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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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(Amittuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, November 17, 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, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 001 – 2(2): Minister Absent from the House

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise members that the Hon. Peter Kilabuk will be absent from the House today. Thank you.

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

Minister's Statement 002 – 2(2): International Education Week (November 14-20)

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the first time, International Education Week is being observed in Canada. It allows us to draw attention to the significant benefits to be gained from international studies. The week is sanctioned by the Council of Ministers of Education in Canada.

Nunavut Arctic College encourages its students to participate in north-to-north programs. Only students attending a member institution of the University of the Arctic network are eligible for this program. Through north-to-north exchanges students can learn about another place and another culture while still living here in the North.

The exchange involving Finnish and Canadian students took place earlier this year. Costs were covered by the Canadian Circumpolar Mobility Consortium. The second exchange should take place early in the new year, and applications are being taken for the 2005-06 academic year.

Nunavut Arctic College is also working with the Sami University College in Norway on ways to increase the participation of Inuit and other indigenous people in student exchange programs.

As a member of the University of the Arctic, the circumpolar university without walls, Nunavut Arctic College is already in the forefront of innovative international education. Distance education and student exchanges are a vital part of the University of the Arctic's offerings.

During International Education Week, I would ask my colleagues in this House to recognize and commend the good work of Nunavut Arctic College in helping its students learn about the world beyond our borders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Ms. Brown.

Minister's Statement 003 – 2(2): Influenza Vaccination Campaign

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to remind all Nunavummiut that it is the flu season. I, myself, recently received my flu shot. I recognize that the best way to prevent influenza is through immunization, getting the flu shot.

The Department of Health and Social Services recommends that people in certain high risk categories get immunized; this includes people with chronic heart, lung, or other diseases, or with chronic conditions such as diabetes and cancer, or people who do not have good resistance to infections, those who live in long-term care facilities, adults 50 or older, children six months old to five years old, workers providing essential services, and health care providers. The flu shot is the most effective and longest lasting protection against the flu virus and the illness it can cause.

I would like to inform members of the Legislative Assembly that this year a new poster to promote influenza prevention was launched. A public service announcement was sent to all communities to promote influenza vaccination. As more people receive the flu shot, the flu virus has less chance to multiply and circulate.

Once again, I encourage all Nunavummiut to get immunized against influenza. Protecting ourselves can also benefit those around us who may be at risk of developing other serious illnesses from the flu. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 004 – 2(2): Young Workers' Safety Conference

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And good afternoon.

On the weekend of October 22 to 24, in Yellowknife, our Workers' Compensation Board hosted What if you couldn't: A National Youth Workers Safety Conference. Over 100 young workers and supervisors from across Canada attended the conference, including 14 from 9 communities in Nunavut. The conference was a huge success.

(interpretation ends) Participants heard from young workers who had been injured on the job and leaders in occupational safety and health. Young workers had the opportunity to ask themselves, "What if I couldn't do the things I love because I was injured or killed at work?" They were provided with tools for assessing workplace hazards. Hopefully, the knowledge gained by this conference will go a long way toward reducing workplace accidents.

Knowledge really is the key to avoiding workplace accidents, and it would be excellent if all Nunavut youth could attend a conference like the one held in Yellowknife. While that is not possible, every Nunavummiut youth has an opportunity to take the Workers' Compensation Board's excellent workplace safety course. We should all be encouraging our young workers to do so and encourage them to remember their safety in the workplace. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Ministers' Statement 005 – 2(2): Mid-Year Fiscal Update

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker, today I would bring members and all Nunavummiut up to date on the current fiscal situation of the Government of Nunavut. All four will be introduced in the capital estimates for the fiscal year 2005-06.

As a new government we are committed to maintaining a sound fiscal position while trying to maximize our benefits from the limited financial resources that we have available to us. This point has been stressed throughout our short history, and I indicated renewed commitment to this principle in the first budget address of this new government.

Nunavut's long-term economic and social challenges continue to be immense, however. We must live within our means while we move forward in addressing our needs. My first budget indicated that we would work to get a fair and adequate deal from the federal government so we can better manage our major social, economic, and fiscal challenges, and in so doing, we would work cooperatively with the other two territories.

Mr. Speaker, members are aware that there have been two First Ministers' meetings in Ottawa. The first of these meetings dealt with health care funding, while the second focused on the federal transfer to all jurisdictions.

As a result of the First Ministers' meeting, Nunavut has a new deal with the federal government on health funding, a deal which will help cover the significant costs we must absorb to provide Nunavummiut with access to health care.

>>*Applause*

Over the next five years, starting in the fiscal year 2005-06, the federal government will provide all three territories with an additional \$15 million annually for these major health care costs. Nunavut will receive approximately 70 percent of these funds.

With this and new funding provided under the recently signed non-insured health benefit contract, 50 percent of our medical travel costs will be paid for by the federal government.

This new deal not only provides additional new funding to the territory, but it means that the federal government has recognized that providing good health care in the North is different and has special challenges.

Mr. Speaker, in further recognition of the challenges associated with providing health care in the North, the Prime Minister also indicated that a special health reform fund will be established for the three territories. This fund will provide \$65 million over five years. The purpose of this new fund is to assist us in transforming the delivery of health care by providing assistance in such areas as capacity building, training, and more effective health delivery models.

I want to recognize the persistence and hard work of both the Premier and the health minister in presenting the unique northern situation to the federal government and in obtaining clear acknowledgement that the delivery of basic public services is different here than the rest of the country.

At the second First Ministers' meeting, major transfers to the territories and provinces were discussed. As a result of this meeting new territorial formula financing and equalization frameworks were announced.

As members know, Nunavut has consistently made the case that additional federal support would allow us to make progress in establishing the basic public services taken for granted by most Canadians.

The new federal approach announced on October 26 by the Prime Minister will provide Nunavut with additional territorial formula financing funding. This new federal approach will also mean that we have a good, stable, and predictable funding source. This will

allow us to focus more on the important task of building the Nunavut economy and providing good public services.

This new approach also means that there will be a floor established for the transfer in 2004-05 and 2005-06 for the three territories. This year the floor will be set at \$1.9 billion and \$2 billion next year. In 2005-06, the floor will grow by 3.5 percent per year. Under the allocation method being used by the federal government, Nunavut will receive about 40 percent of this funding.

Mr. Speaker, the funding spending from the recent first ministers' meetings will increase our projected revenues by \$45.6 million for the current fiscal year.

Although this new funding offered by the Prime Minister is welcome and is needed to continue the day-to-day operations of our territory, we are also faced with significant pressures on our government's budget. In order to address these pressures in the current year, we will be bringing forth a supplementary appropriation bill for your consideration during this session.

Mr. Speaker, the rising cost of health care has been of great concern across Canada. This has translated into higher rates for receiving services from southern hospitals.

To ensure that health care to Nunavummiut is maintained, we will be proposing to increase the budget of the Department of Health and Social Services. Additional funding is also being proposed for the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Community and Government Services to support the cost of telehealth programs, with the intended results of reducing our reliance on southern hospitals.

As well, additional funding is being proposed for the Department of Education to fund the increases in the cost of school operations.

Mr. Speaker, since I tabled the first budget of this second Legislative Assembly, we have finalized a new collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union. The costs associated with this agreement, as well as the recently concluded agreement with the RCMP, will be included in the upcoming supplementary appropriation bill.

As members, we are all aware of the rising energy prices in world markets and of the inevitable impact in Nunavut for both the government and for other consumers. These impacts can also be seen in the operations of both Qulliq Energy Corporation and the Petroleum Products Division.

This government commits to examining the books and operations of each of these important government agencies and to making the necessary transfers to ensure that each of these operations will be appropriately resourced to carry out its responsibilities in the current year, and from April 1, 2005, when new energy rates will take effect. This work will result in a passage of transfers and changes for consideration by this Assembly at the February 2005 sitting.

In order to address past shortfalls in internal utility budgets, we will be proposing in this session to increase the budget of both the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Department of Community and Government Services.

Our revised expenditure projections for 2004-05 are \$51.2 million higher than outlined in the budget as a result of these expenditure requirements and contingencies for other needs that may arise this year.

The net impact of these revenues and expenditure adjustments for the 2004-05 budget means that the deficit forecast will increase by \$5.6 million, from \$13.4 million to \$19 million.

Mr. Speaker, as indicated earlier, I am introducing the capital appropriation as per 2005-06. For the fiscal year 2005-06, our government is planning to allocate \$102 million for capital expenditures on projects that will benefit communities throughout Nunavut. This amount compares to the \$108 million allocated in capital estimates in 2004-05. I will now highlight departmental capital budgets for the upcoming fiscal year.

Health and Social Services has the single largest capital budget for upcoming fiscal year, at \$24.4 million. The objective of the Government of Nunavut continues to be the ability to provide health care to Nunavummiut closer to home and reduce our dependencies on facilities in the South.

As members are aware, both regional health centres in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet are due to open this fiscal year. Included in this budget is \$19.5 million for the Qikiqtani General Hospital here in Iqaluit. This facility is expected to be completed by November 2006. In addition, the spending of \$4.5 million will be allocated for the replacement of the health centre in Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, to fit in with the Government of Nunavut's goal of improvement to access to education and of providing affordable housing for Nunavummiut, approximately 40 percent of the capital budget, or roughly \$40 million, is for education projects and housing.

The funding allocation includes an addition to the Aqsarniit School in Iqaluit, construction of a new school in Arviat, and improvements to Nunavut Arctic College student accommodations in Iqaluit. In addition, the budget includes approximately \$3 million for sprinkler upgrades in all regions.

The capital estimate includes \$10 million for public housing, which will be matched by the federal government through the Strategic Infrastructure Fund. The combined funding available for the Government of Nunavut and the federal government will enable the construction of an additional 80 public housing units in 2005-06.

Mr. Speaker, these units will be constructed in those communities that have the greatest need. In addition, \$6.4 million has been allocated for modernization and improvement retrofits, of which \$4.3 million will be recovered from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The total budget for the Department of Community and Government Services' capital expenditures for 2005-06 is \$21.2 million. This includes \$16.4 million for community projects and \$4.8 million for projects related to the Petroleum Products Division.

Mr. Speaker, the capital projects undertaken by this department affect almost all communities in Nunavut. In addition to capital contributions of \$4 million for projects in Iqaluit, approximately \$8.6 million will be spent on water supplies and sewage facilities. This includes sewage lagoon repairs in Cape Dorset, a sewage treatment plant and waterworks in Rankin Inlet, a waterline in Gjoa Haven, and sewage lagoon works in Kugluktuk.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has been allocated a budget of \$1.4 million. This funding will be used primarily for contributions to community heritage, elder, and youth centres across Nunavut. In addition, funding has been made available for contributions for recreation facility projects.

The Department of Justice will receive \$8.8 million for capital projects in the coming year. This includes \$7.9 million for the new justice centre to be located in Iqaluit. This facility will be completed early in the 2006-07 fiscal year.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is asking for unanimous consent to conclude her statements. Any nays? There are no nays; go ahead.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Justice will receive \$8.8 million for capital projects in the coming year. This includes \$7.9 million for the new justice centre to be located in Iqaluit, to be completed in the 2006-07 fiscal year.

For 2005-06 the Department of Environment will manage a capital budget of \$1.9 million. This funding will be used for various tourism, parks, and wildlife projects around Nunavut, including a new wildlife office in Chesterfield Inlet.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has been allocated a capital budget of \$2.9 million for projects that include airport maintenance equipment, a deep-water port study, and projects under the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program.

To conclude, Mr. Speaker, we always have placed a high priority on maintaining a sound financial position, and with our heavy reliance on federal transfers, we must live within our means.

While we are facing pressures on our budgets from rising energy costs as well as program and infrastructure needs, we are confident that we can maintain, over the medium-term, a sound financial position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 3: Members' Statement

Member's Statement 009 – 2(2): Power Rate Increases in Nunavut

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make the statement that is very interesting to note that Nunavut is not the only jurisdiction in Canada that is currently being faced with the issue of power rate increases.

I have been following with interest the debate that is taking place right now in Nova Scotia, with respect to that province's utility review process, where consumers are lining up to oppose the rate hikes.

I was not surprised to see that the residents of this community have been vocal and well organized in speaking up about Qulliq Energy Corporation's rate application. I respect their efforts to defend their interests.

However, we must also pay attention to the needs of the smaller communities in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, it can be argued that some communities have been paying more than their fair share over the past several years. It can be argued that some communities have received a break based on the rate structure that was inherited in 1999.

To illustrate, residential customers in the capital city presently pay the cheapest average rate in all of Nunavut: just over 30 cents per kilowatt hour. By contrast, residential rates in Whale Cove are more than 100 percent higher than in Iqaluit.

What we also need to look at is the ability of each resident in each community to pay for their power.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to get 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. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation's own information materials state, and I quote, "The corporation anticipates that the extent

to which the government subsidizes electricity rates will not be known until the GRA process is complete.”

I think that we need to start thinking now about how the government will react. We need to look closely at the option of not providing the same subsidies across all communities and classes of customers, but targeting them based on the circumstances of each.

For example, I think it might be worthwhile to look at differentiating between small and large businesses that are certainly taxed at different rates. Perhaps multi-million dollar companies that reap profits in Nunavut and that are based in the South can, and should, shoulder a larger burden, while not pushing small, local, and start-up businesses over the edge.

I am certain that all members of this House will be looking to protect their constituents, and that is understandable. At the same time, we must act responsibly and recognize that there is no easy solution to this matter. When the Utility Rates Review Council completes its work we must study its findings carefully and base our decisions on what is best for Nunavut as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 010 – 2(2): National Childcare Day

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about a good news story in my community of Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, we all know that daycares are vital facilities in the Nunavut communities where they exist. Indeed, their national importance is reflected through the establishment of National Childcare Day, which falls this year on November 20, this coming Saturday.

However, we hear almost every week where some Nunavut communities either don't have daycare facilities or they have been closed down due to lack of funding. It is comforting for working parents to know that they can put their children in the care of professionally trained and certified childcare professionals while they go to work or school.

Our daycare in Cambridge Bay has been operational for at least 20 years. My family and other families have made good use of their services. Over those 20 years, Mr. Speaker, the daycare has struggled to remain open and provide valuable training and employment to childcare workers who work in the facility.

The daycare remains open today because of the dedication and hard work of the Cambridge Bay Childcare Society Board of Directors and their staff. The financial support from the parents, hamlets, local organizations and businesses of Cambridge Bay and Nunavut, including the government, is vital to the daycare's survival and success.

For example, Mr. Speaker, on October 23, 2004, the society held its annual childcare auction. On the auction items alone, the society raised over \$30,000 from the 175 residents and businesses who attended.

I'm very happy to inform you and the members of this House that the donated items the daycare received from the Legislative Assembly and ministers contributed to the success of their annual auction.

These much needed extra funds will be used to help pay wages, fuel, power, municipal services, and provide training to the childcare workers.

Saskatchewan's children's advocate was in the community to meet with me and others about our program and initiative and was a keynote speaker at the childcare auction. She told us that it was clear to her why Nunavumiut lead the nation in our financial generosity in helping others.

The childcare society requires a larger facility because they have many parents who want their children in their care. I cannot imagine our community without our existing daycare facility, because it would make it almost impossible for many parents to go to work or school; this would be detrimental to employers and educational institutions, and ultimately our economy would suffer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 011 – 2(2): Birthday Wish to Rachel Uyarasuk

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize one individual, even though there are a lot of people in Igloolik. Rachel Uyarasuk is well known in her community; I call her my wife when I see her, because of my namesake. Today she is 91 years old. Some people think that she is 100 years old, but on her birth certificate she is 91 years old. I know she is over 90 years old, but we are not sure exactly how old she really is, because we did not have any written documentation at that time.

On behalf of the members and the constituents, I would like to recognize our elders, as they have helped us a lot, and she has done the same for the people of Nunavut. They should be recognized on this special occasion. I would like to wish her a happy birthday, and I would also like to send my regards to the Igloolik and Hall Beach people who also wish her a happy birthday today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 012 – 2(2): Action Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to say happy birthday to the elder from Igloolik and to have a good day.

I rise today to once again raise the issue of drug and alcohol abuse in our communities. It has been a concern to the people of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, although there were a number of good ideas and initiatives in yesterday's throne speech, I was very disappointed to see no reference to the need to act against drug and alcohol abuse.

We all know the damage that drugs and alcohol are doing to our families and communities. (interpretation) A lot of people die because of alcohol. (interpretation ends) This week it was revealed that almost 90 percent of the calls received by the RCMP involved alcohol. Ninety percent. Ninety out of a hundred calls are related to alcohol abuse.

Some communities are trying to take action, but it isn't easy. For example, in my community, Chesterfield Inlet, the residents held a democratic vote early in 2002 to set up an alcohol education committee.

It took me almost two-and-a-half years of questioning and letters to different ministers to take action about holding the vote, and I was pleased to see that the new minister has acted. (interpretation) I am proud of Leona Aglukkaq, (interpretation ends) and I will be tabling her letter to me on the matter later on today.

I have also written to the Minister of Justice on the issue of RCMP drug enforcement. I was also pleased to see my concerns conveyed to the RCMP, and I was delighted to see the narcotics detection dog take its first bite out of crime in Coral Harbour just a few weeks ago.

The recent news about major seizures at the Iqaluit post office was also excellent news, as the RCMP were able to prevent another load of poison from reaching our streets.

The fight against drugs and alcohol can only be won if we approach it from a number of directions. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I would like 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. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you.

We must be tough on enforcement around drug and alcohol abuse. (interpretation ends) We must be tough on enforcement. I want to see our government formally take a stand against any liberalization of drug laws in Canada, the laws that will affect us in Nunavut.

We must strictly enforce our own territorial laws against bootlegging. I do not like seeing bootleggers putting personal profit at the expense of family structure. (interpretation) They have to be arrested, (interpretation ends) and these criminals deserve to suffer the strongest possible punishment under the law.

We must provide effective counselling and treatment services to our residents who are seeking help. Social services needs an action plan.

The Department of Finance, which is responsible for the Liquor Act, must help our alcohol education committees fulfill their responsibilities. Together we can move towards a society free from substance abuse. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 013 – 2(2): Recreational Facilities Needed

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to present an alternative vision for health and justice in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech yesterday spoke about the devastating results of suicide in our territory. The commissioner spoke about assisting efforts to reduce and prevent suicide. The government's commitment to the four major goals of the Bathurst Mandate was re-stated; one of those goals is *Inuuqatigiittarniq* – healthy communities.

The Throne Speech also focused on justice and safety for Nunavummiut, highlighting the new justice centre that is being built in Iqaluit ; it will be safer and more secure for victims, court officers, the public, and the accused.

What the Throne Speech didn't mention, Mr. Speaker, is recreational facilities. I would like to take this time to emphasize the importance of recreational facilities in supporting healthy communities. Physical activity is an important part of good mental health and can be a preventative measure for chronic illnesses such as type-two diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, the Throne Speech also made no mention of the importance of recreational facilities in providing alternatives to minor criminal activity: mischief, minor crimes, drug experimentation, and alcohol abuse.

In discussions with law enforcement officers, boredom has been raised as a reason some people get into trouble with the law. I can't help but wonder why more of the focus isn't on keeping people out of the health and justice system in the first place.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be tabling letters from health and justice workers in Resolute Bay advocating for an arena in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 014 – 2(2): Kugluktuk Resident's Concerns

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to serve the people of Kugluktuk.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, over the coming weeks, I look forward to raising issues of concern to my community and constituents.

Over the past several months, I have been listening to what Kugluktuk residents have had to say on a number of issues. During the same time I have had the opportunity to host a number of ministers who have made the effort to come to Kugluktuk to see the needs of the community first-hand.

(interpretation) I would like to thank Ministers Brown, Picco and Simailak for their willingness to listen to the community, and to look at the issues that face us in the areas of health, education, and economic development. I invite all ministers to spend time in the Kitikmeot, a part of our territory which often feels left out of decision making in Iqaluit.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association recently held its board meeting in Kugluktuk. I look forward to working with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association to advance priority issues of mutual concern, especially in the areas of natural resource development. The Kitikmeot has potential to drive economic growth and development in all Nunavut, and I will be working with my Kitimeot colleagues on this issue.

I want to close by taking this moment to mourn the recent passing of two well respected members of our community, Sam and Lena Kikpak and also Jack Kaoloak. Koana, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 015 – 2(2): Education and Employment for Nunavumiut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to urge the government and the Assembly to take a good hard look at what is happening with our school population.

We have to face the fact that we have a problem. It is not something to be ashamed of, it is not something to hide, it is not something that we should gloss over with numbers and figures that don't mean the same things as they do in other parts of the country.

Mr. Speaker, those in the health field tell us that one of the first and most important steps for overcoming a problem is admitting that it exists. The situation is no different when we move into education. It is important to accept that we have a problem so we can work to overcome it.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard that the number of grade 12 graduates in Nunavut is increasing. But we know that our graduation standards are often considered to be below national levels. We voted to increase the amount of grant funding in support of students accessing post secondary education. But the number of students, of Nunavut students, obtaining university degrees is still unacceptably low, while we face huge challenges in producing grade 12 graduates who can enter the work force or even go on to obtain higher levels of education.

We must continue to import workers from the south and elsewhere. The local labour force too often lacks the necessary technical skills to take advantage of opportunities that are locally available.

Mr. Speaker, one year ago this month, the government tabled its 2002-2003 Public Service Report. That report revealed some striking characteristics of the Government of Nunavut's workforce, characteristics that should give our education department some food for thought. That report revealed that far more female beneficiaries than male beneficiaries are employed in the government.

It reveals that more non-beneficiary females are employed than any other group. It reveals that beneficiaries do not fill close to half of all higher level occupation categories.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to ask for consent to complete my statement.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to take a good look at what kinds of educational success is being achieved by our population and what factors are affecting achievement levels.

We should know what obstacles faced by grade 12 graduates stop them from going on to college or university education. We need to know what kind of challenges are limiting opportunities for males to take on jobs within the government.

We need to know what kind of factors are influencing boys and girls to drop out of school. Mr. Speaker, the reform of our school system must take these factors into account. We must be committed to take the right steps to help our youth of Nunavut become future leaders of our territory.

I strongly urge the government and members of this Assembly to take those steps. At the appropriate time, I'm sure the honourable minister responsible for those will be looking forward to my questions on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>Applause

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

Member's Statement 016 – 2(2): Financial Burden for a Sanikiluaq Elder

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my member's statement yesterday... (interpretation ends) I was speaking this morning with an elder who lives in Sanikiluaq. I would like to take a moment to share with this House what he told me.

Like many elders in Nunavut my constituent has to make ends meet from a fixed income. Each month he receives his old age pension from the federal government; it's about \$450-500 each month. He also receives \$150 in elders' support from NTI, for a total monthly of only \$600. That is less than \$10,000 per year.

That is less than what is considered the low income cut-off for one person. I see newcomers in the city going to the store and spending twice that amount on new TVs and other toys. The elder in my community needs to pay his bills and help out his family on very little. I believe that our residents shouldn't have to make an elder live in poverty. They are entitled to dignity in their lives.

If the power corporation's General Rate Application goes ahead, Sanikiluaq residents will have to pay almost 20 percent more per month for their electricity. Before the cabinet approves the rate increases, I must carefully consider the impact on Nunavummiut living on fixed incomes, such as my constituent.

I know that the Government of Nunavut does not control the issue of old age pensions. However, when we are talking with Ottawa we must make them understand the difficult circumstances in which so many elders are living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going to the orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Hon. David Simailak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I say "hi" to Baker Lake, and I also would like to recognize my wife in the gallery. Thank you.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my friend and wife, Susie Evyagotailak.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize my grandchild, Mark Arreak, and his mother Susan, my daughter and my other daughter who are attending school here, taking a cooking course. I am very proud of them. Also, this individual who just moved here, Geela Ipeelie, and also my younger brother's wife, Leah Tasugak.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize this individual from Pond Inlet: Abraham. He is a member of the hamlet council, and he is also being recognized for his leadership. Welcome.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize James Qillaq; in Inuktitut I call him Tujurmiamaaq. He is from Clyde River. Thank you.

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 013 – 2(2): Graduating Requirement Planning Initiative

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for recognizing me first, because I know that the minister just... . In anticipating questions I am just going to answer them, and I will be doing him a favour by putting it on early.

I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for education. Mr. Speaker, as you know and as all members know, during the Arviat caucus retreat one of our collective goals as members of the Assembly was to work for a public education system that focuses on graduating bilingual youth who are equipped with the skills and the knowledge to succeed in post-secondary studies.

Can the minister confirm that this goal has been clearly communicated to his departmental official for inclusion in strategic planning initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I can confirm that it has been, and indeed, several strategic meetings with the department and myself occurred after being appointed as Minister of Education.

The member is correct. At the present time, the graduation rate in Nunavut hasn't been up to par; for every 100 children who enter kindergarten, only 25 graduate grade 12. That is an attrition, or a dropout, rate of 75 percent.

The plans and goals of the department are to begin to very aggressively address that number. I believe that in the coming weeks and months, when we have an opportunity to table some of the documentation to back up the business plan of the department, that will illustrate what Mr. Tootoo has asked and has said. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister generalized on some things that have happened; there have been some meetings.

I was just wondering if he could update this House on what specific changes are being proposed to ensure that Nunavut high school graduation requirements will give graduates the appropriate course levels to be able to enter directly into college- or university-level programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, you have heard some of the disappointing numbers in education.

We have had some very good things happen in education over the past several years in Nunavut. For example, for the first time ever we have graduated Inuit with degrees in nursing. Those nurses, after they graduate, can go and work anywhere in Canada. We will be graduating our first Inuit lawyers with degrees, and we have graduated hundreds of people from the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. So, that is something to be very happy about.

For the first time ever, we have an Inuk attending Harvard University, probably one of the premier schools in the country. That person went through and got their grade 12 through the Nunavut education system. So, there are actually some really good things happening.

At the same time, any person that graduates in Nunavut, academically, in grade 12 has the Alberta exams. Therefore and thus, they can enter any university in the country and be accepted.

Mr. Speaker, graduation requirements for Nunavut are being reviewed. We are in the process of Nunavutizing the Alberta curriculum. For example, I've had an opportunity to speak to Dr. Lyle Oberg, who is the minister of education in Alberta. We have made the commitment to have some Nunavummiut work on the Alberta exams to be able to start Nunavutizing them, at the same time not lowering the curriculum results of those exams but maintaining the high academic standards that are in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister makes a very important distinction in his answer when he had said "those students graduating from the academic program".

I'm just wondering... I'm sure that the minister doesn't have that information at his finger tips, and I'd very surprised if he did, pleasantly surprised. Would he commit to providing to this House a breakdown of graduating students that have gone through the academic stream and those that are graduating that haven't gone through the academic stream. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say that since 1999 there have been 659 graduates of grade 12 in Nunavut. When I say the academic grade 12, that's the Alberta exams, because we still use the Alberta exams; those are very high academic standards. And students, I said earlier, that meet the requirements of that exam are eligible, of course, to enter universities and colleges in Canada.

Every jurisdiction in the country has streams for students. So, for example, if you're not in an academic program in Nova Scotia or in Manitoba, you may have a harder time to get into post-secondary education.

That's not unique just to Nunavut. What we are trying to do is provide a core group of courses, that our students would be in tuned to, that would be able to reach those academic standards that Mr. Tootoo has asked about.

I will be able to, I think, provide the number of graduates of grade 12 since 1999 on the Alberta exams and how many have graduated with the Nunavut high school diploma. I will try to get that information for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just trying to confirm with the minister to provide that information to the Assembly and not just to me. I'm sure he would have caught that in the review of the Hansard for tomorrow. Just to save him looking for it...

Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure this House that education reform will not remove any current opportunities that graduating students have to acquire high-level course credits in preparation for university or college level programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the process of looking at what curriculum is in place and what those resources are, we'll be looking at it depending on what the grade is in restructuring some of those programs.

We won't be doing anything that will take away from the academic opportunities that are in place for our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 014 – 2(2): Support for Qikiqtarjuaq Fish Quota Increase

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

He was in Broughton Island this spring and had a meeting with the fishermen of Qikitaqjuaq. The minister stated that they would give further support to the fishermen in Broughton Island and that they would do more work on it.

Could you give us an update on what's happening on that issue.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did have a visit with the fishermen in Qikiqtarjuaq who were operating an independent business up there. We will give them support wherever we can, possibly by trying to increase the quota on shrimp and turbot fishing around that area.

We are trying to make changes to that and to see that an increased quota is awarded to Nunavut. A large chunk, possibly around \$55 million, is awarded to the southern provinces; what we are trying to do at this point is to have discussions with the federal government. Nunavut gets only 23 percent of that quota at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for lobbying the government, but what I did not hear about is regarding the support that is required by the Qikiqtarjuaq fishermen in increasing their quota. Are you going to see the Qikiqtarjuaq fishermen?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. We are doing all we can at this point. We will be going to court on December 6, next month, on this issue, especially for the shrimp quota for around the Qikiqtarjuaq-Clyde River area.

We are trying to get the court to reverse their decision, and yes, I know that they have invited us to go up there, but there is not much we can do. All we can do is use whatever avenue we can to help them out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 015 – 2(2): Building Elders’ Facilities in Nunavut

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I don’t want to keep asking the same minister, but I do want to voice the concerns of my constituents.

When there was a retreat in Arviat, we outlined some goals for the government. We supported the establishment of a 24-hour elders' care facility. Right after that retreat I wrote to the Minister of Health and Social Services and to the Minister of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and I also sent a copy of the letter to the Nunavut Housing Corporation on behalf of the people in my riding. At the appropriate time I will be tabling the responses that I got.

(interpretation ends) This question refers to yesterday’s Throne Speech. With the promise to open a new elders’ facility every year of the government’s mandate, can the minister clarify which communities will be chosen for the establishment of new elders’ facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are just starting to initiate the work here, but since it is brand new we are going to be working hard and we would like to use the Arviat elders’ centre as a model. I can’t say at this point when we are going to be building the facility.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister tell me if they are going to decide where they are going to be building that 24-hour health care elders’ facility? Based on the population of the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As elected officials, we know that there are 25 communities in Nunavut and we are getting more and more requests to build those facilities from the communities.

We are going to have to work very closely with the hamlet councils and see where the need is the most. We will have to look carefully at where it should be located before making an announcement as to where the first one is going to be built.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it is in progress, but could the minister indicate where this facility is going to be? The hamlet of Arctic Bay has already made a request to have it built in their community. Could the minister let me know when we are going to see this elders' facility in Arctic Bay or when you can make an indication of when you are going to building one in Arctic Bay?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that there are going to be more requests coming from the communities; baby boomers are aging.

I know that you did write a letter to my office, but I can't respond at this time. We will make sure that we have all of the plans put together and we will work closely together with you to decide on where the first 24-hour health care facility will be located.

We will have to work together as the people of Nunavut. There are 25 communities in Nunavut and we can't build one in each community all at the same time. We will have to plan it properly in order to get this off the ground. Thank you.

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

Question 016 – 2(2): Update on the \$90 million Allocation from the Federal Government

Mr. Peterson: Koana Uqaqti. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. I would like to have the minister explain or provide the House with an update on the \$90 million in economic development funding that was announced earlier this year by the federal government. Koana Uqaqti.

Speaker: Minister of Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there is \$90 million that has been allocated to the three territories over five years. We are looking at \$3 million for Nunavut in the 2004-05 fiscal year, and a further \$6 million a year for the next four years, again, in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Koana Uqaqti. Yes, I am aware of those numbers. The Nunavut Economic Development Board received 28 applications from across Nunavut earlier this year and they prioritized them 1 to 28.

They sent their recommendations to a committee in Ottawa, and to date I am not sure if that committee has made any recommendations which applications to fund. So, I am wondering if the minister could tell the House if any of those parties will be funded in this fiscal year. Koana Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are discussions that are ongoing between my department and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Nunavut Economic Forum, which is an advisory body to this government on how best to deliver the program in Nunavut.

We are hopeful that most, if not all, of that money will be expended in this fiscal year, although those discussions are still ongoing. So, at this point I am not able to give any actual timeframe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is an example where we, in Nunavut, can't make decisions on projects that are important to Nunavut. We have to go to Ottawa and let them decide on them.

I am wondering if the minister could tell the House whether his department is making any plans to move the decision-making mechanism to Nunavut so decisions affecting Nunavut will be made by Nunammiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, discussions are still ongoing between the federal government and ourselves on an actual mechanism for actually delivering that program.

As I said, the Nunavut Economic Forum has been very active in making the recommendations that the members mentioned. My department has been very active. We are very actively trying to find a way that satisfies both levels of government, ours and the federal government's, ways to deliver that program in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As everybody knows, economic development funding is very difficult to come by at the best of times; it is now the middle of November, and March is not too far off.

Can the minister assure us that if the funding that is earmarked for this fiscal year, the current fiscal year, if not used, that it will be carried over; it will be available in the future fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot give that assurance right now because that program, this year, is being delivered through one of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's programs. So, that money is within the federal government for this fiscal year.

As I said, discussions are ongoing. We are hopeful that we will be able to find a way to carry that money over to the next fiscal year, if there is in fact money left over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 017 – 2(2): Baker Lake Incident

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the Minister of Health and Social Services. I apologize; I have been meaning to ask this question for a while now.

After that accident in Baker Lake it was very serious. We lost the life of an elder. We were told that he had a stroke, but when we listened to the reports, it seemed that he had slipped and there was a crack in his skull.

I would like to ask the minister if her department looked into this incident and see if everything around the facilities was in proper order, because I am sure that if you don't rectify this problem there is going to be another case.

I would like to ask the minister if the government looked into this to find out exactly what happened to that individual who lost his life. That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. When we are talking about one individual, I cannot disclose any information. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two elders' facilities where there have been some accidents. I believe that those should be looked into and made sure that the walkways, ramps, steps, and so on are well maintained so that there are no accidents.

It is very important to make sure that they are safe facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make sure our department looks into these facilities. We will have to find out who owns the facilities or whether they are owned by the government. If that is the case it will be looked after by Public Works. We will look into it, Thank you.

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

Question 018 – 2(2): Health Centre for Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The hamlet of Repulse Bay has asked many times for a health centre in their community.

I would like to ask the minister when a new health facility will be built in Repulse Bay. I believe this has been deferred three years in a row. Could the minister indicate to me when the health centre will be built in Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Nunavut there are old facilities and some that cannot be used. I apologize to the member; I will take his question as notice.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister let me know at the earliest opportunity when that health centre will be built. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you. I believe the hamlets usually have a work plan and prioritize what is most needed in their communities, and then their lists are sent to the Nunavut government.

Yes, I will give you a response as soon as possible. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The question was taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 019 – 2(2): Extension Request from the Utility Rate Review Council

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I asked the minister responsible for the Utility Rate Review Council if they have received a request for an extension from the chairman of the council. He had indicated at that time that the responsibility went to the minister responsible for energy.

Well, I'd like to ask the Minister of Energy today if his department has received a request from the Utility Rate Review Council as outlined in the Act for an extension on the review period, the recording period for the current General Rate Applications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister responsible for energy, Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct, the request has been received by our office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that was what the Premier had indicated yesterday. Can the minister inform this House of when that request came forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the paper in front of me, so I can't give the actual date. I believe in the last couple weeks it had come through to Mr. Simailak's office, and I had received it earlier this week. Today is Wednesday, so I would have gotten it on Monday.

Mr. Speaker, we have responded to the chair of the Utility Rates Review Council in an appropriate manner, as per the original request. So, we concurred with the request.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to see that he is concurring with the original requests by people.

I am just wondering if the minister could commit to providing to the members of this House the date on which the letter was sent, or the receive date on the letter, to the minister and when the response was issued and if there is a great time difference in there; if he could explain why it took so long to respond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. I think I indicated to the member that as soon as the request was received by the minister we responded within two days, and I think I received the request on Monday as opposed to Friday. We received the request on Monday, and indeed, approved that request today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that is the case, it is good to see the effective wheels of the government moving, but if you could just confirm the date on that letter of request for an extension. That is what I would like to see or find out for sure. He said he didn't have it with him, but if he can let me know of that at some future date.

He had indicated that they had agreed with that request. Can he indicate exactly what they agreed to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The written request was acknowledged to extend the reporting timeframe to me as minister responsible for energy. We accepted that request and have extended the date to February 1, 2005, I believe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 020 – 2(2): Community Initiative Program

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was waiting to get my hand noticed. I will ask one question instead of two questions. I would like to address the Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Simailak.

I think there is a program in his department called Community Initiatives; what is that program used for? How can the residents of Nunavut benefit from that?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The program is for the communities and can be requested through the hamlets. It is an initiative for economic-development sort of programs for the residents of Nunavut, within the community. From April 1 to September 15 is when they can request that funding. If there is any money left over... I think there was about \$100,000. There have been some requests for that funding. If there is any money or a surplus of money, then they give out again, by requests from communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I would like to thank the minister for his response. If that policy is that way, as the minister stated, if it is for only the economic development of a community, how come it has to go through the hamlets?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): It could be used for development or benefiting the people within the community. It could also benefit some organizations. It could all be requested from other organizations as well as the hamlet council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Rankin Inlet, there have been two proposals. One entity got little bit of money, but I think there are two projects that requested, and one company had wanted to acquire new computers.

The businesses in that community would benefit from it as well. But the assistant deputy minister stated that there has been an appeal and it could not be carried. I just wondered if the minister will deny the applicant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding is not really geared towards the purchasing of new computer equipment because it would not really benefit the community.

But I will look into that, Mr. Curley, and we'll talk with the hamlet council and the mayor of Rankin Inlet. We were not able to do that last summer, but I will have a meeting with your mayor to try to understand what the process was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 021 – 2(2): Visitation of Communities Regarding the Power Rate Increases

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question in regard to the power rate increases. If there are visitations to the communities, which communities will be visited in regard to the power rate increases?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Energy, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The visitation by the Utility Rates Review Council has been widely publicized in the local media as well as Nunatsiaq News and the newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have that with me, on the actual communities that the Utility Rates Review Council is visiting. I will have to provide that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does he know approximately how many communities will be consulted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the efficient help of the Premier, the minister in charge of the Utility Rates Review Council, we have been able to get that information.

Let me begin by saying that consultations began here in Iqaluit on November 4 and 5. They've continued through Qikiqtaaluk with stops planned for Igloodik, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Pond Inlet. The council is currently on the Kivalliq and the Kitiqmeot portion with stops planned for Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, and Coral Harbour. Additional hearings are being scheduled in Iqaluit for November 29 and 30.

The current deadline for written submissions was for December 6, but earlier we said, in answer to a question from Mr. Tootoo, that we actually extended the deadline for 30 days for the Utility Rates Review Council to be able to their work. Coming out of their consultations are requests for other meetings, and maybe they can be facilitated through the longer timeframe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. I would like to ask again, what kind of mandate do these people that do the consulting have, the people that are visiting the communities?

Does it have anything to do with the higher power rates? Are they visiting the communities that are supposed to be receiving higher power rates, or what is the guideline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process that we have right now goes back to 1995-96 through to 1998 when the last General Rate Application was held. A lot of the members will remember when those hearings were held throughout the Northwest Territories, which included Nunavut at the time; there were three proposals on the table.

One was for a postage stamp rate, and the postage stamp rate means like a postage stamp, no matter if you are in Inuvik or Iqaluit or Ottawa, when you mail something it's the same rate. We looked at community zone rates and actual cost production rates by community.

Mr. Speaker, the General Rate Application of that period picked the community zone rate that we have right now in place, which means the actual cost of generating electricity has to be borne by that community. That is why, as Mr. Curley was pointing out, some communities are very high and some are very low.

The Utility Rates Review Council has been mandated to review any request for a rate increase under legislation by the Government of Nunavut. And their job, Mr. Speaker, is to take the proposal that has been made by the power corporation and to go out into the public to get feedback from residents, from homeowners, from businesses, from people in Nunavut, and to ascertain what the total request may or may not be. That is their job.

They will report back to the Minister of Energy; the Minister of Energy then will look at the report, consult with the cabinet and so on, and then they move forward from there.

I don't want to interfere in the Utility Rates Review Council process; it's an independent process of that body, and we've got some very good, skilled people on that committee. Again, the proposal they are looking at is the proposal made by the power corporation; it's not a government proposal. It's a proposal made independently by the power corporation to the Utility Rates Review Council. That is why the Utility Rates Review Council is looking at it independently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response.

But I have a concern, as I stated earlier on in this House, in regards to my community of Sanikiluaq. If their rates increase, it will not be good for my community. I think those people that are consulting in the communities should have been talking or should have been visiting the communities whose power rates are going to be increased. There are going to be a lot of concerned people in my community.

I would like the minister to consider that those people that are visiting should go to my community of Sanikiluaq because we are going to get a power hike. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the concern the member had. The work that the Utility Rates Review Council is doing right now is based on a proposal

made by the power corporation. The power corporation has said, this is what we think we need; a postage stamp rate as we explained earlier.

I can't tell, no one in this House can tell, if a rate will go up and how much by community, until the Utility Rates Review Council has looked at the financial data provided by the power corporation, the cost of doing business, and so on.

At the end of the day, I believe the government realizes, and I think we've said that over the last day-and-a-half now in the House by some of the statements by the finance minister and so on, and the speech from the throne... . We realize that you can't put an abnormal burden on our smaller communities, because there is no base.

Eighty percent of all income generated by the power company comes directly or indirectly from government. When you look at the member's community, for example, in Sanikiluaq, the biggest users of power in Sankiluaq are the health centre, nursing station, and the school. The hamlet is not a tax based municipality, so the money that the power corporation generates from Sanikiluaq would be a transfer from the government of Nunavut, because we fund the hamlet.

The housing increase, if we increase the housing... . There may be fifteen homeowners in Sanikiluaq at the most, the rest are social housing units or staff housing. That means the government of Nunavut has to pay for that increase. We realize that eighty percent of revenue is generated from one group of people, in this case, the Government of Nunavut, and the impact should not be carried on the backs of the consumer in general or the constituents.

I believe we're cognizant of that, but at the end of the day the Utilities Rate Review Council has to do their work; they will come back with their recommendation.

I will contact the URRC and say that there is a request to visit Sanikiluaq, on behalf of the member, but again they have to fit that into the schedule that they have already come up with. I'm not sure what the logistics of doing that would be, but I will make the request as asked by the member on behalf for the member , thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Oral questions. Mr. Arreak.

Question 022 – 2(2): Renewing Eye Doctors' Contract

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the minister of health.

The eye doctors usually visit the communities, which is really good, but in my constituency there has been concern in regard to the optometrist's visits and the eye doctor's visits. Sometimes, after the eye doctors arrive, the patients have to wait until well over four months for their eye glasses, and then once the eye glasses arrive they receive the wrong prescription glasses.

Therefore, I would like to ask the minister responsible: what's the contract for the eye doctor? Are you going to be renewing the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Miss Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contract with the health department varies. They visit communities for a certain amount of days, but I will have to find out how many times a year they visit your community. I don't have that information at my fingertips. Once I get that information I will be able to respond to you, as I have no knowledge of what the figure is. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: The minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Peterson.

Question 023 – 2(2): Health Care Funding Details

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. I appreciate the minister giving us a fiscal update today on the health care funding.

On September 16 I read a news release, a government news release, that the department would inject 200- \$300 million in the next 6 years. What I'm wondering is if the minister could provide us with the information on what exact details of the deal will be revealed to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Minister of Finance, Ms. Aglukkak.

Hon. Leona Aglukkak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the two meetings that we've had with my colleagues, the Premier as well as the health minister, what I outlined today about health as far as the increases to the formula... . As it relates to your question, I can commit to providing the details to the House during this sitting. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure the House that funding will be used for health care and not for anything else, for example, a bail-out of the Nunavut Power Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I outlined in the update the funding that will go to health. One example is medical travel. The federal government has agreed to cover 50 percent of the medical travel costs for Nunavut, and that is specifically for that area.

The other area, as I have mentioned, was related to health capacity building, training as far as the delivery of health. Those funds have been identified and earmarked for health services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. On September 16, in fact, there were two news releases issued by the Government of Nunavut. Both had the same title, "Nunavut Negotiates Multi-Million Dollar Health Deal." The deal would inject between 200- and \$300 million over the next six years into Nunavut's "health system". That was the first news release that was recalled by the Government of Nunavut.

The second news release, with the same title and information, said the deal would inject between 200- and \$300 million over the next six years into Nunavut's "public accounts". I just found that kind of an interesting thing to do.

Could the minister explain to the House why the government found it necessary to recall the first news release? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, from what I understand, the news release was presented during the First Ministers' meeting, the early one in September. From what I understand, there was a minor error in the first release, and it was recalled and the second release was deemed to be good. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I am taking it that the minister is committing that the 200- to \$300 million dollars negotiated for health care will be used only for health care in Nunavut. Is the minister giving her commitment to us today if that is in fact the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There were two funds introduced. There was the changes to the formula financing. There was also incremental funding for health and there was also incremental funding under the new arrangement the federal government introduced, which is the base, which is referred to as the floor.

So, there are three areas of incremental funding that we received from the federal government. Not all of that will go towards health; these areas specific to health will go to health, but that does not exclude the department of health from also accessing funding under the new formula as well as the floor arrangement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 024 – 2(2): Update on the Location of a New Heritage Centre

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Heritage.

As we are aware, the first Assembly paid over \$300,000 to pay for the consultants to find out where the heritage centre would be located. They made recommendations to the government which would be the best ideal place.

Have you selected from the recommendations a location? Specifically, have you decided as to where the heritage centre would be located and what kind of criteria have been set?

Speaker (interpretation): The minister responsible for heritage, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is true: back in August 2002 there was a review done on the heritage centre. They tabled it in June 2003 during the Legislative Assembly meeting in Baker Lake.

At this time there is a working group that has been struck to review this with representatives from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Inuit Heritage Trust and also our Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Together we have formed a working group that just recently started.

I can say, Mr. Speaker, that this is running a bit late, but through negotiations, we are now trying to identify an individual to work. This working group is now looking and reviewing the recommendations. Also we are now consulting with the federal government and they have stated that the federal government would be willing to pay for half of the heritage centre, but we have to find the other half on our own.

For that reason the working group is now reviewing the recommendations. Once they have decided, then they will make recommendations on the location of the heritage centre.

Mr. Speaker, we are expecting that from the working group, but at this time I cannot identify, formally, as to where the location would be of the heritage centre, because we are depending on the working group to do their review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for responding.

The second question that I would like to ask is if you can inform the House as to who the members of the working group committee are, if possible. And also, if there is going to be a community consultation tour, would the working group recommend the location?

Is this working group going to make a recommendation to the cabinet before they make a decision? I would like to hear more about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The working group committee will review all the recommendations that were made. For example, if they identify one community, how can we give services to the smaller communities. So, those are the issues that they will have to review and they will have to weigh that. As I stated, in 2003 they made recommendations in the Baker Lake session.

At this time the working group committee is now reviewing the decision made in June 2003, as we are aware. During the Arviat meeting we agreed that we need to establish the heritage centre, therefore the working group has been charged to review the whole thing.

Also, the working group, after their review is done, would look at where they would receive the funding, where the ideal location would be. We envisioned the location, but we cannot state where the new location would be as we speak and not until the working group has completed their review.

I'm sure that cabinet will be informed after the recommendation by the working group. After the working group has made their decision I will inform the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I think this is my last supplementary. Thank you. Some of the communities expect to see the heritage centre, and they expect to be involved. If this goes ahead it would be ideal.

The reason why I'm asking this, Mr. Speaker, is that it states in our document that it would be ideal to have the heritage centre be part of the Legislative Assembly. I was wondering, are you considering making the heritage centre at the new Legislative Assembly?

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The working group committee is now just working on reviewing the heritage centre; Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Inuit Heritage, and Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, we will need support from the business sector as we try to identify the funding for that. So, the working group is diligently reviewing this and we expect the working group to come up with their recommendations after their review of the June 2003 decision. The working group will provide recommendations to us.

Speaker (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Curley. Are you finished? Thank you. Question period is now over. Going back to the orders of the day. Written questions. Item 7. Mr. Curley.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 006 – 2(2): Public Housing Construction in Nunavut

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to read it in English: “A Written Question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Hon. Peter Kilabuk.”

1. (interpretation ends) By community, how many public housing units were actually constructed during the construction season for each of the following fiscal years;
 - a) 1999-2000
 - b) 2000-2001
 - c) 2001-2002
 - d) 2002-2003
 - e) 2003-2004
 - f) 2004-2005 to date April 1 2004, to September 30, 2004
2. What were the actual costs for units for construction and material in each community in each of the construction seasons listed above?
3. What panels were assessed under section 12.6(f) of NNI Policy on Construction Contracts in each of the seasons listed above?
4. What bonuses were awarded under sections 12.1(e) and 12.1(g) of NNI Policy on Construction Contracts in each of the seasons listed above?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 007 – 2(2): Recidivism Rates and Rehabilitation Programs

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct the written question to the Minister of Justice, Paul Okalik. I will read it in English. (interpretation ends) Recidivism rates and rehabilitation program:

1. How does the Department of Justice calculate the recidivism rates for offenders in territorial custody?
2. What is the rate of recidivism for adult male offenders in Nunavut?

3. What is the rate for recidivism for male young offenders in Nunavut?
4. How does the Department of Justice measure the effectiveness of its rehabilitation programs?
5. What types of substance abuse programs are offered to inmates in territorial custody with respect to (a) alcohol abuse (b) drug abuse?
6. What types of rehabilitation and counselling programs are offered to inmates convicted of sex offenses?
7. What educational and literacy programs are provided to inmates?
8. From April 1, 1999 to November 1, 2004, how many offenders participated in the substance abuse programs?
9. What types of employment skills programs exists for inmates?
10. What types of anger management programs are offered to inmates?
11. What are the Department of Justices guidelines with respect to rehabilitation programs being offered on a mandatory or a voluntary basis?
12. What are the guidelines for determining which inmates qualify for on-the-land and outpost programs, and is the rate of recidivism different for inmates who participate in these programs in relation to offenders who do not participate in them?
13. What rehabilitation programs will be offered at the new Kugluktuk men's healing facility?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 008 – 2(2): Dropout and Truancy Rates in Nunavut Schools

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education and it is about drop-out rates and truancy rates in Nunavut schools.

1. Within the context of the public education system in Nunavut, how does the government formerly determine when a student has dropped out of school?
2. For each school year indicated below, what were the school drop-out rates, broken down by community, school, grade level, and gender of students:

3. Within the meanings section, section 27 and section 28 of the Education Act, how does the government determine when non-attendance of school is considered truancy?
4. For each of the school years indicated below, what were Nunavut's school truancy rates broken down by community, by school, by grade level, and by gender of students? 2000-2001 school year, 2001-02 school year, 2002-03 school year, 2003-04 school year?

Sections 27 and 28 of the Education Act specifically specify the requirements for attendance at school as well as the consequences for non-attendance. For the periods listed above, has the department received any reports or queries from schools or district education authorities on the implementation of these sections of the act, and if so, what action was taken?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Questions 009 – 2(2): Administration of the Liquor Act and Other Matters

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, the minister responsible for the Liquor Act, concerning administration of the Liquor Act and other matters.

1. On November 5, 2003, the Nunavut Liquor Act was amended to increase the fines for certain offences under the Act, including the legal serving of alcohol. On November 6, 2003 to November 1, 2004, broken down by category of offence by community in which an offence occurred, and where public fines were posed for the violations of the act, what were the amounts of each fine? What was the comparable data for the period of November 1, 2002 to November 5, 2003?
2. What were the total number of licences recorded under the Liquor Act during each of the following calendar years:
 - a) 2002
 - b) 2003
 - c) 2004 to date?
3. On December 19, 2001, the Government of Nunavut announced reductions in the fee structure for imported liquor products. Subsequent to this announcement, what specific methodology has the Government of Nunavut used to measure the effectiveness of its change of reducing the illegal importation of liquor into Nunavut?

4. How much money did the Government of Nunavut raise for liquor import fees, broken down by community in which permits were purchased, in each of the following fiscal years:

- a) 2002-03
- b) 2003-04
- c) 2004-05 to date?

5. As of November 1, 2004, what expenditures has the Government of Nunavut incurred in respect to the establishment of the Nunavut Liquor Commissioner's office and warehouse facilities in Rankin Inlet?

6. As of November 1, 2004, what is the status of repatriation of the Nunavut Liquor Commission programs and services previously administered under the Northwest Territories Liquor Commission on a contractual basis?

Koana, Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Arreak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 002 – 2(2): Request for a Mini-Mall

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from Clyde River for the request of a mini-mall; this is privately owned. We have 333 signatures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Petitions. Mr. Peterson.

Petition 003 – 2(2): Demand for More Public Housing

Mr. Peterson: Koana Uqaqti. I am very pleased to rise today to submit a petition from the Cambridge Bay Housing Association. It is signed by 208 people in the community of Cambridge Bay, and it says: "We, the people of Cambridge Bay as undersigned, vote for the Government of Nunavut to build more public housing units and to allocate more funding in the 2005-06 budget to do so." Koana Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): Petitions. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 007 – 2(2): Three Letters in Support of an Arena in Resolute Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table three letters today.

The first letter is from Pat Cross, the acting nurse in charge at the Resolute Bay health centre. The second letter is from Corporal Chris Brousseau, and I apologize if I didn't say that correctly. Chris Brousseau is the officer in charge of the Resolute Bay RCMP detachment. The third letter is from the mayor of Resolute Bay.

Each of these letters underlines the importance of an arena to the people of Resolute Bay. One is written from a health perspective, one is from a safety perspective, and the third is written by an elected representative of the community.

(interpretation ends) I urge the government to read these letters with attention and to respond to these concerns in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents, Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 008 – 2(2): Letter from the Mayor of Cambridge Bay Concerning the Release of an Offender

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a letter I'd like to table today from the mayor and council of Cambridge Bay and is addressed to the Minister of Justice on Oct. 29, 2004, concerning the release of offenders back to the community.

Mr. Speaker, there is a reason the hamlet felt compelled to write this letter. On the night of the march across the Nunavut, the Stop the Violence March, a fellow in Cambridge Bay who had been in jail was released back into the community. He sexually assaulted four women their houses. He walked in or broke in and sexually assaulted them.

The community did not know that he was coming back to town. I am very pleased to table this letter for the information for the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Netser.

Tabled Document 009 – 2(2): Alcohol Education Committee for Chesterfield Inlet

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a letter from the Minister of Finance regarding the upcoming vote in Chesterfield Inlet for an alcohol education committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of documents. I would like to table a document.

Tabled Document 010 – 2(2): Return to Written Question 009 – 2(1) Human Resources

Members, I have two documents to table, first, a return to written question number 9-2(1) concerning human resources asked to Mr. Tapardjuk on decentralization, asked by Mr. Peterson on May 14, 2004.

Tabled Document 011 – 2(2): Response to Petition 001 – 2(1): Support of the Construction of a Youth Centre in Qikiqtarjuaq

Secondly, a response to petition 001-2(1) concerning a request for support on the construction of a youth centre in Qikiqtarjuaq, asked by Mr. Arreak on May 12, 2004 to the Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Back to the orders of the day. Item 14. Notices of motions. Item 15. Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2005-2006 – Notice**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 19, 2004 Bill 4 - Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2005-06, will be read for the first time. Mr. Speaker, I will ask consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 16. Item 17. First reading of bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am seeking consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement for the first reading of Bill 4, Appropriation Capital Act, 2005-06. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister would like unanimous consent to waive rule 62(1) to have the bill read for the first time. Are there any nays? There are no nays; please proceed, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills**Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2005-2006 – First Reading**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South, that Bill 4, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2005-06, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 4 has had first reading. Item 18. Item 19. Item 20. Item 21. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for Thursday, November 18:

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
 - Bill 4
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

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to invite the members for coffee in our members' lounge. This House stands adjourned till Thursday, November 18, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 15:50*

