousin Emily Irniq sitting back here. She works for NTI. I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lorne to the gallery. Lorne and I go back a few years, the same time when Emily, Lorne, and I used to hang out in Yellowknife in Akaitcho Hall. There's lots of fond memories around those times, so I'd just like to welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Orders of the day, Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 115 – 2(1): Vacant Staff Housing Units

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

I know that the minister is going to recall something I have asked about before in past, and that is we have a severe housing shortage for staff housing, especially here in Iqaluit. I would like to ask the minister if there is, of the inventory that we have right now in Iqaluit, any vacant staff-housing units here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of housing. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The records that I have got: as of May 7 this month, we had three vacant units and also three pending, well, three being held for competitive positions. So, those were back in May 7 and I really do not know if I can still confirm those same numbers today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo, supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask the minister.... I know that because of this shortage in housing that there has been a committee of some sort put together in allocating staff housing units.

I am just wondering if the minister could explain the makeup of that committee and the criteria that they use in allocating units to the staff members that are eligible for staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is right, there is an allocation committee that reviews the assigning of staff housing to the Government of Nunavut employees.

Unfortunately, I do not have the makeup of the committee in front of me, but I will be more than happy to forward this information to my colleague once I have had discussions with my staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just wondering if the minister is aware of how often the allocation committee gets together in allocating units, if he is aware if that is something that is done on a weekly basis, bi-weekly, monthly...? I am just wondering how often they get together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I am sure that unfortunately they do not meet as often as they would like because they do not have that many staff houses to deal with. But, as part of my commitment to forwarding the other information, I will provide the number of times this committee meets to deal with the housing issues and if it is on the applications that are forwarded to them for distribution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response and I look forward to getting that information. I am just wondering if the minister is aware if there is any special criteria or consideration given to beneficiary employees working for the government to be allocated staff housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of housing. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the staff housing program, all staff are given the opportunity of presenting their cases and, depending on the units available and the level of position that is in question, those things are part of the review process.

I would like to thank my colleague for raising a very serious issue, because right now we have a need for about 444 additional staff units throughout our territory to meet the growing need. So, this file is definitely getting the attention that it deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 116 – 2(1): RCMP Changing the Emergency Telephone Numbers

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice in regards to the changing of telephone numbers in all of the communities.

Zero-one-two-three for emergency... . I feel that it should be 111. I feel that when the people have to use this... . When they are in danger, what is going to happen?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you happen to be in an emergency situation, in any of the communities, and these will be the same in every community, especially for the people that are travelling....

Yes, we've been having a lot of problems for emergency telephones calls, and we have been meeting regularly with the RCMP officials on this matter. Even if it is in the different communities, the local detachment will be available right away. This is for emergency purposes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The changes of the numbers is going to cost \$500,000. Who is going to be paying for this? And, where is the funding coming from?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government is going pay for these. They will be coming from the federal government for this. It is expensive.

We know that they have to work with whoever is in danger, that they would know exactly what number to dial, no matter where the RCMP constables are. We are able to hear them everywhere. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 117 – 2(1): Issue of Chesterfield Inlet School

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education.

The Victor Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet is facing serious limitations due to a lack of space. Expansion work needs to be done both inside the school to allow for storage of materials and outside the school where a cramped playground leads to problems. On top of that, there isn't enough housing for our teachers.

So, I don't know which one... Maybe I'll ask him this question. I would like to ask the minister whether funding is available from his department to make our school playground safer for our children, especially in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the member for approaching me over the last couple of weeks in written form and so on, on this issue. I think the member is doing an excellent job on behalf and for the people of Chesterfield Inlet in bringing the issue forward on the Victor Sammurtook School.

I've asked the department to follow up and to see if there is an opportunity within the existing operations and maintenance budget to be able to facilitate some of the changes that the member has talked about. There are issues in the school that the member has indicated. Storage space, the shortage of housing for the teachers is something that is ongoing and that the Department of Education is working on, plus there are some other communities that we're dealing with the same issue on.

I will make a commitment to the member to be able to look at, specifically, the playground issue and to see if I can find within the existing O&M budget some monies to enhance and deal with some of the issues around the playground at the Victor Sammurtook School. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the minister for his response. When are we going to be hearing from your department in regards to the Chesterfield Inlet playground?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Mr. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister that is always the toughest question to answer: when. The member had written me earlier on it. We have drafted a response for the member. And indeed, some of the other issues that the member has raised today...
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We are still in the deliberations on the education budget. I would hope that in the next couple of weeks, after the budget process itself is complete, then I will be able to go back in to see what availability that there is in the existing O&M budget to see if we can help the situation in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 118 – 2(1): Aging Arctic Bay Health Centre

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

(Interpretation ends.) Last Thursday I made a statement regarding the aging of the Arctic Bay health centre and tabled a set of photographs showing the current working conditions and the deteriorating structure of the facility.

Can the minister inform this House about what criteria are used to evaluate health centre facilities and to prioritize their needs for renovation or replacement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We follow the departmental plans, that's the process that we use. Usually what we do is we base our decisions on the capital planning, and it seems that for prioritizing, we follow as such. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Supplementary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister give us a listing of when the facilities are going to be renovated or replaced. Can she tell us when the Arctic Bay health facility will be reviewed and renovated, replaced, or a new one built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the capital projects, or capital plan, the Arctic Bay facility is not included in the five-year capital plan. I believe that there is a planning committee that prioritizes these issues.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us when they are going to be considering the Arctic Bay facility either for the renovation or the replacement. And when will she be able to tell us when they will be going to the capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for bringing this up. I could direct my staff to look into this issue and ask them when they will be included in the capital plan, or in the business plans.

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

Question 119 – 2(1): Broughton Island School Issue

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

In Broughton Island, or Qikiqtarjuaq, the school is way too small for the school population.

It is included here in the capital plans for 2004-05, and they have set aside \$25,000. In 2009, there is nothing that is included for the Qikiqtarjuaq school. They will just be doing a study on it, but there are no plans in the capital projects.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. There are some issues with the enrolment in Qikiqtarjuaq, and as I said earlier, I had an opportunity to meet with the staff and the principle and actually had an opportunity to tour the school and physically look at some of the issues there; we had talked earlier about the issue around the computers.

The new capital budget for this program for this government comes forward this fall. I am hoping to have an opportunity to review some of the issues in the capital plan, including schools like Qikiqtarjuaq to see if we can move them up into capital plan and deal with some of the issues.

I note the school enrolment in Qikiqtarjuaq has gone from 128 students in the year 2000-01 to over 157 this year for 2003-04. That is an extra over 30 children attending the school, and that in itself is quite an increase in that short period of time.

So, that is something that we will have to review when we are doing the capital substantiation program for the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 120 – 2(1): Status of Community RCMP Telephone System

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question I referred to earlier, and it was directed to the Minister of Justice.

He had told me earlier that the RCMP will be getting their own lines instead of having the calls referred to the Iqaluit RCMP detachment. What is the status of the phone system that is currently being used by the RCMP?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, the RCMP are setting up the new systems. If it is an emergency call, the local RCMP detachment would be notified immediately and they can be contacted from anywhere in one of the communities. The call would go to the Iqaluit RCMP detachment, but the local RCMP detachment will be contacted immediately. There will be a communication link in there with the Iqaluit RCMP detachment and the local RCMP detachment.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my community of Sanikiluaq, this is a major concern. I was told that when they called the local RCMP detachment.... That was an emergency situation where he called the local RCMP detachment, and they needed the aid of the RCMP right away. But, this individual was told that they cannot be dealing with them right away. This is something, this is the type of service that we shouldn't tolerate up here.

Why is it that the calls are referred to the Iqaluit RCMP detachment? And, why is it that the RCMP at the local level cannot respond to calls? What is the reasoning behind it. Why is it that the communities cannot talk directly to the local RCMP instead of being referred to headquarters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, we do try to make adjustments or improvements in the services that we provide.

The calls are responded to at the RCMP detachment. The local RCMP will be notified immediately if it's an emergency situation. It will go to the Iqaluit RCMP detachment, but the local RCMP detachment will be contacted right away.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a scary situation when you cannot contact your local RCMP right away.

When you're calling on an emergency basis and you tell them that you need help now.... You're talking many thousands and thousands of miles away. Then the call.... They get in contact with the local RCMP detachment and that can take as long as 10-20 minutes. That is a long time when you're dealing with an emergency situation.

What is the reasoning behind having those calls referred to the Iqaluit detachment instead of the local community? We're talking 600 or 700 miles.

This a major concern for all Nunavut communities. When you need help now, you need help right away. I would like the minister to take this seriously into consideration and make some adjustments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Did you want to make a response, Premier Okalik?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, we're trying to make an improvement to the services that are provided by the RCMP. There is no doubt, of course, that they do not want to see anybody in an emergency situation, so we are trying a new system.

I would like to hear from the communities if they encounter any types of problems with this new system. We will try to make improvements if there are any problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 121 – 2(1): The Federal Northern Strategy Fund

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister of economic development.

I was very pleased to hear your statement today on the Nunavut Economic Forum. It looks like we've got some good people on the board. Recently the federal government announced a northern strategy, and they are going to finance it with \$90 million for the north, for five years.

So, I'm wondering if the minister could tell the House how much of that \$90 million for five years will be for Nunavut. How much will be in this current fiscal year, how we're going to haul in that money in this current fiscal year to priority projects in Nunavut, so it makes a difference this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't been told yet about how much will be allocated to the Nunavut territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Three questions, but I only got one answer so....

>>*Laughter*

I'm not sure I got an answer. I just wanted to ask the minister... . The North hasn't had an EDA, an economic development agreement, since March 31, 1996. We're probably the only jurisdiction in Canada without having this financial instrument.

I'm just wondering if the minister could update us on the Government of Nunavut lobbying efforts in Ottawa to rectify this injustice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Interpretation.) We are currently working on it, and we have placed a high priority on it. In regards to the Economic Development Agreement, it is a high priority in our department. But, at this time I think the only way that we can get any progress is after the federal elections. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wondering if the minister could update us on whether his department has projected the consequences for Nunavut if we don't get some funding from this current fiscal year, from that northern strategy funding, and if we don't get an economic development agreement soon to help get our economy rolling. The long-term consequences.... Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (Interpretation.) If we do not receive the money, I feel that we would have to wait for more funding and a new agreement. Yes, I'm well aware of the member's concern. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Last supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hate to keep harping on this, but the Minister of Finance, in her budget speech, really keyed in on, "Let's get our economy going, help our private sector administer themselves." I don't think we have the internal capacity to do that, based on what we read. We have to rely on some investment from the south, from the federal government, or the private sector.

I'm wondering if the minister could update us on what his department is doing to attract outside investment from the private sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for economic development, Hon. David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department has been trying to find more options to do more economic development for the people of Nunavut. We also have in place some plans as to how we can acquire more funding from the federal government or the private sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 122 – 2(1): Status of the Hardship Program

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance.

I know that the minister is aware that there was, I think it was the Hardship Program, or funding that they had for employees' housing hardship, where they had a program run through the Department of Finance for employees making a certain amount of money and whose rent came to more than 30 percent of their income. There was a subsidy provided by the department on that.

I'd just like to ask the minister if the program is still in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hardship Program was a program that was available to the employees, of course, that had to pay over 30 percent, as you say, from the NWT days. I used to administer this program, but I don't know if that was one program that actually transferred over to the Nunavut Government. So, I would have to look into that, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall asking a similar question to the former finance minister on the same program. So, I would assume that it was carried over.

At that time, there was talk of harmonizing the different housing rents and things like that within the system, between staff housing and social housing. I know that the social housing rent scale.... I believe anywhere between 20 or 17 and 25 percent of the income is used as basing their rent on.

I am just wondering if the Department of Finance is looking at changing its hardship program to conform with the same standards that are there for the social housing program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of questions that were asked to the previous minister on this subject, I cannot assume the responses, for I had mentioned I would look in to see if this program transferred from the Northwest Territories to the Nunavut government.

In past, this program was administered by the department of personnel's Pay and Benefits Division. The hardship program, from what I remember, factored a number of other areas, such as daycare, and cost of living, and what have you, based on an individual's earnings and the number of dependents.

So, there is a number of areas that it looked at, from what I recall, and it was a subsidy for employees at the time. But, I cannot assume that it was transferred to the Government of Nunavut, and I would look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Assuming that the program has been transferred, and I am pretty sure that it has, if those numbers have not changed would the minister commit to looking at possibly making some changes to the program, to conform with the social housing rent assessment, the percentage of income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to look in to see if the program did transfer over here, to Nunavut. And, I will also commit to see if there has been any changes to that program, if it was transferred to Nunavut to address the issues here. And, I will also see if the issues around housing has also been incorporated into the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 123 – 2(1): Departmental Responsibility for the Nanisivik Mine Closure

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

Since the closure of Nanisivik I have been dealing with numerous ministers: the Minister of Education; the Minister of Environment; and the Minister of Economic Development. I have asked these ministers a number of questions.

The people of Arctic Bay have not moved ahead because the ministers have not done anything about the people of Nanisivik or the people Arctic Bay. There has not been one cent put to that. Which minister is responsible for the closure of the Nanisivik mine? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to be able to help the people that used to work at Nanisivik, especially the people of Arctic Bay. We have been working with various departments to try to find out as to how we can better assist the people of Arctic Bay.

That is why it has seemed that various departments are working on it. Also, we have to be able to think of the environment, and that's the problem we're facing right now, because the water board has to look into the environmental part of the closure of the mine and the pollution.

That is why we have not been able to do anything about it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier did not answer my question.

Which minister is responsible for the closure or is working with the closure of the Nanisivik mine? Is the Premier the minister responsible for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been involved in the operations of the clean-up of the Nanisivik mine and to try to help the people of Arctic Bay. Mr. Simailak took on the primary responsibilities, following the appointments of executive members, to deal with the concern of the member.

But, I just want to say at this time that we have problems with the cleaning up of that area at this time. That is why it is not going ahead at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for his response. We have been waiting for over three years for the clean-up of that mine and I guess we will be waiting for a long time.

The people of Arctic Bay have been told that the buildings or the infrastructure in the mine will be demolished. How long are we going to wait again for the destruction of those buildings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people that have the mine, the mining company, are the ones involved, since we did not start the mine.

We have been waiting for the company to try and work with us. If we were to use the infrastructure right now, it would not be feasible. I think there would be too much of a problem; we can't just take over the infrastructure at this time, because it would cost too much to operate.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have very many houses in Arctic Bay, and we don't have very much infrastructure, not just in Arctic Bay, but in other communities.

There is a swimming pool in Nanisivik and a big community hall as well, and there are 40 houses in the area. Shouldn't that infrastructure be given to the people of Arctic Bay, or are they just going to destroy them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, some of them might not be good enough because there is some contamination there as well. Some of the houses are in poor condition because they have been there for a number of years. We cannot take them right now.

Some of the buildings will be available. These are not our buildings. They belong to the mining company that was working up there. We will try our best to look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 124 – 2(1): Broughton Island Air Terminal

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that those who are holding out their hands to the government are being left further and further behind. For instance, Broughton Island, the air-terminal building in Broughton Island.... Broughton Island is very close to the park, and the air terminal is not in good shape.

When are they going to be building a new air terminal in Qikiqtarjuaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize that I do not have any information on that with me, available right now. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are you preparing to build an air terminal in Qikiqtarjuaq?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes, I will direct my staff with the department of transportation to look into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 125 – 2(1): The Annual Nunavut Municipal Performance Program

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to be asking the Minister of Community and Government Services....

I think there were five municipal training organizations mentioned earlier. Is the report going to be tabled? I tried reading it, but I did not really understand it. I do not think if it goes to the smaller communities it would be understood by the smaller communities, unless you simplify this report.

I did not understand a lot of it, and I thought to myself that the communities will not be able to understand it. Can you simplify the reports?

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you are asking about the Annual Nunavut Municipal Performance Measurement Program, yes, we are working on this right now. I will be directing my staff to make the language more understandable to ordinary people out there, to have it simplified. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is good. Yes, I know that is going to help. If you do not understand anything about money, it is very difficult to understand. I feel the councillors would understand it a lot better if it was written in a more simplified version. Will you be able to table that report?

Speaker (interpretation): Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I do understand my colleague; to have it more simplified. That report that he is talking about.... I am not sure which one you are talking about. Yes, definitely, I will direct my staff to look into having it simplified.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first annual report, if it could be tabled here in the House.... It would be a lot of help for the estimates. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be tabling that document and also everything that we table here, we will try to make sure that they are comprehensible to everybody. Thank you.

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

Question 126 – 2(1): Options for Economic Benefits from the Nunavut Fishery

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the minister responsible for fisheries. I believe that this is the same minister responsible for the environment.

I know, due to no fault of our own, and the result of no lack of effort to try and change things on the part of our government, that Nunavut gets a very small portion of the quotas for the fish that are caught off our shores.

I would like to ask the minister: if they're not going to give us the quotas for those fish so that we can reap the rewards of that, are there any other things that we can do, like perhaps forcing the trawlers that catch those fish in our waters to off-load or do something with their catch here in Nunavut?

If there are any options like that, or things that we can look at doing to try and.... You know, as this government we want to try and increase the private-sector economy and trade, more of an economic base.

I'm just wondering if that's something that we can do or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Akasuk.

Mr. Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you for asking that question. That is a very good question.

We know that we have been working very hard on the fishing issues. Right now, we are trying to do more so that it can benefit the communities and fisheries. We have been working on this issue, and very recently, this past winter, we went to Boston to talk about the fishery and how the fish that are in Nunavut.... That we could benefit financially from the fish....

The staff will be looking into this and we will be working with the federal government on how the fish and the quota of the fish that we are able to get in Nunavut.... We definitely will be working on this within Nunavut.

Also, we will be working with all the communities on the concerns of fishing so that Nunavummiut will get together and work on this on the issue of fishing in the water. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the hard work of the minister. One could say, catching your quota of fish is a slippery thing to try and do.

I know that I mentioned trying to find ways to capitalize on the fishery here in Nunavut if we can't get those quotas. I would like to ask the minister if he would be willing to look at the idea of setting up a trans-fishing, where we force the trawlers that fish off-shore to unload in Nunavut so that fish could be trans-shipped, I guess is the word I'm looking for, so that we can create an economic base, economic opportunities for Nunavummiut.

If that work hasn't been done, I'm just wondering the minister could commit to having a look at doing a feasibility study to identify any benefit that might come from that type of an industry and where it might be best located. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be working together and we will try to make sure that the Department of Sustainable Development was working on this issue to be more beneficial to Nunavummiut.

We are trying to look into this, and we are continuing work on this issue. Also, we are open to any suggestions that you may have. There is \$350,000 available. How we could make this work better than in the past.... We definitely will be looking into this, on the question. That is a very good question: how we can benefit more within Nunavut.

Like I said, we are continuing to work on the fisheries issues.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate and acknowledge the hard work of the minister and his department on this issue. I guess I'm just looking for a commitment that a feasibility study would be done to look at what the benefits would be. Whether a trans-shipping type of operation is something that would be feasible in Nunavut, and what other spin-off benefits would be there from an industry like that as well.

It extends to everything from, you know, if you have a back-haul leaving for the south and we fill them up with fish, that could help bring our transportation costs down for the goods coming into Nunavut, and I know that's something we've been trying to do for some time.

I just, again, asked the minister for a commitment to have that feasibility study done, made in conjunction with the minister responsible for economic development.... To take a look at that.... Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Olayuk Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we definitely will be looking at this, and we'll be working together with the Department of Economic

Development and any other departments who are willing to help us on the concern that my colleague has on fisheries issues. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that there is an infrastructure, or a joint meeting going on in Whitehorse, if it hasn't happened already, to look at setting up money for infrastructure projects throughout Canada, especially in the north.

I'm just wondering if the minister.... Or, has any of his staff attended a meeting like that to try and determine if that would be a possible area to try and access some funding for a project like that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My deputy minister will be going up to attend the meeting, and I'm sure we will brief you once the meeting is over and strategize. I will also keep the member informed about any development on this subject. Thank you.

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

Question 127 – 2(1): Support for Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've got a lot of questions today, and this question I will be directing to the Department of Community and Government Services minister.

We have similar problem in Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. It is in regards to the closure of the mine and the remediation. I have had discussions with the hamlet on if the hamlets are going to be asking for bowhead whale hunting.

Is the Nunavut government going to be able to give any support to the communities of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay in regards to them wanting to go bowhead whale hunting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I am a little embarrassed when I stand up at this point because I have no idea what he is talking about. I don't know whether he is talking about bowhead whales or something else. If the member would clarify his question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): The ministers should keep on top of things so they know what we are talking about. I am talking about Polaris Mines; it is called “arvik,” sometimes it is called “marruliqqii”. So, I can refer to it in a number of different names.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will want to get more information from the member in regards to the type of support he is talking about. Polaris Mine.... This is the first time that Polaris Mine in Inuktitut is called “arvik,” so this is why I was a little confused.

I will want to be getting further information on this subject and the type of support that Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord are requesting from the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 128 – 2(1): Employees at the Qulliq Energy Corporation

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to go back to the minister’s statement yesterday on the Nunavut Power Corporation. My question is for the minister responsible.

He made a comment in his statement that stability starts at the top. I am wondering if the minister is recruiting a person at the top of the organization who has a lot of utility experience, who will be able to guide and direct the Nunavut Power Corporation, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, over the next five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my statement, I was referring to the previous deputy minister who was appointed by our Premier to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. He will be the President of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary. Mr. Peterson

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I misunderstood. I thought that part of the Auditor General’s report recommended that an individual with significant utility experience be recruited. I hope that will happen through the board of directors.

Also in the same statement, the minister mentioned that there are three new designated accounting staff that work in headquarters, I assume that is Baker Lake. Do those accounting staff.... Are they certified general accountants, or certified accountants, or certified management accountants with designations to be accountants? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister Responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry I don't know the actual designation of what their classification is. I believe they are certified general accountants. What I should do is check with my staff and inform the member of their classification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo. I apologize, the question period is over. We still have tomorrow.

Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14. Tabling of documents. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 025 – 2(1): Next Steps Toward Made-In-Nunavut Languages Legislation

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document: *Next Steps Toward Made-in-Nunavut Language Legislation*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): 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, 2004-2005, with Mr. Netser in the Chair. We will take a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:21 and resumed at 15:42*

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

Chairman (Mr. Netser)(Interpretation): Welcome, Mr. Minister, please introduce your witnesses for the record.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Deputy Minister of the Department of Education, Pam Hine. And on my immediate left, Director of Corporate Services, the person in charge of finance with that grouping within the department, Ms. Kathy Stinson.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome. Okay, we were on page G-16. Please turn to page G-16 on your main estimates. (Interpretation.) I think Mr. Curley had a question, but he is not present right now. (Interpretation ends.) He is not here, so we'll just move along.

Education branch summary, Curriculum and school services. Total, operations and maintenance: \$8,412,000. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Moving to G-18. School operations. Total, operations and maintenance: \$93,956,000. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are there any questions on G-20? Information item, okay. Go to G-21. Does anyone have any questions on G-21? Nothing. G-22, for your information. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay, back to G-4, education department summary. Details of expenditures. Total, operations and maintenance: \$165,662,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that this department is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you for coming, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the committee for the excellent questions over the last few days. In our new role as the department....

You will note that in the gallery, we have some members of the senior administration of the department. I would like to take the opportunity just to welcome to the gallery the assistant deputy minister of the department, Mr. Peter Geikie, as well as Assistant Deputy Minister Phoebe Hainnu, from Clyde River. I would like to welcome them, as well as Sandy and Mr. Clendenning from the college.

I thank the members for their excellent questions and we are looking forward to serving you in the coming months in the Department of Education. Thank you.

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

>>Applause

Chairman: Okay, we'll go to the Department of Health, with Ms. Brown. If you could go to the witness table, Madam Minister. Do you have witnesses with you?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes. They are not quite here yet.

Chairman: Could somebody ring the bell? Please wait. I do not think the officials were expecting for us to finish education. Thank you. Ms. Brown, if you can go to the witness table at this time. Thank you. Welcome. Madam Minister, if you could introduce your officials for the purpose of the committee.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My officials: on my right Bernie Blais, deputy minister. On my left, Director of Finance, Eric Whitworth.

Chairman: Welcome. Page 11. Treatment program. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure whether we are actually on that page. I would ask the Clerk or your staff to explain, because due to the loss of quorum I believe the Item 2 was nullified. So, it is my view that we have to go back to where we began at that time. And so, that is really, I think, the point of order tomorrow, because I just want to be clear that we are actually on that page.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. The staff tells me that page H-10 was approved and we were on H-11 prior to having no quorum. Okay. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Okay. Thank you. Yes.... (Interpretation.) My question, Mr. Chairman, under medical client travel and urgent medical.... (Interpretation.) My question, Mr. Chairman, is to the minister, or the deputy minister of the department of public health.

Have they ever been complained to that there was a conflict of interest when they were evaluating the RFP? Did you receive a letter at that time?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I, personally, have no knowledge whether they received the letter or not.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Perhaps if I could ask the deputy minister if you ever received a letter of complaint in regards to whether the department of public health had any conflict of interest when they were evaluating the RFPs last year or the year before.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais, could you answer that question, please. Thank you.

Mr. Blais: Thank you. There have been many letters that have come forth from one company in regards to general allegation of conflict. Many times we have requested from that company specific information, I guess, to allow us to follow through, and in a recent letter in April, also have requested that we be given enough information in regards to dealing with those allegations. But, we have not received anything formal or anything specific enough for us to be able to carry out any investigation regarding that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: I want to be very graphic. I'm speaking to you in English because I think it's important that we state facts to the House. To do otherwise would be.... I think it's in the rulebook that to not state the facts when there are facts is really, I think, a really serious one.

I want to ask you again. I'm not asking about general correspondence or reference to conflict of interest. I'm asking specifically: has the department of health ever received any letter of complaint regarding some staff in the department who were involved in the evaluation of the RFPs, or any other competitive request for quotes, or what not.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Has the department received, just to clarify the question, any complaint in regards to staff being involved in the review of contracts that would have been in conflict of interest. Is that my understanding of the question, Chairman?

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I'll be very clear. Have you ever received any letters of complaints with respect to the allegations, or potential, or otherwise conflict of interest, within the Keewatin region department of health, with respect to medivac RFPs or medical travel RFPs?

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

Mr. Blais: The answer: since I've been here, and the last time, the answer was yes to that question. But the allegations that have been brought forward have been very general in nature. Thank you, Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: My further question: if the letters of complaint were given to the department of health, what do you do with that information?

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Chairman. Typically, in regards to this particular issue what we have done is we have requested from that individual specific information to allow us enough to be able to follow through, to see whether those allegations or any general allegation were well founded. That was confirmed, again, in a recent letter dating, I believe, April 20. I've yet to receive anything specific. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Chairman, I think that I do understand the letter of complaint that was presented to the former deputy minister, as well as, I believe, to the Premier, and to the former minister, which I tabled the other week, contains a specific provision with a letter of allegation, or conflict of interest report, too, which I tabled last week.

So, my point is this. The letter provided to this House contained that there were allegations. Specifically, that they were two employees of the department of public health that were spouses of the airline that the cabinet had approved for medivac services.

I believe that would constitute a conflict: when they were, during the course of the evaluation process, involved. So, my question is: if that were a fact today, would the department of health do something about it?

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

Mr. Blais: I can say that we have done a thorough review within our department of those general allegations. I believe that the minister will have a statement to that effect. We have found no conflict of interest existed at that time, I think there was dating back to 1996, which predates Nunavut.

Even in all of the current issues, or RFPs, that we have been dealing with, there is no conflict of interest with any of our employees. So, there was none then, and there is none today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. I have no more names. To page H-11. Health and social services. Branch summary. I am sorry. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on where it says "Urgent medical evacuations." I'm wondering what determines an urgent medical evacuation, and who makes that determination that patients should be sent south. Is it a nurse, a doctor, or a practitioner? Can you clarify that for me, please.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister, would you like to answer that?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question that... Nurses are able to. Both doctors and nurses are able to make decisions.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was it directors of the regional departments? Would they be involved in any decision making? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): To my knowledge, no.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just.... The point I'm trying to get on here is the experience factor when determining if a patient should be sent out on a medical evacuation. Who is qualified to make that decision? Is it a nurse? An agency nurse comes up from down south, isn't very experienced, does not know the north.... We have indeterminate nurses who are very experienced, know the communities, they know the north.

Is there a difference between those types of nurses, in terms of experience factor, in making the decision to send a person on a medical evacuation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The nurses are able to make decisions on who has to go on emergency medivacs, and they do talk to doctors as well.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I asked this question the other day about the medical transportation centre. Would the nurses and doctors have to go through the medical-travel centre before the decision was made to send a person down for a medical evacuation? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chair. My deputy, Mr. Blais, will answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The answer to that is, no. Typically the decision to medivac a patient out-of-territory would be done at the local level by the nurse, or the doctor, or in consultation with a doctor.

The information, though, would be forwarded to the medical-travel centre to ensure that information is captured, as well as documented, so that we can maintain some form of statistics on the type of evacuation that is being performed, where they're going, et cetera.

So, the decision rests with the local providers, basically. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess my concern is that you had to get a \$10 million increase in the main estimates last year through a supplementary appropriation; your projections last year were incorrect.

For this year, your projections are at level with what the revised estimates were, and I'm wondering if you have sufficient controls in place to keep your transportation costs down or to control medical evacuation decisions. This medical-travel centre initiative: is that going to save money?

We know that your department has had a 100 percent increase since 1999. A lot of it is due to transportation costs. That is something that we have to keep an eye on. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman: I'm sure they're doing their best to keep an eye on that figure, because sometimes we don't know when there is a medivac coming or going. It's beyond the control of the health department.

Some people have to go on medivacs and some people don't need to go, so it's really out of their department's control. It is as the need arises. Thank you. Do you want to answer that?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that you're talking about.... Yes, there were a lot of medivacs last year, and it is beyond our control. We cannot tell people not to be sick so that we can have more funding. It is beyond our control and we do have to have emergency medical services. With a lot of illnesses it is very very difficult, when viruses are spreading within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you have any further questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not disputing that we have to provide the best medical services that we can to our folks up here.

A lot of medivacs are authorized where the patient probably doesn't need to be medivaced, and the cost of an average medivac can range between \$12,000 to \$18,000. If you do that enough times.... That is why we're up to \$35 million and I think overall, Mr. Blais said the other day, \$71 million. That is a lot of medical travel. If it keeps increasing

at those exponential levels, in health, we're going to have a serious problem on our hands within a couple of years.

So, we have to find any way possible to keep the costs down, especially for travel. If that means that the nurses and doctors have to consult with each other to make sure that a medical evacuation is definitely required, then I think that's how you'll have to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Any responses?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my colleague for bringing these issues forward. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson, any further questions?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Compensation and benefits: could you outline for us what the difference is between an agency nurse and a regular nurse? What are the average costs for an agency nurse versus Nunavut having their own indeterminate nurses being placed in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will direct this question to Eric Whitworth.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is talking about a wide variety of analysis on the difference between indeterminate employees and agency nurses, and we have, I think, been fairly successful in the last six months to bring the costs of agency nurses down. In some cases there are certain agencies that the cost is very similar to our indeterminate nurses. Our goal, naturally, is to fill all of our vacancies so that we are not dependent on southern providers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Whitworth. Any more, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you give us a dollar figure? What is the difference? What would be the average cost to retain an agency nurse in Nunavut, versus a regular nurse, at one of the health centres? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In total, the average cost for an indeterminate nurse is approximately \$100,000 a year; for an agency cost, it is costing us approximately \$185,000. It was costing us approximately \$185,000 a year if you annualize our cost.

If you want to get specific on hourly rates, the hourly rates for an indeterminate is approximately \$50 an hour, with benefits, and an agency nurse on average is costing us somewhere around.... It is down now to an average of about \$70 an hour. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: "Qujannamiik." I should have been a doctor. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Nurses Association held a meeting here, and one of the things I read was that a lot of the nurses that come up to Nunavut are recruited but don't know the full benefits or effects that they will be working for. They do not know what environment they are going to be working in, and then, of course, it results in a high turnover. What is the department of health doing to address that kind of turnover? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the issue of retention, we are doing a lot of things currently. We just completed a three-day workshop several weeks ago where we have identified a number of areas where we think we can improve the kinds of things that you have mentioned. At the same time, we are looking at the retention side because our focus in Nunavut so far has been on recruitment. We have done a pretty good job on recruiting; we have not done a great job of retention.

So, our focus in the next year would be to pay attention to how we can improve the retention of nurses and other health professionals in the fields.

It stands to reason that the health and social services department, on its own, cannot achieve that objective. It requires the participation of communities, when people are coming into their communities. It requires the best support of hamlets or other organizations like the RCMP to ensure that we welcome staff into our communities. But also, when they are here, that we address their needs, that we provide the appropriate information about the communities that they are going into.

So, part of the movement that we have now: we have a retention and recruitment committee of 26 people. Half of the committee members are made up of front-line staff, that is nurses, social workers, x-ray technicians. Again, they are participating in trying to improve in those areas that were mentioned earlier, as well as trying to develop strategies to involve communities more in the retention aspect.

Last but not least, all the research that has been written over the last ten years for the case that it is really a community issue. Communities have to be involved in the retention of health professionals. I think this is where I think we have not done as great a job as maybe other provinces and territories. So, that is our focus for the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering, does the department have a formula that they use, or some mechanism to determine how many nurses should be in each community in Nunavut? For example, Cambridge Bay: should there be four nurses there at all times, or should there be six, based on population? Is there a formula that you guys utilize to help them make that decision? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware that there is a formula in Nunavut. I know that there are formulas for hospitals and for various parts of Canada. The basis on which we are operating currently, it has been historical more than anything else.

The funding formula, a formula for the ratio of health professionals, cannot only be based on nurses. It also depends on the staff mix, whatever professionals are in that community, social workers, mental-health workers, or psychiatric nurses.

So, funding formulas can only be achieved up to a certain goal, but you always have to consider the total compliment of health professionals within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If a community only has two nurses and one is on vacation or helping a patient on a medical evacuation, would there be a nurse that would come in and cover while those nurses are out of town? Is there a mechanism you use to apply? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mechanism normally that we have: we have some staff that are basically on call. We also have.... Again, we use a lot of agency nurses in two of the three regions currently, to the order of about \$6.5 million a year.

At this point in time, there is a minimum threshold that, typically, a health centre can operate at, regardless of the size. We use agency nurses that are currently the primary support structure for relief. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would there ever be a situation where a nursing centre, a health centre in a community would not have a nurse on duty? Do they ever occur? You are absolutely sure there are nurses there to treat the patients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think anyone could ever provide that kind of guarantee, regardless. The fact is that sometimes, when we do have outbreaks, and we have had serious outbreaks in many of our communities, we have come close to not being able to provide that service. I can recall a time this winter where we flew a charter from Winnipeg with nurses and doctors; they were not able to land twice.

We can see where that is a possibility, and I guess this would be something that would be unpredictable or unusual. For the most part, I think we tend to do very well. It is not something that I am aware has occurred since I have been here. We tend to be able to predict fairly accurately. But, in the event of a significant crisis, or anything of that nature in winter conditions, I would presume that would be a possibility, but that, again, is a hypothetical situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: "Qujannamiik." Mr Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: No more questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to address the Minister of Health and Social Services. I remember in Kugluktuk, in regards to medivacs, I remember one patient was supposed to arrive who did not have an escort. This person who did not have an escort had problems on his own. This person was on his own, and the spouse, who wanted to go on the medivac as an escort, wasn't approved.

I would think that the \$35 million is not too much when these patients, who request escorts, have to go. Why is it that some of these patients don't require escorts? The next day when it comes to paying the bills there should be some funds aside to use for escorts. I'm just helping out what Keith had to say.

Chairman (interpretation): If you could respond, Mr. Blais.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We feel very much for the patients who have to be sent out on emergency cases. But, there are different circumstances, and they do use different types of aircrafts.

So, there is a lot of factoring in there. The patient has to have a room, and very likely they don't have escorts to come with them because of a lack of room, or if the nurse is required to escort the patients. And if there was an approval for an individual to have an escort, then they would be flown out the next day, if they were approved by the nurse or by the medical professionals. It is taken by case by case and the different circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you. I appreciate your response. I think it could be very useful for you for the patients to have escorts, as I know the Lear Jets on the medivac do have rooms for escorts at times. That's all, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question regarding the social workers. They have a very heavy responsibility, and the minister is well aware of that. It seems today that they have taken on more additional responsibilities than they did 10 or 20 years ago. Usually they deal with social issues, family counselling, youth and underage offenders. They have a very heavy caseload that they have to deal with, and we are well aware of that.

In Rankin Inlet I heard an elder make a speech to hamlet council in regards to the concerns he or she had about young parents splitting up, and the children being taken into custody by social services. And, the concern that this elder had was that they were not using the elders as counsellors because, of course, it falls under the responsibility of the department of health's social workers.

I believe that you can use the elders as counsellors. If you look at the Department of Justice, for example, they have elders justice committees. Is it possible for the department to return the services of these elders and to use them as counsellors? We have to use the elders more, because they can help. We cannot just rely on the legislations, and the regulations, and lawyers, and so on. We cannot just focus on the southern techniques anymore.

We have to retain the services of the elders who are more than willing to provide the types of these services that will be required by your department. Are you receptive to that idea? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. That is a very excellent question, and it will definitely have to be considered by your department.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good comment made by the member because the elders are very helpful and they are very important. I think, as the Department of Health and Social Services we feel that the elders have to have a place in our department or any other department.

We have to consider it because the elders are being more utilized by some departments. So, we will look into it, and I will talk with my staff, and we will seriously think about the question that the member has.... Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I thank the minister for the comment, and I would like to... Because, the elders cry themselves when they are trying to help out the young children.

What we have to do is we have to try to give more love to the people that are hurt emotionally. We have to have Nunavut ideas implemented into the departments of the government. I know that this will be appreciated if we could start helping the elders or hiring elders to help out in some departments.

My question is that some children are adopted. They were too young, then they go out and get their child adopted. Is that the work of the social workers?

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is. We have people that are, when we are looking at adoptions, basically focused on that particular issue, and we have a director for adoptions as well, in the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, there was legislation that was... I think it was the adoption law that was just legislated a while ago. Is there... I think there is an adoption commissioner. I am not exactly sure how they operate. Are they appointed by the department, or how are they chosen?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Who wants to answer?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, I am sorry, I did not see the light. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I feel that is way off, because there was custom adoption in place.

I'm not quite sure how to respond to that because I'm not quite sure how the system works right now. Perhaps, if I could try to get the information for the member, and after I get some information I could have a better response.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy minister said that there is a director in place for... I heard a while ago that there is an adoptions commissioner in place, or a position in the community.

Are they working to comply with Inuit customs, and who appoints that commissioner, and how are they paid, too? Not just for myself, but for the rest of the members, and the public could get some information. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps my deputy could respond to that.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not very familiar with this particular area but I know that typically, there are 38 adoptions commissioners. Currently there are only 23 positions filled, and I believe they are working on filling the balance of that.

How they are appointed, or how they are paid, I can't provide a good answer to that in this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members have to get more information on the adoption commissioner and how they appoint him or her. The minister should be making a minister's statement on that.

Apparently, I heard that this individual was not paid. I can't divulge any names, but when there is an adoption, and the individual looks after this adoption, whether it might be one or two or three children, then they get paid per adoption.

If I was a commissioner of adoptions, I would try to get so many adoptions done. I don't think this payment system is adequate. I heard that the payment is very, very small, just like in a quota system.

I don't want it done that way. If you don't answer my question right now, it would be okay, but if you could make a minister's statement or get us more information from your officials.... The commissioner was the person that wrote to me personally. I think you understand what I'm talking about. So, please consider that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Would you like to respond to Mr. Curley's question?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get some more information on the adoption commissioner. As far as I know, the adoption commissioner, if she gets an adoption done, gets a \$100 payment for one adoption. I think there are nine in the Nunavut region that are adoption commissioners. I will get my deputy to elaborate on that.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Basically, it's correct what the minister has just stated, that we do have 23 custom adoptions commissioners in Nunavut. Currently there are nine appointments pending. They're paid for every custom adoption the commissioner completes. They're paid \$100 by the director of adoptions. The piece that I'm not aware of is who appoints

the commissioners. And, I guess this is a part of what we'll have to find out for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I would like to thank the deputy minister and the minister. But, I would like the government to consider if that individual, the adoptions commissioner, is paid only \$100 per, I think they should look at the salary again. Not to pay them sort of like a quota system, but the payment should be made in a different way. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The member is directing the department to look into that adoption commissioner. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I would like to ask two questions.

Last year, Health Canada did some work on the diabetes study. At this time there is no more money in this budget, but there was money for it last year in the amount of \$102,000. I suppose that they must know by now that there is something that should be done about it.

As far as I know, Health Canada did a study on this, and they went to the communities to consult them or to do surveys. Have they found out the information, or has the funding run out from Health Canada, or has the Nunavut government received \$102,000 at that time? Has the study been done already? Is that why there is no more funding for that? Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I'm not sure exactly what stage the funding is at right now. Perhaps I could respond by saying that I have to look into that information as to what the funding is going to be. As soon as I find the information, I can respond back to the member on the study of diabetes in the north.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a very important thing. They have to find out that there would be some assistance for the Inuit people that never had diabetes before, and there is a whole lot of them are starting to get diabetes. You hear about them every day.

The information that Health Canada did, we have to also read the information. So, I will await the response from the minister. If there are any reports on that study that was done on diabetes, perhaps if we can get the information as well.

My other question is on the same page. In regards to contaminants, there was some funding available to the health department for contaminants. It was \$100,000 in that contaminants program.

I know that there are a lot of contaminants in the north. When they identify those contaminants in the community, they have to send it out to make sure that it's not dangerous to your health. I think there was some funding last year for contaminants, and there is none left for the coming year. I wonder why that is. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Blais to respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: This was one-time funding we received from INAC last year. Like many of the funding that we do receive, it doesn't necessarily carry over from year to year. I guess this is one of these times when it hasn't done so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I would like to state again that if INAC only gives you a one-time, did you ask for more funding after that? After the funding ran out? I am sure that you will be seeking some money from them.

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

Mr. Blais: One thing I can say, Mr. Chairman, is that we've just finished the year as it relates to this area funding for the department, and I believe that the department is looking at submitting for additional resources for next year.

It takes a while for these types of projects to be confirmed, sometimes three to four months. So, at this point in time, I can say that the funding is finished for last year, but we can only hope that next year there will be some additional funding coming our way. We are working on that at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Alagalak. Thank you. I don't have any more names. Page H-11. Health and social service branch and treatment programs, and the total operation and maintenance is \$84,598,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you have any questions on H-12? Health and social service department summary. Detail of expenditures. Total, operations and maintenance: \$182,244,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree that this department is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank you, Minister Brown, and your officials. Thank you for coming. Do you have any further comments?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to say thank you very much, and I have learned a lot these past couple of weeks, and I will try my best to have a good working relationship with everybody. I appreciate my deputy, Mr. Bernie Blais. I appreciate them very much. And to my left, Eric Whitworth. I appreciate you very much. And also, Victor Tootoo, our assistant deputy minister, I would like to thank him as well.

I am very comfortable with my staff, and I will be learning from them, because I am representing Nunavummiut and I will do my best. Of course, this is very important to me because we have to have.... I cannot say we will be using less money because health issues are very important. Once again, I would like to thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for your patience. James Arreak, would you like to Chair for the Committee of the Whole for the next department. Do you agree?

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Do you want to proceed with community and government services. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): I would like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services to do his opening comments.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am delighted to be here today to address questions about the 2004-05 main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

(Interpretation ends.) Community and Government Services was created to better serve the needs of Nunavummiut, communities, and departments within the Government of Nunavut. We are building on the history and strengths of the two former departments. We have kept "Inuit Qaujimaqatigut" and the Inuit Employment Plan as strong considerations in the reorganization of the department and have protected jobs with no layoffs.

Community and Government Services has a budget of just under \$133 million and staff in six regional and decentralized offices, including Iqaluit. Their responsibilities impact the day-to-day activities of Nunavut communities and other departments within the Government of Nunavut.

Funding emphasis has been placed in those areas where the need is greatest. I am pleased to say that even in this time of financial restraint, the impact on programs and contributions has been minimal.

Community and Government Services is a one-stop-shop for many community government concerns. Our community support services include municipal transfer payments and developing community capacity through training programs for elected officials and municipal staff.

Communities are assisted with program and service delivery through monitoring and evaluations services. Community and Government Services is also responsible for consumer services and for planning and lands.

Our capital planning and technical services include planning, design, and management services for government projects carried out on behalf of communities and client departments.

We assist communities in identifying their long-term capital requirements, develop supporting infrastructure plans, and specifically technical standards for infrastructure. We also operate and maintain standards for the government's leased and owned facilities.

Community and Government Services has placed emphasis on protection services by bringing together the Office of the Fire Marshal, with the staff responsible for electrical and mechanical inspections of buildings, and the Emergency Measures Organization. Working with the regional offices, this division plays a vital role in assisting communities on safety and protection issues.

The Department of Community and Government Services provides various central services to other government departments, and we provide records management and central contracting, purchasing and property management services.

We develop, deliver, and support the information-technology infrastructure that enables the Government of Nunavut to deliver its programs over telephone and computer networks.

The Department of Community and Government Services also retains the responsibility for the Petroleum Products Division during the period of transition to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Petroleum Products Division acquires, transports, stores, and distributes petroleum products to those communities in Nunavut that are not serviced by the private sector.

We are faced with increasing challenges because of the rapidly increasing price of oil. While we currently have low prices in comparison to the rest of Canada, that can not last as we must buy our new supply at high prices. I will be working with my colleagues in cabinet to address the implications of higher oil prices on our communities.

The Department of Community and Government Services is faced with new challenges in the accomplishment of its mandate to serve departments and support social and economic opportunities in communities. These include increasing training for staff, supporting community empowerment, securing funding for more community infrastructure, and addressing related environmental issues. I would like to indicate, Mr. Chairman, I will be working cooperatively with other departments and other issues.

This concludes my opening remarks and I am now ready to respond to the committee's questions on the 2004-05 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to this table?

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (Interpretation ends.) Does the committee agree to bring the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-arms.

Mr. Minister, if you would introduce your officials, please.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right, I am sure you all know, on my left, I am sorry, Tom Rich. And, on my left, Mike Rafter, who will be here with me. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the Chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased at this time to be able to make opening comments as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development.

The committee has reviewed the 2004-05 main estimates and the business plan of the Department of Community and Government Services and has had the opportunity to meet with the minister in April. The committee of that department was created during the March 2004 reorganization of the Government of Nunavut.

Members noted that the revised “Nunavummi Nangminiqatunut Ikajuuti” policy came into effect on April 1, 2004. Members are concerned that greater efforts need to be made to ensure that trained and qualified beneficiaries are given the opportunity to work for southern construction companies on government construction contracts in their home communities. Members would like to see graduates of construction programs or apprentices given the opportunity to use their skills.

The standing committee was also concerned that increasingly stringent federal regulatory requirements concerning solid-waste disposal and sewage lagoons are putting financial pressures on communities. For example, it is just dumped on the communities to deal with these problems. The committee is concerned that hamlet councils are constantly being forced to do more with less.

Committee members are concerned that community empowerment initiatives are downloading responsibilities without ensuring that adequate resources are available for communities. Inadequate resources can lead to a general decrease in the municipality’s ability to deliver all services, for example, water delivery, at adequate levels and ultimately results in the hamlets’ financial difficulties.

The committee members urge the minister to use caution when devolving responsibilities to municipalities to ensure that the municipality has the resources and the capacity to fulfill added responsibilities. In addition, committee members would like to see a review of all current transfer agreements to ensure that adequate resources are being transferred.

Committee members were also concerned that contracts for important Government of Nunavut-funded infrastructure projects do not contain appropriate terms and conditions. If I said it in English, they have to have the appropriate terms and conditions in order to go ahead with the projects. Proper contracts are necessary to ensure that projects stay under specification, for example, here in Iqaluit, that they are completed in a timely manner and stay within the budget. Those were some of the comments that were made by members. Committee members urge the minister to ensure that all contracts have clear terms and conditions related to liability if projects are not completed as required. We would like to see projects completed to full-term.

The committee also noted that several municipalities are in debt and that the minister has appointed municipal supervisors in more than one community in Nunavut. The committee members also urge the department to be more vigilant with respect to municipal finances to ensure that budget problems are caught and addressed in a timely manner.

And again, in addition, members are encouraging the department to continue working towards new municipal operating assistance program and water and sewage subsidy formulas.

Committee members are also concerned that the current financial system being used by municipal governments is overly complex and outdated. They are outdated, and we have

to upgrade the system that is being currently used by the municipal governments. Committee members also urge the minister to review the systems with a goal of simplifying the reporting process. They have to make sure that it is simpler at the community level.

Members are pleased that the minister remains committed to increasing training opportunities for municipal employees. Members also appreciate the efforts made by the Municipal Training Organization to provide information on the organization's activities. The committee also encourages the minister to continue working with his colleagues and other parties to ensure municipal employees continue to receive training.

Members noted that there has been a decrease in funding for protection services, for example, the fire department. Members are concerned that detailed inspections of Government of Nunavut-owned and -leased buildings are not being undertaken on a regularly scheduled basis.

In light of the recent recommendations contained in English in the Nunavut Fire Protection Strategy and the fire marshal's report on the Joamie School fire investigation, committee members were concerned that the contributions for fire training and fire equipment has not increased.

Members were also concerned that sealift providers are not treating consumer goods with respect and the shipments are being damaged through contact with salt water.

In 2003-04, the Nunavut government split a chain of product delivery into two contracts, one for dry goods and one for petroleum products. Committee members look forward to receiving detailed information on the cost savings to the Government of Nunavut.

The committee noted with concern that the Petroleum Products Division did not transfer to the Qulliq Energy Corporation on the scheduled date of April 1, 2004. The department has budgeted \$500,000 to complete the transfer. It is not clear what this money will be used for. Members are concerned that the division will not be held to a higher level of accountability after the transfer is completed. Members look forward to discussing the issue of transparency and accountability, in detail, with the ministers responsible for energy related issues.

Members noted that there is an opportunity for fuel sales to exploration companies operating near communities. Members urge the department to ensure that hamlets are able to take advantage of this demand by having adequate supplies of fuel available in the communities.

Committee members recognize that there are many aspects to the cost of reorganizing the department and look forward to receiving a detailed breakdown of those costs.

That concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following: according to rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to rule 37(2), subject to discussion of Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member has spoken. I suggest to members that, wherever possible, you ask the detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, to the minister and Tom Rich. I'm glad I have dealt with these fellows before in my other capacity. I am glad to see that they are working hard on behalf of the communities of Nunavut.

I didn't want to add too much to our chairman's comments. He covered everything pretty well, but I wanted to mention that being a mayor, being a councillor in a community of Nunavut is very privileged and important job, because you are elected by the people to help them with their day-to-day issues and problems. And, I have already said, as the community goes, so goes all of your life in the community.

So, if your water is not being delivered, sewer is not being picked up, garbage is not being picked up, there are loose dogs, you hear about it pretty fast. Mayors, or councillors, and their staff are always on the frontlines, 24-hours a day sometimes, and most of the people are ordinary folks, they are not full-time politicians. I used to refer to them as elected volunteers.

You have to have mayors and councillors who are willing to step forward in there and represent the people. But, I see a trend developing in Nunavut, maybe right across the north, that when we have elections every year, December, there seem to be fewer and fewer people willing to step forward to run as mayor, deputy mayor, or councillors.

Fifteen years ago if you had four vacancies on a council, you had 19 people running. There is quite a bit of interest, but nowadays there seems to be a decreasing interest. People have to be appointed, some people win by acclamations, and I think a lot of it is attributable to the fact that it is becoming more and more difficult to run a hamlet here.

You are dealing with 6- to 8-million-dollar annual budgets. You get all of the issues that you have to deal with every day, you know health, wellness, public works, housing. Everybody turns to the hamlet council for help, then maybe on top of all of that most folks have their regular jobs to deal with and their families.

So, people are taking all of that into account and some of them are starting to say, we just want to have a normal life. I am not sure how we can help those people to change their minds about getting more involved in municipal politics, because it is very difficult for people. The Chairman mentioned about all of these issues that we came up with. These are the things that people take into account when they decide whether to run for

municipal politics. Many of us around this table have been councillors or mayors over the years. So, it is a tough job.

So, I would just like to close on those comments, that we keep that in mind that we are trying to help those ordinary folks in the communities who are just trying to make communities a better place to live in, and their staff who are also living in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a few comments in regards to the hamlet operations. First of all, I would like to say, things in smaller communities.... The new technology is being utilized more and more in the smaller communities. But looking at the truck fill-stations in some communities, the technology is too old. They should be looked at by the department. There is more and more new vehicles or there is old vehicles that we have in the communities, but we do not have any maintenance people to look after those vehicles. Those things should be looked at by the department as well and look at the new technologies the other communities are using.

And the hamlet councils have problems, as they have a conflict whereby they are hamlet employees and at the same time they are involved in the hamlet council, because a lot of people are starting to shy away from trying to get elected as a hamlet councillor.

That is the problem that we have in smaller communities. The same people have to do the same job as a hamlet employee and as a councillor.

I know that there is a lot more services that are not provided as larger communities. When you come into Grise Fiord, you could see the dump site right away, and it does not look very good because it is right by the airport. Those types of things should be relocated.

Community empowerment is very slow because of the lack of office space in some smaller communities. Especially, land administration have not much support. There should be some more training for the positions of land administrators also in the smaller communities.

The municipalities make money when they deliver services such as water and sewage. Some hamlets are beginning to realize that they have to get more help in training. That is my final comment, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have very many comments to make, but the hamlets in the communities.... There is not enough services in some communities. I have been involved as a hamlet councillor and the funding is always inadequate to run the municipality or the hamlets.

The people in the communities, or the hamlet employees, should be taught how to use heavy equipment. I think there is a lot of people in the communities that could be trained to operate heavy equipment so they could be hired by the hamlet councils.

I feel that their licences expire, and then the heavy equipment that they have to use is not adequate to the licensing that they carry. There should be more training for that, and it is very expensive.

The thing that surprised me in Sanikiluaq last winter.... I am not blaming the minister, but the people of Sanikiluaq had some concern about emergency situations, because it is operated from headquarters here in Iqaluit. They have to phone Iqaluit. They tried calling to Iqaluit, but they were diverted to the Kivalliq region during an emergency situation, and it should not happen that way.

We were worried about those people that were out on the land, because they were too young. During emergency situations we should have an emergency number where we could get a hold of someone right away and not be diverted to another region to get assistance during an emergency situation. There should be better communication from the department to the hamlets. I know that communication has to be improved.

In regards to the community halls in the communities, these community hall facilities are getting outdated. We have always requested that we would like to have some physical activities and we are always looking for good athletes to represent our communities. So, that way the facilities should keep up with the wish of the department to improve the athletic abilities of our young people. I'll use an example from Sanikiluaq. Today, the community hall is closed because it is inadequate. The department should go to communities and look at all those facilities. I'm pretty sure the department does not realize that our community hall has been closed because it is not in a safe condition.

I do not have any more comments, but I wanted to let the department to know the concerns of my riding. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you for seeing me right away, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have a few comments to make to Mr. Kilabuk. You are going to have a lot of work to do this year, Mr. Kilabuk, and I do believe that you will try your best and the same with your deputies.

I would like to make a few comments that.... The only way that we work things out is within the hamlets, especially when there is not enough funding available and when you don't know who to try to get funding from. We know that our government has set funding, for example, for sewage and water delivery. It is very difficult in the communities, when we look at the funding that we receive. It is difficult to try to get more funding for the sewage and water services when they are going dead, and it gets

very difficult to try to run the municipal affairs in the communities when there is not enough funding. Like I said, it is very difficult to know where we can get more funding for the hamlets.

I feel that we should receive more funding to ensure that in the future, communities are run properly. Also, their debts have to be forgiven. On many occasions in the hamlets, we had to make cuts every year because we do not get enough funding.

In your department, the responsibilities that you have.... The hamlet homes and the garages were built 20 years ago, and they are aging. We have to keep them from freezing all the time, and this is the way it is right now. I feel that we should start getting new equipment for the hamlet. It gets difficult to maintain it when it is aging. A lot of it should be dumped, and they are costing more money when the equipment is getting old. I feel that we should get more funding to maintain the equipment that we have in the hamlets. A lot of times we run out of funding and we have old equipment that we have to work with.

Much of the infrastructure within the communities, which falls under the responsibility of the territorial government, is aging and under-repaired. As a result, buildings have to be closed down, like the fire marshal's office. Right now a lot of the aging equipment is not good.

I do have a concern about this; I will be speaking on this, especially for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and the staff has to prepare for this.

I will be speaking on this issue when the time comes because we need better maintenance within the communities. We do not currently have enough and we are constantly trying to save money as we have to use predictions. We all know that we must not spend too much money, and we are talking about millions. That is a lot of money. It is very difficult to try to run our affairs properly when there is not really anything in place. Thank you, Chairman, I will be speaking on this issue again. Thank you.

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

Mr. Evygotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I also want to thank Minister Kilabuk. I am pleased that you have the responsibility for community and government services.

Our problems and concerns are along the same lines of other communities in regards to the hamlet vehicles, the water and sewer trucks.

One, they are not brand new, or are not efficient to use anymore and they become a problem. During the month of April when we started coming for meetings, in my community there was a problem where the residents did not have water for three days because of the vehicles that broken down. You are probably aware that when there is a lack of water at a residence they no longer have the luxury of washing or drinking water.

So, in that case, some of the residents had to go and fetch ice for drinking water. When the vehicles have aged, it is a problem where you have maintenance repairs. It would be nice to have that funding to repair those vehicles.

As well, for the water pump, it has been a problem, as you are probably aware, In the past, we had problems with the water pump. Our past MLA, Donald Haviyok, had also mentioned this in the past. As we know, the water pump is still being repaired constantly. As we all know, water delivery is crucial for residents to use for things like washing, and drinking water, and what-have-you.

And as well, during the summer our roads get very dusty. That is a health hazard for the residents because you breath in the dust and it is not safe for especially the older people, our elders.

Perhaps the community of Kugluktuk could fix that. I would raise an area or concern in that regard. Those are my concerns from the community of Kugluktuk, and I appreciate you listening to our concerns. I will have questions later. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I do not have any names left. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do have concerns in Rankin Inlet as well. I would like to say thank you, that you met with the mayor and the secretary.

I feel that I will be asking questions like.... A lot of equipment, especially the sewage system, has to be repaired. Now that we have one department, one minister will be responsible.

In Rankin Inlet the municipal services make their money by what, a water utilidor system from public works. Public works was responsible for this and they made revenue through there, and that will be my concern as we make closure.

I feel the communities should start planning. For example, it was exactly the same thing, that the public works looked after this through the Nunavut government in the town of Iqaluit. It is a tax community. In Rankin Inlet we do have two sets of revenues from water and sewage, and the utilidor was looked after by public works. It was looked after by three government departments.

I feel that I wanted to mention that this is not just a complaint. The petroleum products is delayed right now and feel that we will be talking.... We did not finish this in the committee. As an ordinary member that.... There are petroleum products that are delivered to Rankin Inlet. They do not want to move from there. There are over ten people that were working for the Petroleum Products Division. I know that Baker Lake is also decentralized, and the question that I have....

When there is not enough funding the petroleum was working okay. It was just revolving. Right now we are going to move it to a Crown corporation so that they have to make revenues, because we cannot just keep on getting loans. How are we going to return the monies? They have to put the price up, that is the only way that they can make revenues. That is my understanding.

You will be responsible for this for another year. I feel that there should be a review that there is going to \$500,000. Also, it is not itemized in the committee reports. I feel that we should look at this right away because the Crown corporation has to make money. I know that they are going to be selling to the Power Corporation. There were five ministers within the different departments. I feel that we should be cautious. Will it be okay to approve the \$500,000?

These are all the comments that I have for now, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I don't have any other names on the list. We can then move on to page J-5. Is there anyone with questions on J-5? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had brought these questions up earlier on the reorganization of the department. What is going to be happening with the titles, first of all? That is my first question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have forgotten about the other assistant deputy minister, Shawn Maley. He will be in charge for technical services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Curley, any further questions on page J-5? If there are no further questions. (Interpretation ends.) Branch summary. Directorate. Total, operations and maintenance: \$8,176,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We will move on to J-7, or I am sorry, J-6, J-8 and J-9 and J-10. Any questions? Community support. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under community support, I have a question on Page J-7. There used to be an emergency fund for the hamlets. There was one last year, and it has been taken out from the budget altogether. But, I believe that there has to be a contingency fund set aside for the hamlets, and I would like to tell your department to seriously consider reinstating that pot of money. The reason why is that there are unexpected expenditures. I feel that in this coming year, we have to make sure that there is funds available to be used for safety-related issues.

And, usually what we see now is contaminants in the building materials or on the sites where they are proposing to build houses. Usually, we see contaminated materials, or spilled oil, on the proposed lots. Usually, when that happens the hamlets have to have emergency funds and use their own equipment to have the studies done and to clean up the lot.

Could the minister tell us if there is an emergency pot of money made available, or is there a contingency fund that the hamlets can access to do those types of work?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There used to be \$130,000 in 2003-04. 2004-05 will no longer have that pot of money. We never depleted that pot of money that was made available to the hamlets; usually, that money was used for other purposes. After we have taken it out of the budget, we just increased the amount of the monies that are made available to the hamlets.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is the case, have you informed the hamlets that there is money available for emergency purposes? Are you going to be giving additional dollars to the hamlets if they should acquire expenditures for these purposes? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Since it is no longer in the budget, and if I use an example of an emergency case for unexpected expenditures.... They are now under the responsibility of the regional offices. Again, under the regional offices there are funds set aside for such purposes. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I have a question under J-7, "Senior citizens' and disabled persons' grants." In Coral Harbour, we have more than one senior who pays property taxes and who is a homeowner. They are senior citizens and they have limited incomes. They have a hard time paying for the operations and maintenance for their houses and taxes. How do the senior citizens access these monies, and for what purpose? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. Under the senior citizens' and disabled persons' grants, they were to provide property taxes for residents of Iqaluit. But, people outside Iqaluit can access these monies to be used for these types of purposes. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you very much for the information. I will inform those senior citizens in my community that there is accessible money. Thank you, I will leave it at that.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I have a question that is related to Mr. Alagalak's comments. In 1972 we had an emergency situation, and we had the same problem this year. I think that there will be hamlet councils who will want additional dollars to deal with emergency situations.

This winter, with no money set aside.... From what I heard, there might be some monies available for these purposes. My question is, then, would the hamlets be able to access dollars for emergency cases?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. If I understood your question correctly, we will only deal with the capital projects once we go into the capital estimates. If you would like my officials to respond, they are available. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): I don't think you understood my question. Would the hamlets be able to access additional dollars for emergency cases? For example, snow removal. I'm not talking about the snow removing material, I'm talking about removal of the snow, from the community boundaries to outside.

We know that there has been a lot of snow this year. You have to clear up the snow in order to maintain the roads properly, you have to remove the snow in order to avoid potholes and drainage ditches. The hamlets thought that they would be able to access funds for snow removal and road maintenance. Thank you, Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to let my colleague know that for snow removal there are monies available to the hamlets. We will have discussions one-on-one and get into the details. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I wasn't expecting that at this very moment. But, going to "Community support" on page J-6; my question is in relation to land use.

There has to be ongoing training and development opportunities for community planning lands. There was one project that couldn't be completed, in the building of the five-plex unit that was being built, because it was outside of the property boundary. The lands officers have to zone the lots accordingly prior to giving building permits to whoever is going to be developing the lot.

With that, is it possible for the lands officers to be given ongoing training? The reason why I'm saying is that: there are land leases, and they have to be assigned to the companies because they are going to be using it to deliver lever funds from the banks. And the land officers have to know how to deal with the legal documents, the property transfers, and so on.

I believe that the lands officers should get ongoing training because it doesn't only relate to land use; it also involves banks, and everything else. I think we have to take a holistic approach to teaching the land officers. Do you have anything planned?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. You have less than two minutes to respond to that question, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was talking about the MTO, the Municipal Training Organization, and I'm pleased to make an announcement that training has been initiated and it is going to be on an ongoing basis.

We have covered most of the concerns that were outlined regards to training municipal employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister, and I would also like to thank your officials. At this time I would like to recognize the clock and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your officials.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the orders of the day. Item 21. Reports of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you, 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 agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Seconder? The Premier. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Orders of the day. Item 22. Item 23, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Friday May 28.

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

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): This House stands adjourned until Friday, May 28, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*Session adjourned at 17:57*

