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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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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, May 31, 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, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Let us pray.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Item 3. Ministers' statements. Mr. Simailak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 034 – 2(1): Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation has recently announced that they have secured the financing that they need to ensure that by March 2005 each and every community in Nunavut will have direct access to high speed Internet services.

This will provide an important stimulus to economic development across Nunavut and, in particular, to the economy of each of our communities. Broadband will put local business in a much better, comprehensive position, helping them to improve customer service and to access a world-wide market.

In today's economy, the Internet is an essential tool. For years, we have been told that high speed Internet services were too expensive for most of our communities, that there was no way for us to travel on the information highway. The Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation has changed all that.

Mr. Speaker, three years ago, the Nunavut Broadband task force was launched. The recommendations of the task force included the creation, outside government, of the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation. By using a non-governmental organization to pursue the goal of high speed Internet services for all our communities, funding was obtained from the federal government, the Inuit organizations and the private sector, building on the support the organization received from the Government of

Nunavut. The result today will be a \$9 million dollar state-of-the-art wireless broadband distribution network for Nunavut.

I know the members of this House will want to join me in congratulating the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation on the extraordinary success they have reported in their recent announcement. High speed Internet will be here for everyone in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Ministers' statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 035 – 2(1): Nunavut Housing Corporation Program Information

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to confirm my commitment to improved communication and to inform members of this House of the ongoing promotional and educational activities that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is providing at the community level regarding its homeownership programs.

For several years now, homeowners have been visiting our local housing organization offices to ask for information about our homeowner programs. I am glad to say and report that we are increasing our communication efforts to make absolutely sure that homeowners and potential homeowners know as much as possible about the many programs available to them.

Over the next few weeks, information and training on all of our programs will be provided to all of our local housing organizations in communities where the Housing Corporation does not have an office..

Nunavummiut who have questions about homeownership will be able to visit their local housing organizations and receive brochures, application forms, and speak to a LHO employee or call the district office to discuss their homeownership concerns.

In the communities of Arviat, Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset and Iqaluit, homeowners are encouraged to come into the corporation's district and headquarters offices to discuss their homeownership questions and concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statements 036 – 2(1): Graduation of Students from Nunavut Arctic College Programs

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And welcome. I rise today as the minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College to recognize the achievements of students graduating from college programs across the territory. In recent weeks, graduations have been held at the regional campuses in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay, where students received certificates, diplomas, and degrees from a variety of programs. In addition, ceremonies have been held in several communities to acknowledge the success of students graduating from programs offered in these communities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the member, Mr. Mapsalak, for inviting us to go out to Naujaat on the weekend, where we had an opportunity to give out some certificates in Kugaaruk for graduating students from the college.

The graduates include our first two graduates with degrees from the nursing program and the very successful graduation held in Sanikiluaq of seven students with their Bachelor of Education Degrees from the NTEP Program. I was very pleased to join with the Premier and the MLA for Sanikiluaq in the community to celebrate and witness the graduation.

Developing a highly skilled workforce is the key to economic development in our territory. Nunavut Arctic College has been working closely with various partners, such as the Department of Education, regional Inuit organizations and the Municipal Training Organization to offer programs that will provide the skilled workers needed here in Nunavut. I am pleased to say that enrollment in college programs is at its highest level in five years.

I would like to ask my colleagues in the Legislature to join me in recognizing the achievements of our students at Nunavut Arctic College who have successfully completed their program of studies this year. For many, this will be turning point in their lives as they enter the workforce, or continue on to further their education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Ministers' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 037 – 2(1): Minister Absent from the House

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise the House that Minister Tapardjuk will be absent from the House today and will be back tomorrow. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going onto Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 128 – 2(1): 24 Graduates in Arviat

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Arviat Qitiqut High School graduates. There were 21 graduates on Saturday. The number of graduates has increased and I am very proud of the fact that they have worked very hard and I am very pleased that we are the second in Nunavut with the highest graduates. Where in Iqaluit there were 24 graduates, we were in second place with the highest number of graduates.

Everybody enjoyed the graduation ceremonies. The DEA chair, Bob Leonard, and the principles and the teachers, I would like to send them my gratitude because they are very, very good at talking to the students and giving support to the students. That's why the number of graduates had increased.

And also, I would like to recognize four of my grandchildren who will be entering grade 11, high school. They have gone to school non-stop, and also four other students, they will be entering high school this coming fall and I would like to recognize them. Hi, Arviarmiut, if you are watching, I'm very pleased today, and everybody is smiling here, and I'm very pleased with you and the rest of my colleagues.

Also the kindergarten teachers, I would like to thank all the teachers for their very, very, capable hands and for encouraging the students. They weren't just there. They were there to give support and encourage the students. So, I'm very thankful for that. And also I encourage the students to go back to school so that they could complete their school.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to make my statement.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 129 – 2(1): Recognition of Haleena Workman

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also I apologize to Cape Dorset residents for not being able to come to the community for the graduation ceremonies.

I rise today to recognize this individual behind me, Haleena Workman from Cape Dorset. She also was one of the people who won something from CLEY for volunteering. Haleena has worked very hard and also she has won with soccer in the two communities. She is very outgoing and is a leader of the soccer team from my constituency, and I

would like to thank her. Also, it is evident that she is going to be a role model for the young people, to encourage and to promote activities in a positive way.

This afternoon, during our break, I invite you to recognize her in the Nanuq Board Room and present some things to Haleena and her mother, Oleesa Workman. So, I would like to welcome you to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Member's Statement 130 – 2(1): Repulse Bay - Recognition

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell the House about the very successful weekend we had in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk.

I was very pleased to be able to host a visit, this past weekend, to my constituency from the Premier and a number of his ministers.

The communities of Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk often feel ignored and neglected. They are both non-decentralized communities that have not shared in the growth enjoyed by other communities since 1999. Our needs in the areas of housing, job creation, and education are great. I was pleased that the Premier and his colleagues found the time to see for themselves the challenges in my communities.

(Interpretation ends.) During their visit meetings took place with the hamlet council, the housing association, elders' groups, and youth. These meetings were productive, and I appreciated the government's commitment to find ways to address our needs.

A very positive event also took place this past weekend in Kugaaruk. Seven students graduated from programs at the Nunavut Arctic College learning centre. I want to congratulate Joyce Nartok, Margaret Nirlungayuk, Joyce Uyarrai, Angus Inaksajak, Philippe Alakannuark, Eli Qayutinnuaq.

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker: The member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his statement. Any objections? There are no nays. Mr. Mapsalak, go ahead.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Seven students graduated from programs at the Nunavut Arctic College learning centre. I want to congratulate Joyce Nartok, Margaret Nirlungayuk, Joyce Uyarrai, Angus Inaksajak, Philippe Alakannuark, Eli Qayutinnuaq and Adam Krejunark on their accomplishments.

I would like to conclude by thanking Premier Okalik, Minister Picco, Minister Tapardjuk, and Minister Simailak for taking the time to come to the communities and listen to the people whom I represent in Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. “Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.”

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 131 – 2(1): Birthday Greetings to Lynn Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because my daughter Lynn Kilabuk is having a birthday today. I would like to extend my best wishes to my son Joseph and my daughter Jenna, they are the youngest ones. Yes, we do have our children that are in our home communities and also Kevin, I would like to say hello to my children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. I think we are feeling the same way. Members' statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 132 – 2(1): Fisheries in Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to thank my two daughters, Eden and Teah for putting up with me this weekend. We went out camping and one machine broke down. So, thank goodness for their little Bravo; it pulled through, but it took us very long to get here though. We made it. I am back here today, so that is a good thing.

Today I would like to rise regarding fisheries in Nunavut. The Nunavut Economic Development Strategy stated that fisheries are one of the main opportunities for economic development of our territory. The industry has many challenges facing it.

The Department of Environment has announced that it is developing a Nunavut Fishing Strategy. This document cannot come too soon. Mr. Speaker. Nunavut must develop the infrastructure to take advantage of increasing quotas in the waters adjacent to our territory. News reports indicate that the Baffin Fisheries Coalition has been struggling over the past few months. This is a real concern; they have been an effective lobbying voice in Ottawa in the past.

Last week, I posed several questions to the Minister of Environment regarding options for fishery-related economic development. I believe that there are many ways to capitalize from this industry and one of those options would be to force offshore trawlers fishing in our waters to unload their catch in Nunavut.

This would require investment in infrastructure, including the construction of a deep-sea port. I know that they've done a feasibility study for a deep-sea port in Kimmirut and also

on Bathurst Inlet, but a deep-sea port in Iqaluit would also have many benefits. MrI strongly urge the minister to conduct a feasibility study into the construction of a deep-sea port in Iqaluit as part of the Nunavut Fisheries Strategy. Also, I'm aware that any infrastructure initiative would require a collaborative effort on the part of the ministers of Environment, Community and Government Services, and Economic Development and Transportation along with their federal counterparts.

I would urge the ministers to work to increase the opportunities for fisheries development in Nunavut and later on, at the appropriate time, I'll look forward to asking the minister responsible some questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' statements, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 133 – 2(1): Cambridge Bay Graduates

Mr. Peterson: "Koana, Uqaqti." I rise today to tell the House about an important event that occurred in Cambridge Bay this past Saturday, on May 29.

Members of this House spent several days in the Committee of the Whole last week reviewing the Department of Education's main estimates. During our debate, several members talked about how we could encourage our youth to stay in school and graduate from grade 12. The debate got a bit heated as the politicians talked about how to help our students so they could afford an education. I believe that we only want what is best for all our young people.

I am very honoured that I can stand before you today and tell you about a significant milestone that fourteen high school students in my constituency achieved this weekend. Two days ago these young people attended their grade 12 graduation in front of their parents, elders, families, friends, and other folks in Cambridge Bay.

I know many of these young people personally and I know how hard they worked to reach their special day. A woman in my riding told me that there were many tears of joy on Saturday.

I would like the House to join me in congratulating the following young people: Jason Akoluk (Bathurst Inlet), Buddy Bachellier, Quentin Crockatt, Derek Ehaloak Allison Evetaligak, Clarissa Koblogina, Jack Kupeana, Nicolas Larabie, Neal Mala, Colleen Novoligak, Tamara Ohokannoak, Ashlee Otokiak, Justin Peters, Nicole Wilcox. These kids are role models for the younger kids in our schools.

Ashlee Otokiak stands as a testimony to overcoming adversity in the face of hardship. He has been blind since birth. The special needs teachers who taught him deserve a lot of credit.

Finally, we must recognize the many dedicated and committed teachers who taught these kids, and their parents and family members who supported and encouraged them to stay in school. They gave them one of the most valuable tools that we can give a young person in Nunavut: a sound education that they can use to get a job, go to college or university, or get into a technical or trades school. “Koana, Uqaqti.”

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Member’s statements. Going on to item number 4, Returns to oral questions. Mr. Simailak.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 016 – 2(1): Ikuma II Report and Hidden Subsidies

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is in response to a question by Hunter Tootoo on May 13 regarding *Ikuma II* and hidden subsidies.

In response to the member’s question, I’m pleased to provide the following information. Officials of the Qudlliq Energy Corporation have undertaken a thorough review of its billings and have determined once again that there are no hidden subsidies within the Qulliq Energy Corporation and Nunavut Power. Nunavut Power administers customer subsidy programs for which all costs are approved by the Legislative Assembly.

Currently, Nunavut Power administers customer subsidy programs funded through the Department of Finance’s Power Subsidy Program, with an appropriation of \$5 million on page C-10 of the 2004-05 main estimates. And the Nunavut Housing Corporation appropriation of \$95.1 million on page L-4 of the 2004-05 main estimates. On the affordable house program with a contribution of \$63.7 million on L-11 of the 2004-05 main estimates. The \$63.7 million includes the power subsidy of \$9.8 million for local housing organizations.

Examination of the costs of fuel and subsidies are part of the work going on now regarding the transfer of the Petroleum Products Division to the Qulliq Energy Corporation. The Department of Community and Government Services is working with the Department of Finance and QEC to undertake a full financial analysis on costs associated with fuel services under the new structure. The detailed answer cannot be given until the analysis is completed.

The *Ikuma II* report recommended the creation of an affordable energy fund and the financial procedures to enable an annual appropriation to fund this initiative through the main estimates process. The general rate application that will be undertaken by Nunavut Power will take this funding requirement into consideration to ensure that it is adequately funded. It would be inappropriate to prejudge what the funding level may be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Simailak.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to oral questions asked by Mr. Barnabas on May 19, 2004 regarding the status of the five-year capital plan's docking facilities. In response to the member's question, I am pleased to provide the following information.

Currently the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans funds all marine facilities in Nunavut, including breakwaters. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is currently in discussions with DFO's small-craft harbour representatives in an effort to secure new funding to develop marine facilities throughout Nunavut.

We have not yet secured any new funding arrangements with DFO. However, my department is planning a community visit this summer to discuss the long-term marine facilities needs in Resolute and Grise Fiord. The results of this visit and the securing of new funding from DFO will help to develop Nunavut's five-year capital plan for marine facilities and the placement of Resolute and Grise Fiord within this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Simailak.

Return to Oral Question 091 – 2(1): Clyde River Breakwater

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last one. To reply to the question asked by Mr. Arreak on May 25, 2004 regarding the Clyde River breakwater. In response to the member's question I am pleased to provide the following information.

Currently, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans funds all marine facilities in Nunavut, including breakwaters. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is currently in discussions with DFO's small-craft harbour representatives in an effort to secure new funding to develop marine facilities throughout Nunavut.

We have not yet secured any new funding arrangement from DFO. Once funding is approved and made available by the federal government, it will take two years to build this facility. The projected timeline for this project is to start 2005-06 to 2006-07. And, the projected cost of the project is \$2 million.

The fish habitats study will be carried out this summer in our efforts to speed up this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister Simailak. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Minister Akesuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I would like to recognize the mother and daughter, Haleena and her mother, Oleesa Workman. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Moving on to Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 141 – 2(1): Update on Fisheries in Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As promised, my question is for the minister responsible for environment and fisheries.

Before I start asking my questions, make a note, I did forget to mention one of these reports that there are already in Nanisivik... . A deep sea port is there right now and my colleague was quick to remind me that I forgot it. Sorry about that.

My question to the minister today is, can the minister tell me exactly when his department's fisheries strategy will be unveiled and tabled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for environment, Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we are doing a report on the fisheries. The framework of what we are going to be doing is being written at this time.

So, we have been considering and reviewing what we are going to do on this matter and we will be tabling a report this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: "Qujannamiik." Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also, as I mentioned earlier in my statement, I am just wondering if the minister would commit to part of that or separate from that, to doing a feasibility study to look at the options of whether a construction of a deep-sea port here in Iqaluit or not would be beneficial to support that industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: "Qujannamiik." Mr. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A deep-sea port in Iqaluit will be very helpful for the people of Nunavut, the fisheries in Nunavut. I will be working with the minister from the federal government to see whether we can build or to do a study such as that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate his willingness to work with his federal counterpart on seeing whether that is something that could be done or not.

But, surely that is something that we do not need someone from Ottawa to tell us whether we can do it or not. With the other options that are out there that we are looking at... . We need to look at all of the options and look at what is going to end up being most beneficial for Nunavut.

So, again, I would just like to ask the minister for a commitment, whether it would be part of this strategy or independently, that a feasibility study be done for a deep-sea port here in Iqaluit by this government, not by the federal government, whether or not that would be a beneficial option to look at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think before we really commit anything to a deep-sea port here in Iqaluit, I think we should also look at other have-not communities that might benefit from the dock that would be seasonal or all year.

So, I think it is important to let other communities that are out there in Nunavut... . Also, I have got to work with our transportation minister from our government to make sure that we have a feasible and workable dock that would work in Nunavut. I believe it would also have to come from the federal ministers in Ottawa to come up with more money to make sure that we have enough money to build a dock that would help us out economically in Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Final Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not saying to ignore have-not communities or anything like that. I think what we need to do in order to make the best decision possible is know what our options are and make a decision based on that.

But, if the option of having a port here is not even looked at, we would not know if it would have been more beneficial to do it here or not. If it is, I do not know if it will be or not, but if it is, then it makes much more sense to do it like that. If that is the case with that, then maybe other things can be looked at for the other options that are there, but we need to make an informed decision. I think the only way to do that is have the information on all of the options that are available for us.

So, again, I would like to ask the minister if he could commit to doing that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will commit. We will have a fishing strategy by the fall and we will have more information on in which of the communities it would be more beneficial. Not just one community, we should look at other different communities that would benefit from any docks available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: “Qujannamiik,” Minister Akesuk. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 142 – 2(1): Hamlet Office Move to Old Nursing Station

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services... . We heard from Rankin Inlet that the hamlet office is very small and inadequate.

Also, the nursing station will not be utilized this coming fall in Rankin Inlet. I wonder if the minister would have made a decision if the office could be moved to the old nursing station.

Speaker: “Qujannamiik,” Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member knows that I met with the mayor and the hamlet council of Rankin Inlet. Just before we find out whether we are going to be moving the offices to the old nursing station, what we wanted to find out first of all was whether it would be appropriate or adequate or the best way that they can, or whether it would be cheaper to move their office from the existing hamlet office to the old nursing station.

So, what we are going to do is review it first and find out whether it would be the cheapest or the most adequate to do so.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to also ask a supplementary to the minister. I know that it would be a lot more expensive if we were to build a new office for the hamlet of Rankin Inlet. As it stands, office space is becoming extremely cramped.

At the present time, I think they are expecting from the minister for him to make a decision because of the population has been growing in Rankin Inlet and there is going to be a regional hospital there.

I would like to tell the minister that he should be a leader in the decision and talk with the Minister of Health and Social Services and try to get the hamlet council and the office to be moved to the old nursing station.

Speaker: “Qujannamiik,” Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify to the member that when I met with the hamlet council and the mayor that I would be in a position to agree with their move. But, I would have to meet with the executive council to move them to the old nursing station, but I will have to meet with the ministers or the executive council. I have told the mayor and the hamlet council that we will look into this and get back to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Any more Mr. Curley? Mr. Barnabas.

Question 143 – 2(1): Fuel Delivery Contract – Tujjaat Co-op

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the same minister responsible for the Department of Community and Government Services. I think it has been about a year-and-a-half, the co-op is very concerned in Resolute Bay in regards to the fuel delivery contract. I have received some letters in that regard.

So, as the Member for the High Arctic, I would like to find out how the government have followed their policies by giving companies contracts.

On April 30, I wrote a letter to the minister concerning contracts for fuel delivery, but I have not had any letters from the minister’s department. I would like to ask the minister when he will be responding to the letter that I wrote him in April. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the letter has not been mailed out, I will give it to the member this week. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder what the department is going to be using when they are doing a study or a review in regards to the concerns of the Tudjaat Co-op.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will get the correspondence that I have and before the member leaves, I will look at the concerns of the Co-op from Tudjaat, and I will get back to the member.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for wanting to give me the information, but in the letter they have requested that they would like to get some information whether the Tudjaat Co-op will be receiving the contract.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to argue with the member, but I would like to assure the member that when we look at the requests by Tudjaat Co-op, I will be consulting him about it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be meeting with the minister, but we have a request in the letter: is there going to be any changes made to the fuel delivery contract; after the PPD has moved to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, will there be any changes?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not directly related to the member's question, when I was at the witness table, I stated that the business plans of my department are being reviewed and this was part of the review process. So, whenever the business plans are done, then we will know what is happening.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Question 144 – 2(1): Oil Tank Update

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the minister responsible for community and government services and public works. I am aware and have seen an oil tank that was not completed here in Iqaluit. The tank that was going to be built at that time has not been touched again, or has not been worked on. It has cost a lot of money.

Whenever there is construction equipment that comes in to the community, and the building material that comes into the communities, they have to start... . The contractors had to work again.

I'd like to ask a question: what stage is the government at in completing that oil tank, or whether there is going to be some construction started again this summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have to do is review what has happened at the time and I will ask my staff or consult with my staff and reply or to answer the member's question. So, I will be giving him the report on what has happened to date.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's evident that they have utilized some money from the GN funds. I would really like to hear, and I'm very interested in, a bit of information on how it had proceeded in the past. I'm sure that you'll probably need to get additional funds to deal with this issue.

I would like to hear about this information as soon as possible because our summer construction season is very short and if you had any plans or expectations as to when you'll be completing this. I know that we will be very interested in hearing about this project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is possible on one of their stays when I appear before the committee, I'm sure there will be some more information available to you at that time in regards to the fuel tank. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

Question 145 – 2(1): Umingmaktok House Repairs

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Housing Corporation.

Recently I was in Umingmaktok. It is not a centralized community, but it is a community and it's in my riding. When I was down there, the folks were telling me that they haven't had their houses upgraded for several years.

They need their houses levelled. For example, if you put a ball down on the floor, the ball rolls downwards. So, I wanted to ask the minister if he would commit his department to go into Umingmaktok this summer and to levelling the houses and providing the folks with some new stoves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister for Housing Corporation, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to be corrected. But, Mr. Speaker, I believe that is an application for a project that we would be more than willing to visit with my colleague.

So, I would almost turn that question around and probably seek applications to for us to determine specifically what kind work is needed for those units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if the minister understood my question. The houses that are in Umingmaktok were put there several years ago by the government and I'm not sure if the folks, I'm not even sure the Housing Corporation is laying claim to ownership, but they were put there by the government.

There are 20 folks living down there. They need their houses upgraded and repaired and they've asked me to ask the minister if the Housing Corporation would go in there and level and upgrade and repair the houses this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess in that case, the best response suitable for me is to approach my colleague responsible for outpost camps and see how best we can deal with this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: "Qujannamiik," Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure the folks in Umingmaktok would want to hear the minister consider that their community is an outpost camp. It is a community, there are people down there, they are living in houses, they have an airstrip, it has fuel tanks, it has a store, a health facility. I am not sure if you could call it or consider it an outpost camp, but they would like to have their houses repaired this summer and I hope the minister could commit his department to doing that this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: "Qujannamiik," Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned my colleague's department in an effort to assure my colleague that I am willing to work on this file, to see how we can best meet the needs of the Bathurst Inlet residents regarding their houses.

But, I will commit to contacting Bathurst Inlet residents, and to see what kind of work is required for the units. I will commit to forwarding this information to my colleague once it is available. Thank you.

Speaker: "Qujannamiik," Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson, your final question.

Mr. Peterson: I would like to clarify that it is not Bathurst Inlet, it is Umingmaktok. Bathurst Inlet is a community; I am not sure if there are any housing corporation houses down there, but Umingmaktok does. I am certain they are prepared....

I am hoping that the minister is saying that he is committing himself to undertaking these repairs, these vital repairs this summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: “Qujannamiik,” Mr. Peterson. I know you have been here for a long time and have been doing this. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, I switched the two communities. Yes, I will look into that to find out what kind of solutions we will find and I will inform the member.

Speaker: “Qujannamiik,” Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 146 – 2(1): Gravel Needed in Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister for transportation.

First of all, let me make a preamble on Repulse Bay. He had gone to Repulse Bay and I am sure he noticed that there is hardly any room for units and there is no more gravel. Yes, we are literally running out of gravel in Repulse Bay.

So, this is why I would like to ask the minister, will the minister commit to looking into obtaining gravel? We need some other alternative because units will be built there in Repulse Bay. So, will the minister commit, as soon as possible, to look into ways we can give support to the gravel?

Speaker: “Qujannamiik,” Mr. Mapsalak. Minister for transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I did see that in Repulse Bay. The staff of the hamlet council approached me to talk about this, and I also let my officials know about it and they are now dealing with this as we speak.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank the minister for his response. Yes, this is an urgent case. The only gravel that was crushed was for the Government of Nunavut, and they do not want to relinquish it, and the community is in dire need because every time they build a lot, they are very expensive.

So, my question is: When do you expect to complete the discussion with your officials to get this going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you. I will let my officials know about this this morning and that this is an urgent case, and they have to discuss this matter with the municipality. Also, we are treating this as a priority, and my colleague from Community and Government Services will also be involved. We are dealing with this as a priority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Oral questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 147 – 2(1): Broken Heavy Equipment

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my constituency, I am sure there will be some concerns arising, so I would like to ask the minister ahead of time. Has the Minister of Community and Government Services heard that the lots, I think that there are only four lots there, and the heavy equipment we have over there is broken. I would like to know if the minister is aware of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to advise my colleague that I have not heard about this. If there was correspondence about it, I have not received the correspondence yet. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand the minister to say that once he finds out about this, would he be willing to work with me on this issue? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, if you relay your concerns, yes, we can look into that. Thank you.

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

Question 148 – 2(1): Cost of Billing Error

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for energy and the Nunavut Power Corporation. In the last week, I have had some constituents tell me that their power bills remain as confusing as ever. As you know, last week I asked the minister if rates have gone up, because people were saying that it looked like their bills have gotten higher.

One constituent took his bill to the office and asked why it was higher than it had been in the past. It appeared after looking at it closely with officials from the corporation that the Power Corporation had been incorrectly applying a subsidy to the base charge on everybody's bill. And they only caught it when they switched to their new billing system.

My question for the minister is... I am just wondering if the minister has any idea how much this error has cost the corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time that I have heard of that, so unfortunately I have to take that question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The minister has taken it as notice, so we will move along. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Curley.

Question 149 – 2(1): Sensitivity Training

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In support of my colleague's question, I have heard that one of my constituents has owed \$700. I want further information about that.

I do want to tell the minister responsible for Nunavut Power Corporation that the staff were starting to be worried about employee relations. Perhaps you should speak with your colleague, the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth on cultural orientation, because right now there is a lot of unhappiness going on between the beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. I have heard that in Qamanittuaq, the finance comptroller resigned, and it seems like they were very good workers. I would like you to look into this to see if they can have a sensitivity training program. If you could look into that. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will treat this as a high priority, and this doesn't need to be happening. Yes, I will treat this as a high priority urgent case. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister for dealing with this. I don't want to mention names. I would just like to tell you that this needs to be rectified.

And also I would like to thank NPC. Many of us Inuit who are linesmen from Keewatin region during this past extremely cold winter were travelling to Igloolik and other communities to work on the lines. They are very good workers, and I believe that they

can have a better working relationship, and I would like to get a report after you discuss this. I'm urging the workers not to quit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes, as I stated, I will take this as one of my first priorities. We do have a lot of trained linemen. There was a youth who won a pole-top climbing competition involving Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. This individual was from Rankin Inlet. We are very proud of our Inuit staff.

I will come back to you. I'll take that as notice.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 150 – 2(1): Details of Explanation of Power Bills

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

Talking about the bills that have come out and how there is a new format and that... I'd just like to ask the minister if the bills that we get as consumers in the future will clearly explain how much the power is costing, how much is being subsidized, where there is a clear breakdown on the bill so that people will be able to easily identify how much they are paying and how much is being subsidized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Yes, I will commit to making sure that all of that information is very clear on the new power bills in English, French, and Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going on with the bills, continuing with bills.

Is there a month in which there is going to be an item on there that's going to show how much the fuel rider and the subsidy for that, apparently in the works, is on the bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, all of that information should be available, once the budget is approved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister indicating then that the requirement for putting this subsidy on is going to depend on whether or not the fuel rider on the bill is approved in the House? Is that when the minister is going to start? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Finance tells me yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister is getting much clearer direction from the finance minister than from the former minister. Clear and concise.

My question, then, is once the budget is approved, the Department of Finance's budget is approved, is that when the minister will be forwarding the request for the fuel stabilization rider to the Utility Rate Review Council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: "Qujannamiik," Mr. Tootoo. That was your final supplementary. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: The fuel stabilization, I am told, does not have to go to the Utility Rate Review Council. "Ma'na, Uqaqti."

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

Question 151 – 2(1): Community Airport Radio Station Program

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the airports, especially in the High Arctic, in Resolute Bay, they go to take training to work in the airport in the weather stations, and they have to go for a number of months, to move to Fort Smith, to train.

I would like to ask the Minister of Education if the CARS program is going to be brought to Nunavut from the west. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, when we are training at CAR stations, those that work at CAR stations will be coming to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure me of when this is going to happen, that the Nunavummiut will go to Nunavut to train? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot say that right now. We are negotiating with Nav Canada right now on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 152 – 2(1): Update on Ministers' Meeting in Toronto

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister of health. The minister of health and the Minister of Finance went to Toronto over the weekend to attend a two-day meeting with Canada's health and finance ministers.

I am wondering if the minister of health could tell us what was accomplished at the meeting that will be a good help to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is correct. We just came back from Toronto. All of the ministers from Canada had a meeting there and also some of the finance ministers were part of that as well. We talked about the funding that is going to be used for health and social services.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the minister could tell us if they have learned any possible solutions that would help us keep our healthcare costs down in Nunavut, prevent it from doubling or tripling over the next two, three, five years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We mostly talked about funding, that we want to get more money every year, that we are still negotiating, and also, we will meet again at the end of July. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the minister of health could tell us if we will be getting a copy of the report of the committee so we could review it,

read it, learn what was discussed, what the recommendations were, and possibly provide some feedback for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will look into this. I will look into the report that you are seeking. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Mr. Peterson, are you finished? Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 153 – 2(1): Kuugaaruk and Repulse Bay in Need of Teachers

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I am asking is for the Minister of Education. I would like to thank you for coming on the tour to my communities. We heard a lot of concerns about education in Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay.

We do have similar concerns regarding education, especially that they need more teachers. Also, if they get new teachers, there is a lot of housing needed.

I talked about this in the past and right now there are a lot of students that are just in the hallway, in the library, and in the science rooms, that they have to use all these rooms because of the lack of space.

The question I have for the Minister of Education... I would like to get your input on how you felt about what you heard. Even though there is nothing in the five-year capital plan, can you do this as your first priority, especially for Kugaaruk and Repulse Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. The Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I have to appreciate the member for inviting me, along with some of the other ministers, to have an opportunity to go to Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk. I think it is an eye opener for many of the members to be able to travel to other members' communities and see some of the concerns, indeed, to see some of the huge issues that are present all over Nunavut, issues like terminal buildings, airports, lack of infrastructure, and in this case, the housing situation.

In 1996-97, when the GNWT sold off the staff housing... I believe that was a bad move and it has put the Government of Nunavut today in a bad situation, that we have not been able to replace some of that housing stock. The situation with staff housing for teachers, especially in this is quite extreme. Indeed, in the communities that were just mentioned, as well as Whale Cove, and in your community, Mr. Speaker, Chesterfield Inlet, there are concerns about staff housing for teachers. It is something that we are trying to address

right now with the minister for housing. That is, hopefully, something that we will be able to do very soon.

We are cognizant of the fact there are issues around sealift in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have heard this, I am sure, that there was a letter from my community that legally there is a number of students that a teacher can have. Right now the students are doubling and there are no staff houses. Right now, the only way that they can get teachers are those not qualified to teach because there is no staff housing available for the teachers.

The only way, like I said, is that we can only get teachers who are not trained to be teachers because there is lack of housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier just reminded me of the many times, like Mr. Tootoo, I was standing up in the assembly in Yellowknife and complaining to the former housing minister at that time about selling off staff housing, and presented petitions, and so on and so forth, and the government went ahead and did it. Mr. Premier just reminded me how seven years ago I was right, that that was a bad mistake and he said that... . Anyway, I will not go into that.

In all seriousness, the issue around staff housing, as I said earlier, is one that we have put in; the housing stock has not been rolled over. The government has tried to put long-term leases in place for different housing units to secure housing for teachers. But the member has been talking about how as our student population has risen in the communities, we need more teachers, and in this case, you need to bring in teachers because we do not have qualified people at the community level.

The issue is, we have some communities where two and three teachers are living together and we have had to, in some cases, try to hire teaching couples, a husband and a wife, for example, who are teachers to work in the community because of the shortage of housing.

I would hope to have some kind of a position in the next two weeks with our friends at the Housing Corporation to see what we can do to expedite the situation. We are trying to ascertain in each of the communities: are these units available; can we get a long-term lease; if not, what could we do to facilitate the housing for the teaching staff? Of course, that is in the communities in general for the Government of Nunavut. That is the question.

I do not have that answer right now, but it is something that we are working on and indeed, we are trying to do it in an expeditious matter. If our friends in 1996 and 1997... .

I stated today that maybe we would not be in this situation that we are now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to hear from the Minister of Education saying that he would be dealing with, on an emergency basis, the concerns of my constituents.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had just indicated, I believe there are at least six communities in Nunavut right now who have a situation in regards to teachers' housing.

As the member knows, and the members of the House know, our schools and classrooms are between May 1 and June 26. So, on an urgent basis, we need to be able to recruit teachers to begin school again in some communities around the first week, and in other communities, after Labour Day.

So, it is on an urgent basis that we are trying to find the housing for the member's communities and for some of the other communities that have a situation regarding proper housing for our teaching staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 154 – 2(1): Consider Leasing Heavy Equipment

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the Minister of Community and Government Services. It is in regards to.... I know that the minister thinks about this, such as those small capital items like heavy equipment, is lacking in the communities.

It is also the case in my community and it is going to be quite a ways away to get some water with the water truck in my community. I think the department is able to.... Not having the municipality buying it, I think if it was put through a competitive process, they can purchase a lease to pay for an equipment instead of buying the heavy equipment or the equipment for the community service. I wonder if the minister could consider lease-to-purchase.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question that the member is posing is very appropriate at this time because I met with the councillors and the mayor when I was in Rankin Inlet, and I know there is a lot of aging machinery in each community that is used for services in the communities. But, I talked to his constituents and what I asked him was to look into which equipment they would like to get first as a priority, to see how best way they could purchase their equipment.

I would like to talk with my cabinet colleagues before I make a commitment to that.

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

Question 155 – 2(1): Auditor General’s Recommendations

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance; it has been a while since she had a question. I’ll ask her a question.

One of the issues that was raised in the Auditor General’s report concerns the quality of documents that go before this House for approval.

For a number of years now, I’ve also been pushing the government to start including information concerning actual expenditures in the budget documents so that all MLAs will have a much clearer picture of where our dollars have been spent.

The Government of Nunavut’s response to this concern is that it will implement the changes as soon it is practical. And I would just like to ask the minister if she has any indication on when these changes will be made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The same question was raised in the House last week, I believe it was Member Peterson, and the response I had provided at that time was the department is exploring different mechanisms of reporting finances to the House. And, in the Auditor General’s report, on page 19, we talked about exploring accrual-based accounting of reporting expenditures to this House.

At the same time, we are also trying to address the reporting on a timely basis of public account reports. The last few years, we have been very consistent in putting those forward to the House in May. And of course, all members know that those reports are due in the House by December or the first sitting days.

So, there are a number of issues. We’re looking at trying to address that, and I had mentioned at that time as well that it takes time. We had just established a free-balance

system and what-have-you and then we have to look at and explore the best way to report to the House on our finances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm aware that question was asked, but there was no indication given as to when. So, I would just like to ask the minister, do they expect it next year, a year from now, two years from now, three years from now? When do they expect to have that review, so that we can be able to see the actual information and costs on that budget document? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to, in this fiscal year, and implementation will occur soon after that. But, we have to look at what options we have and the best reporting mechanisms that we can develop for our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that finally, hopefully next year, we'll be able to see some actual numbers in the main estimates. Another question relating to the main estimates, and I know I asked the ministers on how the budgets themselves, or the numbers in there, are developed, and they're based on targets over the last number of years to get their base to go from.

But just on that again, I think it is an inaccurate reflection of what a department might need. I'm just wondering if, for the whole budgeting process to be able to provide more clarity to what a department actually needs, if the government would look at going to something like a zero-base budgeting approach to developing their budgets, as opposed to just targets from the past that may, you know... . So many formulas that don't work and how things are, where the departments have an opportunity to show what they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said before, we'll look at options for best reporting to the House. You know, the main estimates are developed based on targets and what we can actually afford. We always need more money, we know that, we are short funding for health, we are short funding for infrastructure development, housing, what-have-you. Within the dollars that we do have, we try and allocate that based on the needs and priorities across the departments.

Just to go back, we are looking at what options we have for reporting our finances to the House. We are looking at working on that for this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Tootoo. Final supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister if she would be willing to provide to this House a list of actual expenditures by department, by month, and show where money is being spent and when. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to look at that. That would be like providing monthly variance reports to the House. I don't know if that has been the practice in the past. It would require some consideration to finance staff, along with the other departments, so I will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 156 – 2(1): Problem with the Utilidor System in Resolute Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I went to Resolute Bay, and as a member of the previous Legislature, I have been working for quite some time in regards to the utilidor system in Resolute Bay. They have had a lot of problems with the utilidor system because the summers are not very long. What they do is patchwork construction on it.

I would like to ask the Minister of Community and Government Services what has been done to date on the problem with the utilidor system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his question. I know he has been working on it for quite some time, as well as the previous member for Resolute Bay. In regards to the utilidor system, just in the winter of 2003 we had emergency funding of \$225,000 to repair that utilidor system. I am happy to say today, Mr. Speaker, that for the three years coming, there is a three-year plan in place to repair the utilidor system.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sewage is being spilled into the ocean. Would there be something that could be done to make sure that it is diverted away from the ocean?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify to the member... First of all, the three-year construction phase for the utilidor system in

Resolute Bay, what we in place, first of all is, in the three year plan that I was talking about. We will be getting some funding from Canada Strategic Infrastructure Funding, from the federal government, as well as the Nunavut government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the work for that be put out for tender?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The additional work will be tendered this year. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Going back to orders of the day. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Mr. Peterson.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 026 – 2(1): Preparing for Resource Development

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table this document that was prepared by the Kitikmeot Inuit Association for the Northern Land Ministers' Conference in May 2003. The document is entitled: *Preparing for Resource Development*.

I especially would like to draw attention to the recommendations to include training local people in advance, with that being a partnership approach including all levels of government and resource developers, aboriginal groups, and other stakeholders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: “Qujannamiik,” Mr. Peterson. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 027 – 2(1): National Diamond Strategy: An Industry Response

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to table this document entitled *The National Diamond Strategy: An Industry Response*; it was prepared by the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Chamber of Mines, the Mining Association of Canada, and the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada. It contains a lot of good information about Canada's diamond industry, an industry in Nunavut that will play an important role in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: “Qujannamiik,” Mr. Peterson. Item 13. Item 14. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters.

Bill 2 – Appropriation (O&M) Act, 2004-05. Mr. Arreak will be chairing the Committee of the Whole and we will have a 10-minute break.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:00 and resumed at 15:28*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak) (interpretation): The committee will come to order. For the Committee of the Whole, we have Bill 2 to deal with. What is the wish of the committee? We shall continue with the 2004 and 2005 main estimates for Community and Government Services. Are we agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I will ask Mr. Kilabuk and his officials to go to the witness table. Mr. Kilabuk, can you please introduce your officials for the record.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my deputy minister, Tom Rich. And to my right, Mike Rafter will also be here with me today.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Please turn to page J-11 of the 2004-05 main estimates. Any questions on this page? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Please list my name down. Thank you. I hope you had a good rest during the weekend. We were just about to finish this department, but there is now two, since the Petroleum Products and Energy responsibilities are spread out in other departments, and I believe that one department should be able to respond and be accountable to that.

When Nunavut government was going to take on the corporation, they had no plan whether it is going to be a better investment, and that is what is going to be my concern. You stated as the minister that you would start working on the plan, and we do appreciate that, but once you start dealing with this issue next year or this coming fall, we expect to see some plans, carefully laid out plans.

The concern that I have at this point is the transfer, because we are going to be using an extra \$500,000 as a contribution, just for the transfer. If there was going to be no transfer, it would not have cost us \$500,000. In regards to revolving funds for the fuel that were sold, they had \$86 million in revenue and their expenses were overspent.

So, then they were left with a \$400,000 deficit. (Interpretation ends.) Out of Northwest Territories, this was a million. More right now. (Interpretation.) For that reason, how are you going to make it into a good investment?

It seems like the staff is not going to be downsized, but the expenses were higher than last year's and the report has not been tabled yet. Those are in your projections, this \$400,000 deficit, for 04-05, on page J-17.

For that reason, I just want to tell you, will the overhead be too expensive to transfer all of the Petroleum Products and it becomes part of a Crown corporation? Yes, they do need to make money. So, I would like you to make a few elaborations on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to my colleague's concern, yes, they are understandable and we have been following the previous system that was being used, so I understand his concern.

The directions for transfer, I am sorry, I will have to find my right page. Mr. Chairman, for the transfer of Petroleum Products into Qulliq Energy Corporation, in regards to my colleague's concern, we will work and keep the members informed. We have plans to make sure that is better than the previous system and I will have those things looked into for the expenditures and others.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to ask a question again. I know that leads to J-17. In the projections, they do not go over, thinking that, I wanted to get clarified, the Department of Finance is also responsible for part of the fuel, that is \$10 million, the fuel stabilization rider. I'm sure it is not within the department's but it is to purchase fuel, to make the fuel prices stabilize. At that time the Power Corporation was transferred, and I'm sure your officials will be assisting, perhaps when we go to the Department of Finance, this \$10 million dollars, is it a subsidy?

And we asked the question and that question in the Auditor General's report in 2000, the fuel stabilization rider, and it has to be levelled back through the power range. I'm sure some of the members have been asking about this issue. When it becomes a subsidy, will we be able to see it in the power bills? And how long will the subsidy program run for?

So, you don't necessarily need to respond to those questions. I'll leave it at that and thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, my colleague's comments are well taken and, yes, various departments are responsible for fuel on stabilization riders and I will work with the appropriate ministers.

I, too, would like to have clearer plans. And we'll work on what we have heard today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to get further clarification. We will just do a bit of a preamble. In Montreal and Toronto, the price of fuel today is 96 cents per litre and for 2004-05 the price of fuel, I'm sure, is going to have an impact on issues for Nunavut. And also it will have an impact on transportation.

So, I would like to get clarification. Does the government have any plans for this? Or, do you have any plans to subsidize the increase of fuel? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have mentioned before, because we have been reviewing the fuel increases, it has been very difficult to keep up, especially within the last few months. It has been very difficult to keep up with fuel prices. The price went way over what we had expected.

Yes, we're keeping a very close eye on it, we're monitoring it very closely. The communities, we're looking for ways how we can subsidize the community user.

His question... . It is an appropriate time to ask the question because today, my federal colleagues in Canada had a teleconference in regards to the increasing fuel prices. We have all agreed that we'll have to work together and look for assistance and discussions are still ongoing.

We can't really identify how much increase there will be in fuel, but we know how much it cost last fall, before the delivery of the fuel, and the estimates we used were from last year's expenditures. And these are just estimates. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I have no more names. We are under Community and Government Services. Operations and maintenance. \$35,879,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Go onto the next page. G-13. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would like to thank the minister and his officials for appearing here, and also part of this is search and rescue. All of the communities do have search and rescue and we have to search by land and water when there is an emergency.

The question that I would like to ask... . I would like to know if there is going to be privatization or through another agency. Search and rescue met in Rankin Inlet last year. What is the status? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Up to today, the status is still the same. There have not been any privatizations or any transfers. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): When they met last year, emergency search and rescue organizations, I think that that is what they are called... They are a non-profit group. They wanted to privatize this, and I would like you to humour me on this. We know it is very, very difficult when we have to search. Even like the military at times, we are going to use military aircraft. They use it here in the Baffin region when they come to Iqaluit, when they are going to be searching. It seems some of the communities do not use military aircraft.

Is it the same in all of the regions and the communities?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have experienced it myself. For example, the communities, when it is too difficult and they cannot do it by themselves, and if they do need an aircraft, that they go to an outside community. When this has to happen, we go down south to get a Hercules to do search and rescue.

Since I have been the minister I have never experienced that yet; it just goes to major communities. I have experienced that it's when there is an emergency, they go through the military or the RCMP. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. That department is not here. It has happened several times when someone is lost in the Kivalliq for a number of days, and the search and rescue aircraft was here for seven years. I know that I have witnessed the aircraft coming here more than once.

There are a number of issues that can make this work better and also the reports that we received, it is with the, to make sure that they are all followed up. Last year we went on local radio stations, certain rescuers and rangers were 185 miles out of Rankin Inlet and told to return during a blizzard. We told them not to move, the two officers did not listen to the Inuit and they were separated from each other and got lost. I am sure Levinia recalls, it was just before Christmas. They were temporarily left behind, the two officers. However, when they were found by the Inuit, a Hercules was sent right away from Churchill. This does not happen for Inuit.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that the search is run in different ways. I have do not recall anyone, however, asking for an aircraft, and I have never heard that they were refused. Like when the Hercules is searching elsewhere, and this is where it differs, I have not heard any refusal to search. Yes, we work closely with the RCMP and also our military, our armed forces.

Yes, definitely, I will look at this again if there are concerns that everybody be treated equally when there has to be a search and rescue done. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I will ask another question later.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question under J-13 on contract services. There has been a \$200,000 reduction from there. What is that?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a minute. Sorry, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the contract services, that is true. There was a reduction, 56 percent, \$251,000. The \$200,000 is that it is a lot easier that they go to the community base, community assets protection program, and also the \$57,000 was removed from there as well. There was not enough funding at the time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have a question that I would like to ask to Mr. Minister Kilabuk, on search and rescue. It is really important to the communities, such as when someone has to be searched and there is not enough funding most of the time. In our community we do have a body that does search and rescues. Like I stated, they would like more funding for training purposes for the search and rescue.

Last year, since they are associations, and when they are all new that they really do not follow all the procedures. Since we are looking G-13, there is funding available for fire training. Also the search and rescuers should have training in search and rescue, especially the mobilization. We have to make sure that we know what we have to bring and what we have to do. They should be written down so that everybody could learn from them. Also, they could get another community that is in a stable condition in their search and rescue to train other groups.

Mr. Minister, I would like to know that if there is any funding available for training for the future, for the days coming, if you can tell me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my colleague, since I have been the minister of this department, we have made a new policy for search and rescues. They do have upfront money as well, and we will be giving them funding annually. This is how we began this and this will be continuing.

Also, when there is an emergency, we do get funding from the federal government. We do get pretty close to \$150,000 that goes to different communities in preparation for search and rescue and for emergency cases. Also, they do receive their funding through the regional offices. Right now we are working on it in two ways.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the issue of search and rescue outside of Nunavut, we know that they do have a lot of problems in other communities, that they would like to get more help from the surrounding communities. When there has to be a search and rescue done, we know that in the past that we have heard that the Canadian Coast Guard, if they are asked to help the local community, search and rescue would stop and the other ones would take over, the Canadian Coast Guard.

I hear this is what happens, that is, when you ask for the Canadian Coast Guard to come, the local search and rescues has to stop right there and let the Canadian Coast Guard take over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The search and rescue in Nunavut communities, whenever their numbers get very small we would have to call from other communities that are ready or trained to do search and rescue.

I have seen my community and other communities work together, but we have to understand that the operations... . The way of operating has to be understood. We usually call in for a search and rescue plane. Even if they can't land in that small community, they are able to search for people that are lost and we can use those search planes and then the search rescue works along with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattak.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand the minister's response, but sometimes they don't have guidelines, they sometimes don't have a guideline and they don't really have the knowledge of the surrounding community. And, we can direct them to where they can search for those individuals, but because they don't know the area, our communities, or our land, it is usually very hard for them.

That was just a comment, but in my constituency, I would like to say a few words, as I've said before in this House, that the hamlet were, or the search and rescue operated from Iqaluit region... . But, now it is based in Kivalliq region. I just wanted to find out why that is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct and the member voiced his concern to me and the agreement was that his community is being represented as one of the Baffin communities. So, they will continue to use Iqaluit as a base.

And again, Mr. Chairman, what we do is, we have the search and rescue working together when they are searching for someone that is lost, and what they use is the RCMP and the Coast Guard when there is someone who cannot be found.

So, what we do is, as I said, they have to work with communities' search and rescue groups. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the Canadian Coast Guard, if they have a rule, set a rule when they are going to be searching for someone that is lost, perhaps their law or their guideline says that they have to, perhaps the Nunavut government has to work with the Canadian Coast Guard. It is very, very hard to try to search for someone who is lost and not knowing where they are going to be, if you don't know the community and the surrounding areas to begin with.

So, for that reason, the Government of Nunavut and the Canadian Coastguard will have to work together to have a plan in place. There should be an agreement between the Nunavut government and the Canadian Coastguard in order for them to search for people that are lost in a proper way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I do not think that is a question. Mr. Minister, do you have a comment?

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to remind the members that when we are talking about the Coastguard and the RCMP, they are starting to have the knowledge of our communities and the surroundings.

And, I would like to say that we really appreciate them and we have asked for their assistance previously, and sometimes we ask them for their assistance in order to look for somebody who is lost out on the land or in the city and we will remember to consult with the community.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a question, I am a little confused here on J-14 and J-13, on protective services and the grants and contributions that show the total of last year's budget amount, revised amount, and this year's budget amount at \$99,000.

In the main estimates under "Fire, training and equipment," it is showing \$99,000 this year and \$224,000 last year. I am just wondering if I could get a clarification on which numbers are accurate: the numbers from the business plan or the numbers from the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mike Rafter to explain to the member. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Rafter.

Mr. Rafter: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the business plan, there is a fumbling under the previous fiscal year with \$125,000 of the contract services. So, the \$125,000 and the \$99,000 is the total you see: \$224,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel a little better now. It is a good explanation for it. I just wanted to make sure. Mr. Chairman, I guess under this area under "Fire, training and equipment" and the fire marshal's office, and I just note under here, it has an increase in compensation and benefits.

However, there is a decrease of two PYs for that division, and I am just wondering if I could get an explanation on why the increase with the reduction of two PYs, and which PYs have been taken out of the division. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I could get my deputy minister to respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: The difference in the compensation and benefits reflects the fact that the former department of Community Government and Transportation has historically underfunded positions. So, the full salary dollars were not properly reflected in the budget.

So, this year what we did was in fact readjust to that, so that it properly reflected the budget amounts needed for the position, and I am going to have to double check on

which positions that was because I do not remember exactly off the top of my head which two positions that was.

So, okay, I have it now. It was the arctic operations officer position, which was unfilled and another Nunavut emergency measures officer position, which was also unfilled, and those positions, which have historically been unfilled in the department, were also not fully funded in the department, and as a result, they were eliminated from the organizational charts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My mistake, it was three positions that were missing out of there. It was 22 last year, under “Protective services,” and only 19 this year. I wonder what the other one was. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am informed the other position was one that was called security and protection services. Again, it was another unfilled position for which there was not a whole bunch of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given some of the recent goings on, the results of the fire marshal’s report, and some of the other things that have been going on, I am just wondering if those things were the duties and responsibilities of those positions that were supposed to be functioning. Who is doing that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would advise that it is the same staff that have always done it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had those three unfilled positions that had duties and responsibilities, especially the last one that you mentioned, the inspections and stuff like that. Whose shoulders does that fall on to make sure that that work gets done? What I am saying is, what position, who does that work if those positions aren’t there to do it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don’t really have a full understanding of it, so I will get Mr. Rich to respond to the question.

Chairman: Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of the reason for the reorganization that was done in the Department of Protective Services was to pull together what was the fire marshal's office and the emergency measures office in old Community Government and Transportation, with the inspection services office in Public Works. One of the advantages that it gives us by pulling it together is more people who are able to do the critical inspection services and workload services.

The projections on the number of staff in the old department were based on assumptions on what salary dollars would be available. When those were not available and had historically not been available, we decided to make the choice of accurately in fact what positions were funded. There certainly is, and can be a need for additional services. On the other hand, we have increased the number of inspections over the past year by working more closely. Again, prior to the combination of the department with Public Works, we have also done it by putting an emphasis on the regional offices of more services.

We have increased the fire inspection services in particular by funding, and finally filling the second position in Baffin; the Baffin region was particularly underserved. They had about 45 percent of the population on the hamlet, but the same amount of fire staff as the other regions. They now have an additional fire staff position in that filled position in that region, which they historically did not have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just going through the whole inspections and that. I remember, I am pretty sure it was on the radio last year, last summer, when the fire was going on at Joamie School, when the school burnt, and we had lost the school. One of the comments I understand that the fire marshal made was he was unable to go do those inspections because he did not have a travel budget to do so.

I am just wondering how you know looking at the budget here, it was budgeted at \$588,000 last year and it is only \$557,000 this year. I am just wondering how you were able to assist him to be able to do his job and carry out those inspections, if there was a reduction the budgeted dollars to do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a correction for that, the travel from south to the north has been adjusted and there has been a reduction from travel from south to the north.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the fire marshal have more funds at his disposal to do more inspections in the north, which he is required to do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as a matter of fact, now with the setup that we've got, with the important persons, other inspectors now under one department, we should be able to accommodate and better meet the needs out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another area I guess falls under this is training for the fire fighters in the communities throughout Nunavut. Who does the training for the fire fighters? Is it the fire marshal and the assistant fire marshal that provide the training for the fire fighters? Do they contract out those services to outside groups to provide that training? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact, we have two new training programs that are being offered through the Municipal Training Organization, and one of the first fire projects that was just done here in Iqaluit had close to 25 participants. And that went very well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just asked, who actually delivered that training? And when was that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I attended the graduation I was led to believe that there was good number of participants that took part in forming and combining the resources to be able to complete that program, but I'm just going to ask Mr. Rich to explain this further, as to what the different parties were used to run the program. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, we have a training officer on staff. One of the assistant fire marshals' primary responsibility is training based in Iqaluit, and he's responsible for helping to develop and design training programs for Nunavut.

We also have a collaborative arrangement with the Manitoba fire marshal's office. So, we have the right to use the materials and the courses and the programs that they've developed and adapt them to Nunavut.

The particular course the minister is referring to was originally developed about a year-and-a-half ago by the assistant fire marshal based on the Manitoba program. It's an eighty-hour level one training course.

The delivery of the course itself... The instructors for the course were a collaborative group of individual involving both officers, assistant fire marshals from Nunavut, and also officers from the Iqaluit Fire Department who would already have that training, who were assisted in the training of the program.

At other times when we are running training programs we may bring in an outside individual who has particular expertise and then the assistant fire marshals run courses within their area of expertise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Interesting note that it is the assistant fire marshal who is delivering the training to fire fighters and the fire marshal has a report saying that they have inadequate training.

I guess I just kind of wondered how you balance or justify that given the fact there is no outside lining the fire marshal's report of all this, basically the dire needs that our fire fighters are in, in the territory, and with no increase in fire training, I am just wondering, how do you explain that one? And, are there going to be any plans to develop more training for firefighters so that they can do their jobs better and safer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, the program that was offered here took good effort of a number of resources. And, the levels of training of different firemen, assistant chiefs, or chiefs will vary and it is not uncommon, especially here in Nunavut, that the people who have taken certain types of training will be asked to assist in delivery of the other training programs, especially if they have instructor qualifications and where appropriate cases of wanting to better deliver these programs and the people have taken part of the training, have also been asked to take part in delivering of some programs.

So, the firefighters will go through a lot of processes, whether their previous courses will be recognized, to also identify the needs for training in other parts of the job. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: "Qujannamiik." Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering, one of the concerns that I have... I know the member, the firefighters that live in my riding, and they all live in Iqaluit, and I am sure other firefighters, volunteer firefighters across the territory, probably were not all that impressed by the fact that they are being told that there are sub-standard firefighter capabilities in Nunavut by the organization that is supposed to be in charge of training them and making sure that they know how to do their job.

With that, is there going to be any plan to put more money in the budget to deliver more training and higher levels of training to firefighters so that, depending on the situation, they have the adequate training required to handle their responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think we have definitely been in the right path with the MTO because they are able to find more outside resources and funding to deliver better training programs.

And, as a result of the learning experiences from a number of fires throughout Nunavut, just to mention a few: one in Clyde River; Repulse Bay; here in Iqaluit, those definitely have hard lessons for everybody. The learning process from those fires especially calls for us to identify specific needs, which the MTO has been very successful in identifying, and contracting partners to deliver more training programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: “Qujannamiik.” Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These supports have come out until like after the one here and one fire that was in their home community. Mr. Minister, the school in Pangnirtung, when that burnt, I know that was a while ago... It is my understanding that one of the areas that was identified as an issue was the fact that it was in a crawl-space, in an enclosed area that was not covered by a sprinkler system, and there was a recommendation to identify that, to try and address that. And then, how many years ago was that, and then here we go last year having another one, the same exact situation happening.

When they produce those reports with those recommendations, what happens to them? Do they just make that one sit on a shelf or how do we make sure that they address some of those requirements and needs to be able to keep things like that from happening? Because they do not just do it to generate paper, I mean there are some pretty serious recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: “Qujannamiik.” Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The discussions I have had with my senior staff on the reports and the results outstanding from fire-related issues and

inspections... . We have two of these reports and with the information that we obtained through the reports we definitely made contact with, switched partners, with MTO to try and better identify training needs, and also it gave us the opportunity of going back to visiting what sprinklers are and what their intentions are in the first place.

So, from these reports, I can assure the member that we have been writing logs and as a result getting a lot of current information as to the types of buildings that we are dealing with here in Nunavut. Also as a result, the preparedness programs that firefighters meet throughout Nunavut have certainly come into light and positive things have come out just in the last few months, especially the last year; I am looking at the number of fires. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: “Qujannamiik.” Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From these reports, when they look at codes and stuff, some of the things that were required, for example, the most recent one here in Iqaluit with the Joamie fire... . The access hatch to the crawl-space where the fire seemed to have started was located quite away, I think 15 meters underneath the school, with very small areas in which the firefighter has to try and crawl underneath, with the airtank on, and try and get at it.

I am just wondering if something like that is addressed for them. Looking at making changes to codes as a result of findings like that that might have been one of the factors in the inability of the fire department to be able to get access to it, to be able to get in there and put it out.

For code changes like that, if he recommends a note, it says that in it that is something that needs to be fixed... . How do you guys address that? Is that something that is just a code department that can be done through regulation, or does it have to come through some kind of a safety act or something like that to be able to try and keep these kinds of things from happening again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: “Qujannamiik.” Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the overall effort to try and prevent these kinds of fires from happening, plus with the report that came out, a number of things have happened. One of the obvious things that has been done is an inspection of all schools in Nunavut, or rather throughout the summer, where corrections were needed to help us prevent fires. And, just as a point, Mr. Chairman, the codes are in the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo. Final question.

Mr. Tootoo: For now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last one for now. I understand the code requirements in regulation, and they can be changed by regulation, and then talk about the access things in there, and you think of moving them someplace that is a little

more accessible, and is there some kind of code requirement as to how those access places, or hatches, or whatever you want to call them are to be secured, is there a pad-lock on them, or is there something that can come off easy? You know, is it from the inside, is it from the outside? Is there some kind of a requirement on how they are suppose to be secured so that in the event that somebody that needs to get in there, that they're able to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really don't have the right information to inform you, to give my colleagues the correct or the proper answer. So, I'm going to ask my deputy minister to respond to that question.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, access hatches on crawl-spaces are required in the code. The reason for the locking of the access hatch being on the inside is because of vandalism issues, and that generally is an accepted practice. The code doesn't in fact say whether it has to be on the inside or whether it has to be on the outside.

And, that is the reason that is fire departments are to have it in the training equipment so that they in fact can remove the hatches. And usually they do. They have the penetrating equipment that allows them to break off the hatches regardless of whether or not they're secured on the inside or the outside. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to comment on a couple of things. Search and rescues... . There are a lot of people in the Coast Guard who help out. Some charter airlines also help out. For example, in Cambridge Bay, we have a charter airline that probably contributes \$65- 100,000 annually. It's those direct costs they don't invoice for. A lot of people help out.

I want to ask the minister about appraisals on government buildings and hamlet buildings. A couple of years ago, we had buildings that burnt down and we discovered that they were underappraised. And then we looked at loss control consultants' appraisals, we discovered that the consulting company had underappraised many of our municipal buildings. I'm wondering if the minister could advise us or tell us if the all the buildings, including government buildings, are properly appraised for northern construction costs or replacement costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, the appraisals continue to be done and it is still ongoing work, which I don't have final figures for today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very important work. It should get done as quickly as possible in case we have a major loss. We talked about it during our discussions, we were setting up the hamlets. We had a situation in Cambridge Bay where if we had a major catastrophe, we could lose \$16- to 20 million of building goods in one stroke. One wonders about that. Our buildings were underappraised. I think they should be appraised as quickly as possible to determine replacement costs before we have another major disaster.

But, I'd like to talk more about inspections of buildings. We have high-tech buildings in Nunavut now. We have sprinkler systems and fire alarms, and you wouldn't think of it as it being difficult, but you require a very sophisticated inspection service. They have to fly in people from south with all the skills to inspect buildings, and it could be quite expensive, and I'm wondering if the minister could comment on whether his department is working with the hamlets, and I guess with his own department, to make sure that all the sprinkler systems, alarm systems in Nunavut are being inspected and upgraded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to raise the point here Mr. Chairman, that even some buildings without sprinklers are in code compliance, so it doesn't refer to all the buildings.

Mr. Chairman, (interpretation) not all the buildings have to follow the codes and we do annual inspections on government units with stream course. So that is how we monitor them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Cambridge Bay, the hamlet has a contract with Public Works to inspect all Public Works buildings, including their own buildings. We don't have people on staff who have those qualifications to inspect the sprinkler systems and the alarms systems.

If you don't have an electrician in your community, or an electrical company that is qualified to do those inspections, we have to bring them in from outside, usually from Edmonton or somewhere here in Nunavut; it can add up quite fast. \$20,000 to \$30,000 of bills. But, if you don't do it, don't have it done, then there is a major loss that could work against you, compromise your insurance coverage.

I am wondering if the minister could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only agree with the member that we had the inspector in places where needed them, but in some cases, inspectors have also been brought from Yellowknife. We are right now just setting up a system to track the standards of our buildings, especially when you look at the age, condition, and the number of inspections that are done on these units. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to switch topics for now, to talk about airports and emergency response. In Cambridge Bay, we have an airport. I am not sure if it is like this across Nunavut, but in Cambridge Bay, the airport falls under the municipal boundaries. I think it's run by Nunavut Airports, but we have a volunteer firefighting department in Cambridge Bay that is trained to fight fires on a typical fire that you find in town.

If you had a situation where you had to respond to an airplane crash and fuel fire at the airport, our folks aren't trained for that kind of emergency. When we talked about it a few years ago, we wondered what would happen if our volunteers responded to a fire at the airport: would they be insured; would they have training; would they be covered by Workers' Compensation? All that sort of stuff. I don't think we have had a definitive answer on that.

I wonder if the minister and his staff could comment on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If this were question period, I would take it as notice, but Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask my deputy minister to see if he could shed some light on this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been discussions at various times between various authorities responsible for airports, which is now the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the Department of Community and Government Services, about fire responses.

The fire departments in a community, whether it be a small hamlet or whether it be in the larger one, do in fact have the ability to assist each other. I might use a reverse example: the airport fire department assisted the Iqaluit Fire Department in the Joamie School fire. That doesn't in fact change their liability. They are authorized or approved to be, in fact, firefighters.

In terms of Workers' Compensation, I really don't have the specific ability to respond on that. It has not been brought to my attention that there is a particular issue in that area. If

you have some specific information, or a specific indication that might be a problem, we'd certainly be happy to follow up on that with Workers' Compensation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I will think about the future because in Cambridge Bay we get daily jets into our community, but we don't have a firefighting department at the airport, nor do we have the equipment to fight an airplane fire, a fuel fire at the airport. There are a lot of fuel tanks around there, it could be a major disaster.

Our community fire department, the trucks we have, are supported by water. That leads to my next question, Mr. Chairman. What emergency response plan do you have? You know, 25 communities in Nunavut... Does each community have an emergency response plan to plan for contingencies, disasters? Are they all in place, and are they updated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: "Qujannamiik." Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I believe most, if not all, of these can be there, just to have it expanded. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess if you have a situation in Cambridge Bay where the airport is not owned by the municipality, you could have two emergency response plans. You could have one for the hamlet at large and then you have one for the airport.

So, I am wondering if the minister could comment on how you mesh emergency response plans when we have two or more in a community under different organizations. Who would take the lead? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: "Qujannamiik." Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the airports, Economic Development and Transportation is responsible, and they're there to work with the communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Just a final comment on that. Would the two departments work together to make sure that each municipality has an emergency response plan in there to support each other and designate who takes the lead in the event of a disaster at the airport? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll go a step further: we will also work with the communities to make sure this is done. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just off the last response I got from the deputy minister, he indicated that access hatch was locked from the inside and whatever the equipment is that he is talking about, intrusion equipment or whatever it is, is to be able to pop off that door.

I understand there was maybe two feet or three feet, barely, underneath there for the firefighters to have to go underneath and fifteen meters to be able to get to the hatch. The equipment that they have for that, is that something that is portable and small and can be able to work in those types of limited, confined spaces? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if we have the necessary information in front of us to be able to determine if in fact there was supposed to be this little certain device at that specific or particular time. However, in my conversation with the staff, I was also led to believe that the small space that has been questioned was still in code compliance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: "Qujannamiik." Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In talking to my colleague from Cambridge Bay, maybe they can work with the department, with the municipalities, and that, and I am just wondering what role, if any, that the fire marshal's office, whether it be the fire marshal himself or the assistant fire marshal, whoever, would have to say in a situation where you have a large fire, in working with the local fire department to provide any assistance. Is there any type of formal protocol in place?

The fire marshal, the assistant fire marshal, apparently they have the qualifications and the years of experience, being in their capacity, where they have some valuable advice to provide to any fire department, I am sure.

I am just wondering if there are any type of protocol to allow that to happen, and does it happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my DM respond because my DM has been working very closely with the fires issue.

Chairman: Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The local command at any fire fight is the responsibility of the fire chief on site, or the designated authority on site, the fire chief or the assistant fire chief on site. If there is outside individuals who are available, who can give assistance, such as an assistant fire marshal, or a fire marshal, if they are requested to give assistance by a fire chief, they can and will give assistance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another thing that was brought up in the context of the questions from my colleague from Cambridge Bay is on how the minister and the deputy mentioned the fire department at the airport. I understand that they have almost a \$1 million firetruck that is out there and a lot of resources to go along with that, and people.

I am just wondering if, given the close proximity of the existing city fire department, and I would imagine the lack of resources that both the city and the fire department have, and with the fiscal restraints that the department is facing... I am sure that the airport fire department is running into to the same problems with just barely having enough money to operate.

Is there any thought of looking at combining the fire fighting opportunities together to be able to give a bigger pool of resources and equipment and people to be able to better address any of the situations that might happen here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My deputy will answer that question.

Chairman: Mr Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are working arrangements and agreements between the city fire department and the airport fire department. One of the difficulties of having the joint fire department is that the moment the airport gets involved offsite in a fire, it then changes the status of the airport and the airport fire situation.

For instance, in the case of the fire that happened in the city last summer, where the airport fire department did respond, it required a notice to airmen to be sent out that there was no fire trucks. The fire trucks were not in fact on duty at the airport because they were responding to the fire in the city.

So, that is the complicating factor. Yes, there is sharing of equipment, and there can be sharing of resources, but also one still needs to maintain the response that the airport has, that it needs to have, because of the very busy airport that we have in Iqaluit, and at the same time the response that is required all the time here in the city of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You pull the resources together, you are going to have more people in one spot and more resources to do training and more resources for equipment. More people... It is not very often you are going to have a fire that is going to require everyone to go out. There is an airport-specific truck that is there, that one can stay there and you can have the people there to man that if there is a house fire. There are other vehicles there.

You still have the ability to react to both, if necessary. I think the opportunity is there to be able to get more manpower, more equipment, and more training by pooling those resources together.

So, I am just wondering if there is a willingness to take a look at that over the next year by the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a matter of fact, yes. Also, outside of Iqaluit, the smaller communities also continued to get better handle of the inventory, and are also looking for ways of improving training at the community level and other possible partners to act on that. So, we will definitely have a look at this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good that we can find ways to save money and provide a better service, so we should look at that, and we really want to get down to it, but it is almost like devolution and like a duplication of services. It is one thing that we are trying to find ways to trim some fat. Maybe there is an opportunity for some fat to be trimmed there, and get better service out of it, and appreciate that.

My last question here is on the fire marshal's office itself. It is almost double the amount, and in the business plan it is showing \$580,000 last year and it is \$941,000 this year. I am just wondering if I can get an explanation for that increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is on J-24 of the business plan.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman, colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Emergency organization has been reduced and the other one, there is more, and this is just to coincide with each other.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I know there was a rational explanation for it. On fire equipment, it has \$54,000, and it is just for miscellaneous fire fighting equipment, for fire trucks, and I imagine it can buy a lot of fire trucks with \$54,000.

One of the problems here was tanks, and oxygen, and things like that. How do you screen out with only \$54,000? I do not imagine... . You know, that is pretty specialty equipment that costs money, that you can't go too far with it.

So, how is that allocated? Is it on a first come, first served basis, or is there priority planning to try and ensure that our fire... . Ones in the worst need get what they need first and then you move up the ladder as the time goes by. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is an application done in the program, and we try to spread it around to as many communities as possible. The program funds minor equipment such as bunker gear, fire alarms, sirens, radios, pumps, and hose for the trucks. It is an application-driven process that we try and spread around to as many communities as we can. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it has been showing \$54,000 for the last few years. I know in a couple of other areas the numbers have been neither reduced nor increased because of the historic usage of the program. Has that program been fully utilized in the past?. If not, if there's more requests than there's funding for, is that an idea how much that is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I can state to my colleague that we definitely can use more. To meet the current needs out there now, we'd probably have to look at going up as high as \$250,000 a year to meet the current need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to ask a question concerning firefighters. Where was the design made for ambulance, under the developmental \$510,000, \$140,000, around that area? Why was it delayed?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chair. I lost my train of thought there for a minute. Is this from the capital plan? I apologize right now; I haven't seen this recently. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, there was a plan. I think this was dealt with, that in the fall, they were asking on the fire training, that it is too small even for the ambulance. It would be good to see this implemented this fall because it is becoming an emergency case. I would like to know, will you start the delivery on this because there's no training facility available? It was already designed, apparently. Have you heard about it? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Thank you to my colleague. We met with the mayor and the SAO. We are having a better understanding with each other now and working together. Thank you

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Do you agree that it would be made this fall or next year?

I will go on to another subject under the business plan, J-26, the Coast Guard's marine certification program. Who is meeting? Is this about the licence or for the vessels? Can one of your officials, or yourself, speak on this issue, when it will start?

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've asked my officials to see, but there's no clarification just yet. We will be working on it, that training for emergency purposes and for certification, that it will be for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, this is a very important issue because we need marine licences. They are very important right now, since there is regular sea traffic to Churchill, and this is getting very difficult for this, and we would like to have a better understanding.

Who do we ask so that we can be proactive? This is one of the priorities. If we go to G-25, the first priorities for 2004-05 are for marine. I would just like to add that the past five years, it seems like there have been rehab in the Baffin region and Keewatin. It is very

important how you could travel without capsizing, such as if there are floaters, that it is good to have training on such things as this. It should be taken as an emergency because when people are clam digging, they are not wearing jackets. And if there was such a support program, like the hunters' support program, who are able to get wholesale price with NTI for life jackets, it should be more promoted so that we would not lose lives to drowning.

I feel that there should be more communication on this. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue on with the training or certification program, and I thank the member. Especially, they are very good for people going out hunting, to be provided with all the things that they need to save their lives. And to feel that they are very good in emergencies, they're good just in case there are emergencies when you're out on the land. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I have no more names. At this time we're at G-13. Community and government services. Grand summary of protection services. Total, operations and maintenance, \$2,762,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: G-15. Capital planning and technical services. Any questions on that page? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, under "\$36 million," was that the money before you took on public works? Is it just for the two departments that have come together?

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's for the two departments that I hold now, Public Works and Community Government.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Just a short question. You identified a couple of years ago that we had \$350 million municipal infrastructure deficit; we had a lot of aging infrastructure. Has your department gone through each community and identified individual infrastructure in the community, what its life cycle is, when it has to be replaced, or forget it? That will be good for... . I lost my train of thought there, it's five o'clock.

>>Laughter

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And you wonder where my head is after five hours of questions.

>>Laughter

Seriously, Mr. Chairman, the department has been putting together a program to be able to record all the infrastructure at the community level. So, it is something that we are currently working on. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I remembered what I was going to say. I've got a comment on our water line in Cambridge Bay. It was 26 or 27 years old and we had been working very hard to get that replaced, and it will be replaced this year, but unfortunately it froze up in December, and it has put an additional burden on our community.

That's the kind of stuff that we have to keep being aware of that when infrastructure fails; it could cost us significantly. So I thought I'd throw that comment in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I think that was just a comment. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we hear the member's concerns.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to ask another question. I know it's been considered, and to do with infrastructure such as hospital and schools qualify under this item.

I just want to stress to the minister that there should be public-private partnerships considered. Some people always think that if it's taken over by the private company that it's going to be more expensive, but to me it's not like that.

The government's capital spending... . If we could convert them to make them into lease payments, perhaps for ten years, and then the government is able to do more with their dollars. If that could be considered by the department either by call for proposals, invitational proposals, and stuff like that, sort of to compare prices. That way the government can make more with their dollars and perhaps just to find out the best way the government can stretch their dollars, besides the healthcare facility. I just wondered what the thinking of the minister is on that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a question similar to the comment that Mr. Curley is making. As a cabinet, we wanted to think about considering that. I wanted to tell the member that I have agreed to consider the wish of the member to see what better ways we can find. So, I will be working with the cabinet members to see how best we can utilize those dollars.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I have no more names on my list. We are on the page for community and government services. Community planning and technical services, \$19,065,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: "Qujannamiik." G-16. information item for Petroleum Products Division, and G-17, also an information item. Petroleum Products Revolving Fund. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Although it is just an information item, I would like to ask a question on that page. It seems like they are projecting, in the revolving funds, once you have done the estimates under total income, before the fuel prices are increased in Canada. Is that what it is?

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that was from the original price.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I think this was last year's total income, but now that the world prices of fuel have gone up, even if it is wholesale prices, the price has increased. The total income and the total expenses will probably go up, it seems. Is that the case?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct. These were last fall's. So, looking at the total income and the total expenditures, there will probably be a price increase.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Looking at the last year's total, there must be a \$435,000 increase. If the deficit goes up, does that go up? Is that the case?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is hard to say at this time. I am not exactly sure if there is going to be an increase or a deficit. First of all, Mr. Chairman, if I could say for the first comment that he made, if the price is going to go up for petroleum products, we expect that we cannot really comment at this time because we do not know exactly what is going to happen. So, next year we will find out that exact number.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I am not going to hop on this for a while, but because the world fuel prices have gone up, it would not be true if you say that if the price of petroleum products is not going to go up in Nunavut because of the world prices. If you look at the retail prices after they have gone up... I am sure that if the world price of petroleum products has gone up, I am sure Nunavut will go up too.

I think Nunavummiut have to know that the fuel prices and the gas prices will have to go up. It is to be expected, because we are not protected from world prices. We have no protection.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is expected that the price will go up. Even if that is the case, we have to think of lower transportation costs. What we are expecting is that the transportation end of it will probably be cheaper, but we are not really exactly sure, perhaps we'll probably not use it, the \$20 million; we will probably be saving. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Any further questions, Mr. Curley? Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in regards to this page. First of all it's starting to become evident, I think it was yesterday or today, that the fuel prices are increasing, and all the communities will have to purchase fuel. We are starting to expect fuel price increases in the future, but I do want to ask the minister in

regards to the oil. This coming winter, I know that in November or December, we could probably make estimates. Perhaps you could provide a report to the House after six months of using this whether you expect to increase the fuel or whether there were overexpenditures. Do you make a report to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I am sorry, your microphone was turned off in between and we could not hear you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, although we could not hear part of his question, but if you want me to respond to his comment, I could try and respond. Next fall we will commit to making a report in regards to the fuel distribution, whether it is going to be more expensive or cheaper. So, we will be making a report to you. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try and be a little bit slower. Yes, I am concerned in regards to all the municipalities in Nunavut because they are given limited resources, and they cannot even go beyond what their budget is, and they get money through taxation. Also, the majority of our municipalities are in a deficit situation. What would happen in the case when the fuel prices go up? Would you be able to provide some form of subsidy to the municipalities?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is evident that, yes, if there is going to be a fuel price increase we will have to review the process to make sure that we don't overexpend, and we will have to agree to the municipalities to review the fuel prices after the distribution of the fuel.

If there is going to be a huge impact on the communities, I will provide reports and information to them and look at options as to how we can deal with this, whether it be making plans or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this coming fall session, whether it be in November or December, even before the session... I would like to see the report done prior to their fall session, a report on how the fuel delivery went and what the expenditures were, and I believe that it would be ideal to start planning for the fall session to make the report. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, to my colleague's question. Prior to the fall session or during the fall session, if there was no other way out. Yes, I'll commit to providing or making the report available. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no more comments to make. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to address the minister in regards to the revolving fund. Perhaps, if you are going to be having \$20 million cost savings... . Would the revolving fund would be too small if it's down to \$75 millions?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. Just to elaborate further, for the past three years, annually, we will be saving costs of about \$6 million because of the transfer, . Because of the fuel price increasing, and we have stated that we need the \$20 million for the three years. That is a three year estimate. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister... . In your business plan, it states under page J-28 that this \$20 million, there is a proposal to increase it to \$90 million. If you are going to increase the revolving fund, where would you find \$58 million?

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that we can't find \$15 million, just after see that there, but, for example, we have a \$75 million cap on borrowing, when we're trying to propose up to \$90 million. We're trying to increase the cap. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because the revolving fund is a very important fund. Ever since it was set up, that's the only way we're able to pay for the purchase of fuel.

One issue that we continually challenge is the cost, whether it be overhead, and you try to keep your overhead as low as possible. When the fuel is purchased, and I know that it

has, I know that you need to increase the fuel in order to sell it. That way you can make money, and after all this is done then the government pays for the fuel.

For that reason, when the cost increases it has to go back down. The money that you had borrowed has to go through the Petroleum Products Division. Even though there is going to be a transfer. Are you looking at, to the best of your ability, to keep the overhead costs down and not hire too many employees? Are you going to consider all of these things, that looking at the business plan on J-28, the money has to come back through selling the fuel?

So, that is why I am asking the minister, because the public is listening out there. I would like to ask that you be very careful because it is going to be operating separately. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague's comments are very well taken and I agree to them. And also the business plan, I know that we are looking at options to use the best possible ways.

I also want to state again, Mr. Chairman... I indicated earlier on, when I first made my statement, that just recently there has been a joint meeting with all the ministers in Canada and that we would agree to making a goal. Perhaps if we need more assistance, we can ask them for assistance. But to further elaborate on that, we are working with the provincial ministers to lobby and work on behalf of our government.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I just have to thank you now. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page J-18. Information item. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, this is a revolving fund. Have you ever thought of having this privatized so that it will be cheaper? Like the revolving funds were used when the government could not borrow any funding, that is when it was used. This is the question that I am asking. If you answered that question, I would not ask you another question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Public Stores Revolving Fund, page J-18. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Public Stores Revolving Fund was established to provide working capital to finance central warehousing of standard supply inventories. This is, for example, for a large amount of corresponding material that we have to buy outside of the government. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley, did you get that answer?

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

Chairman (interpretation): I do not have any more names left. (Interpretation ends.) Page J-19, information item. Details of work performance on behalf of third parties. (Interpretation.) Any questions on that page? Going back to J-4. (Interpretation ends.) Community and government services department summary. Details of expenditure. Total, Operations and maintenance, \$108,789,000. Do you agree? Agreed. We are done with that department. The department is completed. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Then we can begin the review of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Do you agree? Mr. Curley?

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Tom Rich. Thank you to all of you. I would like to ask the minister of housing, Mr. Kilabuk, to make his opening comments.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I will be with my officials responsible for housing. I apologize, Mr. Chairmain, I'm getting a little mixed up here. Mr. Chairman, if I can just have a few minutes. Thank you. I got it now. I apologize, Mr. Chairman, I had different papers in front of me.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased to address questions related to 2004-05 main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Over the next four years, and in close cooperation with my other responsibilities for Community and Government Services, we will work very hard to make a real difference for housing in Nunavut.

We use every opportunity to increase the number of houses in the territory. We will do this on our own and we will invite partners, like Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the federal government, to work with us to achieve our goal.

Mr. Chairman, one of the first things I did as minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation was to send a letter to the Honourable Andy Scott, the federal minister responsible for infrastructure and the Canada Housing and Mortgage Corporation, requesting an urgent meeting.

Minister Scott has replied that he is also most interested in meeting to discuss our housing crisis. I look forward to an early meeting with either him or his successor, depending on the outcome of the pending federal election.

The priorities in our business plan support this goal. Our capital plan supports this goal. And our main estimates continue to support the increase in social housing infrastructure through additional operating and maintenance funding to our community partners, the local housing organizations.

Mr. Chairman, capital construction is the proper element to support it. For 2004-05:

- We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Public Housing Rent Scale. Currently, staff are putting in the finishing touches on a revision to the unit condition deduction so tenants who are living in our houses that are in the poorest condition will have a meaningful reduction in the rent that they have to pay. Over the next year, we will continue to monitor and evaluate all parts of the rent scale, in close cooperation with the local housing organizations.
- We will finalize the community consultation regarding the building connections in Nunavut's strategic planning process. We are currently visiting every community and discussing current housing issues with elders, youth, and community leaders. This year, we will finalize the results of those discussions and produce a 10-year plan for housing in Nunavut. From there, we will hold a fourth symposium to present the plan to all stakeholders.
- Staff housing policy matters will receive close attention too. Last year, we finalized the policy aspects of staff housing. For 2004-05 we will concentrate on developing staff housing programs that are sensitive to the needs of Nunavut government staff, while encouraging recruitment and retention for the government.
- We will also closely examine all subsidized housing in the territory and determine how best to approach these critical issues. The Under One Roof theme of this initiative includes investigating delivery of Energy Corporation housing, student housing, Health and Social Services-dedicated units, as well as specific special requests for other Government of Nunavut departments.
- Mr. Chairman, we are also looking at a variety of changes to home ownership programs, which fall under the capital program but are included in the business plan. These include changes to the downpayment assistance program, as well as numerous revisions to our home repair program to make the programs easier to access, easier to understand, and make more of an impact Nunavut-wide. This investigation will include limits, as well as the possibility of increasing the amount of home repair funding available for projects by dropping the current sliding scale and increasing funding limits overall.

Members of this Legislative Assembly have mentioned that tenants are not aware of all the positive changes that we have made to the Public Housing Rent Scale. I am pleased to report that the Corporation has begun an increased awareness program at the community level. Every few weeks one aspect of the rent scale will be explained in a bulletin that

will be circulated to tenants throughout our communities. For example, the first bulletin, which is already in circulation, explains student exemptions from the rent scale. Others in the series will be youth, seniors, and family-size deductions, to name just a few.

Fiscal 2004-05 Government of Nunavut funding to the Nunavut Housing Corporation will increase by \$1,862,000. This amount is made up of:

- an increase of \$1,008,000 to local housing organizations for new public housing construction;
- an increase of \$823,000 to staff housing; \$715,000 is to cover utility costs and \$98,000 is for the operating and maintenance costs to twenty new owned units. Ten of these will be in Rankin Inlet and ten in Cambridge Bay to support the new health centres in those communities; and
- an increase of \$41,000 to cover the cost of an increase to the employees' northern allowance for non-unionized employees.

For 2004-05 the Nunavut Housing Corporation has projected a full staffing complement. We currently expect the full salary allocation to be used during 2004-05, with any savings from vacancies used by casual staffing requirements and overtime.

Mr. Chairman, in all other material respects, the main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation remain unchanged from last year.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation's 2004-05 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and committee members.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister Kilabuk. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have witnesses: my officials.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that the minister bring his officials into the chambers?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Sergeant-at-arms, can you assist his officials, please? Mr. Minister, for the record, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today on my left, Peter Scott, President of Nunavut Housing Corporation, Chris D'Arcy on my right. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Minister. Comments from the Chair of the standing committee. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you, and thank you to the minister and the president of the Housing Corporation, Peter Scott. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide you with my comments as the Chair of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development. The committee has reviewed the 2004-05 main estimates and business plans of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and had the opportunity to meet with the minister in April.

Committee members are aware that the minister has been lobbying his federal counterparts to increase funding for public housing in Nunavut. In addition, members were pleased to note that the minister is working with NTI to lobby the federal government on this issue.

Recognizing that there is a housing crisis in Nunavut, members urge the minister to investigate every avenue to increase the housing stock including private-public partnerships, federal infrastructure funding, partnerships with Inuit organizations, and joint initiatives with other Government of Nunavut departments.

Members are concerned that adequate models do not exist to illustrate the staggering need for housing in Nunavut. Models can be an extremely important lobbying tool when the minister goes to Ottawa. Committee members believe the need exists for a comprehensive study to gather detailed accurate information on housing in our territory.

Members are concerned that waiting lists that are kept by local housing organizations do not illustrate the actual need, because many people do not apply for housing because they know that there is none available.

Committee members recognize that the cost of building a home includes land development costs, and land acquisition is very expensive. These can be extremely high in some communities. Members urge the minister to work with his colleagues to bring these costs down as an incentive for people who would like to build their own home.

Committee members believe that the current public housing structure which utilizes local housing organizations as housing maintainers should be reviewed. It is believed that many of the functions currently undertaken by LHOs could be accomplished more efficiently through contracts through the private sector and we will elaborate on that later on.

Fairness and transparency are values that must be respected across the government. Members are concerned with respect to the corporation's policy when entering into lease arrangements for units. The Government of Nunavut has limited resources and must get value for every dollar spent. Members urge the minister to ensure that the corporation does not pay for leases on units that are not habitable.

Members were pleased to hear the minister's announcement regarding the new seniors' four-plex project that will be taking place in Clyde River. Committee members urge the minister to concentrate efforts on more projects that involve the community as a whole and respond to the community priorities. Members are also pleased that the initiative will provide employment for local trainees.

Members are especially pleased that the Clyde River project is using designs chosen by the community. Members continue to urge the minister to work on housing designs that clearly reflect the needs of Northerners.

Committee members are concerned that homeowners are being forced to sell their homes and move into public housing because of the cost of operating and maintaining a home. Members urge the minister to review home ownership programs to provide support to homeowners.

Members are concerned that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is already projecting a deficit for 2004-05 related to utility costs for public housing units for utility costs. Members urge the minister to work with his colleagues to ensure that utility costs remain manageable.

Members are concerned that funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the Social Housing Agreement will sunset in 2037. That was a concern for the members of the standing committee. In addition, members are concerned that there is no federal money for operating and maintaining units that are built using funding from the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund. Members urge the minister to continue lobbying for a new social housing agreement.

Members are pleased that the corporation continues to monitor the effects of the Public Housing Rent Scale. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing the documents related to consultations with local housing organizations regarding the new rent scale.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Curley. (Interpretation ends.) I would like to remind members of the following: according to rule 77 (1) you have ten minutes to speak, and according to rule 77 (2), subject to discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to talk about the concerns that were raised in my constituency in regards to housing.

You are aware we are in the process of building four-plexes and duplexes in the smaller communities. But these already have problems. We have already seen the problems, in Clyde River and Hall Beach, that these duplexes have. When the units are together there is no fire escape, there is only one exit.

So there's a concern when there was a fire in Hall Beach.... This concern was raised, and single dwellings have no fire exit, and there is only one exit door, and there is no sprinkler system in those apartment buildings.

I have been a firefighter myself, I know that the extinguishers can only last for eight seconds. For that reason I believe that the department's minister has to look at the safety equipment to make sure that this safety equipment is adequate for new duplexes.

The duplexes can only be purchased by people that have lots of money, such as the government. During the construction of the duplex nobody can purchase these units because everybody would like to purchase one unit. The smaller communities don't have elders' facilities, especially convalescent homes in the smaller communities.

Also, this was a concern raised: there were eleven units back in 1999; these units were taken by Nanisivik. There was no concern whether the place was contaminated but later on, after it was constructed, they found out about the contaminants, and even though the Arctic Bay residents required more housing units....

Also, public housing, or the leased units which the teachers and the staff of the Government of Nunavut lease out; it's starting to become evident that these leased units are not inspected properly. For example, the power bills that some teachers pay are about \$300 a month. Just for the power bill alone, and that's not including the lease or the rent. So, these have to be checked to make sure that these units are adequate, especially if they are being leased by the government. I'll conclude with that for now, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have no more names on my list for general comments.

We will now proceed to a page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. We are starting with page L-6. Information item. Any questions on this page for the corporate summary? There are no questions. Next page. L-7. Information page. Headquarters. Any questions? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information item. I would like to talk about it, in regards to Arviat. Some of us would like to write correspondence to Arviat office, but we don't know who would be responding to our correspondence in regards to home ownership.

There were a few applications for the home ownership last year, but there was no response even though they applied for home ownership. If I could ask, home ownership repair program.... If you could provide us with a breakdown. Arviat residents mainly took advantage of that program but some of the Rankin Inlet residents were unable to get a response, even though they applied more than once. There was no response.

Would you be able to rectify this situation?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to see them responded to. On my colleague's concern, I will have my officials elaborate. For those applicants, whether they got what they want, whether they got denied or approved. They have to know whether they were approved or denied. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These individuals wanted to be responded to whether they were approved or denied. They would like to know. But for those who have been approved.... I have seen some individuals. I have been living there for two years. They were very appreciative. Their windows are new now. These old units were HAP housing. Their windows.... In the original HAP housing, the insulation is really bad around the windows.

Is it possible there are individual homeowners that need assistance? Perhaps some of the homeowners did not qualify. So, that's why nobody responded to them? Perhaps if they did not qualify for the home ownership repair program they should respond to them whether they were approved or not. When the doors in the old units get too old.... I have seen more than one, the windows in the Keewatin region — that is one of the harshest, coldest climates.

As the minister, what is the cap on the homeowners repair program? If we can't get a loan from your department, then if we can't afford to get a bank loan, then we just leave them in need?. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The homeowners repair program has a cap of \$33,700. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, when they first got their home, I am sure that if you have \$33,000, and you need \$33 thousand dollars, I do not think you can afford to get a half-house. I am sure the price went up.

Do you have any idea when you will be making changes, because some people with a salary of \$50,000 cannot really afford this or that. So, I was wondering if you considered this in the past.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am concerned now, and I do not know whether my colleague and I are talking about the same issue; \$33,750 dollars is what I am talking about for the home repair. I think I just gave the cap. Perhaps for his second question, if I can ask him to rephrase his question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. What I am trying to say is that this \$33,000, is that the cap? If his salary is \$33,000, they do not qualify for that program. Are they not eligible for that program?

Perhaps your deputy minister understands. Some of the applicants were confused. They were confused on whether they were eligible, or whether they made too much money, they made over the required eligibility, if they went over the required eligibility.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the cap is set in the community. There is a community cap and they just follow the community cap to date. Mr. Chairman, it is evident that there are many more homeowners that require assistance or support.

The applicants' maintains are the same as the ones who have been asking in the past and we have agreed to review the home ownership assistance program because we have to respect that homeowners require more assistance. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I just would like more clarification: if you are making too much money, you are not able to apply for an access home?

And so for the old homes, they are very cold. Maybe they are like that only in the Keewatin region because they are very high and they also have a septic tank. They are very cold, they are very drafty, and there was a youth that was living in one of those houses and I was there. The utility bills are very expensive because of the cold. There has to be some kind of a program where they could get assistance for this.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My director, on my right, will be responding to you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding level currently in the home repair program is \$33,750, however the maximum household income to get the grant is on average about \$96,000 in the territory. And, as we know, we're investigating that over the year. It also is a sliding scale, so the minimum that a person will be able to receive under this program would be \$15,000; if you made on average \$96,000 in the territory, and the maximum would be \$33,750. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. D'Arcy. Mr. Curley?

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, yes, I understand that now, thank you. Even if the applicants are not successful, can you please let them know in writing that they have not been accepted.

My last comment that I would like to make: in my home community, there are old-age pensioners who are seventy years old; this person is aging, and he or she has an access home. Even through the cracks, snow comes in. These are persons with a wheelchair, and more than three feet of snow on top of the house, and he has to remove the snow themselves, and we looked at this, and we asked if it could move to another dwelling.... Who would we write to if an elder like this is having problems? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm pleased to clarify: you would have to go through the office in Arviat; that is where you would go.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): The individual is retired; he had worked with NTPC for a number of years. And right now, this spring, it was overflowing around that corner, he wishes he bought the house himself. I will give you a copy right now. The snow was removed by the hamlet; these are the comments that I would like to make and I will ask more questions later. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Curley. I do not have any more names available to me. We will take a break for 30 minutes. We'll have a mini-break for half an hour.

>>Committee recessed at 18:09 and resumed at 18:40

Chairman (interpretation): We can begin. We are on L-7. Headquarters, Nunavut Housing Corporation, just an information item. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would just like to make a comment, Mr. Chairman. The Housing Corporation is a very important department, Mr. Minister, because we are proud of them, and also that they are now looking after the staff housing as well. I will not be naming names, but I would just like to make some comments concerning housing.

I know that when you were in that portfolio, or your deputy, or the president, I should say... . The tenders, were they completely open to the public? Because while I am MLA I would not want to compete when people needed housing.

I am representing the business owners. Since we are elected it seems that it was this going done under that table. I would not like to be seen this way when I am in the Legislature during my term. I would not like to see something happen this way again, when there is housing available, when you are going to rent, that it would have to go through the government. If there was something done like this, what I would like to hear is if that something like this will be done again.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can answer you this way: my staff and my officials are learning since we have started. Yes, we will be open, and I will continue to have talks along these lines. We have to make sure that we have material available to be well understood by all communities, and to avoid these kinds of things again. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. There are no more names. L-7. Headquarters. Go to L-8. Debt payment. Informational item. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the minister and his officials if they could clarify... . It says debt repayment. Does it refer to the long-term loans from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation has a debt owed of \$196,177,000 at the end of March 31. That was the total of the debt that the Government of Nunavut owes to the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And then, just, they say the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation provides a contribution for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to pay for the additional charges of \$28,003,000. Could you clarify how that works? Do they give us a loan, we pay the interest and debt, and then they give us a contribution to

help pay the additional charge? What are the additional charges? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I apologize. I want to be understood. The funding that we do get, we pay for our debt. That is the repayment requirement to that until today. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Almost clear. They are giving us a loan and they are going to give us a contribution to pay back the loan and our interest on the loan; how are we supposed to understand this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Yes. If you allow me, Mr. D'Arcy will clarify this.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. D'Arcy.

Mr. D'Arcy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will start again. Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation pays us around \$60 million a year. Part of that is this \$28 million in the debt reduction. Obviously, there is a schedule that goes out to 2037-38, where that amount will go down over time.

What we meant when we said the additional charges of \$28 million was additional to our base Government of Nunavut funding of \$79 million dollars, we are investigating changing that verbiage for next year to make sure it is clear. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. D'Arcy. Supplementary. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: No further questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page L-8. (Interpretation ends.) L-9, "Mamianaq." Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the standing committee what they talked about is, we have to almost revise these on operations and maintenance; the local housing associations are running in debt. They are using up a lot of funding and I do not think any of these associations are making any. Do they have review exercises like mechanical? If they can be contracted out, that this is going to work, that they would be paying them.

The maintenance of the rent collection... I would like to know if you have thought about anything like this. This way, I feel that we would not be using so much funding if

this is run by Housing. Some of the hamlets do not want to have the local housing within the hamlet.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, in some communities this is being used, but it has been a hard time for the staff. Yes, we are completely open to the communities.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question for the minister and his staff. The district office sets the region priorities. We understand from reading over the last few months, we've been reading stuff in the media where we have immediate needs for 3,900 housing units. We now need \$1.5 billion over the next twenty years for housing.

Then a community like Arviat has 120 people on the waiting list. In Cambridge Bay we have between 50 and 70. I was wondering, how do the district offices establish regional priorities, how housing would be allocated, constructed, from year to year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That question I will give to Mr. Scott.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Scott.

Peter Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as there would be... . Most of the capital planning, particularly on new construction, is done at the director headquarters level. Recommendations are put together, based on input from all the district offices as well, for decision to the Financial Management Board.

The districts have their own capital budgets for Nunavummi Nangminiqagtunik Ikajuuti projects and minor capital, which they then work with the LHOs to determine what the priorities are on community-by-community basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm not quite sure I understand it. If Arviat needs 120 housing units, and Cambridge Bay needs 50, and some other town needs 15, how do you decide where your annual budget will be used to construct housing units in the various communities? If you could give me some clarification on that. Thanks.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you Mr. Chairman. When it comes to the distribution of units to the communities, it has been the practice over the last few years to try to evenly distribute the units, looking at Nunavut as a whole. If we were to look at the waiting lists today, it is quite lengthy, and we have many families on the waiting lists.

For an example, Mr. Chairman, 127 is the highest number on the waiting list that we see today. Next is 119, third down is 102, fourth down is 85 and it just goes on, and on, and on, right down to the last eight communities, under 20.

So, one of the things that I am seriously looking at is to see if we can do to better meet the needs in communities where there are more people on the waiting list, to reduce the problem at the other communities where the immediate need is nowhere near as great as the communities with the biggest needs.

So, when it comes to the priority list for the reallocation of the units, it has not been the practice over the last few years for the district offices, or the regional offices, to decide as to which communities get what. So, this is currently something I am taking a very close look at with my staff to see if there are some better ways to distribute for the communities that are in dire need. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: That's good to hear, because there are communities in Nunavut where there is a high population growth, very fast. There's people moving in from one community to another for employment opportunities, for education, and that is putting heavy pressure on the community.

There's got to be a system in place, I think, that better distributes the available housing towards where it's really needed. There might be some communities in Nunavut that don't need any housing but are getting it right now, so like the per capita community distribution of every community, build at least two houses and one community needs fifteen or twenty right away. That should be taken into consideration. That is just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, very much.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We are at the end of L-9. Names or questions? Moving on to L-10. Affordable housing programs. Any questions on this page? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. On local housing associations, what the minister stated is well understood. For staff housing, I feel that they should go through contract. Maintenance is a large issue under the housing association, and every year it is about the same. We're talking millions every year.

For that matter, I feel we should look at people who have been employed for a long time. I feel that it should be privatized, especially on O and M, that they use these for

maintenance. It would be more leverage, like not within just one year. I feel that it could be better if we do it this way.

For example, if people are employed, so that they are able do this on a contract. I would like to know how you feel about this.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know that the member really feels that the contractors can take over the maintenance part of their houses in the communities, so that there could be more funding to build houses.

Yes, I agree with the member. When we do reviews on our departments, we will consider the member's comments and I will work with my staff to see how we can do what the member is asking. I will talk with my cabinet colleagues to find out more about how we can deal with the wish of the member, what the member is asking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I have no more names. Affordable housing program. Turn to page L-11. This is an information item. Go back to page L-4. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Department summary. Total, operations and maintenance, \$79,171,000. Is the committee agreed that the Housing Corporation is completed? Sorry. \$79,171,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: The committee is agreed that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Housing Corporation main estimates is complete. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for appearing before us this evening. Mr. Barnabas.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress.

Chairman: There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour of the motion raise your hand. (Interpretation begins.) In favour of the motion to report progress? Opposed? The motion is defeated.

We can now deal with a different department. I would like to ask the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to make his opening remarks. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for this opportunity to address the Committee of the Whole. My staff are not here at the moment, but I will read my opening remarks.

I am pleased to present the review of the 2004-05 for the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has the smallest departmental budget in the government.

This budget continues to build upon the principles, goals, and objectives committed to in *Pinasuaqtavut* and to advance Inuit Qaujimagajatuqangit across all sectors of the government.

As I will outline, our budget is also critical to coordinating and representing the interests of the Government of Nunavut and all Nunavummiut in our dealings with the Inuit organizations and the federal government.

I am pleased to report that on both these fronts our past efforts are producing results. With your continued support, I look forward to Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs continuing its central role in implementing the goals of our government set by the members of this House.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs' Mission and Role

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has several areas of responsibility including providing advice and administrative support to cabinet and government departments and agencies, overseeing the overall coordination of the executive branch and the development of the senior public service, and ensuring that the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is implemented.

The role of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is to seek political direction and build consensus within the public service.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for communicating the accomplishments, objectives, and policies of the government both within government and to the public.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs also plays a leadership role in coordinating the governments priorities and mandate as set out in *Pinasuaqtavut*.

Our government is now five years old, and although much has been done, there is much more to do. These 2004-05 main estimates represent the direction of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs in meeting its challenges.

The total budget allotment for operations and maintenance is \$9,397,000 for 2004-2005.

Executive Branch

The Department's Executive Branch is responsible for executives and corporate services, statistics, communications, policy, planning, and evaluation. We also do support to the Utilities Rates Review Council.

Under my direction, the Executive Branch is responsible for bringing forward the cabinet agenda. It also supports cabinet by communicating our direction to the public service.

The Executive Branch ensures the Government of Nunavut incorporates Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit, follows *Pinasuaqtavut*, and fulfills the Government of Nunavut's mandate to decentralize government positions.

Intergovernmental Affairs Branch

The Intergovernmental Affairs Branch of the department is responsible for the management and development of intergovernmental strategies, policies, and initiatives relating to federal, provincial, territorial, circumpolar, and aboriginal affairs.

This is accomplished by:

- encouraging strong working relationships with other governments;
- respecting "iqqanaijaqatigiit" by coordinating Government of Nunavut activities with Nunavut Tunnavik Incorporated and regional Inuit organizations;
- ensuring the implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement; and
- advancing the issue of devolution in negotiations with the federal government.

As all members know, there will be a new federal government after June 29. As a territorial government, and in partnership with NTI, we will have to build new relationships to ensure that our priorities are addressed by the new government.

All of my cabinet colleagues, through their portfolios and in federal-provincial-territorial forums, will be pursuing funding and programs to address the needs of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Chairman, those are the highlights of EIA's mandate for 2004-05. I expect to continue building on our successes and advancing the importance of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in policy development. I would be pleased to answer any questions or address the comments of my fellow MLAs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table? Does the committee agree for the Premier to bring the witnesses to the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could assist the Premier's officials. Mr. Premier, could you please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, with me today is on my left, my deputy minister, John Walsh. And to my right Terry Rogers, corporate services. Thank you.

Chairman: Does the Chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and welcome Deputy Minister Walsh and Mr. Rogers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has reviewed the main estimates and business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for the 2004-05 fiscal year, and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The Committee notes that the department's total 2004-05 budget has decreased approximately 9 percent from 2003-04, primarily as a result of the wind-up of the decentralization secretariat.

In the past, a number of concerns were raised during the review of the department's main estimates. I would like to take a moment to make some comments regarding progress and performance in these areas.

In general, the performance of GN departments in meeting statutory tabling requirements has improved since the first few years of the GN's operation. EIA has an important role to play in ensuring discipline in this area on the part of line departments. However, as both the committee and the Auditor General have noted, annual financial statements for a number of Crown corporations continue to be tabled months after they are due. EIA and the Department of Finance should present a united position with respect to achieving improvements in this area.

As a start, the committee would suggest that the annual performance bonuses awarded to senior departmental and Crown corporation managers be tied in part to actual performance in meeting legally required tabling requirements.

In the past, members have stressed the need for the department to improve communication with communities. Members are pleased to note the department's continued commitment to more actively using community radio to disseminate information of interest to Nunavummiut.

Members have consistently supported the government's efforts to impress upon our federal partners the need for funding arrangements that are not based on rigid and inadequate per capita formulas, but on the real needs of the jurisdiction.

In turn, members urge the government to be consistent and credible by dealing with the needs of our communities, schools, and other institutions in a manner that is not based solely on population numbers.

Members were pleased to note recent tri-territorial success in securing a better deal for Nunavut and our northern partners, the NWT and the Yukon, in the area of healthcare. Members were also pleased to note that GN lobbying has proved productive with respect to progress on the Bathurst Inlet port and road project.

Members recognize that the federal election has injected a degree of uncertainty with respect to immediate progress on the devolution issue.

Members would wish to see the Premier and his ministerial colleagues account more frequently and formally to the House on their activities and achievements at the many federal-provincial-territorial and international meetings at which they are in attendance. Simply issuing news releases is insufficient.

The committee would also wish to see more frequent and formal updates to the Legislative Assembly on the status of transboundary disputes with groups in Manitoba and elsewhere.

The committee looks forward to a productive working relationship between the GN and NTI, while urging the government to be forthright with members with respect to areas where the two parties have legitimate disagreements.

Mr. Chairman, although the structure of the GN was re-organized in March of this year, members note with disappointment that a final report on the program review initiative and what it achieved has yet to be released.

On a related note, members reacted with surprise to a recent GN request for proposals by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, in which consulting services are requested in a number of areas, including program review.

The GN's obligations with respect to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act are coordinated by the department. There continue to be a number of areas in which little progress has been achieved in meeting past recommendations of the information and privacy commissioner or committees of this House.

One specific area where the committee would wish to see greater transparency on the part of the GN is with respect to the formally adopted policies of the government. All too frequently, the government claims that it is unable to make public the decisions and directives that it gives to departments and Crown corporations.

While Members recognize that the deliberations of cabinet, and the options that it considers, are legitimately confidential items, the public good achieved by keeping secret the actual decisions of government remains questionable.

As a start, the committee would recommend that the government formally table in the Legislative Assembly a comprehensive set of the policies that have been formally approved to date by cabinet. These would include, for example, the GN's new leasing policy, the existence of which was publicly disclosed in February 2003 by a senior GN official during public hearings. There can be no justification for not tabling and making public the formal policies approved by the cabinet and followed by the government as a whole.

Although the government frequently pays rhetorical tribute to the values of transparency and accountability, it often appears that we are falling further and further behind other Canadian jurisdictions with respect to making information public.

At the federal level, progress has been achieved in bringing the lens of public scrutiny to bear on such items as the travel and hospitality expenses of senior officials, as evidenced by the fact that even federal cabinet ministers have these expenses posted on departmental websites. Mr. Chairman, it is self-evident that making such information public serves as a deterrent against waste and abuse.

The Utility Rates Review Council falls under the jurisdiction of the department. Members continue to have concerns as to the extent to which it has been involved in the current situation surrounding the Nunavut Power Corporation's latest fuel stabilization rider.

The committee has noted that although the department last year announced the decentralization of a number of its positions to Pangnirtung, these positions have not yet been filled. These include, ironically, the positions which are supposed to evaluate the success of the decentralization initiative itself.

Two areas where the committee could see value in the government's engaging a truly independent review are the costs and success of the decentralization initiative, and the costs and success of the implementation, to date, of the recommendations of the *Ikuma* reports.

A related area is that of performance measurement. Members have noted with interest the department's stated business plan goal to establish a GN performance measurement program. The Committee would wish to see departmental business plans begin to incorporate performance measures that look at actual results and outcomes, and not just activities and outputs.

That concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed, but that is it for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. By now you know the rules. So, the floor is now open for 10-minute general comments. I see no names for general comments. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Just to supplement the opening comment... I want you, Mr. Premier, to know we are concerned about the government and that we do not dislike the government.

But, if we look at all of the consultant contracts during the life of the first Assembly and also for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, there was a \$500,000 contract to find the location for the museum; \$500,000, that is half a million dollars. We could probably build a few units with that, and in reading the report, it seems it should have been closer to \$60,000 instead, keeping in mind that cost factors were incomplete.

For that reason I would caution your department, if we are going to be contracting out you have to review it with all the departmental programs. There are individuals who can do reviews within the government, department officials; we don't necessarily have to go directly to the consultants. There are individuals within the government who have this expertise, so we have to be very cautious of contracting out. We have to utilize our workers, our staff that has that expertise. I'm sure that big, huge sum of contracts was approved by the Financial Management Board was incomplete, and that's just one example that I wanted to point out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for listening.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. No more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed for a page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page B-5. Executive and intergovernmental affairs branch summary. Directorate. \$1,426,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B6. Communications, policy, planning, and evaluation. \$1,989,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B-7. Statistical services. Total, Operations and maintenance, \$352,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Nunavut cabinet. Any questions on this page? Page B-8. \$3,500,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 9. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total, operations and maintenance, \$189,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Intergovernmental affairs. Branch summary. Any questions on this page? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Premier and his witness. I have a question on raising the entire profile of Nunavut in southern Canada. What is Intergovernmental Affairs doing in terms of raising our profile in southern Canada, sustaining it? I've often heard in my travels that people down south don't know where Nunavut is. I've heard politicians in Ottawa say that the novelty of Nunavut has worn off.

I think when we are lobbying in the south we have to use all our efforts and resources to raise our level of awareness in southern Canada with what is happening up here. I'm wondering if the Premier can comment on what efforts his department is doing in this regard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to our limited budget we try and keep our costs down. We are very active in the intergovernmental forum and have a good working relationship with all other governments, whether they be provinces or territories. So, it's very helpful in terms of our lobbying efforts.

We maintain an office in Ottawa; if you are in Ottawa you are more than welcome to come and use our office facilities there. So, that keeps us in touch with the federal government.

In terms of advertising, we do not do much. But we do take any free advertisement that comes our way. For instance last fall, I believe, the Globe and Mail provided us with a free full-page ad to advertise our product and where we are as a result of ongoing advertising for positions and jobs in their paper. Whatever trips I do take overseas, I try and make sure that other governments pay, for those like the federal government. So, I try to take advantage of any avenues that come our way to promote Nunavut and our fine products. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that answer. One of the common misconceptions down south is that southern Canada gives us \$700- or 800 million in federal transfers and it simply comes here and disappears into some kind of sinkhole.

Two years ago the municipalities did some calculations, where we hired KPMG. They calculated that from the \$600- or 700 million in federal transfers, \$450 million went back south. That supported between four thousand and nine thousand jobs in southern Canada and added a value of \$300 million to goods and services produced down there.

I wonder if the Premier can comment if the government should be doing this kind of work. Should they calculate the financial impact on southern Canada in terms of the monies we spend down south, and the jobs we create to support down south, while we are up here in northern Canada? Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. (Interpretation.) It is the explanation that we have to offer, and I've never really encountered any opposition to our position with other governments, because they understand where we're coming from and that our ability to generate our own revenue is very limited because it is held by the national government. This is not uncommon for new governments.

Like in the west, all the provinces from Alberta to Manitoba, or Saskatchewan did not have their own ability to generate their own revenue when they first started. So, they fully support us on any efforts to regain control of our ability to get our own resources. For example, when it comes to fisheries, that's the same issue.

So, the other provinces have been very supportive of our efforts and the national government is coming around to it. So, they're open to discussions on devolution so that we can generate our own revenue. They all agree that we don't have much resources here, so we have to spend the money down south and purchase their products, so that's the easy part of the work. To try to get the national government to accept that we need assistance is the biggest hurdle.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to ask the Premier if he could offer us some insight into his negotiations, or discussions with provincial premiers and the federal government in terms of explaining to them that we have a very small population-base in Nunavut, and because of that, per capita formulas do not work for Nunavut. We've seen that in terms of the infrastructure monies we used to get. We've been successful and making some improvement there, but in terms of getting additional funds for health, it'll be good if the per capital formula didn't apply. We should get some sort of base allocation.

I'm just wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Premier can comment if he's making any progress in southern Canada in terms of convincing his counterparts and senior persons in the federal government that per capital formulas don't work for small populations such as we have in northern territory or in some of the smaller provinces. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, where you're going, when we walked, as a territory when we couldn't convince the national government of our position

that per capital does not work. Since we walked from the agreement that the federal government was trying to impose on us, we created new conditions for the north where we get additional funds for healthcare.

That was reflected in the last national federal government budget. That additional that we get on top of the per capita dollars is an ongoing fund for health for the north. It does not meet all our costs but it does go some way in helping us absorb some of the costs that we have to bear.

We've also got additional money for infrastructure that is on top of per capital allocations that were in place in the past.

So, I appreciate the good work that the member has done with NAM in lobbying the national government. It has been very helpful, but we still pursue any avenues that we can use at the national level. The easiest way is through the annual premiers' conferences that we attend, and I've always received very good support from colleagues whenever we raised an issue for the north. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a comment. In terms of seniority in Canada, are you the longest serving premier or the second longest? Could you comment on that? I know that helps when you're trying to lobby at the senior levels. Can you comment on that? Thank you.

Chairman): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am third-ranking, and it helps because they know you have been around and you know the issues. I know the players around the table and what their issues are, so it is very helpful in terms of the dealings on various issues that we face at the national level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to beg the committee's indulgence as I was taking my daughter to the washroom and I missed some questions that we had on the first few pages. It was your fourth question that I wanted to address.

My first question in this, and related to the comments that were made in my opening comments, I mentioned the program review final report. I'm just wondering when will the final report be tabled on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The conclusion of our last Assembly before the elections, we had presented an overview at the time, findings of the

program review. We did not anticipate a formal report other than to present the findings and some of the responses that we have put together. So, if the member wants us to write up a nice report on the findings and our responses to the review, we can do that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was at that meeting and I'm pretty sure that was just an update on that program review. I'd like to ask the minister what specific decisions or direction were taken as a result of the whole exercise.

And also, to comment on... . You know, just by taking it to the point of finding a few little things and that are decided kind of seems like they are cutting something off half way through the process. It seems incomplete. Given that, what specific decisions and directions are taken as a result of the whole exercise? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That finding's with me right now but I'm more than willing to provide the comments, perhaps in the form of a report that the member requests. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll look forward to that. Could you touch on that through correspondence to the minister so I get a clear indication of what we're looking at?

My next question relates to something that I mentioned in my opening comments and that was on getting the government to table the complete set of formal policies that have been approved to date. Will the minister commit to doing that, and when? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: "Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq." Yes, our session is almost done. I would say that I could table it in the next session, so that we have it for the next session. "Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq."

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

Mr. Tootoo: You guys look forward to the summer, eh? Mr. Chairman, my next question that deals with senior personnel secretary, again, is something that I mentioned in my opening comment, that it is a fact that the federal government now makes public on a regular basis the hospitality and travel expenses of senior federal public servants.

Will the minister commit to tabling this information in the House for the Government of Nunavut senior public servants as well as the cabinet ministers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.” I am willing to review that possibility and see what requirements there may be for confidentiality, but I am more than open to it. “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.”

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo. Supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Chairman, another question I have is dealing with something else raised in my opening comment, and that was on in the statistics division. It was announced in 2003 that the department was moving to Pangnirtung, knowing the people that are in the division moved with it. I am just wondering, when does the department anticipate having this division operational again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.” We will take a little time and find local staff, which we are planning to do. We plan to have it complete by September of this year. “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.”

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I am sure some of the information that that division provided to the government is information that we desperately need to take to our southern counterparts. So, the sooner we can get that going, the better. That is pretty vital. It is homework that we need to take down to justify additional resources to build our case with them. I urge the minister to work on that as quickly as possible.

The other thing I would like to ask about is on the fishing quotas when you are talking about the intergovernmental relationship with Ottawa.

Can the minister give us an update as to where things are at with that in trying to get a higher allocation of the quota? And borrowing any positive possibility of my comments that I made earlier today to the minister responsible for environment, if we cannot capitalize on the actual quota, there are other ways of forcing these people that fish in our waters out here to offload their catches in Nunavut. Is that something that we could look at as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.” Our focus has been to lobby for higher allocation based on adjacency. Members may recall that at the last premiers’ meeting that

I attended, I received support for our position. That adjacency principle, in terms of shrimp allocations, should apply for Nunavut, and we should be treated like the rest of Canada in terms of getting our share of our resources.

So, that has been our focus to this point, in trying to get the same treatment as we would if we were in southern Canada. So, in terms of actual infrastructure, we have also lobbied for the same kinds of programs that southern jurisdictions receive. To date, we have not been successful, but we are continuing to pursue all avenues that we have at our disposal to try and get our message through.

We are also pressuring the courts on one of the allocations because we feel the land claim agreement was not respected by the national government when they allocated last year, for instance.

So, we will continue to explore every avenue that we have, to try and get as many benefits flowing from our resources to Nunavut. “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.”

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m sure the minister knows that any support that any of the members of the Assembly can do to help that cause out, I’m sure that they will be more than willing to do it for them, to try and further our cause in that area.

Mr. Chairman, I want to touch a little bit on functions that have been contracted back to the government of the Northwest Territories. For example, the Workers’ Compensation Board for the shared board for the two jurisdictions.

Is the government actively looking at dividing the Workers’ Compensation Board, or are they still going to keep it the way it is and have a joint board? I’m just wondering if that is being looked at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.” I’m sorry, I’m not the minister responsible right now for the Workers’ Compensation Board, so I haven’t got the details. But, from my recollection, the problem that we faced if we want to go our own way on the Workers’ Compensation Board is that we do not have a large enough pool to be able to fund a Workers’ Compensation Board on our own. So, we were cost-sharing it with the Northwest Territories to pool our resources and utilize what we had in terms of funding the compensation program for both jurisdictions.

So, at this point, I don’t have any other information at my disposal. “Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq.”

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is another area, I believe, that is being contracted back to the Northwest Territories and that is some of the commission functions. I'm just wondering what those are and when those functions will be repatriated back to Nunavut, and where they'll be.

The reason I'm asking that is will it be contracted back, intergovernmental agreements between the government and the government of the Northwest Territories? So, I'm asking the Premier on that intergovernmental affair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: "Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq." I do not have that information with me at the moment, but I believe the Minister of Finance, the minister responsible for liquor, will better respond to that. "Qujannamiik, Itsivautaq."

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is work to transfer that responsibility completely back to the territory of Nunavut by this year, this fall, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second part of that question is where those positions would be located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had provided that information at one point, I think it was at standing committee, that the positions originally scheduled or allocated for Gjoa Haven would be transferred to Rankin Inlet. There will also be some positions here in Iqaluit to manage the liquor warehouse. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is it for there, I guess I'll have another question when we get to the decentralization area in the main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Page B-10. Executive and intergovernmental affairs. Branch summary. Intergovernmental affairs. Total, operations and maintenance, \$1,208,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I had my hand up under “Intergovernmental affairs.” Under “Inuit Circumpolar Conference.” If I may ask a question.

Chairman (interpretation): I am sorry. I did not see your hand up. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Perhaps if Mr. Curley could ask the question first.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you want to ask a question, Mr. Curley?

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes. Thank you. My question is in regards to international travel under “Inuit Circumpolar Conference.” They talk about trading but they are very complex discussions that they have. If we were to trade with Greenland it would be very, very good but there is a big difference in their trade policies. Their contracting and construction is very different as well. Because of those complexities perhaps we could sort of start being similar with those of the Greenlandic government.

Once you go to a meeting with them, maybe you can encourage them because some construction companies give up. If we have a free trade zone it would be a lot easier. I just want the Premier to consider this. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I don't think that that is a question but a comment. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good comment. We have had some talks with the Greenland government and they don't really have their own regulations in regards to trade. So, that is the problem that we have had. And as well, we don't really have the trades legislation. We don't have that kind of responsibility, but we have helped each other in regards to training of our people and their people in regards to fisheries.

I know that they really like caribou meat and we talked about that previously. The only problem that we have encountered is to do with importing the caribou meat. There is no cargo ships that could bring all those meats that we were to trade amongst each other.

Trading of caribou meat to the United States have been the work that we have been doing since the mad cow disease. The only problem that we have with the Americans, too, is the trading of seal pelts.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I would just like to thank the Premier. I feel that we have to work vigorously to try to have some easier trading with the Greenland people, whether it be food or other materials, and even arts and crafts.

The trade ban with the American government is a problem that we have, and we'd like to go down to the United States to be able to trade with them with our sealskins.

At any time, if possible, I wonder if we could invite the trades representative from the United States to come and take a look and to see us in session here. We will be able to ask some questions from them, especially to do with the carvings and the sealskins. So, it could be open for the Americans. We have helped the Americans very much with the DEW Line sites. I think we could have a good trading system with the Americans and I would like to encourage the minister to invite those trade representatives here to Nunavut to explain to them what we are trying to do here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I do not think that was a question, I think that was a comment. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there was a lot of those trade representatives, probably there is about 100 of them that would have to come over here. Also, there are also about 200 of them that are in the Senate that have to agree with the trades legislations. They probably will not all understand, but we have to try to convince them that whatever trade that we are going to be deliberating, we are going to have the assistance of the trades representatives in the States.

Also, we would like to be able to work with our colleagues in the Alaska government, the United States government in Alaska. Perhaps if we could work with them in regards to making traditional clothing. Those would be part of the thing that could open up some trades, to produce those kinds of trading between the American government. Then they usually have Green Peace down there, and animal rights activists, and stuff like that, and they are very, very hard to convince.

So, what we have to do is work with the other Inuit in Alaska. We want to make sure that there is no backlash on the legislation in regards to trading. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley, is that it? We are in B-10, Intergovernmental. (Interpretation ends.) Operations and maintenance, \$1,208,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: B-11, Executive and intergovernmental affairs branch summary. Aboriginal and circumpolar affairs. Page 12 is for B-11. Any questions on this page? You have no questions? Total, operations and maintenance, \$733,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page B-13. Executive and intergovernmental affairs branch summary. Decentralization secretariat. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is good to see that last line on this page: the Decentralization Secretariat ceased operations March 31, 2003, and one could assume by that, all positions that are moving are done. We just heard the Minister of Finance indicate that some positions that were going to be with the Liquor Board in Gjoa Haven are going to be relocated to Rankin Inlet.

I am just wondering if that means any other positions are going to be relocated as well. I just want to confirm to my constituents, you know, Iqaluit has given up a lot of jobs and that there is going to be no more jobs leaving Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the original plan, the expectations that were created for the jobs that were being transferred, the numbers, yes, it is complete and there will be no more decentralization from Iqaluit.

So, that does not prevent additional resources that we may acquire from outside that have been contracted out, that we could still have the flexibility of moving some of those positions elsewhere, but it is largely complete. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. B-14, B-15. Your information item. Now, we go back to page B-4. Executive and intergovernmental affairs. Department summary. Details of expenses. Total, operations and maintenance: \$9,397,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that the department be concluded? (Interpretation begins.) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier and your officials for being able to be in the Committee of the Whole this evening. Thank you.

What is the wish of the committee? We have a motion to report progress. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Item 20. Back to the orders of the day. (Interpretation ends.) Report of the Committee of the Whole. Chairman Arreak.

Item 20: 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 we would like report progress. Also, I move the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. (Interpretation ends.) There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Kattuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion carried. Item 21. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Orders of the Day for June 1, 2004:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. 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: Thank you. Today is the last day for the pages who have been assisting us since last Tuesday. They all attend the high school here in Iqaluit. Their names are Corenna Nuyalia, Sileema Angoyuak, Lauren Teiman, and Sam Gilhuly. Thank you, you have been very good to us.

>>*Applause*

Speaker: And with the authority invested in me by motion 11 – 2(1), this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, 10am, June 1.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*The House adjourned at 20:00*

