



Nunavut Canada

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Tuesday November 16, 2004

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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. I invite Mike Gardner to deliver the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): I would now like to invite an Iqaluit elder, Enoapik Sageatook, to light the *qulliq*.

Lighting of Qulliq

Ms. Sageatook (interpretation): For the *qulliq* lighting today, it is easier to use seal blubber. Thank you for thinking of me to be part of the ceremonial proceedings today. I thank the members and everyone for thinking of me during your ceremony. I really appreciate being invited here today.

I lost two sons, and God has helped me to deal with the everyday things.

Thank you very much for inviting me here. The *qulliq* warms the whole igloo and will represent the warming of this House and give lighting to the members when they are in the dark.

Whenever we ran out of seal blubber we were not able to have warmth and light in the igloo. It used to be very hard for us when we ran out of blubber for our *qulliq* in those days, a long time ago.

I really appreciate the members for inviting me to provide this ceremony. I would also like to thank the people that brought me country food; they will have a payment from the Almighty.

The *qulliq* represents everything: it was for cooking, for melting water, and for lighting and warmth for our igloos of long ago. Our parents were very good at keeping us alive in those days. We were brought by them into the harsh winter environment that we have here in the North. We really appreciate our ancestors for that, because we were all young

at one time. We should also appreciate our ancestors who looked after us, because we would not be here today if it were not for them.

Thank you very much. That is all that I have to say.

In the igloo, years ago, or in the *qammaq*, we used the *qulliq*. When the Hudson Bay Company was not around, that is what we used.

>>*Throat singing*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I think they are better than me. Also joining us today are Naomi Egeesiak and Lisa Kolola, who will be playing their fiddle for us.

>>*Fiddle music*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): We are very proud to have the Aqsarniik school choir who will be singing *O' Canada* for us.

>>*School choir singing O' Canada with drum dancing*

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated.

Clerk, please ascertain that the Commissioner is in the building.

Opening Address: Throne Speech

Commissioner Irniq (interpretation): Please be seated. Good afternoon and welcome, elders. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, members of the Legislative Assembly and the people of Nunavut, I smile at you.

I am honoured to serve Nunavummiut, and it is with great pride that I deliver the first throne speech of this new Assembly and of our new government.

Since taking office, I have traveled throughout our territory. I have had the opportunity to meet wonderful people and bestow honours of bravery, youth achievement, volunteer services, and skill acquisition to all deserving residents.

I have seen the best of our territory. I am heartened by the passion Nunavummiut have shown about creating a positive, healthy way to live and raise their families. I also deeply appreciate the kindness and warmth they shared with me.

As members of this Assembly, you share a commitment to creating a territory where our citizens are truly equal members of the Canadian federation. Your decision to participate so publicly in the development of Nunavut is an honourable and challenging undertaking.

Your debates and your decisions in this Assembly in the coming years will affect the whole territory. I encourage you to always be guided by *aajiiqatigiirniq*, and I wish you, as Members of the Legislative Assembly, insight, patience, and the spirit of consensus in your deliberations.

BUILDING NUNAVUT'S FUTURE

(interpretation ends) The work in this House taken during the first five years of our territory resulted in significant steps being taken to set up a new government. To guide its work, the first government prepared a long-term plan. This plan envisioned what life in Nunavut will be like in the year 2020. It outlines four major goals and guiding principles; these were set out in the Bathurst Mandate. (interpretation) You are all familiar with the goals: *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq*, healthy communities; *Pijarniniqsaq qattujjiqatigiitsiarnirlu*, simplicity and unity; *Nangminiq makitajunnarniq*, self reliance; and *illipallianganinaqniq*, continuous learning.

The new government has reviewed the goals and evaluated the results achieved between 1999 and 2004. Overall, much has been achieved, and the people of Nunavut have made important progress. While we have every reason to be proud about what has been accomplished, there is much more to do.

The government will remain committed to the four goals in its second mandate. It will again be guided by the principals adopted by the first government, and increasingly by Inuit societal values applied through Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, which is essential to the way your government conducts its affairs.

What the government hopes to accomplish is set out in its mandate document for the second term. The document, *Pinasuaqtavut 2004-2009*, will be tabled during the current sitting of the legislature. The priorities in the mandate document are derived directly from the February general election and subsequent meetings of this legislature, full caucus, and cabinet.

At the caucus meeting in Arviat in September, each of you put forward a vision for the territory's future. You agreed to give a greater emphasis to economic development and to build a stronger foundation based on Inuit societal values. As we advance through the second mandate, the government will continue to be guided by its full commitment to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and its partnerships with the land claims organizations.

We need to do much more before we have a government and a societal structure that better reflects the 85 percent of Nunavummiut who are Inuit. During its second mandate your government will make every effort to achieve this goal.

Language is at the very heart of cultural strength; Nunavummiut know this and that is why they want their government to focus on protecting and promoting Inuktitut.

Inuktitut is the language of the majority of this territory. The Government of Nunavut will continue to increase the number of services provided in Inuktitut and the government will also be a workplace where more Inuktitut is spoken.

Your government is working on new language legislation that will recognize Inuktitut as the majority language while protecting the rights of English- and French-speaking Nunavummiut. With your support, it is the government's expectation that such legislation will be passed within the term of this legislature. To support its commitment to language promotion, the government is working to make laws, government policies, documents, and forms available in Inuktitut.

Four out of five people in Nunavut are Inuit. The Nunavut Land Claims Agreement has as an objective a representative level of government employment. The Government of Nunavut is committed to reaching this goal as soon as possible.

Presently, about 46 percent of Government of Nunavut employees are Inuit. The total number of Inuit working in the government is steadily increasing, but the percentage has not changed significantly because the overall number of employees is also increasing as a result of the government being able to fill more of its vacancies.

For many Inuit, pre-employment training is a prerequisite for government employment. Under Article 23 of the Land Claims Agreement, the government is required to have a plan to train more Inuit.

(interpretation ends) The territorial government program to achieve representative employment is the Inuit Employment Plan. This plan includes initiatives related to internship, training, mentoring, staff cultural orientation, and staff retention components.

Unfortunately, funding negotiations between the federal government and the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik for the implementation of the Land Claims Agreement has reached an impasse. The federal government is unwilling to provide the funding required for accomplishing the objective for Inuit participation in government under Article 23.

The territorial government, working with Nunavut Tunngavik, will continue to press the federal government to meet its responsibilities so that it can put in place the necessary training to enable Inuit to hold positions within the territorial government and the Nunavut operations of the federal government.

(interpretation ends) Your government will continue to advance the employment of more Inuit, using existing budgets.

The government will continue to support nursing scholarships for beneficiaries. They are awarded annually to two full-time students at Nunavut Arctic College, in each year of the four-year program.

(interpretation): Two Inuit nurses graduated from the Nunavut Arctic College program last year. Currently, there are 26 students in the program, with the vast majority being Inuit.

The government will also establish a new scholarship to enable a beneficiary to pursue doctoral studies in medicine at a southern university.

Since 1991, 91 Inuit have graduated from the Nunavut teacher education program: 38 with certificates and 53 with bachelor of education degrees. The government will expand the number of programs, particularly in the health and education fields.

(interpretation ends) Inuit values need to be incorporated into how the government conducts its affairs and delivers its programs and services. I would like to briefly outline some processes created by the government to integrate Inuit values and implement culturally relevant activities into its operations in a coordinated manner.

The key components are two different bodies: an internal inter-departmental group, and an external advisory body. The inter-departmental committee is called Tuttaqviit. The external advisory body, the Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit, has a membership of 11 Nunavummiut from different communities.

Their role is to provide advice to the government on Inuit cultural issues and knowledge. Advice may be provided on efforts to reflect Inuit societal values in the delivery of day-to-day programs and services. (interpretation) Cabinet ministers will meet annually with the Katimajit to discuss Inuit cultural issues and how to improve programs and services.

The Katimajit's first meeting with ministers was held yesterday, and I am pleased to report to members that it was a very constructive session with a positive outlook for future meetings. Strong language policies and employment policies will help keep Inuit culture strong for future generations.

Important for a strong future is the cultural legacy of the past. That is why the government, with its key partners, will begin detailed planning for the construction of a territorial heritage centre and for the return of Nunavut's cultural treasures from other jurisdictions. Without the legacy of a proud and unique past, there cannot be a strong and confident future.

(interpretation ends) One of the greatest challenges of your government is to support and stimulate economic development and to increase the role of the private sector. One of the characteristics of Nunavut is the high ratio of government jobs in the economy. The government does not wish to remain the largest employer of Nunavummiut; in fact, it will welcome the day when the private sector can take over this role.

Nunavut is about to embark on a new economic path. Now, more than ever, the territory needs to focus on developing strategies that direct investments and efforts to wealth and job generation. We will need to address several key areas if we are to realize our economic potential.

Infrastructure and housing remain critical issues that stand in the way of economic development. For example, the lack of ports and small-craft harbors and tourist facilities hinders economic development.

Lifelong learning will grow increasingly important if Nunavummiut are to access the employment opportunities that will arise during the coming years.

We need to improve coordination between the government, Inuit organizations, and the private sector to take advantage of opportunities.

The government will continue to work with its advisory body, the Nunavut Economic Forum, to create opportunities for Nunavummiut, particularly through the implementation of the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy.

Let there be no doubt about Nunavut moving forward on several fronts.

Mining will feature much more prominently in our economy. Over the period 2006-10, as many as four new mines may open. Related construction and service activity will send the economy into a period of growth never before seen. This year, Nunavut will see more than \$120 million being spent on exploration work.

New mining operations will open under tighter guidelines for local hiring practices, service contracts, and environmental protection. We will have more opportunities to increase Inuit representation, with a focus on cultural preservation.

The approval of Tahera's Jericho Diamond Project by the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the signing of the Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, and the involvement of the world-renowned Tiffany & Co. are excellent examples of the positive developments in Nunavut's mining sector. I am pleased to note that the construction of the Jericho mine, Nunavut's first diamond mine, is scheduled to begin next year.

Fishing is another sector that is on the threshold of expansion. The overall outlook is strong, provided we are able to increase Nunavut's allocation of the offshore fishery in Davis Strait and Baffin Bay to bring it into line with allocations in other jurisdictions with adjacent fisheries. The government will continue to urge the federal minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to address this outstanding concern.

In the meantime, our Department of Environment, in partnership with NTI and the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, will complete and implement the Nunavut Fisheries and Sealing Strategies.

Nunavut's small-manufacturing sector is dominated by two industries: the commercial processing of Northern foods and production of arts and crafts for sale or trade. The outlook for food processing is optimistic; an increase in processing will come once we gain greater control over our fish stocks. (interpretation) Trade in caribou and musk-ox goods has room to grow because there is an increasing demand for country food products in Canadian and international markets.

It is clear that there is a significant demand for Nunavut cultural products, and support for investments in the art sector and cultural industries is high.

Tourism is another important area for growth. It provides Nunavut with a valuable source of external capital and fosters the promotion of Inuit culture and the region's natural resources.

Investments and training will be needed in order to utilize the opportunities presented by our advantages and attractions. The government will work with industry partners to train tour operators, interpreters, and hospitality staff.

In major centres there is a need for attractions and activities to provide visitors with things to do before and after their hiking, camping, hunting, or fishing trip. Getting tourists to stay even one extra day can have a positive impact on our local economies.

(interpretation ends) Gaining control and decision-making responsibility over our natural resources through the devolution of northern resource program responsibilities from the federal government will help develop a self-reliant territory. Your government continues to press the federal government for a firm commitment to begin negotiations to conclude an agreement during the term of the second assembly.

The recent federal announcement of \$90 million over five years demonstrates a willingness on the part of Canada to support economic development in the territory. However, northern premiers and the ministers of economic development of the territories are negotiating with Canada administrative and allocation arrangements in order to set territorial priorities and make strategic economic investment decisions.

At the same time, the three territorial premiers and the Prime Minister are developing a northern vision and strategy. An announcement is expected during the sitting of the legislature.

(interpretation) Education is the key to strengthening our culture, expanding our economy, and creating a self-reliant and confident society. If we are to have a vibrant and strong culture, then we have to make sure that we teach our children our language and our culture.

If we are to enjoy the benefits of an expanding culture, we need to ensure that Nunavummiut receive the education and training they will need to be able to take the jobs that will be created in Nunavut. That is why we are developing a culture of lifelong learning. With this approach Nunavut will be able to reach its full potential.

That is also why our government has made it a priority to expand future skilled-employment opportunities by opening a Nunavut trades school by the end of the second Legislative Assembly.

We need a public education system that focuses on graduating bilingual youth who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to succeed in post-secondary studies. The foundation of such an education system will be a made-for-Nunavut Education Act.

The development of a new Education Act is a priority for the government during this mandate. It is committed to including Nunavummiut in that process in a meaningful and substantial way. Consultation on education initiatives will continue through a number of public forums to determine what Nunavummiut want to see within the education system. These consultations will begin early next year.

In addition, the government is pursuing a revamped school funding formula that is more relevant to our territory and will result in a pupil-teacher ratio and staff levels that promote positive learning environments. The government will create a formula that is clear and transparent.

(interpretation) Within the classrooms, our children need a culturally relevant curriculum. Our youth need to be taught not only in the majority language of the territory but also with curriculum and textbooks that reflect their culture and are relevant to Nunavut.

In developing a kindergarten to grade 12 curriculum with adequate resources, we hope to see bilingual youth graduate with the education, skills, and confidence to pursue a post-secondary education in the field of their choice.

(interpretation ends) To increase participation within the workforce, the government is undertaking a review of several post-secondary program initiatives. It will continue to develop an Adult Learning Strategy to increase academic levels within the territory, making residents more qualified to pursue skills-related training and employment opportunities. It will also pursue programs at the community level, including basic literacy, pre-employment, certificate, diploma, and degree programs.

The Department of Education and Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will begin planning for a Nunavut cultural school, which will strengthen Inuit culture for future generations. This school will combine academic and traditional skills with a focus on young adults making the transition from high school to the workforce.

(interpretation ends) The health of Nunavut depends on the health of each of its physical, social, economic, and cultural components.

The Government of Nunavut is encouraged by the recent success, at the First Ministers' meeting, of concentrated efforts to bring this message to Ottawa. We welcome the 10-year Plan to Strengthen Health Care in Canada.

The new funding from the federal government will assist the Department of Health and Social Services with the implementation of its Closer to Home Strategy.

(interpretation) Over the next five to ten years, Closer to Home is expected to bring these results: more care and services will be delivered to Nunavummiut in their own communities, using their own language, and in the proper cultural setting; and more care and services will be delivered by Inuit to Inuit.

Closer to Home will encourage traditional Inuit practices in health care, such as expanded midwifery programs so that mothers can have their children in or closer to their communities.

The opening of three new regional health centres in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, and Cambridge Bay will result in more services being delivered in Nunavut, reducing the need for out-of-territory care. Planning is underway to ensure that training and education opportunities are available so that the centres will be able to hire as many Nunavummiut as possible.

(interpretation ends) Investments are also being made elsewhere to modernize services in communities, with new facilities in Arviat, Pond Inlet, and Igloolik, and more to follow. There will also be a new long-term care facility in Chesterfield Inlet and Nunavut's first psychiatric facility in Iqaluit.

(interpretation) In partnership with communities, the government is committed to opening one new 24-hour elder care facility in each year of its mandate, beginning next year.

In an effort to reduce the disruption medical travel causes within families when patients are required to leave their communities for treatment, the government is committed to providing more care closer to home through programs such as telehealth.

Advances in technology will make it possible to bring telehealth to every community in Nunavut by the end of this year. (interpretation ends) The excellence of our telehealth system is recognized beyond this territory and it is with great pleasure that I am able to inform members that the Nunavut telehealth system recently received two prestigious awards.

To develop healthy communities, we must provide options and opportunities that enable individuals, families, and communities to become stronger. (interpretation) Working together is the key to this, and it is especially so in the case of another serious issue: the

high rate of suicide in our territory. Far too many Nunavummiut have been personally affected by the devastating results of suicide.

Your government will continue to assist with efforts to reduce and prevent suicides. It supports the continued partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik, the RCMP, the Nunavut Help Line, Qikiqtani Inuit Association, and others on the Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit, also known as the Embrace Life Council. This council's mandate is to gather information, develop and coordinate training material, and increase awareness of individuals at risk. We will continue to support the work of the council to ensure its success.

(interpretation ends) Families and individuals in Nunavut need to have fair access to a range of affordable housing that is comparable to the housing in other parts of Canada. We have made some progress, but providing adequate housing for our residents remains a significant challenge.

Public housing has increased by more than 330 units since 1999, through an investment of \$50 million. Yet despite this progress, at least 3,000 public housing units are needed immediately to relieve chronic overcrowding and bring housing up to Canadian standards. Nunavummiut who have been living in these overcrowded conditions are suffering related negative health effects.

Your government is committed to improving these statistics, but it cannot be done alone. The reality is that territorial housing needs far exceed the government's resources.

In September, the government partnered with Nunavut Tunngavik to present the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada with Nunavut's 10-year Inuit Housing Action Plan. It urges the federal government to fulfill its financial responsibility for aboriginal housing in Nunavut.

More than 54 percent of Nunavut Inuit live in overcrowded conditions. Over the past ten years, the federal government has invested more than \$3.8 billion dollars in on-reserve housing in the rest of Canada. The territorial government and NTI want a partnership now with Ottawa to implement a housing plan for Inuit in Nunavut.

Last year's \$40 million cost-matching agreement with Infrastructure Canada will enable the Nunavut Housing Corporation to build about 160 additional public housing units during the next several years. However, one-time investments such as this, though welcome, are not enough to deal with Nunavut's growing population and the resulting pressure on housing.

A housing action plan would complement work already underway on a long-term housing strategy for Nunavut. The housing corporation is completing consultations throughout Nunavut and will complete a draft strategy this winter. This strategy will be brought forward in the spring of 2005 through a Building Connections in Nunavut public forum.

The government has directed the housing corporation to expand its home improvement programs and bring forwards options for increasing private sector housing development and ownership.

(interpretation) A home is where a family should feel safe, yet domestic violence continues to be a serious problem in our territory. To address this issue, the Government of Nunavut will introduce legislation in this Assembly to protect and assist victims of domestic violence and to reduce the devastating effects that family violence has on entire communities.

Through such initiatives, (interpretation ends) the government is working to find a balance between supporting and reducing the rates of violence and the rate at which people re-offend.

The government will continue to develop youth programs and alternatives to the criminal court and jail systems. (interpretation) At the end of the year, this work will result in the opening of the Kugluktuk Ilavut Centre. Instead of going to Yellowknife or Iqaluit, some offenders from the Kugluktuk area will soon be able to serve their sentences at this healing facility, in a more traditional setting near their community and their families.

The government is committed to opening another similar facility in Nunavut during the term of this Assembly.

Our justice system is being revamped in another way. Just a few weeks ago the justice minister unveiled architectural drawings of Nunavut's first justice centre and the home of Canada's first single-level trial court.

The building was designed in consultation with various Inuit groups and will make justice more accessible in a state-of-the-art environment that is more secure for victims, court officers, the public, and the accused.

(interpretation ends) Justice is more than buildings; it is also the rule of law and fairness. This is exemplified by the Nunavut Human Rights Act, which came into effect on November 5, 2004. The Nunavut Human Rights Tribunal is being established in Coral Harbour to administer the legislation in a manner that considers Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and allows Nunavummiut to seek human rights protection in their own language and without having to leave Nunavut. This also fulfills the government's commitment to locating new government boards and agencies, where possible, in smaller communities.

The government wants to place a higher emphasis on the environment during this mandate. Consistent with our concerns with global warming and ongoing support for the Kyoto Protocol, it has directed all departments and the Qulliq Energy Corporation to initiate energy saving measures throughout the government and to launch a public energy conservation campaign as soon as possible.

As we move to conserve and reduce the use of energy, we will find alternatives to diesel fuel for electricity generation.

The Kyoto Accord is vital in dealing with climate change. We have first-hand knowledge of environmental conditions, and we have all witnessed the negative impacts brought about by global warming. These changes are making it more difficult to travel and to access our resources and country foods.

(interpretation) We are all familiar with the problem of what to do with old vehicles when they have outlived their usefulness. They are often abandoned or taken to overflowing municipal dump sites. As population and incomes grow, more vehicles are being imported from the south for personal and commercial use. The government will work with municipalities to explore alternatives including the repatriation of old vehicles.

The harvesting of wildlife has long been a key to the survival of Inuit. The food and economic value of wildlife will continue to be important. To ensure the long-term sustainability of these resources, a priority of the government, in partnership with NTI, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and hunters and trappers organizations, will be the implementation of the Wildlife Act and its regulations. It is the government's intention to bring this new Act into force on July 9, 2005.

This statute, updated, modernized, and consistent with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, will provide the tools for us to effectively manage our wildlife resources long into the future. A series of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles, incorporated fully for the first time into legislation, will ensure our wildlife management system is reflective of Nunavut. The co-management regime to be implemented by the Act will ensure that resource users have input into decision making.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut's parks now cover more than six percent of Nunavut, making up 130,000 square kilometers of mountains, tundra, historic sites, coastline, and important wildlife habitat. Combined with other protected areas, almost 14 percent of Nunavut is either protected or proposed for protection.

(interpretation) The government is proud of this and will continue to emphasize the importance of conserving and protecting our natural and cultural history. Plans for new parks and conservation areas are currently underway and will continue in all regions of Nunavut, with studies for a new coastal park north of Clyde River nearing completion.

The government looks forward to continuing to work with Nunavut Tunngavik to implement the objectives of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

In reconfirming this relationship, the government and NTI recently developed and signed a protocol called *Iqqanaijaqatigiit - Working Together*. It provides a framework for working effectively on areas of mutual interest. This agreement reflects lessons learned over the past several years and helps the organization better deal with issues.

By working with Nunavut Tunngavik, the government reviewed and amended its contracting policy, commonly known as NNI. The amendments will increase participation of Inuit within the Nunavut economy. This was done by adjusting preferences in favour of Inuit-owned, local, and Nunavut-based businesses.

(interpretation ends) Tomorrow, the government will outline the current fiscal situation and present the capital budget.

(interpretation) This government has not and will not stand still in the face of the many challenges that we face in Nunavut. As I have outlined, it is addressing many urgent issues and needs. (interpretation ends) At the same time, the government must deliver its programs and services within its financial means. There are many serious pressures, and every dollar counts. (interpretation) Even with additional federal funding from the recent First Ministers' meetings, the government cannot afford to address all the urgent needs immediately.

(interpretation ends) To ensure careful on-going prudence and accountability, the government is implementing the recommendations of the Auditor General and Legislative Assembly standing committees. The government will also explore overarching legislation to govern the accountability of public bodies in the territory.

(interpretation) As it moves forward to secure economic development and strengthen our culture, the government will engage in open consultations with Nunavummiut. Your government will continue to work for your support as members of the Legislative Assembly and the support of Nunavummiut so that we proceed with confidence and strength with the implementation of its priorities during this mandate.

This is your government, and only by working together, listening, and acting appropriately can we create a Nunavut that we envision for ourselves and for our children.

The path is clear and I wish you every success. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Thank you, Commissioner of Nunavut. Before we go back to the orders of the day, I would like to invite everybody in the House for refreshments. We will take a one-half hour break before we resume.

Sergeant-of-arms.

>>*House recessed at 14:59 and resumed at 15:34*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated.

Going back to orders of the day. Ministers' statements. Since there are no ministers' statements, will go on to item 4. Members' statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 4: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 001 – 2(2): Lobby the Government on Family Violence

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone back to this House on this first day of our second session.

I am sure that it was a busy summer, and I know that all my colleagues have been working hard over the past few months with their constituents in addressing their issues. I look forward to a very productive session ahead of us, over the next three to four weeks, and to some very good discussions taking place.

Mr. Speaker, on this first day, I rise to challenge the government to adopt a firm and proactive stance on the issue of family violence. I applaud the government's comments in the Commissioner's address in regards to bringing in legislation for victim assistance programs, and I think we need to take a stronger stance. We need to stand together, united, to speak out against violence and to denounce violence against women in particular.

Not one of us remains untouched by domestic violence. There are co-workers, friends, partners, children, and family members; we all suffer from the loss. When a person is taken from us by violence, that loss has far-reaching consequences.

A total of three spousal homicides have occurred in Nunavut since its creation in 1999. In fact, since 1999 Nunavut has experienced two or three homicides every year, and for the past five years, except for 2002, the homicide rates in our territory have consistently been the highest across Canada. Last year it was almost ten times the national average. At this very moment, residents in all three of our regional centres are living through the aftermath of a needless and senseless murder.

These murders are not isolated incidents. These acts are the end result of a long chain of violence and destructive behaviour, behaviour that seems to run unchecked despite court appearances, despite community service, and despite jail time.

The system is failing us and is failing the victims of violent crime. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to ask unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his member's statement. Since there are no nays, Mr. Tootoo, you may continue.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

I realize that the criminal code is upheld through a system that is not directly under our control. This does not mean that we have to sit silently by as violent offenders get another slap on the wrist, a lesser sentence, or a reduction in time to serve.

I have tried but still fail to comprehend why continued acts of violent behaviour are not taken seriously until someone is killed. I fail to comprehend why repeat offenders are given the chance again and again to inflict harm and lifelong emotional scars upon their partners, their children, and the families. Their victims often do not get another chance.

I call upon our government to take a stand and lobby the federal government to tighten the guidelines for judges' decisions, to urge prosecutors to ask for tougher sentences, and to push for rehabilitation programs that really work.

I urge my colleagues to become involved by nominating individuals to the Nunavut Criminal Code Review Board to advocate on behalf of victims and to speak out against violence.

At this time, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence for the memories of the victims who have lost their lives.

>>*Silence Observed*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that one of my colleagues will be posing a series of written questions during the session regarding the rehabilitation and recidivism of Nunavut offenders, and I look forward to reviewing that information when the government reviews the details. By establishing the facts of the situation, we can begin to take action towards addressing them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 002 – 2(2): Cost of Living Increases

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the members for giving us a welcome reception, and the people of Iqaluit, I thank you very much.

First of all, before I start, I would like to recognize that Barnabas Peryouar passed away recently in Baker Lake, and I send my condolences to his family. Mr. Peryouar has made a huge contribution to his community and has been a great help to the RCMP and to other people. It was a great loss for the community of Baker Lake.

Survival in the arctic is getting harder and harder and the cost of living in Nunavut is getting extremely hard to keep up with, with the rising cost of fuel for homeowners, for hunters, and for everybody who maintains a home here in Nunavut. I know that the cost of living will increase with the price increase of petroleum products. The cost of travel

will increase, and again this year, we will see increases in the prices of consumer products. There will be a domino effect that we will see with the increase in the price of fuel. The present system that we have doesn't work anymore, so we have to review everything within the operations of the government.

If we keep the status quo, we will not be able to keep up with the cost of living. There are single parents, there are people who own their own homes who will not be able to keep up with the cost of living.

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

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

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

While we're on the subject, there are hidden costs that we will see rise. There is transportation, which will have to be reviewed again by the government. We can't wait for the government in Ottawa to help us on these issues anymore.

The government will have to do a total review and see what they can do to improve the situation. Also, we'll have to look at the hunters' support program and have discussions with the federal government and NTI on these issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 003 – 2(2): Need for More Infrastructure in the High Arctic

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome my colleagues and thank the people of Iqaluit, who welcome us very warmly.

I am pleased to rise on our first sitting day of the second session to raise a number of issues of concern to my constituents in the High Arctic. In the weeks following our September full caucus retreat in Arviat, I had the opportunity to travel to all three of the communities that I represent, in order to listen to the concerns of my constituents, (interpretation ends) to the common themes in Arctic Bay, Resolute and Grise Fiord.

The infrastructure in my communities continues to crumble. During the last session I alerted this House to the fact that federal regulators are putting increased pressure on hamlets to comply with strict regulations. In many cases, our hamlets do not have the resources to fix the problem alone. In the last session I tabled information in the House which revealed the terrible conditions of the Arctic Bay health centre.

I've been advocating for a new health centre for some time. I hope to see action in the coming capital estimates.

One of the community goals that we committed to achieving at the Arviat full caucus retreat was to extend access to 24-hour care facilities for elders across the territory.

In Resolute, people have told me that they want to see such a facility in the community so that loved ones do not have to relocate to Iqaluit in order to receive necessary care.

The community of Grise Fiord is unique in Canada in being the most northerly inhabited settlement in the entire country, however the community continues to feel its voice is not heard. One of the major concerns that I hear from Grise Fiord is the complete lack of apprenticeship programs for youth.

(interpretation) I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. Our communities suffer from high unemployment and our residents want the opportunity to contribute to their communities and earn their own way.

Mr. Speaker, the price of fuel and the cost of power has become an issue for all of our communities, but I recognize that there are no easy answers. We must do what we can to protect our most vulnerable residents and communities.

Throughout this session I will be raising issues of concern to the High Arctic and posing questions to the appropriate ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 004 – 2(2): Kugluktuk Healing Facility

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome all of my colleagues, along with the ministers. I rise today to say how pleased I am, and I would also like to help my constituents as well. I just want to make a statement about the men's healing centre that will soon be opening in my constituency.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this facility is much needed in the Kitikmeot to bring offenders closer to home, to repatriate some inmates from the Northwest Territories, freeing up much needed space in the Baffin Correctional Centre here in Iqaluit. This also creates training and employment opportunities for residents of Kugluktuk.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Ilavut Centre trainees for completing their recent seven-week course in Iqaluit. They are: Amy Joss, Judy Hayohok, Bessie Sitatak, Paulin Plamondon, Valerie Meyok, Jennifer Manigyogena, Bobby Apatok, Ken Mulgrew, Richard Plamondon, Sammy Angnaluaq and Thomas Angoshadluk. Kugluktuk also looks forward to welcoming Helen Larocque back to the

community where she will assume her new responsibilities as the new manager of the facility.

I am pleased that the centre will emphasize healing, use elders and stress on-the-land programs. I believe that these types of programs will have great benefits for the inmates in terms of re-integrating them to society and helping them from re-offending.

I look forward to the final opening of the centre and at the appropriate time I will be asking the minister some questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 005 – 2(2): Infrastructure in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As did my colleagues from the Kitikmeot, I would like to welcome my colleagues back to Iqaluit for three weeks of hard work. I don't know if I have been spending a lot of time here, but since I have been here, yesterday, people have been welcoming me home. I don't know if that is a good sign or a bad sign.

I rise today to inform the House that in the last five months in my constituency... . You indicated that they have been very informative and productive.

I would like first to take this opportunity to thank the Premier for visiting our community in July, along with the other ministers, for finding time in their busy schedules to visit. We, in the Kitikmeot, look forward to more visits from members of cabinet in the months ahead.

In the Kitikmeot it is a long and expensive trip from the capital. It is important that cabinet ministers visit our communities to gain a better understanding of issues that are important to our constituents. As all members of the House know, the communities in the Kitikmeot are now a lot further from the seat of government than they used to be, and it is important that the Iqaluit-based decision makers reach out to them.

I have also formally invited the Prime Minister and two of his senior ministers to visit my riding and the Kitikmeot. When they look at a map of Nunavut, it often seems that the federal ministers think that Nunavut is Iqaluit, and Iqaluit only. We encourage them to visit every part of Nunavut.

Over the summer, Cambridge Bay had its new water line installed. When it is operational, it will significantly improve our municipal and protective services. In addition, the new Kitikmeot health facility is nearing completion, and everyone is looking forward to its grand opening in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in Umingmaktuk a contractor is currently renovating several houses for the residents of the community. And, I am pleased to be able to say that a solution was found to assist Umingmaktuk and Bathurst Inlet to receive support to purchase fuel products over the coming year. It is good to see that in this case, even our two smallest communities are important to the government.

I have had the opportunity to listen to elders, youth, parents, municipal leaders, KIA delegates, business people, and many others since last session and since our September caucus retreat where we agreed to new important goals for this government's term in office. They have asked me to encourage my colleagues to continue to work hard to find solutions to many of our problems that are making life more difficult to our citizens.

Mr. Speaker, some of the issues and concerns that I will be raising on behalf of my constituents during this session include: the discouraging of violence against women, children and men; the risks to our communities posed by dangerous or repeat offenders; the territory's ongoing housing crisis; the needs of children in foster care and the Children's Advocate Initiative; the economic and employment opportunities offered by mineral extraction and other resource development; and the issue of power rate increases.

I will be asking questions on these and other issues at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 006 – 2(2): Investigation of Fuel Spills in Nunavut

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit for welcoming us. If you are listening, my adopted one, I love you.

I rise today on an issue of serious concern to all Nunavummiut about oil spills in our waters. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, we know how important the environment is for our survival. We have a long history of subsistence harvesting. It is important that the animals and their habitats are healthy. That is why I was extremely upset by the fuel spill that occurred in this recent fuel re-supply in Coral Harbour.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I was there when they were doing the clean-up of the spill in Coral Harbour. There have been two incidences of fuel spillage in that community. One last year, and this fall.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, despite re-assurances made by the company and by the minister, fuel continues to make its way into our waters and it is not always cleaned up. It was reported that the fuel spill in Pond Inlet was not recovered and was instead swept away by the ocean currents.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. I urge the minister to work with Transport Canada to investigate the reasons for the spills and to ensure that no more fuel enters into our waterways.

In addition, I urge the minister to be extremely detailed in his review of the fuel transportation contract and to give extra weight to the performance and safety records of the vessels and, I can say, maybe the incompetence of the crew.

(interpretation) I was watching the crew during the clean-up. The ship had to be docked because of the weather, and they just left the pipe out there in the water. I watched it and I saw it with my own eyes and I wasn't the only witness at that time.

After the ice crumbled over and once the weather calmed down, they had a boat go in there to look for the pipe. So, maybe it was the incompetence of the staff. I believe that it is up to the government to make sure that they are competent.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. One accident can be explained, the causes determined, and the problems fixed, but when there are multiple accidents involving the same vessel, the question is: is it an accident, or is it negligence or maybe incompetence on behalf of the company that delivers fuel to our communities?

I believe that it is an important question for the minister to answer through his review of the fuel transportation contract, and it will be important for the minister to reveal the results of his review to the Legislative Assembly and the public as soon as possible.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions to the appropriate minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 007 – 2(2): Relocations to the Settlements

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We feel very welcome here in Iqaluit. But in regards to a statement that was made... I also have a statement in regards to that. Back then when the government started the settlements, I was one of the people at that very time when the camps were being moved to the settlements. Although we lived in an outpost camp, we were surviving.

That is what the government had stated. To date, even though that statement was made, Nunavummiut are suffering. The federal government never said that you will have to pay for your fuel and everything else. The homeowners, who are no longer in the workforce, are suffering.

Last week in my constituency there was a person who went on the local radio station saying that their house ran out of fuel; they couldn't even reheat the house anymore because they ran out of fuel. We expected to see better improvement in the services when we created Nunavut. That is what we were told before the creation of Nunavut.

It was not good to hear this fall, as it is really cold out there now. To hear about someone with no heat in their home is uncomfortable, because although it is not too cold during the day, when the night comes, it gets really cold. I don't know how many days and nights that that house was out of fuel, without any heat.

Also, the government when they constructed units, when the federal government started the settlements, they said to move to the settlements, although we were surviving. Perhaps after two years later on, they said that after we have been settled in the community that you will have to pay \$32 for your housing rent. That is what they stated.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking his colleagues to conclude his member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Kattuk, proceed.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. Also we hear today that the fuel prices are going to increase from the Nunavut government. I believe what we have to focus on, if we want to be a good government, is that we have to work with the public to make sure that we create a system that is not alien to them.

That way the Nunavut government will be a good government for the public. If the government just looks at its own affairs, then it would not be a good government when the public is suffering.

When the constituents are suffering, that government can't be a good government, although we may call them our government, but the whole of Nunavut should not be suffering. They should be living comfortably; we should make them comfortable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. The last one my list, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 008 – 2(2): Congratulate Elisapee Davidee

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to begin by welcoming the members back here to Iqaluit. I know from Mr. Peterson, being able to come back home

to Iqaluit as opposed to Iqaluttuutiak, it must be a nice feeling for him to have a warmer climate.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a lifelong Nunavut resident and social advocate and constituent, Ms. Elisapee Davidee, who has been selected by Pauktuutiit as their Woman of the Year.

It's important to point out, too, that this is Elisapee Davidee's second major award this year. This past spring, Elisapee was selected as our honorary Toonik, during our Toonik Tyme, for her dedication and work for the community of Iqaluit.

Here in Iqaluit, Elisapee is a dedicated, tireless worker for family values and issues. She has worked on the front lines for many years dealing with many difficult problems and helping promote community wellness across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask that you and this House join me in congratulating Elisapee Davidee, Pauktuutiit's Woman of the Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the people from Arviat who are pages in the House. Our young individual down there Kelly Palaanaqtarjuaq Aqallak from Arviat. Please stand up. Also, the one to his right, Ivan Kimaliarjuk Mamgark, also from Arviat.

So these two individuals are experiencing something new, and I'm sure they'll never forget this experience, and also my constituency assistant in Arviat, she's escorting these two young people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Back the Orders. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 001 – 2(2): Programs to Stop Domestic Violence

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is no secret, after my member's statement, that my question is for the Minister of Justice.

Earlier I referred to some statistics relating to domestic violence in Nunavut, in my member's statement. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice what specific initiative

are underway in his department to directly address the very serious issue of violence against women. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Premier, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, government can't stop violence. All we can try and do is minimize the effects, and hopefully end it one day.

But we've been working with all the departments within our government in making sure that whatever programs we offer are consistent throughout the board and all the resources that we have are disposed or utilized.

So we have been working with other departments in making sure that the programs that we offer are appropriate and adequate. As I said, it's a very difficult issue to deal with. We don't have all the tools as a government.

The offenders are charged under a criminal code which is a federal matter. So, it's not one area that one government can deal with. It requires cooperation with other governments, and we are trying to work with the federal government in making sure that we try and find solutions for this very difficult issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): That was the first oral question. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I acknowledge, agree with the minister on his comment that it is something that we can't stop and that it's something that we can't do on our own. I'm just wondering... . The minister mentioned he has been working with his federal counterparts. I'm wondering if he'll just let us know any discussions that he's had with them with respect to sentencing of individuals found guilty in cases of domestic violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping that we would discuss this matter at a federal-provincial-territorial justice ministers' meeting which was postponed until January; it was supposed to take place last month. So, unfortunately it's been put off until January.

So, we have put it on the agenda for all ministers in the coming months in January, when we meet as ministers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to hear that. Let the ministers out there know that if there is anything we can do to help, to let us know.

I'm sure that the minister is also aware, and it will probably come up at those meetings,

that last month the parole officer that was found murdered in a home had recently released the offender in Yellowknife. In light of this tragedy, can the minister tell us whether the policy or practices relating to parole services in Nunavut have been reviewed at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, parole is currently handled by the federal government. In Nunavut, we are working with the federal government to gain control of it so we can pool our resources.

So, I cannot speak for the federal government, but in looking at the media reports, I do believe they have taken steps to avoid similar situations.

So, once we get an agreement with the federal government to handle parole and probation issues, then I think we should have more management of this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to hear that, and I guess from the ministers' response that violence against women is something that is a priority of this government.

I'll just ask him, for the record, if he can confirm that addressing the violence against women and working with groups to try and address that is one of the top priorities for this department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, it has to be in light of where we stand in the country. It is an area where we do not appreciate having the highest numbers. I'll be working with my colleagues on this side of the House to try and address this issue, whether it be with the Status of Women Council, and our Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth minister.

So, it's something that all departments in our government are working on, an inter-departmental working group, and as I said, I look forward to discussions at the national government level to try and find ways through this very difficult problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 002 – 2(2): Department of Health in a Deficit Situation

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Finance. Last fall during the Kitikmeot meeting, someone stated there is one department of health, it was \$26 million, last year, that there will be in a deficit of \$8 to 10 million.

I was wondering if that is true. Did they get that figure from the Department of Finance, or was that just an estimation? Are they going to be in a deficit of \$8 to 10 million? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Finance. Ms. Aglukark.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the member is referring to a comment that was made through the media from by some officials.

Of course, you know there have been some issues and shortage of funds for the Department of Health and Social Services, and tomorrow in my update I will be covering that in more detail.

We will anticipate that there might be some additional funding required for the department and I will unveil that tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last supplementary question to the minister: is that the usual practice of the government, when the deputy ministers make those kinds of statements? Even before they make a statement to the committee of the legislature? (interpretation ends) I guess government... (interpretation begins) Are they part of the variance reports, or was that taken from the departments?

So, I would like to ask if you have any policy, if officials like that are going to be making statements like that, because people get scared that they might be losing money. So, if that's clear, I would like a response.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In dealing with the budgets and when presenting budgets, those numbers and that information is released in the House.

The Deputy Minister of the Department of Health and Social Services and the Assistant Deputy Minister at the time had spoken to some figures at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association meeting, based on their analysis internally, and the information that related to any department's variance report is reported, or what-not is reported and discussed at Financial Management Board.

Whenever there is a shortfall or emergency funding required, that information is dealt with at Financial Management Board and is then presented in the House in a formal request or in the main estimate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to get clarification from the minister if it is a practice of the deputy minister to make a statement, as a government official, that the particular department is going to have a millions-of-dollars deficit.

Is that deputy minister authorized by his or her minister or by the Department of Finance?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the portfolio I hold as Finance minister, that's not the policy internally.

What the deputy minister stated in Kugluktuk at the KIA annual general meeting... . It is generally not the practice to release those types of information. When he stated those comments at the time, no, we had not discussed that in detail at the Financial Management Board level, and I understand that comment and that statement were dealt with through the Senior Personnel Secretariat of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to ask the minister of Health: when the deputy minister made those statements... . If those go ahead, that they will have utilized \$72 million for operations and also for medical care outside of Nunavut... . If that is the case, some of the programs will have to be shut down. Can the minister clarify for me: if you're going to have that kind of a deficit, what types of services are you going to close down?

Speaker (interpretation): You've been directing your questions to the Minister of Finance and now you're redirecting your question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. So, I will disallow that question.

Oral Questions. Mr. Netsier.

Question 003 – 2(2): Investigation of Fuel Spill Near Coral Harbour

Mr. Netsier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, subsequent to the spill in Rankin Inlet that occurred earlier this year, the minister assured members that steps were being taken to ensure there would be no further spills, but weeks later the most recent spill happened in Coral Harbour.

What specific actions did the Government of Nunavut take after the Rankin Inlet incident, and why were they not successful in preventing subsequent spills in Coral Harbour? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

We recall that there have been five oil spills in Nunavut. Apparently, when the coupling breaks from the pipes, that's the result of oil spillage during delivery to the communities. When we found out that the couplings break, because there have been numerous spills in Nunavut, what we told them is that instead of delivering fuel to the communities with a pipe, they should embark it onto the land so they could put the oil into the tanks.

Even after that happened, with the new procedure, what we found out that there was a spill again in Coral Harbour last fall. Apparently it had to do with the breakage of the coupling, or the attachment.

So, from there, we spoke with Mr. Woodward and the general manager of that company about our concern. What we said was that there were three more communities for the fuel to be delivered to, and that they should be using the new procedure to put oil in the tanks in the communities.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think he talked about the attachments to the pipes or the couplings. Since they have the new ones now, with that new attachment, did that still occur in Coral Harbour?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the new attachment in Rankin Inlet, when there was a spill, what we did was we wanted them inspected every week to ensure there was no breakage. They were the same attachments that were used in the Coral Harbour spill and there was nothing wrong with them, but we found out that there was another breakage in Coral Harbour which occurred last fall.

Next year what we plan to do is if they are going to be using the same procedure, they have to replace the attachments to the pipes and have a longer pipe to deliver fuel to the tanks in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I didn't know that there were these attachments that were more solid. Apparently they can break too as well.

(interpretation ends) The minister has indicated to the media that the fuel supply contracts will be reviewed. When will the review be complete, what has been determined to date, and will the minister commit to tabling that information in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to answer his questions.

As we all know, on the third year with the fuel delivery contractors we were going to review them, but as soon as their contract has expired we'll be doing an investigation and a study on their procedures that they have followed, and we will take the concerns that were expressed by the people of Nunavut, and we will review them and table them.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 004 – 2(2): Opening of the Men's Healing Facility in Kugluktuk

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

(interpretation ends) As it was mentioned in my members' statement earlier today, I look forward to the opening of the new Kugluktuk men's Ilavut facility.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us if the date has been chosen for the opening of the centre, and will the minister be present for the opening ceremonies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

My department is entitled the Department of Justice. We don't just deal with the courts. The Inuktitut name for our department is "justice".

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the opening. I understand the training was very helpful and I personally met the very happy future employees of the facility here in Iqaluit. I do hope we can open it soon; it's just a matter of completing the facility for security purposes and that's in the hands of the local contractors. So, once that is done the facility should be ready to go. I understand that the workers still require a bit more training, at least two more weeks. But they should be ready to go soon.

As I said, the facility is the only issue that will hold us back at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Approximately how many inmates will be repatriated from the Northwest Territories and from the Baffin Correctional Centre?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) From what I understand, in the first stage we will be able to hold ten inmates, and there will be some further work, installation of minor renovations, to accommodate further inmates in the coming year.

Hopefully by next fall we'll be able to have 16 inmates all together, so it will be a very good improvement from the current state today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What specific type of rehabilitation and healing programs will be offered to the inmates?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, that's one of the areas that the future employees are getting trained in right now, to offer programming for healing and to provide security, and in some cases to be trained for grieving and loss situations.

That training will be happening now to get them ready to work with the inmates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure the people of Kugluktuk that all measures have been carefully taken to ensure the safety of the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is why they took special training courses here in Iqaluit, operating under conditions they can expect. So, they received training and actually went to the facility here and learned those skills.

In addition, as I said, the reason why the facility is not open now is that there needs to be further work to make sure the building is secure for all concerned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 005 – 2(2): DNA Testing

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Last March, Rhoda Maghagak, a constituent in my community, was murdered in the wee hours of the morning. Cambridge Bay is a very small town of 1,500 people.

Three months went by and an arrest wasn't made. We heard that there was a delay in DNA testing. I raised that issue in the House at the end of our last session, and the minister said that he would follow up and see if the DNA tests could be sped up pertaining to this particular investigation.

I wonder if the minister could update the House on his efforts to speed up the DNA testing for this murder and all murders in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, any delay is a delay in justice, so I applaud the member for raising this matter with me. It's a real issue for not just the family but the whole community and our fellow Nunavummiut. So, with the help of the member we were able to alert the RCMP of the urgency.

Unfortunately, they were working on a mega case in DNA testing in B.C. at that time, but from what I understand, they are working on finding ways to increase their capacity for DNA testing.

So, thanks to the member, we have been able to press our issues with the RCMP and they are currently, from what I understand, re-examining their ways and perhaps setting up another office for DNA testing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very reassuring to hear from the minister that the RCMP is speeding up the process to look at other means to assist in investigations.

I wonder if the minister could tell us today, many murders are the RCMP currently investigating in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have that information with me right now, Mr. Speaker. I will look into it. Any death is investigated; it doesn't matter how the individual may have died. They continue to investigate it until they determine the cause. So, I can't say categorically how many may be under active investigation for murder. I will take that question as notice and get back to the Member. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is stating that he will take the question as notice and get back to the member. Oral questions. Mr. Alagalak.

Question 006 – 2(2): Research Facility Consideration for Nunavut

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment, Hon. Olayuk Akesuk. I will be asking him the question because it is very important to our communities of Nunavut.

When I used to be a member of an organization, we used to talk about it quite a bit. We talked about it with Sustainable Development, and it was talked about by the hunters.

I would like to ask the minister... I am sure that every one of us is a hunter here in this House, and we have noticed that the mammals and the land animals are no longer comfortable in their environment. There are no testing facilities of any kind here in Nunavut, although there are little labs in the communities, in the wildlife offices. To send the testing down south costs a lot of money.

My question to the minister is has there been any consideration about providing, with the help of Fisheries and Oceans or Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, a research facility here in Nunavut?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking the question. The wildlife officers have been decentralizing to Igloolik and what we have been doing is trying to find out what types of testing could be done in the Igloolik research facility. We would like to be able to do some research that has to be done in Nunavut in Igloolik.

The person that works for us for the Department of Environment will be looking into this sort of problem that we have as Nunavummiut, and we will look at and review at what we have been doing to date, and what we wanted was for them to be able to look at some research things to be sent down south. That is where we are at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Yes, I realize that. Ten to fifteen years ago, we heard that same thing. I think they were supposed to do that sort of stuff years ago and they still want to do it.

If you are going to eat walrus or polar bear meat, we do not know whether it is safe to eat it or not, or if you are going to hold a feast and there is a certain type of food that you might think is not good for consumption, then we have to know right away.

They feel that if the caribou has brucellosis that they tend to leave it out there on the land, but they do not want to do that because they might get charged by the RCMP for abandoning their kill.

Those things, I feel, are very important and that there should be a testing facility, and I do not want to wait for a laboratory. (interpretation ends) I do not want to have to wait that long for the results of the hunter's judgement on the meat that he harvested.

(interpretation) I think this is very important. I have been a member of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and we talked about things such as eating walrus meat because of the danger of the bacteria that they have in the meat.

I know that they have one now in Northern Quebec that could do some testing of those animals that might not be fit to eat; I think they are in a better position. I would like to ask the minister again: are there some kind of guidelines that are in place as to what kinds of things you are going to be doing in order to obtain a testing facility or a laboratory, and whether there is a proposal try to get one from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The question period, perhaps, is very short. So if you can shorten your preamble. Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): What we have done was we looked at the facility in Igloolik. At Minister Tapardjuk's invitation, we went to Igloolik and looked at the laboratory and found out what is needed there to do some testing of those animal carcasses.

So, what we have done is that we wrote down all of the stuff that is needed in that laboratory to do some testing on those animals.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak, your supplementary question.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand that, but you did not answer the rest of my question. I would like to be able to find out whether the minister's department has a written proposal for the federal government to get some funding for the upgrading of that laboratory because we need it here in the North, because we want to know whatever we are going to eat is safe to eat, whether it has diseases or not.

There are also a lot of foreign things going into the North that we do not even know anything about, that are out there right now, such as those wasps coming into Nunavut and foreign animals coming into the north.

Those are the types of things that are coming to the North and we do not know whether they are a danger or not. We have to be looking at them.

Mr. Akasuk, you are the head of your Department of Environment. I think it's about time that you and your department look at this issue very seriously, because our immune system is at stake, because those foreign diseases that our animals have contracted are getting to be dangerous.

If you know the history about the whalers, they had all types of dangerous things. So I think the department should be looking into it seriously.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak, what was your question?

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, my question was I just wanted to know what plans are in place for the department about getting good laboratories in Nunavut.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we have been doing is writing down the diseases that are in our wildlife today and the new diseases that are being contracted by the animals, but what we are trying to do is to work with the science institute in Igloolik.

What we could do is we could look into those types of concerns that the member has, and I know that funding is going to be needed for that laboratory, so what we have to do is make considerations to pursue with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 007 – 2(2): Climate Change Conference Representation for Nunavut

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. We heard that there was a conference in Iceland in regards to the climate change around the world and we also heard that there were no Nunavut government representatives attending that meeting, even when it is going to have the most impact here in the arctic. Are you going to be sending representatives to future conferences?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. When there was a meeting in Reykjavik... I will be going to Reykjavik next week with some of my staff to have meetings on the issue of climate change. There will be international representatives at that time and we will be attending that meeting. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): I have no further questions. Thank you.

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

Question 008 – 2(2): Research for Sea Cucumber Fish

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. In my riding and around the islands, we eat sea cucumbers, but we haven't had any this summer because they were dead. We do not know why, but it is probably due to the change in the climate. I would like the minister to find out why those sea cucumbers have died in our area.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. We could look into this issue, and as Mr. Alagalak said, he put an emphasis on having research done on the marine and land animals.

I will work closely together with the Member for Sanikiluaq to find out why there are no more sea cucumbers around that area and what impact it would have on the consumers. I will work closely together with the member and biologists to find out the cause of this problem. We will also look at the other shellfish. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister tell me when he will have the research done in our area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we arrive in Iqaluit, we can send the specimens out to be analyzed. We will need to have the specimens sent here so that we can send them down to the laboratories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk. Supplementary.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of Sanikiluaq cannot send specimens in one day. From Sanikiluaq we have to send the specimens through the

South, and then send it up to Igloolik. It is going to take a while for the specimens to arrive at their destination and they will get spoiled en route.

I think it is up the minister's department to see if we can send the specimens down South directly. Are you going to be talking with the people in Winnipeg so that we can send the specimens down? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): We look at what the best would be, and since this is urgent, we will see what would be fastest. We can work on it this week. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will work with the minister on this issue this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We'll do all we can to look at this problem, and it is obvious that we do need a research centre or a laboratory built in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 009 – 2(2): Medical Escorts

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Levinia Brown.

When I was visiting my three communities, one question that kept popping up is why the elders and youth, who need medical care in the south, are not allowed to have escorts. In emergency cases, some escorts are sent at a later date, but not at the same time the patient is going down.

In the larger communities, they are escorted. Why is it that in my communities, they are not allowed to have escorts? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the policies and their application, the difference might be that we use different carriers for medical emergencies. As you stated, if a unilingual elder is going South for medical treatment, it is stated in the policies that they are to bring an escort.

It is up to the medical personnel, and only after they've been approved by the medical personnel are they allowed to bring escorts. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Everyone has had an opportunity to pose their questions. Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Curley, and Mr. Peterson.

Question 010 – 2(2): Determining a Fair Rate Rider

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certain that all members of this House were as shocked as I was to hear the electrifying news last Friday, at precisely 5:06 p.m., the Hon. Minister of Education had emerged, like a phoenix from the ashes of the Rate Rider disaster, to once again take responsibility for Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I understand, Mr. Speaker, that he is so eager, he even has brought into this Chamber an extension cord that he has in his drawers.

My question, however, is not for him, it is for the Minister responsible for the Utility Rate Review Council, and it is straightforward. The Utility Rate Review Council Act allows cabinet to issue guidelines to the Utility Rate Review Council with respect to what principles it should follow when determining whether their rates or tariffs are, and I will quote, “fair and reasonable”.

What does the minister consider to be fair and reasonable, in the context of the Qulliq Energy Corporation’s present financial position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister responsible for the Utility Rate Review Council, Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that some member of this House has offered an extension cord as a symbol of an extension of a political career for one of our ministers. It is very nice of the other side, perhaps offering it to my colleague, so he does not have to lose any sleep tonight.

It would be difficult for me to answer the question at this time. I believe that there are some very good discussions happening with the public and the Utility Rate Review Council. We will see how the Utility Rate Review Council determines those findings and comes up with a report. At that time we can respond, through the appropriate minister, to the report.

I am sure that all the views put forward will be very seriously considered by the Utility Rate Review Council, and afterwards, by cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that a former colleague of mine used to say all the time that we all know that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is on life support.

Although, I don't necessarily think that the Premier would be wise to also hand back Health to Minister Picco at this time. My question is this: has, or will, the cabinet issue guidelines to the Utility Rate Review Council to comply with its review of the General Rate Application. And if so, when will they be revealed to this House and to the public who is listening today and as outlined under legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, the hearings are underway, so it is difficult for us to change any conditions when they are in mid-process.

We are going to wait for the recommendations to come forward from the Utility Rate Review Council. As I have said, once that is done, under the legislation, I believe that is 90 days, we will then have 30 days to respond.

So, those are happening. I look forward to the findings of the Utility Rate Review Council and responding to them. I am sure whatever we come up with will have to be acceptable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the act, it says that the minister responsible for the council, with the approval of cabinet, may issue guidelines concerning the principles, but the review council shall have regard in determining rates or tariffs and that is something that is in the process.

So, I just want to confirm what the minister is saying, that there are no special principles that have been issued to the Utility Rate Review Council at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There are a number of options that the Utility Rate Review Council has reviewed. There is one particular option that has been getting a lot of publicity so, there are a number of options that the Utility Rate Review Council has reviewed, based on the information provided by the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

So, those findings will be produced in due course and we will then respond to those recommendations and make sure that all these are put forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On my last supplementary, I would like to go back to a little something that was mentioned earlier and that is the extension that the Premier had indicated.

I would like to ask the Premier, the minister responsible for the Utility Rate Review Council, given that the act is quite clear that the council has 90 days to provide a report to the minister and that the times are over Christmas and there has been bad weather this week... . I'm just wondering if the minister has received a request from the Rate Review Council for an extension. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The request that can be granted by the minister responsible for the corporation is in the hands of the minister. I understand that the corporation may have or may seek a minor extension of time, so I can't respond to it at this time. The minister will make a decision on this matter fairly shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 011 – 2(2): Fuel Supply in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the minister responsible for petroleum products, and I would, first of all, like to thank the minister for the report that was done in Rankin Inlet.

In Rankin Inlet we have a problem with the local fuel supply, which the local hunters are not satisfied with. In one of the tanks, I think there were three tanks that they are looking at, and one of the technical reports cannot be completed because the machinery that they were using has broken down. The other one is that they are saying that they have not received any samples from Rankin Inlet. Could the minister look into the fuel supply in Rankin Inlet?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Anybody who has a problem or a concern in Rankin Inlet or in the other communities will have access to have some testing on spark plugs and other machinery.

Our staff is available to do any testing to find out whether the problem comes from the fuel supply or from additives. We will work directly with the communities or any individual. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for that response.

I have another question, Mr. Speaker. The first fuel was a major disaster and at that time, there was an assessment done. Why did they have it tested in England instead of in Canada?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Well, at the time I wasn't the minister responsible. This time, we are having some testing done. I do have the documents but I don't have any information on the first fuel problems that we had. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): My first question. Thank you. And I would like to thank the Minister.

We will have to find out why the specimens were sent down to England. The people of Rankin Inlet are saying that there are too many fumes or smoke coming out of the fuel. We're getting more specimens delivered, and I don't believe that you want those spark plugs.

As the minister stated, well, I'm going to be giving these to the minister. We would also like to see those documents on the studies tabled in the House. If the minister wants these spark plugs, he can go over and pick them up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He can send them to me C.O.D. Our employees are waiting, if you would like to give any of the specimens and our staff in Rankin Inlet have looked into the first oil disaster. We're doing a lot more testing on the fuel that is delivered to our communities.

On the spark plugs, they will be made available to our staff. And we will also table the reports in the House. Thank you.

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

Question 012 – 2(2): Support Mining in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, last summer the Nunavut Impact Review Board held public hearings in communities in the Kitikmeot to talk about the Hope Bay gold project which is owned by Miramar Mining.

The Department of Environment opposed the project; my question to the premier is, does the Government of Nunavut support mining in the Kitikmeot, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you for the answer, Mr. Premier. If yes, which department takes the lead on mining policy, Department of Economic Development and Transportation or the Department of Environment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They've been working well together since that experience. It was something that you learn as you go, and that is something that we learned from; since then we have been coordinating activities. The departments have been working together to make sure that we have coordinated efforts to respond to initiatives from the mining sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure I'm clear on that. So, will it be the Department of Environment that responds, or will it be the Department of Economic Development and Transportation that responds on the mining issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It depends on what the activity it is. If it is an environmental issue, it will be an environmental response. We are working as a government together, with each department coordinating our activities in making sure that the responses that we provide are consistent overall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier, for that reply. I'd like to just raise the issue that the mining sector, the people who have talked to us in the Kitikmeot, are getting very confused because there is the Nunavut Impact Review Board, the Nunavut Water Board, there are a whole lot of regulatory boards, and then there are the Land Claim organizations, then the Government of Nunavut, and then the federal government. They don't know who to go to.

I am wondering if the Premier could tell the House today that his department, his government, will take the lead and work with all these various entities to streamline the regulatory process in Nunavut, so the mining companies know who to deal with when they are filing for their applications for permits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is why we are trying to get devolution, so that we can manage the whole process ourselves. Currently, it is separated between the two governments; us for wildlife matters, and other economic initiatives, and the overall environmental process is governed by federal legislation. So, we are trying to get it under one roof as a government so that we can manage it ourselves and manage it in a more coordinated fashion.

Currently, we are regulated by the Land Claims Agreement so any proponent that wants to develop goes to the environmental board, and their main function is to review the project. Once their review is complete, then those recommendations have to be implemented by the appropriate governments. So, that is when the different governments come into play.

So, we would love to be able to manage it ourselves so that the companies would have an easier time with one government, as opposed to two governments and different agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Going to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 001 – 2(2): Power Generation in Iqaluit and Related Issues

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Hon. Edward Picco, the Minister responsible for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. And the subject is on power generation in Iqaluit and related issues.

1. For each of the following fiscal years, on how many occasions was electrical service in Iqaluit disrupted due to scheduled repairs, unexpected failures or meteorological events from April 1, 2001 and March 31, 2004; 2002 to March 31, 2003 and April 1, 2003; April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to remind the minister, don't forget that meeting that he was at and to include that one on the list.
2. What was the average duration of each outage?
3. What is the reserved capacity for Iqaluit's power generating facility? And are there specific federal and-or territorial requirements with which the Nunavut Power Corporation must comply with respect to reserve capacity?

4. For the following fiscal years what projects...
5. What specific contingency plans are in place in the event of the destruction and-or damage of Nunavut Power Corporation's Iqaluit power generating facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 002 – 2(2): Staffing in the Nunavut Government's Departments, Crown Corporations, Boards and Other Entities

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk, Minister Responsible for Department of Human Resources.

The subject is staffing and the Government of Nunavut's departments, Crown corporations, boards and other entities;

1. Expressing the data in a comparative format to that which is presented on pages 2 and 3 of the June 30, 2004 edition of the document by the Department of Human Resources entitled *Towards a Representative Public Service*, how many casual and contract employees, broken down by employing entity, positions category, community of employment, and Land Claims beneficiary status, were employed by the Government of Nunavut as of :
 - a) September 30, 2002
 - b) September 30, 2003
 - c) September 30, 2004.
2. As of April 1, 1999, how many indeterminate, term, casual and contract employees broken down by position category, community of employment, Land Claims beneficiary status, were employed by the:
 - a) Baffin Divisional Education Council
 - b) Baffin Regional Health and Social Services Board
 - c) Keewatin Divisional Education Council
 - d) Keewatin Regional Health and Social Services Board
 - e) Kitikmeot Divisional Education Council
 - f) Kitikmeot Health and Social Services Board
3. As of September 30, 2004, how many indeterminate, term, casual, contract employees, broken down by position category, community of employment, Land Claims beneficiary status, were employed by the
 - a) Department of Health and Social Services.

b) Department of Education

4. As of September 30, 1999, how many teachers, within the meeting of the collective agreement between the Federation of Nunavut Teachers and the Government of Nunavut, were employed by the Government of Nunavut?
5. As of September 30, 2004, how many teachers, within the meaning of the collective agreement between the Federation of Nunavut Teachers and the Government of Nunavut were employed by the Government of Nunavut?
6. As of September 30, 1999, for all of Government of Nunavut departments, Crown corporations, boards, and other entities, how many individuals are employed on an indeterminate, term, casual or contract basis in the executive, senior management, board management categories?
7. As of September 30 2004, for all of Government of Nunavut departments, crown corporations, boards, and other entities, how many individuals are employed on an indeterminate, term, casual or contract basis in the executive, senior management, middle management categories?

Koana Uqaqi.

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

Written Question 003 – 2(2): Petroleum Products Subsidies

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know there are quite a few ministers: Hon. Peter Kilabuk, Hon. Olayuk Akesuk, Hon. Ed. Picco, Minister of Energy, and Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Finance.

In regards to the petroleum products, I will read it in English. *Ikuma II* report stated this: The prices charged by the Petroleum Products Division do not reflect the actual cost of service in each location, nor do they reflect a deliberate policy to cross-subsidizing according to specified criteria.

The prices have not been rationalized for several years. The Government of Nunavut is subsidizing all consumers from all products sold. However, the subsidies are neither budgeted nor disclosed and neither the Government of Nunavut, nor are its customers aware of the value of these subsidies. *Ikuma II*, March 31, 2002.

So my question is:

1. Since the creation of Nunavut, what subsidy programs have been created, modified or discontinued by the Government of Nunavut in relation to the price of all classes of petroleum products?

2. What was the total amount budgeted in each year since April 1, 1999, for each of those programs?
3. How was each subsidy calculated?
4. In each fiscal year beginning April 1, 1999, what were the actual costs for the Government of Nunavut to provide each class of fuel in each community?
5. In each fiscal year, beginning April 1, 1999, broken down by class of fuel, what was the actual amount collect in each community for the provision of fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 004 – 2(2): Loan Application Reviews

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this question is for the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

I won't read the preamble from the Act, but basically there is Section 36 of the Business Credit Corporation Act that allows where an application has been rejected by the Board that the minister shall review a rejection when applicants under that section.

1. In each of the following fiscal years, how many applicants applied to the minister for review under subsection 36 (1) of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Act
 - a) 1999-2000
 - b) 2000-2001
 - c) 2001-2002
 - d) 2002-2003
 - e) 2003-2004
 - f) 2004-2005 to date as of April 1 to Sept 1?
2. In each of the following fiscal years, how many board decisions were confirmed under subsection 36 (2a)
 - a) 1999-2000
 - b) 2000-2001
 - c) 2001-2002
 - d) 2002-2003
 - e) 2003-2004
 - f) 2004-2005 to date?
3. In each of the following fiscal years, how many loans, bonds, guarantees or indemnities were approved under subsection 36 (2d)

- a) 1999-2000
- b) 2000-2001
- c) 2002-2003
- d) 2003-2004
- e) 2004-2005 to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 005 – 2(2): Murders in Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Paul Okalik, Minister Responsible for Justice. Its subject is murders in Nunavut.

1. As of November 1, 2004, broken down by community, how many murders are the RCMP investigating in Nunavut.
2. Of these murders, how many are being investigated for
 - a) six months or less
 - b) six to twelve months
 - c) one to two years
 - d) two years or more?
3. From April 1, 1999 to November 1, 2004, how many murder victims have been:
 - a) Children
 - b) Women
 - c) Men?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 8. Petitions. Mr. Curley.

Item 8: Petitions

Petition 001 – 2(2): Rankin Inlet Elders' Facility

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition here signed by two hundred and three individuals and I would be the two hundred and fourth. I am in full support of that, although we have talked about this through the media in regards to the elder's facility in Rankin Inlet for 24-hour care. This petition was signed last summer. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 8.. Item 9. Item 10. Tabling of Documents.

Item 9: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 001 – 2(2): Report of the Integrity Commissioner on Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

Speaker (interpretation): Today I wish to table for members... . In accordance with section 44(2) of the Integrity Act, I am tabling the report of the Integrity Commissioner on the Hon. Member Olayuk Akesuk.

Tabled Document 002 – 2(2): Report on Member Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses for Year Ending March 31, 2004

Speaker (interpretation): I have another document to table. Honourable members pursuant to section 36 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the report on the payment of member indemnities, allowances and expenses for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004.

Tabled Document 003 – 2(2): Audited Financial Statements of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund for Year Ending March 31, 2004

Speaker (interpretation): Honorable Members, pursuant to section 20 (b) of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table today the audited financial statements of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2004.

Tabled Document 004 – 2(2): Audited Financial Statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund for Year Ending March 31, 2004

Speaker (interpretation): Honorable Members, pursuant to section 20 (1) (b) (c) of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table today the audited financial statements of the Retiring Allowances Fund for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2004.

Tabled Document 005 – 2(2): Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and other Documents

Speaker (interpretation): Today I wish to table the table of Statutory Tabling Requirements. This list is regularly updated by the Legislative Assembly and tracks the status of legally required tabling requirements for government annual reports, financial statements and other documents.

The current version of this document indicates what documents have been tabled as of November 16, 2004. I trust that all members will find this useful in monitoring the timely production and tabling of legally required documents in the House.

Going back to orders of the day. Tabling of documents. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 006 – 2(2): Power Rate Increases

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a resolution passed by the Iqaluktuutiak Co-op AGM in Cambridge Bay on November 10' calling on the Premier of the Government of Nunavut to take a stand on the proposed power rate increase and reject it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Back to Orders of the day. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14. Item 15. Item 16. Mr. Clerk.

Item 16: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 17:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statement
3. Members' Statement
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of visitors from 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. Notice of Motions
15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House has adjourned till Wednesday, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:30*

