



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 3

Thursday November 18, 2004

Pages 91 – 136

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Jobie Nutarak

(Tunnunuiq)

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

*Minister of Culture, Language,
Elders and Youth; Minister of
Human Resources
Minister Responsible for
Sport Nunavut*

David Alagalak

(Arviat)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq

(Nattilik)

*Minister of Finance; Government
House Leader
Liquor Licensing Board
Crown Agency Council*

Hon. David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation
Business Credit Corporation
Nunavut Development
Corporation*

Keith Peterson

(Cambridge Bay)

Peter Kattuk

(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco

(Iqaluit East)

*Minister of Education; Minister
of Energy; Minister Responsible
for Qulliq Energy Corporation
Minister Responsible for Nunavut
Arctic College; Minister
Responsible, Homelessness and
Immigration*

Hon. Paul Okalik

(Iqaluit West)

*Premier; Minister of Justice;
Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs
Utility Rates Review Council*

Joe Allen Evyagotailak

(Kugluktuk)

Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

*Minister of Community and
Government Services; Minister
Responsible for the Nunavut
Housing Corporation*

Tagak Curley

(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Health and Social Services;
Minister Responsible for the
Status of Women*

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk

(South Baffin)

*Minister of Environment;
Minister Responsible for the
Workers' Compensation Board*

James Arreak

(Uqqurmiut)

Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk

Susan Cooper

Sergeant-At-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	91
Ministers' Statements	91
Members' Statements	95
Oral Questions	99
Written Questions.....	119
Tabled Documents.....	121
Second Reading of Bills	122
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	124
Report of the Committee of the Whole	135
Orders of the Day	135

A.

Daily References

Thursday November 18, 2004 91

B.

Ministers' Statements

006 – 2(2): Canada Pre-natal Nutrition Program Workshops (Brown)..... 91
007 – 2(2): 2004 Territorial Championships (Tapardjuk) 92
008 – 2(2): The 2004 Breastfeeding Competition (Brown) 93
009 – 2(2): Summer Student Employment Program (Tapardjuk) 94
010 – 2(2): Nunavut Ten Year Inuit Housing Action Plan (Kilabuk) 94

C.

Members' Statements

017 – 2(2): Number of Arsons in Repulse Bay (Mapsalak)..... 95
018 – 2(2): Congratulate Allison Brewer on Award (Tootoo) 96
019 – 2(2): Crisis Shelters Needed in the Kitikmeot Region (Peterson)..... 97
020 – 2(2): Congratulate Grade 5 Graduation from Drug Abuse Education Program (Netser).... 98

D.

Oral Questions

025 – 2(2): Treatment of Employees at Keewatin Business Development Centre (Curley)..... 99
026 – 2(2): Explanation of Funding to Qulliq Energy and the Utility Rate Review Council
(Tootoo) 101
027 – 2(2): Non-insured Health Benefits Contract (Peterson) 103
028 – 2(2): Student Accomodation Funding (Netser) 105
029 – 2(2): Search and Rescue Funding (Alagalak)..... 107
030 – 2(2): Medical Travel Policy on Escorts (Barnabas) 108

031 – 2(2): Homeowners Program in Sanikiluaq (Kattuk).....	109
032 – 2(2): Inuit Social Workers Needed (Arreak)	111
033 – 2(2): Health Facility Update (Evyagotailak)	111
034 – 2(2): Installing Explosive Detectors (Peterson).....	112
035 – 2(2): New Federal Funding Approach for Nunavut (Tootoo)	114
036 – 2(2): Tabling of Coroner’s Report (Alagalak).....	116
037 – 2(2): Student and Family Accomodation for Arctic College Students (Curley)	117

E.

Written Questions

010 – 2(2): Staff Housing (Peterson).....	119
011 – 2(2): Workers’ Compensation Board Investment Policies and Practices (Tootoo).....	120
012 – 2(2): Rental Arrears and Tenant Damages (Peterson).....	120

F.

Tabling of Documents

012 – 2(2): Letters from the Elders’ Committee Regarding Senior Citizens Homes (Evyagotailak)	121
013 – 2(2): Environmental Rights Act Consolidated Annual Report, April 1999 to December 2003 (Akesuk).....	122
014 – 2(2): Letter from the Honourable Andy Scott, PC, MP (Peterson)	122
015 – 2(2): Resolutions Passed from Education and Health Boards in Nunavut(Peterson).....	122

G.

Bills

Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2005-06 – Second Reading	122
--	-----

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday November 18, 2004

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Before we go to the orders of the day, I will read the following message from the Commissioner of Nunavut. This is addressed to Jobie Nutarak, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly: "I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the second session of the Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 1 – Supplementary Appropriations (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 4, 2003-2004
- Bill 2 – Supplementary Appropriations (Operations and Maintenance) Act, No. 2, 2004-2005
- Bill 3 – Supplementary Appropriations (Capital) Act, No. 2, 2004-2005
- Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2005-2006

Thank you. Peter Irniq, Commissioner of Nunavut."

Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Ms. Brown.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 006 – 2(2): Canada Pre-natal Nutrition Program Workshops

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Inuktitut, we would call you *Ataata*, but I will call you Speaker.

(interpretation ends) I rise today to announce that the Department of Health and Social Services is leading two annual training workshops for the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, for workers and community health representatives from across Nunavut.

The workshop for the Baffin region took place from October 18 until October 22 in Iqaluit. Seventeen participants attended. The workshop for the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot regions is taking place from November 15 until November 18. Seventeen participants are attending this workshop.

The workshop trains local health workers to deliver community-based programs in the community and includes topics such as pre-natal nutrition, country food, breastfeeding, infant nutrition, smoking, and practical training on running a program. Sessions are being led by nutritionists, elders, midwives, community health representatives, and nurses.

The department provides financial, nutritional, and project development support to community projects through community, regional, and territorial departments. There are Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program projects in 23 Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, the workshops are a big step forward in providing more quality care closer to home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 007 – 2(2): 2004 Territorial Championships

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth takes the health and well-being of our youth very seriously. Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to announce the sporting events that will be happening in Nunavut between November 19 and December 5.

These championships are important for the development of not only our athletes, but they are also very important for the development of Nunavut's coaches and officials. Championships are being held in Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, and Iqaluit.

Youth participants range from 12 to 19 years of age. Some of the sports that they will participate in include badminton, wrestling, table tennis, basketball, volleyball, indoor soccer, hockey, speed skating, and curling. In addition to these sports, the Inuit games competition will have both youth and open-age categories.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth organizes and promotes these championships with tremendous assistance from volunteers who make up the territorial sport organizations. I would like to acknowledge all the volunteers involved in the staging of these territorial championships. They work very hard to offer sport

opportunities to youth from other regions of Nunavut and to keep them on the path to healthy lifestyles.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking all the people involved in planning and hosting these championships and in wishing all the participants safe travels and memorable experiences.

For more information, I encourage you to contact our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 008 – 2(2): The 2004 Breastfeeding Competition

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Nunavut community health representatives, Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program coordinators, and all Nunavummiut who participated in the 2004 breastfeeding competition. This competition was part of the National Breastfeeding Week, which took place from October 1 until the 7, to see which province or territory could get the most women breastfeeding at the same time on Saturday, October 2.

I am pleased to announce that in category C, a province or territory with less than 10,000 births per year, Nunavut took first place in the national competition. There were over 135 babies and their mothers participating all across Nunavut, which is more than double the participation from last year.

I would also like to congratulate the overall winner, per capita, of the Nunavut competition: the community of Clyde River. The winner for the Kivalliq region is the community of Chesterfield Inlet, the winner for the Kitikmeot region is the community of Kugaaruk, and the winners for the Baffin region are the community of Pond Inlet in the large community category, and the community of Clyde River in the small-medium community category.

I would like to point out that breastfeeding is best for babies and moms; it protects them from illness and encourages healthy development of the baby. Once again, congratulations to each and every Nunavummiuq who participated in the 2004 breastfeeding competition. By doing so, they contributed to the commitment of this government to the health and well-being of our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 009 – 2(2): Summer Student Employment Program

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to update my colleagues on the Department of Human Resources' Summer Student Program for 2004. The program that cabinet approved as an employment equity program, to comply with Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreements, attracted 592 applicants and employed 130 students across Nunavut over the summer employment period of April-September 2004.

Of 130 students hired, 105 were beneficiaries and 25 were non-beneficiaries. So, a total of 81 percent of students hired in the 2004 summer program were beneficiaries. This is our highest rate of Inuit employment since the program started in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, the demand for this popular program has been overwhelming and far exceeded the \$700,000 budget. This is to be expected as more students enroll in post secondary programs. This speaks well for a future territory with a higher educated and greater skilled workforce.

Mr. Speaker, as with other programs, the summer employment program strives for improvement. Accordingly, I have asked my department to conduct a thorough review of the program, inviting all stakeholders to a candid discussion about program issues. I am pleased to report that this workshop was held in Iqaluit on October 20, 2004. The workshop was a resounding success, with over 20 participants.

The Department of Human Resources will work closely with participants and use their suggestions to make the necessary improvements to the program.

I anticipate a revised summer student employment program for cabinet's consideration before the end of this calendar year, and I look forward to greater success with the program in years to come. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 010 – 2(2): Nunavut Ten Year Inuit Housing Action Plan

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update members on our social housing advocacy effort in conjunction with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI): it is the Nunavut Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

The action plan is the first joint initiative of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut since the two parties signed *Iqqanaijaqatigiit-Working Together* in May 2004. This ambitious plan both invites and challenges the federal government to become involved in addressing the housing crisis in Nunavut through a direct

intervention to build 5,700 social housing units and to retrofit an additional 1,000 through the federal investment of almost \$2 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the action plan is seeing widespread distribution in Nunavut, to our provincial and territorial counterparts, and throughout the federal system, both politically and bureaucratically.

Since our Premier hand delivered the action plan to the Hon. Andy Scott, Minister of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, on September 1, 2004 we have:

- circulated copies to all hamlet and local housing organizations in Nunavut;
- provided copies to the president of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Deputy Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, staff of the Privy Council Office, and several other federal ministries;
- provided copies to our provincial and territorial counterparts and hand delivered a copy to the federal, provincial, and territorial deputy ministers responsible for housing on November 9, 2004;
- forwarded a copy of the document to be used as a background document for the federal roundtable on aboriginal housing to be held on November 24 and 25, 2004 in Ottawa. We will table that as well;
- included large parts of the action plan statistics and environment scan in the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami backgrounder for the roundtable.

Mr. Speaker, we are looking forward to continuing discussions with the federal government as we work together to make the action plan a reality. We are continuing our advocacy efforts and anticipate a meeting between the federal ministers of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Labour and Housing, along with myself and the president of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, in the near future. I look forward to rising again in this House during our winter session to give members another update. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 017 – 2(2): Number of Arsons in Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise the serious issue of fires and arson in our communities.

Over the past several years, a number of serious incidents have occurred in communities across the territory. Schools and other major pieces of community infrastructure have been lost to fire. These incidents have cost the government millions of dollars in

replacement costs. This is the money that could have been spent building the much-needed new facilities.

The community of Repulse Bay has suffered its own losses. Less than two years ago we lost the community complex to fire. Last month, Repulse Bay had a very close call with an arson incident at Tusarvik School.

Thanks to the school's safety equipment and the quick response of the community's local volunteer fire fighters, the damage was minimal. However, it is very disturbing that youth from the community would try to burn down their own school.

Mr. Speaker, although the court and justice system deals with youth offenders, our community must do all it can to support community efforts to combat youth arson and to make it clear that we have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to youth who commit such acts.

Earlier this month as part of Fire Prevention Week, volunteer firefighters in Repulse Bay spent time with young students. We need to start early in efforts to educate our young people about this issue.

We need to help them understand that arson damage not only affects their community, but their own futures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 018 – 2(2): Congratulate Allison Brewer on Award

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to salute a nationally-recognized achievement of a recently relocated Iqaluit resident. The struggle for human rights and basic equality rights has been a long and often difficult journey in Canada.

As members of this House are aware, it wasn't all that long ago that aboriginal Canadians, including Inuit, gained the basic right to vote in national elections. Today, Canadians enjoy a level of protection that is internationally envied.

Our Charter of Rights and Freedoms is admired throughout the world and serves as a living testament to the efforts made by generations of activists and leaders.

Mr. Speaker, one such activist is an individual who is no stranger to many members of this house. Alison Brewer was recently honoured by the Governor General of Canada with an award in commemoration of the Persons case.

This was a landmark case that resulted in women being allowed to vote in this country. The award honours those who have made outstanding contributions to the quality of life for women in Canada.

Alison received the award for her record of achievement in journalism, the labour movement, and volunteerism. This is the second time in the past few years that a resident of Nunavut was so honoured. In 2002, Elisapi Ootoova of Pond Inlet received the prestigious award for her community work and service.

Mr. Speaker, although Alison is moving to be closer to her children, I know that her work has left a positive impact on this community and throughout the territory.

Earlier this week, we heard the welcome news that Nunavut's own human rights tribunal is up and running. Mr. Speaker, as I have said before in this house, discrimination hurts us all.

Respect and equality are concepts that should guide us in our deliberations. I'm pleased to extend my congratulations to an individual who has demonstrated a clear commitment to them.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members of this House to join me in congratulating Ms. Brewer on her award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 019 – 2(2): Crisis Shelters Needed in the Kitikmeot Region

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on the issue of Kitikmeot crisis shelters.

Mr. Speaker, the cycle of violence is on the rise in Nunavut; the Kitikmeot is not immune to the dangers it presents women, children, and even some men.

In those communities where they exist, crisis shelters are vital facilities. They offer a safe refuge for a limited period of time for people who need to escape from the cycle of violence at home.

Mr. Speaker, this period of time allows counsellors to work with the people involved in the abuse and find solutions that will help families stay together.

Imagine how helpless people must feel, Mr. Speaker, in those communities where crisis shelters do not exist and where family members can't provide you with a safe place to be in times of crisis. From whom can frightened and worried victims of verbal, emotional, physical, and sexual abuse, particularly women and their children, seek help?

The Department of Health and Social Services can only send them to the crisis shelter closest to their homes.

The issue in the Kitikmeot is that we only have one crisis shelter currently operating, located in Cambridge Bay. They do their best to help, but it is a very small facility which serves our community and others. Shelters in other communities are closed due to funding issues.

The Alison McAteer House in Yellowknife used to take victims in from the Kitikmeot and shelter them until it was safe to return to their communities and homes. I understand that this is no longer the case because of government policy, or the lack thereof.

I attended the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's annual general meeting last month, where the women's delegation made an impassioned plea to urge the Government of Nunavut to help open or re-open crisis shelters in every Kitikmeot community.

It should concern us that there are people in our communities who cannot break that cycle of abuse by themselves. Sadly, abuse is not an issue that any of us can ignore.

Mr. Speaker, if we ignore abuse, the victims may sink even further with unhealthy behaviours such as: drinking or drugging to escape the pain; withdrawing into themselves; covering up the abuse or pretending it never happened; blaming themselves for the abuse; taking their anger out on children or family members; and attempting suicide.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Koana, Uqaqti.

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

Member's Statement 020 – 2(2): Congratulate Grade 5 Graduation from Drug Abuse Education Program

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I rose in the House to raise the issue about substance abuse in our communities.

I am pleased to rise today to tell the House about a good news story about this issue that currently took place in my community of Coral Harbour. Earlier this month, 32 grade 5 and 6 students at Sakku School graduated from the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program.

The DARE program was started at the school by an RCMP constable, and I thank the RCMP constable for helping us. The program has been given international recognition for its work in helping young people learn at an early age about how to make healthy lifestyle choices. I do thank the RCMP for that.

(interpretation ends) I was very pleased to have been able to take part in the graduation ceremony for these young children. It is very important that we teach kids at an early age that drug abuse is not cool. It is important that our education system makes the time to include programs such as DARE into the learning experience.

I ask all members to join me in applauding this very good news. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 025 – 2(2): Treatment of Employees at Keewatin Business Development Centre

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A copy of a news release was given to us in our community, written by Brock Junkin on October 5, and I emailed the letter. I was told by a constituent that the senior advisor who worked there, it reads in english, (interpretation ends) "...presented unprofessional work ethics, rudeness, ignoring, and plain disrespect to me, her potential client."

(interpretation) That is what we heard from this reporter. I believe that they should not have employees like that. Their funding is provided by the Keewatin Business Development Centre and it is not very professional. I believe that the minister could do something about it. Could you?

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you. I know exactly where the member is coming from.

We did look into the matter, the individual who worked for the Keewatin Business Development Centre. We do provide them with funds in order to operate their business. We give them money annually, and this Keewatin Business Development Centre has its own board of directors. I have not heard as yet what they have decided.

But what we know is that they would like to become more independent in the Keewatin region. I haven't heard anything about what had happened afterwards, what has been decided, but I do agree with the member that it was unprofessional. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been hearing about the loans from previous governments that were subsequently transferred to the KBDC. The senior advisor, however, was hostile and was saying that they would be taking people to court.

In such a case, and even though this individual is young, and I'll read it in English: (interpretation ends) "Because of the treatment I got from KBDC, I have decided not to proceed with our application at this time. My personal opinion is that our government is there to support all residents of Nunavut to achieve self-sufficiency through the many programs that you deliver."

(interpretation) So, I would like to tell the minister that if there was such an employee in the government, being funded by the government, they should be fired. Who is going to be fired in this case?

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, this individual works for KBDC. They have their own board of directors, and the board of directors are the ones who deal with such cases. In this case, I felt it was best left to the board of directors of KBDC to deal with.

But if we can provide any kind of support, we will do so. We will provide whatever support we can while that individual is under question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To make a supplementary, the director in Rankin Inlet responded to the article by saying this: (interpretation ends) "...I also wish to say again that KBDC is emerging from a difficult period of rehabilitation, which was headed by the person in question, a senior advisor, with the supported direction of the community steering committee. Because of the success of this exercise, the senior advisor may feel protective of the organization."

(interpretation) I don't believe that is true. This individual is not like that because he thinks it is successful, but I don't think that any individual should be that unprofessional. If they were in the Baffin or with the government, then they would be fired.

I would urge the minister to look into this matter again. Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can look into it again. I will have a meeting with the staff in order to come up with the facts and also have a discussion with the board of directors and make sure that everything is factual.

We'll look into this matter as a department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 026 – 2(2): Explanation of Funding to Qulliq Energy and the Utility Rate Review Council

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, and it comes on the heels of her fiscal update that she made to the House yesterday.

On page four of her update, it talks about this government committing to examining the books and operations of each of these important government agencies, meaning Qulliq Energy Corporation and Petroleum Products Division, and making the necessary transfers to ensure that these operations are appropriately resourced to carry out its responsibilities in the current year.

From April 1, 2005, when the new energy rates come into effect... I'm just wondering if she could elaborate a little bit more on exactly what that means. Does that mean the government is going to be providing some more bail-out money for the corporation, and if so, how much? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Ms. Aglukkak.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the update yesterday, yes, I did state that.

Currently, as it stands, we all know that the power corporation operates with not enough resources to operate. We know that, which is why they put forward a General Rate Application out to Utility Rate Review Council to seek public input into what they are proposing.

Once that is put forward, as mentioned yesterday, the minister responsible for energy will be reviewing that recommendation. Having said that, that rate becomes effective April 1, 2005. We know they are under tremendous strain as it stands now. We expect that we will need to deal with the shortfalls in the meantime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister indicating that on the day that the rates kick into place on April 1, 2005, that the corporation will have no debt carried over, that the rates will be based on current operating costs from that day forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The rates that are being proposed only factor in the best guesstimate of the organization's operations and maintenance requirements, capital requirements. The rates being proposed do not factor in the current debt of the corporation. Those are two separate issues.

They are being approached as parallel, simultaneously. What we are committed to do is to review what is being proposed by the URRC and look at their financial needs from this fiscal year on forward, and to try to assist the corporation so that when the new rates come into effect, they are moving forward in dealing with its current financial situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I'm interpreting what the minister is stating, it is that the government will, in fact, cover off any debt incurred by Qulliq Energy Corporation and Petroleum Products, so that on April 1, 2005, there will be no debt to carry forward; they will be starting with a clean slate. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, we are looking into all possible options and that is one option we are considering. We need to look at what is being proposed in the current financial requirements of those two and the impact that will have on our resources.

So, we're looking at all the options, and what we will consider, and will move forward with this up until 2005. Hopefully it will be reasonable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government commits to examining the books and operations of each of these. Having been around for a little while, I know that the Auditor General has pointed out a number of concerns. I would assume that the government has already been examining the books very carefully for these organizations.

Given that, I'm sure that they have some very good information on what their needs are. Could the minister indicate an idea of approximately how much we may be looking at for those two organizations over the next couple of years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the concerns made by the Auditor General, yes, we are addressing those and, yes, we are working with the corporation in assisting in getting the concerns made by the Auditor General addressed.

One of the things that the Auditor General of Canada recommended to go forward with, was the general rate application; when the report was done, she recognized the fact that the rates did not reflect the actual operations and maintenance requirements of the corporation.

So, that is one recommendation she has recommended that we proceed with immediately, to minimize the potential financial negative impact, and we are addressing it. We are working very closely with the corporation in the interim to try and find out what their financial requirements will be, along with their minister.

In terms of what their financial requirements will be for the next two years, I can't predict that. I don't have that figure in front of me. We all know things change from one day to the other. In terms of the details, what the corporation needs for funding, the minister responsible for energy will be better to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 027 – 2(2): Non-insured Health Benefits Contract

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of Finance, relating to her fiscal update yesterday. On page 2, the minister said that with this new funding provided with the recent signing of the non-insured health benefits contract, 50 percent of our medical travel costs will be paid for by the federal government.

Would the minister tell us what specifically has changed in the new non-insured health benefits contracts? Will the minister deal with that contract in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just trying to find the area that he has referenced.

Under the non-insured health benefits contract, 50 percent of the medical costs... I don't have a copy of that contract and from what I understand, in terms of the arrangement for that, the federal government agreed to cover the travel costs of patients referred to medical centers.

Non-insured benefits also covered, I believe, medication and what-not, but this is an added element to that. Perhaps the minister responsible for the non-insured health benefits would be able to speak to that more clearly, but from what I understand, this arrangement before travel was not covered under the non-insured health benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the same fiscal update on page 3, the minister said that at the second First Minister's meeting, major transfers to the territories and provinces were discussed. As a result of this meeting, new territorial formula financing equalization frameworks were announced.

My question to the minister is: when will the new formula financing agreement be signed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I think probably within the month or so. The dollar figures that have been announced to do that, the \$1.9 million, the \$2 million, the 3.5% increase in the health funding, that's all been worked on and within the next few weeks, I imagine, there will be some. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Same fiscal update, page 4. 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 for the Department Health and Social Services.

My question for the Minister of Finance: is this a one-time increase or an increase to the department's base budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker, it'll be ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And then again on page 4: as well, additional funding is being proposed for the Department of Education to fund the increases in the costs of school operations.

The question, again to the Minister of Finance: is this a one-time increase or an increase to the department's base budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The next few days I will be tabling the supplementary appropriations act for these increases. The department ministers responsible for those organizations will be able to answer those details more specifically.

I provide the general overview, so I don't have all the background material for these details, to address your question, that are ongoing. Thank you.

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

Question 028 – 2(2): Student Accommodation Funding

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education who is doing a very good job of ensuring that his community is filled with the noise of new Government of Nunavut construction projects.

Mr. Speaker, according to the government's five-year capital plan which was tabled yesterday, close to \$6 million has been allocated for the new Nunavut Arctic College student accommodations in Iqaluit from now until 2010. Close to \$1 million is being spent this year in Cambridge Bay for the Nunavut Arctic College student accommodations.

My question for the Minister of Education is this: how much has his department budgeted in the five-year capital plan for the Nunavut Arctic College student accommodations in Rankin Inlet, to serve the people of the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The capital plan for the Department of Education is based on needs and allowances. Right now, for example, in Iqaluit we are renting over 30 apartments and units in the community at a high premium and rate; the White Row housing is an example, and we'd like to be able to move out of them. That has been the plan for the department for the last several years. The need right now is in Iqaluit for new accommodations, family accommodations.

Many of the members are aware that we have not been able to accept students into programs or to have them be able to come to the community for programs because there is no housing available.

In Cambridge Bay, that was the case. A new residence has been budgeted, and is nearing completion in Cambridge Bay, to deal with the lack of educational requirements for student housing in that community.

In the Kivalliq Region, Mr. Speaker, that is something that we need to be able to look at also; we have to be able to do it in tandem and that is what we are trying to address. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavut Arctic College in Rankin Inlet regularly is being attended by people from Chesterfield Inlet and other communities,

and they have to board with their relatives because they have no accommodations, and that becomes a problem.

The government wants education to be a priority, and they want to target it for 85 percent. Because of the lack of accommodations, some of the students can't go to attend Arctic College. Is there a way that the government could have a good plan for student accommodations for Nunavut Arctic College in Rankin Inlet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have, as the member knows, accommodations available in that community. Right now, and a good example, is the number of students attending the college in Rankin Inlet. From the numbers as of October, last month, there were 59 students taking programs at the college in Rankin Inlet.

So, we know there is a need there. But at the same time there is a greater need, for example, in Cambridge Bay. We are able to complete a new residence there because what was there was not acceptable.

We know, for example, here, we are putting millions of dollars into leasing accommodations for students. That money would be better transferred to the college itself to have their own accommodations. So that is what we are trying to attempt to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netsier.

Mr. Netsier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not want to be misunderstood by the government. I am in favour of Iqaluit Arctic College accommodations. We are very happy and supportive of that, but we would also like to be included as the people of Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that, and that is why we are trying to, like I said, stage projects under the capital plan based on need, and those two communities had a higher need.

For example, once the Cambridge Bay accommodations issue is taken care of, which will be very shortly, then we will be able to look at the other two major campuses, one being Nunatta Campus and then the Kivalliq Campus.

So there is no procrastination or trying to delay; it is based on the priorities of the department and based on that capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 029 – 2(2): Search and Rescue Funding

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

Last year, we spoke with each other in regards to search and rescue. You stated that you would deal with this in June, and you also mentioned that the people that are searching for an individual, that there would be a plan in place for the people who are searching for an individual. I have not had a response from your department on whether this has been acted upon.

You also stated that the government's plans are in place through the electronic satellite locators. I just want to ask the minister at what stage they are at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member and I did discuss the issue of search and rescue and those satellite signaling devices. When I met with him at that time, I told him that the plan was going to be reviewed by my department.

I would like to say to the member, that at this time, I apologize. I have to look at my staff and talk to my staff to see which stage we're at on that issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to state to the minister that there is already a device such as the one that I'm talking about.

It's a satellite signaling device and they tested it this summer and it was a success. There are always people getting lost out on the land, and I would like to say to the minister that if you were to use those devices, they should be made available to the residents by the department.

This is just a comment, not a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the member and the members of this House that we are trying our best to try and use devices that are better for the searching of the hunters or people who are out on the land.

We would like to proceed with those. I think there was only \$1,000 allotted for search and rescue, but we have raised the money up to \$5,000 that can be utilized by the search and rescue team in each community.

Those are the types of things that we were talking about, and I will give more information to the member and the members of this House on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 030 – 2(2): Medical Travel Policy on Escorts

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked a question yesterday, and I would like to thank Mr. Netser and Mr. Peterson in regards to the department of health's proposal for medical travel.

I would like to direct my question to the minister of health.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier this session I questioned the minister about her department's medical travel policy. In all three communities that I represent, constituents are concerned that elders and youth who travel out of the community for medical reasons are being denied escorts.

This is especially a concern for our unilingual elders. I would like to ask the minister why medical personnel are not following the department's policy which clearly states that they may approve an escort if the client needs an escort to interpret for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I responded saying that the elders and other unilingual individuals who are on medical travel will always have an escort. I'm not exactly sure why they were denied that, and I will look into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for looking into it. Can the minister tell this House what kinds of policies or guidelines are in place for the nurses to follow and for the doctors to follow, for the more remote communities, in regards to those types of guidelines when they go on medical travel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The client travel policy states that the department may cover the cost of escort travel with minors. The decision is made on a

case-by-case basis. The client travel policy defines a minor as an individual under the age of 19, generally speaking.

Escorts are provided for minors when they are under the age of 16 or it has been determined that they cannot sign a consent form and require a patient or legal guardian to do so. A physician would normally determine whether or not a minor is capable of making their own decision and providing their own consent to treatment.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for responding, because my constituents are asking that question and they would like to know what kind of policies the government has. I'm sure that Nunavummiut have a better understanding that the policy should be followed.

I ask the minister if she can have a goal so that her staff can review the policy in the High Arctic for medical travel. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, your comment is well taken. We can take that into consideration. Perhaps we can publicize the policy to Nunavummiut. Because there is a lack of understanding about the policy, that is why questions have been posed.

Our staff can publicize that through the media and perhaps through the CBC. If that is your question? Yes, we can do that. We have staff that is bilingual. I thank you for your question. Thank you.

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

Question 031 – 2(2): Homeowners Program in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be to the Minister of Energy. I'm reading the Hansard from yesterday; you stated to me and to the House and Nunavummiut that there might be 15 homeowners in Sanikiluaq at the most.

Does that mean that there is no further homeowners program provided by government? If so, why not? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I was trying to point out yesterday is that outside of the three major regional centres of Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, we don't have the number of private home ownership that you see in those larger communities.

So, when a rate increase would occur, it would be 80 percent of the government paying that type of an increase, meaning that we don't have the private home ownership, or private people, paying the bill.

I was taking an estimate and saying there may be 15 private homes in Sanikiluaq. There might be 25. I was just using that as a number. It has nothing to do with how many homes to built in Sanikiluaq, and it has nothing to do with any process.

I was trying to use the example as an illustration of the impact of the rate increase on the private home market and how we don't have enough of them to generate the kind of revenue that the corporation was expecting or talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the minister was not supposed to use that figure in his example. The way that I understood it was that there would be no more homes built.

We have to forecast our budget. We don't know how much increase there will be and I know that there will be changes, when it's required, to the rate. This is just a comment. I'm concerned about his statement in regards to homes not being built. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe what the Hansard points out is that I was trying to explain that on any rate increase outside those three major centres, there is a very small customer base.

For example, in the majority of our communities, when you look at our power bills, the electricity being paid, the housing association, which makes up the majority of our homes in communities, the health centre, our schools, hamlet operations, and so on, receive their grants and monies from the government. If the power corporation increase was 80 percent or 10 percent, no matter what that amount is, the majority would be paid by the government.

In the member's community, I was trying to point out, there is only a small group of private homeownership in the community. In no way did I try to state that there would not be any housing in both of the communities.

Indeed, we will be dealing with the capital estimates for all departments including housing and I am sure we will be able to ascertain the number of units that have been built. So as the Premier has said in the Throne Speech, we have built over 300 units since 1999. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 032 – 2(2): Inuit Social Workers Needed

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

Although I am very pleased and happy that they are providing social workers to the communities, we are lacking Inuit social workers in Nunavut; we have to import social workers into some of the communities in Nunavut.

At times, we import non-Canadians to be social workers and they need interpreters, even though they are dealing with confidential matters. Will the department try to obtain Inuit Nunavummiut social workers?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. I want to say yes to that question because the government is responsible and is committed to educating Nunavummiut.

Looking at the percentage, we have to increase the number of Inuit people in the government workforce. Within the Department of Health and Social Services we do some training, and we are increasing the number of Inuit social workers.

Yes, I can respond by saying that. The training program is continuing and there are 49 percent of Inuit workers within Health and Social Services. Although we are targeting 79 percent, there are 49 percent Inuit working in the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This 49 percent that the minister states, are they in the management level? Although there might be some Inuit people who do not want to work at the senior management level, there are some Inuit people who would like to get into it. So, I was wondering: are you seeing more people at the senior management level?

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can say that the training program is ongoing and there are also some Inuit working at the senior management level in some communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 033 – 2(2): Health Facility Update

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. This fall, we had a conversation in regards to the fire that was happening around the health facility in my community because there was no fencing besides the building, and the kids would go underneath to start the fire. I was told that the department would look into this, but I haven't heard anything as of today.

I would like to ask the minister: what is the process as of now? Will this building be fenced? It will cost some money, but what has been done to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not forgotten about the concern. I've had discussions and I've responded to you formally and I gave a directive, but I apologize that nothing has happened as of yet, although I had given directions. Perhaps they didn't listen to my directives; I'll look into that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions Mr. Peterson.

Question 034 – 2(2): Installing Explosive Detectors

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Recently in the Northwest Territories, the government of the Northwest Territories announced that they were going to install an explosives detector in the Yellowknife airport and they've had discussions with the Government of Canada in that respect.

I'm wondering if the minister could tell us if the Government of Nunavut representative has had discussions with the Federal Government about installing explosive detectors in any Nunavut airports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Department of Economic Development and Transportation, Hon. David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, what kind of a detector was he talking about, sorry? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's an explosives detector, you run your luggage, take your suitcase and put them through this detector and it's supposed to detect explosives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Discussions are ongoing with the federal government on possibly installing one such piece of equipment in the Iqaluit International Airport for in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if that's good news or bad news to folks in Nunavut. It may not affect people in Rankin Inlet, but it will affect people in Iqaluit and the Baffin. In the Kitikmeot and Cambridge Bay residents have to fly through Yellowknife, so it will affect us one way or another.

Mr. Speaker, if the minister could tell us all on behalf of the residents of Cambridge Bay how the explosive detector installed in the airport in Yellowknife will affect Kitikmeot and Cambridge Bay residents in terms of flying north-south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. David Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't heard of any exemptions being granted for any residents of Canada in any parts of Canada to not use such a piece of equipment for their luggage. So, it would naturally affect every resident of Nunavut that flies through Yellowknife to head South.

It would affect also people from the Kivalliq, from the Baffin that fly south to Edmonton and Calgary, and west through the Edmonton-Yellowknife corridor. So, it would drastically affect every resident that flies through there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's already very difficult to travel south through Yellowknife; people in the Kitikmeot have to get off the plane in Yellowknife, take our luggage off, take all our baby carry-on stuff, you name it, get in the long lineup, go through the Yellowknife Airport, through security to get in the airplane in Yellowknife, and then go into Edmonton.

I can only imagine it's going to get more difficult if we have to accompany our luggage because I've been through these systems in the south; you have to accompany your suitcases and put them through the luggage racks. So, imagine if you have a family of eight, traveling with two pieces each.

I'm wondering if the minister could assure me that he will talk to his counterparts in Yellowknife to determine an easy flow system to allow Kitikmeot residents that fly through Yellowknife, since they're already on the airplane, that they flow through and not unnecessarily delay them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please keep your questions to the point as I have other names on the list. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: It is going to be a problem with every Nunavut resident that flies south, be it through Yellowknife or Iqaluit.

I have not heard yet from the federal people what kind of equipment will be necessary for the owners of the luggage to actually accompany their luggage, as their luggage is going through the detection equipment. I will certainly find that out and have discussions with my federal transportation counterpart, and also my territorial counterpart in the Northwest Territories, on finding ways to make things easier for passengers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the minister is getting this information, could he find out how much additional financial cost travelers in Cambridge Bay and Nunavut are going to incur to travel through airports in Yellowknife to Edmonton. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will find out that information and pass it onto my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 035 – 2(2): New Federal Funding Approach for Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is for the Minister of Finance, related to her fiscal update report that she presented to us yesterday. For her reference, I'll be referring to page 3.

It talks about the new federal approach to funding and it states that this new approach will establish a floor for the transfers in 2004-05 and also an amount that the floor will be set at.

It goes on to state that this floor will grow by 3.5 percent a year. I would just like to ask the minister how that percentage rate was agreed upon between the parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the First Ministers' meetings, the two First Ministers meetings that occurred in September and October, those figures were negotiated by the three territories as well as the provinces.

It's a different approach to equalization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if any thought was given to how this compares with inflation rates.

I know in some schools, for example, and other places, utility budgets have gone up 40 to 50 percent over the last three years. If there is only going to be an increase of 3.5 percent, how far behind is that going to cut us again in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new funding we received this year is all incremental. So, we could change it to the formula and the new floor approach to providing incremental funding to Nunavut. It provides us with certainty; the floor is a figure that won't change and will grow by 3.5 percent.

In terms of how it compares, when you are negotiating, you put forth your proposal. It's always an exchange of positions, and that was what was agreed to, in terms of inflation. That changes yearly as well.

How it compares today, tomorrow we will need to monitor that, but everything that we have received so far this fiscal year and forward is incremental and it will help us with our financial position. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad you use the word floor instead of carpets, because I would hate to have the carpet pulled out from underneath us by the federal government again.

That 3.5 percent, if it turns out that we are going to be spiraling downhill because that is not enough funding for us to keep up with our forced growth and our ever-increasing costs... . Is there a mechanism in place in the agreement for us to go back to that amount and renegotiate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new floor that has been established... . Again I say, it provides certainty that is guaranteed with the 3.5 percent increase of \$2 billion forward. In terms of opportunities to discuss the financial situation of the territory, that is always an open discussion.

As I mentioned as well, the Premier has initiated discussions with the Prime Minister on devolution and resource revenue sharing. So those are other mechanisms in place to try to increase our revenue base.

At the same time, other departments have had discussions, like in Health, to try to increase the health funding, which we have, at the end of the day, will provide much needed support to operations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has indicated that there is always an open door and not an open floor when it comes to negotiating with Ottawa.

I am just wondering if this agreement has not been signed yet, and if there isn't anything in writing that gives us the protection to be able to go back to them and renegotiate these for whatever circumstances that come up... Is it too late for our government to request, basically, that a clause like that be put into the agreement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new agreement will be signed by our government with the changes. In terms of opening the clause or closing the doors, I do not think the door is ever closed.

Just because you sign an agreement doesn't mean the discussions are over, or if you sign an agreement and the key is thrown away. It is not that straightforward. The door is always open, like I mentioned; we will continue to try and work to increase our revenues for Nunavut territory, and we will look into that. Thank you.

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

Question 036 – 2(2): Tabling of Coroner's Report

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. This is part and partial to the questions that I posed yesterday regarding the safety of public buildings, or in this case, the elders' facility.

Could Minister Brown give a copy of the coroner's report or the doctor's statements to the House, because we all want to know what the cause of that death was, and we want to make sure that all safety issues are covered. We want to know all the details. Could you table a report on the incident that took place in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to look into this first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. It's taken as notice. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 037 – 2(2): Student and Family Accommodation for Arctic College Students

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. The minister is well aware that not only in the elementary schools but also in the Arctic Colleges the students have to be properly housed. I don't know exactly how many people or students are outside of their home communities attending school. I would like to ask the minister when they will have family accommodations for students attending Arctic College.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Education, Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just very quickly on student accommodations and family accommodations, specifically a follow-up to Mr. Netser's earlier question: we have the family accommodations in the supplementary capital plan for the Department of Education. We had hoped to be in a position to move that forward. Right now in Rankin Inlet there is housing available for single students' accommodations, and that is adequate.

At the present time we need to be able to build about four units, is the request in Rankin Inlet. Right now there is the issue of the lot being available. So, Department of Community and Government Services as well as the Hamlet of Rankin Inlet have had negotiations, and they now have identified a lot where family units could be constructed.

So, we need to be able to look at the options on that and how we move forward on the development of the lot. Again, there are plans within the supplemental capital budget to move forward.

On the issue of family accommodations throughout Nunavut: as I said earlier, there's only 60 students in the program at Kivalliq Campus, over 200 at the Nunatta Campus, as an example, and it's here where we've actually had to increase our student accommodations.

Most of the members know that we have the "Q" units here in Iqaluit as accommodation; those are all full, and as I said earlier we are also renting on the open market over 30 White Row housing units and other accommodations for student housing, for families to go to school.

We've had to turn down families where housing has not been available, and indeed we've accepted people who have not been able to come here for the program because there was no housing. So, I hope that answer the members' question.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are private sectors that have housing available in the regions. I'll read this in English. I just got it yesterday.

(interpretation ends): "I regret to inform you that I'm withdrawing from the management studies program at the Rankin Inlet Arctic College due to parental duties as a single parent, with my children needing me in all areas of my life."

(interpretation): I believe the minister can help these students, because there are houses on the market that are available. Is it possible for you to consider this option, because of course we will not be seeing those family units any time soon. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the frustration of many of the students when it comes to acquiring accommodations. But for me to go out to the open market and to be able to lease accommodations, I have to have that money available; that's not the case.

We need to be able to develop our own accommodations. So, one of the things we are trying to do is to develop our own accommodations, as a campus and as a college, to help these students.

I will follow up on the member's request. Indeed, over the next few weeks, we will have an opportunity in this House to discuss and debate the capital plan, not only for the Department of Education, but for the government as a whole. Maybe that is a recommendation that members may want to make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, a supplementary to the minister's response. The minister stated that he would have to get money because they can't borrow any money. The government can borrow money. They can borrow money from anywhere. If you look at Iqaluit, government is leasing houses here.

Is it better for the person to get their education and have their families with them? I think that was more urgent than the lack of money that the minister is talking about.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been involved in the pursuit of student accommodations for the college and I can speak to it here with some authority. I remember when we actually built that accommodations in 1985 and 1986, doing the planning and actually put it in place in 1988. There has been no new student accommodations built in this community for 16 years.

So that need is there. The member is correct; we are out in the private market right now in this community, spending \$3,000 and more a month to rent accommodations. So, we need a long term plan to be able to develop student accommodations for students that are

coming to Iqaluit and to Rankin Inlet and to Cambridge Bay to attend these major campuses.

Mr. Speaker, that is what we are trying to do, and at the same time, I need to have the money within the budget itself at the college to be able to go out to the open market and to be able to lease the housing that is available.

I accept the member's point, and that is something that I will be able to speak about with the president of the college, and to see what plans are there to be able to alleviate that housing issue in the short term in Rankin Inlet; that seems to be a real issue.

At the same time, as I said earlier, we will have an opportunity to debate the capital budget, which includes student accommodations, in this House in the next couple of weeks. I look forward to the members supporting me in the House and looking forward to avenues that we can access in addressing the issue of family accommodations for our students at Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral question period is over. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 010 – 2(2): Staff Housing

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Hon. Peter Kilabuk, the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. The subject is staff housing.

1. As of November 1, 2004, broken down by community and size of unit, how many Government of Nunavut staff housing units are unoccupied?
2. Of these unoccupied units, how many unoccupied for:
 - a) six months or less;
 - b) six to twelve months;
 - c) one to two years; and
 - d) two years or more?
3. As of November 1, 2004, broken down by community and size of unit, how many staff housing units does the Government of Nunavut:
 - a) own; and
 - b) lease?
4. As of November 1, 2004 broken down by community, who is the legal owner of each leased unit and what is the term of each lease?

5. What is the monthly cost to the Government of Nunavut for each leased unit?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 011 – 2(2): Workers’ Compensation Board Investment Policies and Practices

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This written question is for the hon. minister responsible for the Workers’ Compensation Board for Nunavut, Mr. Akesuk. It has to do with the Workers’ Compensation Board’s investment policies and practices.

1. As of November 1, 2004, does the investment portfolio of the Workers' Compensation Board of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories contain any holdings in equities or in fixed-term investments or other instruments issued by the BMO Financial Group-Bank of Montreal?
2. Does the board investment policy permit investments in corporate entities that withdraw services and monies from residents of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories?
3. What ethical investing guidelines has the board’s investment policy followed with respect to industries involved in the manufacturing, distribution, and sale of tobacco products, and approximately what percentage of the board’s investment portfolio is composed of such holdings?
4. What ethical investing guidelines does the board’s investment policy follow with respect to the industries involved with the manufacturing, distribution, and sale of alcohol products, and approximately what percentage of the board’s investment portfolio is composed of such holdings?
5. What general ethical investing guidelines does the board’s investment policy follow?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 012 – 2(2): Rental Arrears and Tenant Damages

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, again, asked to the Hon. Peter Kilabuk, Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, regarding rental arrears and tenant damages:

1. As of November 1, 2004, what was the total amount of rental arrears borne to each local housing organization in Nunavut?
2. Broken down by community, what proportion of public housing tenants owe arrears?
3. What amounts did each local housing organization write off in both the 2002-03 and 2003-04 fiscal years?
4. What specific reasons account for the annual report for the Nunavut Housing Corporation that has not been tabled for the 2002-03 and 2003-04 fiscal years?
5. For each of the following fiscal years, what amount of rental arrears were collected by each local housing organization: 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?
6. For each of the following fiscal years, what were each local housing organization's expenditures to repair public housing tenant damages: 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?
7. For each of the following years, how many public housing tenants were evicted from their units in each community due to rental arrears or other reasons: 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?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written questions. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 012 – 2(2): Letters from the Elders' Committee Regarding Senior Citizens Homes

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was pleased to note that in the first Throne Speech, the government will be establishing elders' facilities in Nunavut communities. As my colleague from Quttittuq stated, some communities have already identified their needs for elders' facilities.

Today, I am tabling a letter from the elder's committee of Kugluktuk which outlines the reasons for the elders' facility to be established in that community. I hope that the Minister of Health and Social Services will give due consideration to the needs expressed in this document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of documents. Mr. Akesuk.

Tabled Document 013 – 2(2): Environmental Rights Act Consolidated Annual Report, April 1999 to December 2003

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I wish to table the following document, the *Environmental Rights Act Consolidated Annual Report* for the period to April 1999, to December 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 014 – 2(2): Letter from the Honourable Andy Scott, PC, MP

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table, today, two letters I recently received from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs in response to my invitation to visit the dynamic Kitikmeot region of Nunavut.

Minister Scott's response recognizes the exciting potential that we have for mineral development in the Kitikmeot, and he expresses his desire to come to Nunavut in the coming months. I look forward to welcoming him to Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of documents. Going back to orders of the day. I'm sorry. Mr. Peterson.

Tabled Document 015 – 2(2): Resolutions Passed from Education and Health Boards in Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have one final document that I would like to table. It is the resolutions from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's annual general meeting that was held in Kugluktuk last month. I was in attendance.

There are four resolutions: one is education and health boards, the second is from the youth in the Kitikmeot, one is from the elders in the Kitikmeot, and the fourth is from the women of the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 14. Item 15. Item 16. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2005-06 – Second Reading

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

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried and Bill 4 has had second reading, and Bill 4 is ready for the Committee of the Whole.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 4, Appropriations Capital Act, with Mr. Netser in the Chair. We will have a short break of 20 minutes.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:18 and resumed at 15:46*

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

Chairman: I would like to call the committee meeting to order. Thank you.

In the Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2005-2006.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to commence our review of the capital estimates for the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Do you agree that we deal with Bill 4? (interpretation ends) The Minister of Environment, Mr. Akesuk, can make his opening remarks. Thank you.

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today to present my department's capital plan for 2005-06 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed capital budget for 2005-2006 is \$1,856,000. My department has 23 capital projects that focus on two key areas: parks and conservation areas and wildlife management.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut Parks have a crucial role to play in the protection and promotion of some of Nunavut's outstanding natural and cultural heritage, and in supporting positive recreation and tourism experiences. Our parks are developed for the benefit of Nunavummiut and for visitors nationally and internationally.

In November of 2000, the Standing Committee on Community Empowerment and Sustainable Development accepted a report which summarized the status of facilities in our territorial parks.

The report identified several facility deficiencies that needed to be addressed in the interest of public safety, visitor satisfaction, and in ensuring these special are places are appropriately maintained.

With this in mind, we have structured our capital plan to include the installation of a new facility in Pangnirtung and includes upgrading and improving of facilities in numerous decentralized and non-decentralized communities, some of which will take place in Clyde River, Kugaaruk, and in Coral Harbour.

The largest projects within our 2005-06 capital plan are in the Wildlife Management Division, with a focus on maintaining present offices and building wildlife area offices in Chesterfield Inlet and Whale Cove.

The Department of Environment's intent is to have a wildlife area office in each Nunavut community as outlined in the five-year fiscal plan.

Mr. Chairman, with the limited funds available to us, the Department of Environment's Capital Plan is well balanced and focused in areas that clearly support the needs and priorities of the government as well as the needs of communities throughout Nunavut.

I am confident that my department will continue to ensure the protection, promotion, and sustainable use of our natural resources to the highest standard of performance and accountability.

Mr. Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akasuk. Would you like to invite your officials to the witness table?

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Yes.

Mr. Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses? Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, can you accompany the official witnesses to the witness table, please?

Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The official to my right is my deputy, Simon Awa, and to my left, Mr. Trevor Jarrett, Director of Corporate Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: (interpretation): Thank you, minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the chair of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, I'm pleased to have this opportunity to make my opening remarks as we begin deliberations on the 2005-06 capital estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment has a capital budget of \$1,856,000, representing 1.8 percent of the government's overall capital budget. These estimates will be used to upgrade territorial park facilities, provide for a new wildlife office-shop for Chesterfield Inlet, and to replace existing mobile equipment and purchase displays and exhibits.

Mr. Chairman, members expressed the need for more funding for important studies, such as environmental and contaminant studies as well as population studies for polar bears, musk oxen, and studies for the viability of developing fisheries in Nunavut. (interpretation ends) I'm very pleased to hear new reports that the department is proposing to increase the quota for harvesting polar bears as communities reported an increase in numbers of nuisance polar bears last year.

Members expect to be kept fully informed on this issue. Members also expect to be kept fully informed with respect to how many Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements are outstanding and the status of their ongoing negotiations.

Members also expressed the need to develop fisheries in Nunavut. Many communities have a very high rate of unemployment. The department must support the development of innovative traditional employment opportunities for Nunavummiut that will also reduce the need for social assistance.

Mr. Chairman, while members do support the improvement plans for parks, park facilities, visitors' centres, displays, and exhibits, members remain concerned that our territory's tourism potential continues to remain underdeveloped. Members urge the minister to work closely with his counterpart in the Department of Economic Development and Transportation, which has retained the responsibility for tourism.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed, I would like to remind the members of the following: according to rule 77(1) you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of myself, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion, but not until another member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest that members are responsible for asking your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. (interpretation) Any general comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his staff here for the second Assembly's first capital budget presentation. Maybe because the minister is saying I got to go first; all the older guys pulled rank on him and told him he had to go first, first one up.

I would like to ask a question in general overall, and I know that there had been, in the past, quite a few projects that were carried over for different reasons, and I know a lot of them had to deal with a lot of different Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements not being signed and that.

I am wondering if the minister could give us an update on if they anticipate having many projects be delayed for things like Inuit Impact Benefit Agreement signings or if it looks like we are going to have some smooth sailing from hereon in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation ends) We are into general comments, questions will be forthcoming, so is that a general comment or a question? Thank you.

Mr. Tootoo: A general question.

Chairperson: I am sorry. I will not allow that right now. We are in general comments right now. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the statement that I made in the House, I would like to re-emphasize that we do have a lot of concerns in regards to environment up here in Nunavut and in the North in general, today.

Looking at the conditions, we have a lot of concerns and we see lower tides in the islands, and as I said in my statement a couple of days ago, there were shellfish or sea cucumber that died due to unknown causes.

It seems like all the sea cucumbers are dying along the islands; we did not get any this year. We have heard a lot about the climate change and global warming, and I know that today the tides are getting further and further away. The shellfish and the sea cucumbers that we eat in the islands are being affected by these changes. Usually the sea cucumber are in deeper water, and it's going to have a heavy impact on them sometime in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, I do have a concern. I would like the islands and Sanikiluaq to have a study done down there on the impact that is has on the animals. Not only in the ocean but also on the land.

I can use an example where in Sanikiluaq, I was told just yesterday, the lakes that had been frozen are now thawing out again. I think Sanikiluaq is a good location to have an impact study done because of the unusual changes that we are seeing especially this year.

As a member of the Legislative Assembly, and representing Sanikiluaq, I'm going to keep pushing to have an environmental impact study done. I can use an example of where the minister stated that if any specimens have to be sent out, they will have to go to Igloolik. And like I said earlier, we can't send the specimens; they won't be able to reach their destinations for a number of days. There was also a case where seals were dying down there and because of the number days that it takes for the specimen to go from our community to its final destination; the specimen was spoiled by the time it got there to the laboratory.

It's very obvious that we do need a laboratory here in Sanikiluaq or in Nunavut. I'll be asking additional questions. There are a lot of assessments or environmental studies that have to be done in order to be prepared for the future.

Once my father told me about the routes they used to take during certain seasons, but today we can't use those routes anymore because of the tidal change that has occurred in recent years.

I think it's very important to have an environmental impact study done. There are researchers available. We are working very closely together with them. The islands and Sanikiluaq have been working on environmental issues for many years.

I think Sanikiluaq would be an ideal location to conduct a pilot project down there. We have to continue eating our traditional foods and we still use them today.

Those are my general comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome you, Mr. Minister and the deputy minister and also the director of Corporate Services.

When I was visiting the communities that I represent, there was a concern about climate change. I can tell you that our lifestyle is totally different now and we also see changes in the animals. The caribou in the High Arctic are moving from island to island and because of the global warming, they have to cross oceans or lakes in order to go to a different location. I apologize.

Your department is going to be attending global warming conferences and I think that it is very crucial for representatives from Nunavut to attend this conference.

Mr. Arreak, my colleague who is the member for Uqqurmiut, stated that there are too many plastic bags flying around or abandoned in the environment. We will have to make sure that we get rid of plastic bags and other debris that are not biodegradable.

I think that the Department of Environment has to look into these issues, and we have to make sure that we clean up the camps that we use, to bring back the material that you can't burn and to burn the ones that you can.

As that's the case, we have to take care of our environment. In Nunavut, there are a lot of explorations going on, which I'm very supportive of, because, of course, it's going to generate revenue in my community and also to other communities in Nunavut.

It does have an impact on our wildlife; there are sea ice conditions that have become different and it also has an impact on the marine mammals. There has to be an agreement between the communities and the developers to make sure that the communities benefit from these developments.

In the Quttiktuq area, in my riding, there have been two mine closures. We have seen what can be caused by these mines and we are the ones who are going to live here, even after the camp has closed down. We are going to be the ones who feel the effects of these closed mines, but we still have to hunt and eat the animals around there that have been impacted.

I wanted to make that as a general comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, and also to supplement the concerns that we have about global warming and its effects... . The communities are concerned about the animals and marine mammals around their communities that are too close to the communities. There is a lot of non-biodegradable debris in the dumps in our communities and also hazardous wastes.

Usually the wildlife, if they are that close to the community, could go to the dumps and be affected. I am also concerned about the plastic shopping bags and the plastics and oils in containers that are just thrown away and put in the dumps and blow away out into the ocean, where they are eaten or consumed by the marine mammals.

There is also the caribou and the fox that are affected by the debris that we leave around. We have to make sure that we are environmentally conscious. It has an effect on the people and the animals. It is becoming urgent, and it has been an ongoing concern because the animals that we eat could be affected.

We also have to think about the lagoons or the waste that goes into the oceans. Should anything happen to the lagoons, they would automatically drain into the ocean and it's then consumed or has an effect on the marine mammals, which we eat.

We will have to make sure that we have proper sewage lagoons and dumps because it does have an effect on the marine life. I will leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. I have one name, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Minister Akesuk and your staff. I also wanted to comment on this matter as we live near the river. As well, our community lies along the arctic coast and we survive with the animals that we catch from the ocean as well. We are very concerned, as residents from Nunavut, because the animals that we catch, we depend on for food and survival.

There is evidence that the animals and the fish and the seals have illnesses. It is very noticeable. You can see sores on certain animals, even on the land when we hunt. There are animals from the land that we depend on. These animals are also noticeably touched by illnesses.

I also wanted to touch upon the parks. You as a minister are probably aware of Bluenose Lake Park; this was supposed to be a park that the western arctic people wanted to create as a park. In the past, as we know, this was the boundary between the western arctic and Kitikmeot, and for that reason, the negotiations have not been completed. We have not created a park there because it's still an ongoing process.

I will have a question on that matter, but that's all for now. Thank you.

Chair (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. If we can go to our estimates. Page I-5. Just a minute. There is someone with their hand up. Mr. Curley.

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

I have a question on I-5 in regards to the minister's responsibility. They said that there are four divisions. Could you give us an explanation about environmental protection? What exactly are your responsibilities?

For example, if there is an oil spill Rankin Inlet, it just seems like it's not your responsibility, and it's getting worrisome. It's getting bigger. The hamlets are in a difficult position.

There was an oil spill last summer in Rankin Inlet, and I had to wait for them. I think there was a 250 litre oil spill, which is a little over a barrel, but it was huge. You could see the oil spill in the water.

Do you help with the federal government in regards to those oil spills? What is your responsibility, and where does your responsibility stop in regards to oil spills? Thank you.

Chair (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curly. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

If there was an oil spill in the water, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is responsible for that. As for our responsibilities as a department with the Government of Nunavut, the wildlife officers in the communities have to do the monitoring. If there was to be somebody from Iqaluit that goes to that place where there has been a spill, we have to find out, to make sure that there is a good monitoring of the environmental hazards that are happening in communities.

What we do is we do the monitoring part. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank you for the explanation. As part of your responsibilities, under wildlife management and the fisheries, such as sealing and fishing. Are you talking about just the legislation part or do you deal with the commercial fishing? You don't have anything to do with deep sea fishing, or is it just lakes? I know that Fisheries and Oceans have most of that responsibility, but do you look for things that could improve those things, like fisheries and sealing in Nunavut?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have some funding available or money available to do a study on fishing quota studies. The funding that we have deals with fishing quotas; I think there is 350 as a quota.

So, what we do is we do a study on the number of fish and the number of things that the people can utilize for commercial purposes, so part of it is to do with the Department of Economic Development. The sealing and the fisheries have some money available to do a quota allocation of fish and seal for Kitikmeot and Kivalliq and Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Is that it? I have no more names on my list. Page 6. Page I-6.

(interpretation ends) Environment. Detail of capital. Tangible assets. Total, headquarters region, \$228,000.

Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed. Thank you

Chairman: I-7. Environment. Detail of capital. Tangible assets. Total, Qikiqtaaluk region. Total, \$514,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed. Thank you.

Go to I-8. Environment. Detail of capital. Tangible assets. Total, Kivalliq region, \$840,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I-9. Environment. Detail of capital. Tangible assets. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's not on I-9 it's on I-6 that I had a question and would just like clarification on. There is \$75,000 for Sylvia Grinell Park for this year, and I understand there have been a few years in the waiting just to get all the work that was supposed to be done there. I'm just wondering if it was the IIBA that caused that delay.

I know there was supposed to be a bridge being built there, and I'm just wondering if that money allocated in that budget is going to be for that bridge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Part of it is IIBA, part of it is we are trying to work with the federal government to build the bridge and we are just waiting for them right now. And we also have a working group that is working on the bridge. So, we are trying our best to proceed with the bridge, and I believe we are in a better stage where we can probably, within a year or two, build the bridge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. That's it. Thank you. We are on I-9. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Anything else? That's it? (interpretation ends) Thank you. We are at I-9. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister and staff, for coming in today. A question on Page I-9, since it pertains to the Kitikmeot: could the minister update us on the number of these proposed developments that will require Inuit Impact Benefit Agreements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are working on the IIBA. The IIBAs are led by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. We are still working on them and we hope to develop something in a timely manner in order for us to proceed with these capital projects that we have been carrying over for the past couple years. I think that we should encourage them to settle the IIBAs so that we can work on our capital projects in the communities of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. If I understand correctly, there are no IIBAs settled yet in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: We have at least four of the six IIBAs done, but we still have not done the Kitikmeot part. So, we will be working on that to make sure that we have the IIBAs done in a timely manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. You referred twice to "timely manner." Could you put a more precise timeline on what you mean by timely manner? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, it is something that we have to work with the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and, of course, it takes a while for us to go through with the IIBAs and all of the legal implications that would be there.

So, it is really up to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to come up with a timeline where we could finish the IIBAs. All of these go through very slowly, so I think we will do our very best to make sure that we will have something in place before the end of the government's term. So that is what we will do: our very best. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you have any further questions, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: No more questions, Mr. Chair.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, as well, Mr. Minister. I have a question in regards to the Kugluktuk Bloody Falls Park.

Minister Simailak and I visited the falls this summer and as we know, some of the projects there have not been completed. I would like to know when these would be completed, in terms of the park itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we would like to complete that park. One of the reasons why it takes long, I stated earlier on. Inuit impact agreements take a long time. We want to do the impact review, and I can tell you the IIBA will have to be completed. The parks require IIBA.

Yes, I will ask if we could complete this sooner. Once all of the IIBAs have been signed, it will proceed faster; that is what we see. In the previous government this was a concern, and it is still an ongoing concern. We are still trying to continue the completion of the IIBAs. Perhaps we can urge the negotiators of IIBA to complete sooner and ask them when they'll be able to have the agreement, because usually it takes longer with the IIBA agreement. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Any further questions?

Mr. Evyagotailak: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was just a question in regard to that because of the fact that tourists always come during the summer, and when they see incomplete work they wonder why is it that this is not completed. We have tourists come down with canoes or we have tourists come into the community, and that's the reason why I asked the question.

I would encourage the minister to try and speed up the process to complete the park itself, because when you have a project that is incomplete it's not very good to see. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that we'll need that.

Under Coral Harbour, it seems that there's a mistake in that. I'll just alert you to that. Park development, is that what you're talking about?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, the spelling is wrong, if you read it carefully. I'm sure they'll fix the typo. Mr. Minister, we're asking you fix the typo under Coral Harbour.

Thank you. I have no more names on my list.

Page I-9. Environment detail of capital tangible assets. Total, Kitikmeot region, \$290,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total, tangible assets, \$1,856,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to I-4. Say "bingo," at least.

Environment detail summary. Detail of expenditures. Total, capital expenditures, \$1,856,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do you agree that the Department of Environment is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for participating in this process. What is the wish of the committee? Who is going to respond? What is the wish of the committee, Mr. Evyagotailak?

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): We would like to report progress.

Chairman (interpretation): We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you.

All those opposed? Thank you. One opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Netser.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 4 and the capital estimates and would like to report progress.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kattuk. The motion is in order. All those in favor? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 21. Item 22. The Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Friday, November 19:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statement
3. Members' Statement
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of visitors from the gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees.
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of documents
14. Notice of Motions
15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions

17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 4
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Friday, November 19, at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:38*

