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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, November 19, 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.

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Mr. Simailak.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 011 – 2(2): Working to Develop Nunavut's Economy

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the caucus retreat in September, caucus established the goal of developing Nunavut's economy, private sector, and job market by aggressively implementing the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy's focus on mining and other key sectoral areas, including arts and crafts and tourism.

Without jobs, Nunavummiut must increasingly look to the Government of Nunavut to help meet their most basic needs. I am very pleased that members of this Assembly have chosen to actively take action on reversing this trend.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut is rich in resources. Over the last several years we have learned that mining, fishing, and tourism offer the best prospects for economic growth and that resource harvesting, sealing, and arts and crafts offer communities a means to develop their economies using more traditional skills.

My department, Mr. Speaker, is leading the development of an overall economic plan together with our partners in the Nunavut Economic Forum. We are learning that in order to achieve economic success, we will need to make significant investments in infrastructure.

Earlier this year the federal government announced a \$90 million northern economic development fund to be shared over five years by the three territories. The federal government is proposing to manage the program and keep \$9 million for administration.

It is my belief that we do not need the federal government setting our priorities or using this fund to feed their own bureaucracies.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we must invest what we can to develop our economy. We must lever all available funding sources and encourage partnerships with industry and business to support the development of all economic sectors.

We must ensure that investing in our economy to reduce dependence is a key consideration in creating opportunities for Nunavummiut. We must also continue to work with stakeholders to develop realistic priorities and plans for each sector so that we are ready to implement plans as and when funds are available.

Mr. Speaker, I will need the advice and support of all my colleagues in these efforts. Our success in meeting our Assembly's commitment depends on a strong consensus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 012 – 2(2): Safe and Sustainable Travel in Nunavut Partnership

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want the members of this House to be aware of a couple of cooperative initiatives that my department has developed with the goal of providing territorial park users with critical information on the protection of natural and cultural resources and safe travel in Nunavut.

Officials from the Division of Parks and Conservation Areas have collaborated with Parks Canada and Search and Rescue Canada on the development of a video that focuses on safe and sustainable travel in territorial and national parks within Nunavut. The video, which is currently being distributed to each community in Nunavut as well as nationally and internationally, provides visitors with important pre-trip planning information on the beautiful but extreme environments found in parks in Nunavut.

Although still in the production phase, the Department of Environment is also partnering with the Safety in Bear Country Society on a polar bear safety video aimed at reducing the number of negative human encounters with polar bears. The video provides critical Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and scientific polar bear information to visitors and Nunavummiut alike. Other partners of this project include Parks Canada, Environment Canada, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, respected elders and some private energy and mining companies.

These informational pieces are crucial to the safe and sustainable operation of our territorial parks and we look forward to working on other partnership projects with the

goal of promoting and encouraging the protection and management of our natural and cultural heritage, while supporting positive recreation and tourism experiences within Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 013 – 2(2): National Child Day – 2004

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow, November 20, is National Child Day. In Canada and around the world, governments and the people they serve take time to reflect on the Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted by the United Nations on this day in 1989.

The convention spells out the basic human rights to which children everywhere are entitled. As a signatory to the convention, Canada is committed to ensuring that all children are treated with dignity and respect. This commitment includes that children and youth: be given the opportunity to have a voice; be protected from harm; and be provided with their basic needs and every opportunity to reach their full potential.

The convention also acknowledges the key role of parents and families in the lives of children and young people.

In Nunavut, special events are taking place around the regions to increase awareness of the rights of the child as set out in the UN convention. Here in Iqaluit, on Saturday, the daycares are holding a parade, starting at 1 p.m. from the Cadet Hall. I invite you and the members to join with me in parading around Iqaluit at one o'clock.

Mr. Speaker, our children are precious. On behalf of the Government of Nunavut, the Department of Education does its best to encourage our children and youth to reach their full potential, whether it is physical, emotional, creative, intellectual, or spiritual. Hundreds of volunteers in our communities work with children and youth towards the same purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask members of this House to join me in showing our appreciation for all the good people who do their best to ensure that the rights of children are met right here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 014 – 2(2): Sivuliqtiksat Program Graduates

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Human Resources, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to congratulate the first graduates of Sivuliqtiksat, the Government of Nunavut's management development program. The six graduates are: Janet Brewster, Manager, Population Health, Department of Health and Social Services, Iqaluit; Brenda Jancke, Director, Career and Early Childhood, Department of Education, Cambridge Bay; Lorna Gee, Director, Motor Vehicles, Economic Development and Transportation, Gjoa Haven; Guy d'Argencourt, Claims Implementation Manager, Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Iqaluit; Joanna Nutarak, Language of Instruction Consultant, Department of Education, Pond Inlet; and Kevin Niptanatiak, Assistant Director, Regional Operations, Department of Community and Government Services, Cambridge Bay.

These six individuals have demonstrated initiative, leadership, and a genuine desire to ensure that Nunavummiut enjoy and have access to high quality programs and services. They have successfully met the challenge of managing in today's public service and are true role models for everyone.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the departments who have developed interim positions to support Inuit employment within our public service. I would also like to recognize the dedicated supervisors, trainers, and mentors who are key to making on-the-job training programs, such as Sivuliqtiksat, a success.

The Sivuliqtiksat internship program demonstrates our commitment to the *pinasuaqtavut* principle of Ilippallianguinnarniq-Continuing Learning and is a very effective way to help to develop a representative public service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating these six individuals and to wish them the best in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 015 – 2(2): Implementation of Nunavut's Human Rights Act

Hon. Paul Okalik: Mr. Speaker, last year the Legislative Assembly adopted a new Human Rights Act for Nunavut. The new Act was adopted in order to give Nunavummiut greater access to human rights legislation in a manner that is more culturally sensitive and in their own language.

I am pleased to inform members that Nunavut's human rights tribunal has been established. Chairing the tribunal is Gela Oolayou-Pitsiulak, originally from Kimmirut. The vice-chair is Susan Cooper, from Iqaliuit. The tribunal members are Louise Haulli from Igloodik, Amie Ahegona from Kugluktuk and Robert Tookoomie, originally from Baker Lake.

In addition, the human rights tribunal office's interim executive director, Marion Love, is in the process of establishing the office in Coral Harbour and administering the hiring process for the executive director and the two human rights officers.

I am confident that Nunavut's human rights tribunal will benefit Nunavummiut by being more aware of Nunavut's culture and language in a way that the Canadian Human Rights Commission is not able to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Peterson.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 021 – 2(2): Economic Development in Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Koana, Uqaqti. I rise today on an issue that has been raised many times in this House; economic development.

Members are aware that the federal government has earmarked \$90 million for economic development in the three territories. On Wednesday, the minister revealed in the House that the funds will be administered by the federal government for the fiscal year 2004-05; a fiscal year with only four months remaining in it.

I am concerned that there is no mechanism in place to ensure that the funding is carried over to the next fiscal year if it is not allocated to projects before March 31, 2005.

Further, it is an outrage that the funds will not be administered within the territory, by our own people. The Nunavut Economic Forum was formed to implement the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy. I am concerned that this approach to funding effectively ties their hands.

The federal government has consistently expresses a rhetorical commitment to economic development in Nunavut but its actions do not always reflect that commitment. Our economic development destiny is in Ottawa's hands or one of their committees.

It seems to me that the federal government is attempting to give funding with one hand while raking it back with the other, especially if the cost to administer the \$90 million is taken out of that amount.

This is an outrage, and I urge all Nunavummiut to make their voices heard. It is time for our territory to be given the means and the authority to encourage economic development here at home.

Nunavut and Nunavummiut need a solid economic development agreement with the federal government that includes the ability to determine our own priorities. The future development of an economic development agency could be a part of this process.

The Kitikmeot region has great potential for diamond mining and all the associated benefits, such as training opportunities and employment, both at the mine site itself and through spin-off businesses. Members are aware that I invited the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to visit the Kitikmeot and to see this potential first-hand.

Study after study after study has been done. Our own Nunavut Economic Development Strategy, the Conference Board of Canada's economic outlook, and internal federal governmental studies all draw the same conclusions.

Large-scale investment in infrastructure is necessary in order for our territory to reduce its dependence on federal transfers. Every study clearly demonstrates that there will be a sizeable return for the nation as a whole on that investment.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Economic Forum was created specifically to implement our economic development strategy. It is time for them to be allowed to get on with that work. Koana, Uqaqti.

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

Member's Statement 022 – 2(2): Recognition of Peter Kunilieusie

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start talking about my issue, I am very pleased to announce that the Qikiqtarjuaq hunters that were lost have now been found, and I am glad that they are okay.

I rise today to acknowledge an individual from my community, in my constituency, who has performed a very important service to this country for over fifty years: Peter Kunilieusie.

He joined the northern rangers right after World War II. The federal government started looking for Canadian Rangers after World War II to protect the sovereignty of northern Canada. This individual has been a member of the Rangers ever since. The Rangers fulfill an important role within the military and its operations in the North.

Mr. Kunilieusie is quite aware of traditional ways, and he is very professional in his work. He is very knowledgeable about the northern climate, and he has been supporting and giving assistance to the military.

We heard, after the Canadian military's Operation Narwhal that took place in Pangnirtung last summer, how essential these types of skills are. We have also heard that these skills are being lost from generation to generation.

Mr. Kunilieusie is going to resign from the Rangers, but he will not stop contributing his knowledge and skills. The Rangers, in turn, play an active role in passing their skills on to the next generation.

I am out of time. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, my colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud that both of my constituencies have Junior Ranger programs. Rangers and other members of the community are involved in instructing and running the programs. These programs provide a structured environment for youth which promotes discipline and provides instruction in Ranger skills, traditional skills, and life skills.

There are over 550 young people who have joined the Junior Rangers in 14 Junior Ranger Patrols in communities across Nunavut. This is the largest number of Junior Rangers across Canada. Some of these youth have even been active in community service, such as supporting the community of Sanikiluaq after their power plant burnt down. Lucassie Meeko is the only Junior Ranger in Canada to have been awarded the Medal of Bravery for saving a youth from drowning.

From Mr. Peter Kunilieusie who is 74 years old to the youngest Junior Rangers is 12 years old, I am confident that Ranger skills such as first aid, navigation, the safe handling of weapons and preparing for land exercises are being maintained and passed on. I am proud that the Junior Ranger program also supports traditional skills such as those needed for surviving on the land as well as arts and culture.

Mr. Kunilieusie has been a leader in training and assisting the younger Canadian Rangers for a long time, and I believe that Mr. Kunilieusie's work is very important. I would like to urge the members of the Legislative Assembly to congratulate Peter Kunilieusie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 023 – 2(2): Life Issues in the High Arctic

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I rise today to add my voice to those who have been expressing concerns about the difficulties that our elders face in the High Arctic.

During my recent community tour of the High Arctic, elders told me that their lives are not necessarily getting any easier today. In many cases, especially in communities with very high unemployment rates, elders' pensions are required to help feed families and to put gas in the hunters' snowmobile tanks.

I have heard disturbing accounts of power being cut in people's homes, especially elders' homes, without adequate notice. I know that people are worried about the cost of fuel as we enter the long, cold winter months ahead.

Here is an example of how life in the smaller communities differs from life in the capital city. We are very far away from the banks. Here you can walk into one of the two banks and set up an account in about 30 minutes or less. (interpretation ends) For many of my elders, if the plane is weathered out, there are no pension checks.

(interpretation) I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) For many of my elders, if the plane is weathered out, there are no pension checks to cash at the Northern or the Co-Op. If the plane doesn't get in for a few days, that is tough.

I am pleased to see that the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated have recently been making moves toward looking at ways to expand access to financial services for our residents, especially in smaller communities. This will make life easier, and I support the movement forward.

I will raise these quality of life issues throughout our session. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 024 – 2(2): School Program Funding

Mr. Netsier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You heard in the news that the individual who had committed a murder in a southern province is said to be from Coral Harbour. I would like to set the record straight by saying that this individual, the one who is accused of murder, is not from Coral Harbour.

(interpretation ends) The district education authority in Chesterfield Inlet is very concerned about the recent cutbacks that they have experienced in the operating budget for this year over the previous year.

Mr. Speaker, \$53,000 has been cut from the district education authority operating budget in Chesterfield Inlet. Over the years, we know that the district education authorities have always tried to balance their budgets by hiring local program instructors, such as people who teach sewing skills and hunting skills, and we know these programs are very important to our culture and also to our students.

These programs don't even last all year because of the lack of funds. There has always been a lack of money to fund these programs under the district education authority. If our culture is taken seriously, as the government always says it is, then why would the operations and maintenance funding be cut?

As one of the members of this legislature, I was very disturbed by this action. I would think that instead of building bureaucracy in the Department of Education and thinking of new divisions and setting up new divisions just to fill in the right number of government staff in decentralized places, such as Pangnirtung, the education department dollars could be spent more wisely.

Our priority as a government should be our students. Another of these priorities should be how can we help the local district education authorities deliver programs with proper funding. Our culture and skills as a people depend on it, and we can't be cutting back the program dollars.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be addressing the minister. Qujannamiik.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): You have to stick to one subject when you are making your statements. I would like to caution the members.

Members' statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 025 – 2(2): Acknowledgement of Family Members

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had wanted to make two statements, but I am keeping it down to one.

I would like to make a comment, first of all, to acknowledge my brother and my relatives in Pangnirtung; I will not be going up to Pangnirtung this week. Again, I would like to say hi to Kevin in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Yesterday, my relatives came in, and I am sure that they are watching on TV: my daughter Jenna and my son Joseph. Ever since I arrived, my son has been ill, and Rosie has not been able to come to Iqaluit because of the weather. I say hello to my wife Rosie. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 026 – 2(2): Dog Team Steering

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is Friday, I will take it easy, because we will be working extremely hard next week. I would like to say hello to my father, my wife and children, and Annie Epoo.

When I was growing up, we used to travel by dog team. My uncle didn't have any sons, so I used to go with him frequently. My father, on the other hand, used to follow his father-in-law more often.

I would like to continue an approach that I've adopted for the second Assembly and make reference to the past. Back in the old days when I was growing up, we didn't worry so much about gasoline and fuel oil.

My uncle, the one I followed, didn't need to use commands with his dog team as he had them very well trained. He knew exactly what to do when they smelled a seal hole. My uncle had one dog that was vicious, and when my uncle was waiting for the seals, I would hold a knife just in case the dog attacked me. I am very glad that the dog never attacked me. A long time ago, when the hunter was over the seal hole, the dogs would be very alert and go as soon as the seal was caught.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Let me explain why I want to take it easy today: my body feels a little sore and tired today.

Some of the hunters had a way of steering their dog teams with voice commands and sometimes with a whip. But, by the time leg-hold traps were introduced, the people of Sanikiluaq were no longer using whips anymore.

The kinds of voice commands they would use would be, "Bah- bala-bala! Auk, auk! Taikkua taga, taikkua taga! Udlee, udlee, udlee, udlee!" That was one of the ways of steering the dogs, either to the left or the right.

My uncle used to steer his dogs using these kinds of signals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 027 – 2(2): Whale Cove Daycare Opening

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, in Whale Cove, when I went there on November 15, when they were going to be having the grand opening of the daycare... .

Whale Cove is a very small community, but the individuals worked extremely hard to set up the daycare. The daycare has a board of directors. There was an excellent working relationship with the hamlet in order to get the daycare up and running.

We all know that there are people who have children who would like to enter the workforce, and there are also single parents who don't have proper facilities for the care of their children. I am sure that it is very hard on these individuals.

A lot of people say that they need proper daycare facilities in order to participate in the workforce. Sometimes they use private individuals to take care of their children.

I would like to ask the members to congratulate Whale Cove.

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

Member's Statement 028 – 2(2): Trip to Igloolik

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I too would like to join Mr. Arreak in congratulating Mr. Peter Kunilieusie. Peter is my wife's uncle, and I know him very well. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his service.

First of all, Friday is usually a day, as Mr. Kattuk said earlier, for a bit of levity. A very serious incident occurred this past summer that involved several prominent residents of Nunavut. The incident was full of drama, worry, frustration, camaraderie, heroism, and singing.

On a trip to meet with the good people of Igloolik, Ministers Simailak, Tapardjuk, Akasuk, and me, yes, me, Mr. Speaker, were asked to visit the diamond mining camp located about 35 kilometers northwest of Igloolik. With the mayor of Igloolik, Mr. Elijah Evaluajuk, and other Government of Nunavut staff and residents, we left on two helicopters for the camp.

The mining potential north of Igloolik for diamonds holds great promise and we were treated very well by the camp staff. On our return to Igloolik, our helicopter was forced to put down several kilometers from Igloolik. It was foggy, windy, rainy, and cold. The visibility was only a few hundred yards. The pilot expertly landed us at at least three different locations on some small islands about 30 kilometers northwest of Igloolik. We had no shelter other than the cramped helicopter. Our fuel was low and it was cold.

We waited for a long time, and Minister Tapardjuk, a lifelong, born-and-raised resident of Igloolik, told the pilot to head in the direction of Avajaq, the abandoned island that contains an abandoned church, an old church with no windows, no doors.

After some very harrowing moments, we put down near this abandoned old church.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues. I do not want to get into a lot of detail about the trip, about the fright, the scary issue, the crying, the wailing, the fright.

I will not say much about how we were using Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the leadership and the wonderful singing that was heard near that old church that day, but after five hours we were rescued by a boat from Igloolik, a boat driven by the famous director Zach Kunuk. I can tell in all seriousness that the ministers could not wait to get off that island.

Mr. Speaker, in the boat, on the return to Igloolik with ice and fog and not knowing where we were going, one of the ministers said that the singing kept them going that day.

I wanted to thank the expert work of the pilot and our colleague ministers who were excellent company during a very difficult time. If I had an opportunity to get shanghaied and shipwrecked with different individuals again, it would not be the same for it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 029 – 2(2): Congratulate Lorne Kusugak

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today this morning to congratulate the mayor in Rankin Inlet, Mr. Lorne Kusugak, acclaimed recently to the mayor's seat. The nominations closed recently, on November 8; the present mayor of Rankin Inlet will be the mayor again for as long as the term is.

I know Mr. Kusugak; he is married to my niece. I hope to be working him closely, in the years to come, to try to make improvements in the community of Rankin Inlet. I would like to thank him.

At this time I would like to encourage the other candidates for the municipal elections. And I would to congratulate Mr. Lorne Kusugak for being acclaimed as mayor to work again for the next few years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 030 – 2(2): Passing of a Respected Elder

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We talk about, on Fridays, good things and bad things. This is not really a sad thing that I am going to talk about, but I would like to inform the members that we just recently had an elder pass away in Arviat. That elder in Arviat died this morning, I think.

I saw him as an individual, as an Inuk person, as a traditional person, and as a really good role model, because he respected the animals out on the land and respected his fellow citizens. He would never talk about anybody; he would smile at everybody and say hello to them. He was a fox trapper when he was younger. He was a very able person and he knew about the Inuit traditional ways.

He was seen by young people as a respected elder, and I would like to be like him, to be able to know the animals on the land and all the other stuff out on the land. So, for this reason, I would like to pay my respects to his family. I know that he respected tradition and looked after his fellow citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be able to say that today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 031 – 2(2): Anniversary Wish to Sister

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say hello to Taloyoarmiut today.

(interpretation ends) I just wanted to say a few words for my sister Celine Pauloosie and Inuk Pauloosie. Today I wanted to wish my sister and my brother-in-law a happy anniversary. They've been married now for 25 years.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation) I'm thinking of them today as it is their anniversary.

There is also a birthday today, although we didn't know. Happy birthday to Nancy Tupiq.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation) I think she forgot her birthday.

>>*Singing Happy Birthday*

Thank you. Members' statements. Going back to orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to recognize our Mayor, Iqalukjuaq. Noirie Iqalukjuaq has assisted and helped out with the Nunavut Quest, which is a dog team race. He is one of the people who helped organize that event.

Also, I would like to recognize Andrew Taqtu who is a businessman and outfitter and who has been on TV, on the Discovery Channel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Noirie Iqalukjuaq. He has been a leader in Arctic Bay.

I would also like to recognize Steve Audlakiak from Broughton Island, who is residing in Iqaluit for a short time. He has been a very good leader as well, in Qikiqtarjuaq, even though he is not in an elected position.

I would also like to recognize Andrew Taqtu as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize an individual who has been recognized already by a few of the members.

Steve Audlakiak is my constituent while he is residing here in Iqaluit, and I would like to welcome him to the gallery. Welcome. We have known each other for some time.

I would also like to welcome the mayor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize some individuals, even though they have already been recognized: Andrew Taqtu and Steve Audlakiak.

Along with the members of this House, I would like to congratulate the mayors that went to a meeting here in Iqaluit recently. Mary Audlakiak is the youngest member here in Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is Friday, and as Mr. Picco pointed out earlier, it seems to be a jolly day. I would just like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone else in the gallery that has not been recognized already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, everyone, to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Going back to the orders of the day.

Before we commence today's question period, I would like to take a moment to caution members with respect to the practice of quoting from documents that are not formally before the House.

As members will recall from my ruling in the first session, the issue of what documents may be referred to in detail during proceedings requires a measure of care. There is no absolute prohibition in our rules with respect to the quoting of documents that have not been formally tabled in the House.

To illustrate, section 1(b) of our question period guidelines states that a question must, and I quote, "...deal with a matter reasonably assumed to be within the present knowledge of a minister."

A member could certainly quote freely from an official news release issued by the minister, even if the document in question has not been formally tabled in the House. To specify otherwise would unreasonably stifle the debate.

Correspondence, however, should be treated with particular care, and members would be well advised to ascertain whether the subject matter dealt with in the correspondence is reasonably within the knowledge of the minister prior to quoting at length from the letter in question.

Nonetheless, making reference to the existence of a letter that is in the member's possession is not beyond the boundaries of debate, and ministers are reminded of their right to decline to answer any question.

Thank you. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 038 – 2(2): Human Rights Tribunal Location in Coral Harbour

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. I would also like to thank him for his minister's statement; I am glad that he is still supporting devolution. I am very happy that he is going to continue with the devolution.

My question is, what kind of criteria did you have when you were dealing with the human rights tribunal, that the location would be in Coral Harbour?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we started looking for the location, as I stated last spring, we had to focus on the smaller communities. I requested support from the members, and I'm very pleased that they were supportive. After having discussions with the members, I gave direction to my officials to give support to the smaller communities.

So, that was one of the criteria we used when we relocated to Coral Harbour. The member for Coral Harbour has been very supportive of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My second supplementary. The whole of Nunavut and the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut believe that they want Inuit values to be part of the government.

For that reason, for the executive director of the human rights tribunal, are you going to put that out for competition?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we had to get a director through the legislation, so we put that out as an advertisement; they'll be advertising for positions. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is very important because people in Nunavut would like to have equal opportunities to compete for public service positions.

So, will the Premier assure this House and Nunavummiut that the position of executive director for the human rights tribunal will be put out for competition before too long. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

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

Yes, we will go to the competition process. Right now we're busy setting up the office in Coral Harbour. Once that is done we'll look for employees, not just the executive director. We also have to find two officers.

We'll go through the competition process as soon as the office is up and running. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 039 – 2(2): Southern Legal Services Contract

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Justice.

I know that the minister himself is a member of a bar here in Nunavut, the Nunavut Bar, and that bar is not very big; it's a small bar. He told me that there are some nuts in that bar.

We know that there are only 45 members of the Nunavut Bar; as a result there is a small number of professional lawyers within the territory. Hopefully, as the graduates come out of the law program it's going to be increased.

So, my question to the minister today is, given that small number, is the requirement for seeking legal services outside of Nunavut... . I would just like to ask the minister what the practice is with respect to using non-resident lawyers for contract work in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

(interpretation ends) At certain times we require services from outside, but our practice is to try and get local lawyers wherever possible. But, that is not always possible, so we sometimes contract out services to lawyers from outside Nunavut.

We try and provide additional support for local law firms. We have rates set; we have rates for local lawyers in some instances, so we try and support the local economy as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear that lawyers up here are getting paid more than lawyers from the South. Usually they have a little better grasp of how things work up here.

My question is that you said they contract legal professionals in this House. I would just like to ask the ministers, what approach does the department use in getting these contracts? Are they sole-source contracts? Is there an RFP put out?

I am just wondering if he could explain how those contracts are arranged, whether they are sole-sourced or tendered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some cases, we work with other governments, like in broad cases that involve other jurisdictions. We share counsel in some instances. It is not always possible to just sole-source but to work with other governments. So, it varies. I don't know exactly how many contracts have gone through sole sourcing, or any other means, so I could look into it further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response about taking a look at how many of those contracts were sole-sourced out, as he had indicated.

I am just wondering, while he is looking into it, Mr. Speaker, does he have an idea, if he doesn't have the numbers with him here, if he could also look into approximately how much the government spends annually on legal fees outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I talked about the bar and the bar development. I am sure the members of the bar would like to be... . Instead of being small, like maybe a *Kitkat*, it could turn into a *Mr. Big* and be a larger bar with a lot more legal professionals working here in Nunavut.

Given that, with the minister looking up how much is paid outside of Nunavut for legal fees, would he also be willing to provide a comparison between legal fees that are spent outside of Nunavut and those spent inside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some cases you have to find the expertise wherever possible, so it may look like it is skewed. But I will gladly provide the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 040 – 2(2): School Program Funding Cut

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Education: as I said earlier, (interpretation) \$53,000 has been cut for Coral Harbour's education use.

I was wondering if you can put that back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I met with the Kivalliq district education authorities, including Chesterfield Inlet's, in Baker Lake this summer, an issue had arisen about how funding allocations were made to the DEAs in regards to our custodial or janitorial staff.

In the case of Chesterfield Inlet, they haven't had a decrease. Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the money that they had last year in the budget is the same as this year. The difference is the \$53,241 that the member is speaking about; it is money that the Department of Education held back from the DEA because we are actually paying their salaries now ourselves. In actuality, the total cost of the salary for the janitor in Chesterfield is \$71,744. So, there is no cut, there is no decrease.

The facility that is in the old St. Theresa Home, we have actually given an extra \$30,000 to the DEA in Chesterfield Inlet so that we can look at some of the special needs of the students from that home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It states here in the letter from the district education authority and the principal, Peter Larson, and Andrew Kadjuk, in this correspondence that I just received, (interpretation ends) that for the Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority there is a reduction in funding from 2003-04 to 2004-05; the amount of the decrease for the current year is \$53,000 plus a few.

Speaker: (interpretation) This correspondence was actual fact? Did Minister Picco see that statement, or did you table that in the House?

Mr. Netser: I had shown him the letter just recently. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no saying that the details, which you have to look at in this case... . The principal and the district education authority are saying that there was a reduction of \$53,241 and that is correct.

What has occurred is that we have held that money back because we are actually paying those salary dollars. So, the \$53,241 was allocated to the janitorial staff; we are actually paying the janitorial staff. There wasn't a decrease, because we are actually spending the

same amount of money. The district education authority doesn't have to spend it. The actual cost for the custodian is \$71,744 dollars.

We are actually paying more towards that and so we are not penalizing the district education authority. On top of that, the district education authority in Chesterfield Inlet has received an extra \$30,000 for the special needs of the students.

It is my understanding that for the operations and maintenance budget for Chesterfield Inlet, \$121,294 in 2003-04 and in 2004-05, it is the same budget: \$121,294.

The only difference is the way we have actually held back the money, and it's the same in other communities because we are actually paying those dollars now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister. My next question is in regards to the Sammurtok School in Chesterfield Inlet.

The community has been requesting to have the gymnasium expanded. We have seen nothing to date. We have no monies that could be used to expand the gymnasium. It was supposed to be dealt with this summer. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will have an opportunity to discuss in detail the capital budget of the Department of Education, including the concern with the gymnasium.

I want to say that the member has been very strong in representing the needs of Chesterfield Inlet when we looked at the issues around the school. I know we had an opportunity with the Premier this summer to be in the community with the member.

So, I will get the information on Chesterfield Inlet for him during the debate that we will have on the capital budget. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 041 – 2(2): Reassigned Position in Arviat

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed towards the Premier, Paul Okalik, who has the overall responsibility for the government's decentralization initiative.

(interpretation) In my riding, in Arviat, we are concerned. I am going to be asking questions in regards to the positions that have been put in the community of Arviat. There

are concerns that some positions are being filled, but we have been hearing, subsequently, that these positions were moved out of Arviat into other communities. They've been given the opportunity to move to other communities. What's happening is these positions are being moved out of Arviat.

(interpretation end) I want to give the Premier a chance to set the record straight on this matter. (interpretation) Have any Arviat-based Government of Nunavut decentralized jobs in the Department of Education, Nunavut Housing Corporation, or Nunavut Arctic College been relocated out of the community or scheduled for relocation in the last twelve months? That is my question right now, Mr. Premier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know of one instance where the head of the college has been temporarily reassigned to Iqaluit to try and provide more support to management here. I know that is a temporary arrangement to try and get a better standing for the college.

So, yes, that has been the case here but I don't know of any others in any other departments. I believe that the Arviat situation has been a very positive decentralization experience over all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, possibly what the Premier can do is find out exactly what is happening. I would like to ask the Premier to give us an update on this situation in Arviat.

I have a supplementary. As of June 30, almost 15 percent of Arviat's positions were vacant. That's the situation to date. The Government of Nunavut is getting onto six years old, but those positions have not been filled in Arviat.

Has the situation improved since then? Do employees who accept decentralized jobs have the right to transfer their own positions out of the community, or are they given the option to move their positions to another community, wherever they want to relocate to?

Even if the original plan was to have that position in Arviat, do these employees have the right to move to another community of their choice? That's my question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I heard the questions. I'll just respond to the last one. In regards to the decentralized jobs, they have to stay in the same location. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not calling these individuals liars. I'm representing the community of Arviat, and I can't say that they're liars. But, there was such a case a few months ago, and it's been more than one position that was moved to another community.

I would like the Premier to work with the departments. Because of our excellent education system, I would like the Premier to make sure that these people know that they can't relocate their positions.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): From what I know, none of this has happened, and if they have to relocate the positions, it would have to go before cabinet, first of all.

The college is for the whole of Nunavut, and we want to make sure that it is operating properly. This position was temporarily over in Iqaluit. It is not up to employees, however, to move a position to any other location. If there was such a case, then there has been a breach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 042 – 2(2): Delay of Resupply of Fuel

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the minister responsible for petroleum products, Minister Kilabuk.

A month ago we had a serious problem in Repulse Bay. I would like to ask a question regarding Repulse Bay, where they had to keep the lights on and then drain the fuel that had already been bought by the homeowners.

I would like to ask a question to the minister on why there was such a delay in the fuel re-supply for Repulse Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there were three communities in Nunavut that had a delay in the re-supply because they had over-consumed what we had originally planned. Repulse Bay was one of those communities, and I want to reassure the member regarding the problems that were encountered with fuel supplies being inadequate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Was part of the problem of the delay that the supply ship that was coming into my community was diverted for military exercises? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not aware that was one of the reasons for the re-supply delay to Repulse Bay.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister look into this situation and see if that was part of the problem and report back? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be able to look into it and see what the reason for the delays were in re-supplying these communities.

We don't like to see instances like this. I would like to assure the member that our department worked extremely hard to make sure everything was supplied on time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. I have five names on my list. Mr. Evyagotailak, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Curley, and Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Question 043 – 2(2): Containment Conference

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On November 18, Thursday, one of our leaders from the Baffin region had mentioned that there are already enough contaminants in the arctic. I believe that is so, too, that a lot of our people from the Arctic are worried about nuclear waste.

My question is for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Mr. Speaker, it has been remarked that decisions are underway with Inuit bodies like ITK on these issues, on dumping nuclear waste in the Canadian Arctic.

My question for the Premier is very straightforward: what is the Government of Nunavut's formal position on this issue?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier. Mr. Akasuk.

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

When we were talking about contaminants at a meeting with the Baffin leaders' summit, it was voiced as a concern. We do not want to see the dumping of nuclear waste in Nunavut or in the arctic.

We're going to be looking at it very closely and we will be opposing this proposition. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know if the ministers have raised this issue with the Prime Minister, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be traveling to Reykjavik with Minister Dion, the federal environment minister.

I will mention that to the minister and send her the message that we don't want to see any waste being left behind, dropped, in Nunavut in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has been reported that public meetings will be held in Iqaluit in early December. Will the Government of Nunavut be there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we'll be there. Thank you.

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

Question 044 – 2(2): Increase Senior Fuel Subsidy

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Energy and of Education, concerning issues connected to his portfolio.

On October 20, 2003, the Minister of Education announced changes for the Seniors Fuel Subsidy Program. This program is funded through the income support division of the department.

In July of this year, the Government of Nunavut revealed the general price increase of the 8 cents per litre on all fuel products in all communities that would go into effect on August 1.

Mr. Speaker, while I think the people who can afford to buy big-ticket items in larger communities can support this increase, I'm concerned about the impact on seniors in smaller communities such as the one I represent.

My question is this: in light of the fuel price increase, will the minister review the Seniors Fuel Subsidy Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there is any type of issue that comes up that affects the program offered by the government, including the Seniors Fuel Subsidy Program, then we will take the opportunity to review the amount.

Mr. Speaker, the seniors fuel subsidy is accessed across Nunavut. At the present time, the uptake on the program has not been very high. I believe there are 45 people that took advantage of the program in the last fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. A concern that I raised in my member's statement was about some elders' houses having their power cut off without notice.

Can the minister tell us today what the Qulliq Energy Corporation is proposing to do about this concern in each GRA, with respect to terms and conditions of these services? Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been some misconceptions in the past on how the notification process goes forward with the power corporation and indeed, they just don't come in and cut someone's power off. There are notices given out based on the invoice or the bill that the customer receives and they are contacted through the community.

The general rate application proposal right now is before the Utility Rates Review Council. It's to deal with the general rate application that has been put forward by the power corporation. It doesn't necessarily have anything to do with the way the invoicing or the billing or the hook-ups or cut-offs are done by the corporation itself.

However, if the member has a specific issue where a constituent of his has been cut off without notification, if that member would bring that information to me then I can actually check and see what actually occurred on the file. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has happened, and it has been over and done with, and I know the individual. We understand that there were people that came to my community.

What I am talking about is the support that is given to the elders. On May 26 of this year, the minister of the corporation said in the House that he would establish a committee or someone to review the billing system.

To date, I would like to know what is happening with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, on the corporation itself, there was a concern raised that the members and the Government of Nunavut are well aware of, with the issues around the billing.

The billing services of the corporation were reviewed. They have been brought up. There were some indications of issues around the accuracy of some of the meter readings, for example, and that has been reviewed.

My understanding, and the information provided to me, is that those issues have been fixed. If the member is aware of a case where something has gone wrong, if the member would bring that information to me, then I can bring that forward to the corporation and have it checked out and find out.

Again, the Seniors Fuel Subsidy Program for Nunavut that the member had asked about originally is for any resident of Nunavut who is over the age of 60, is a private homeowner, and who meets the approved household income verification.

So, as I said earlier, this program is a good program, and maybe there are some Nunavummiut who do not know about it. So, the member has done an excellent job by raising the issue today.

We only have 45 households across Nunavut that actually took advantage of the program last year. I am sure that there may be more that can take advantage of it. So, I appreciate the member's question bringing that information forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 045 – 2(2): Written Questions to the Ministers

Mr. Peterson: Koana Uqaqti. My question is for the Premier. It has come to the attention of some regular members that some senior government officials are unhappy with the wording of the written questions being asked by regular members.

They are apparently saying that we are wasting their time. Our question to the Premier: do the ministers consider the information gathered from written questions to be a waste of time or valuable resources for the efficient and effective running of their departments, as knowledge for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know which member or senior official this member spoke to, but as much as possible we do try and provide the information for the members related to written questions.

Some of the questions require a lot of research and data collection leading back to 1999. One example is questions related to housing that will require government officials to contact every local housing association to get the statistics that are being asked for by members in this House.

So, we do try and provide that information within the time that's allowed within the rules, but some do take the time and energy of staff. Some staff, that may be their opinion, but as elected officials we try and provide that information to the regular members on an ongoing basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for assuring us that this is being taken quite seriously. The written questions are an important tool for regular members who are elected by the people of Nunavut to ensure that the government is open and accountable.

Does the Premier support the regular members in representing the people of Nunavut to the best of our abilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recognize and support members' initiatives to gather information from the government through the written question format. As elected officials we support our role as elected officials, and the rules before us in the House apply to every one of us.

So, having said that, we are in support of responding to members' questions, written questions and what-not, so I want to reassure this House and the members that we will do all we can to provide the information that you have asked for.

Some of it will require time, like I said, because it goes back to 1999. And some of it also requires us, government, to go to local hamlet offices as well as housing association boards of directors. So, it will take time, because that is another level of government that we have to deal with to gather the statistics that are being asked for, just as an example.

But I want to reassure this House that written questions, although time consuming, are an effective tool for us to provide information that is required by members to take back to their communities. So again, we will do our best to provide that information to elected officials on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for those assurances. I want to quote from the Throne Speech that was delivered on November 16, a couple of quotes:

“To ensure careful ongoing prudence and accountability, the government is implementing the recommendations of the Auditor General and of the Legislative Assembly Standing Committees. The government will also explore overarching legislation to govern accountability of public bodies in the territory.” Quote one.

And the second quote: “This is your government and only by working together, listening, and acting properly can we create a Nunavut that we envision for ourselves and for our children.”

Mr. Speaker, could the minister assure the House that senior government officials will be instructed to cooperate fully with all elected officials to continue to develop an open, transparent, and accountable government that we and future generations can all be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member. I think we all have to work with our colleagues to get the information out on a regular basis, and I will convey that concern of members to senior officials, that they work in a timely and a cooperative fashion to provide that information to us, for us to provide to the members here.

It is very important that senior officials recognize that the information that’s being requested is very important, and we will do our best to ensure that the information is conveyed to every department’s officials. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 046 – 2(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Appointment of Position

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier.

Last Friday there was a shuffling of chief executive officers; I wonder why the president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation was shuffled. There was a shuffle, the same as with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

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

(interpretation ends) Each appointment varies. I speak with the ministers involved and also the boards involved, so each process varies on the process for appointment. The decision usually rests with me; it's my decision, after talking with ministers and a lot of deputy ministers and chief executive officers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I know the members are all aware that the Auditor General was quite concerned with respect to the qualifications of people who work in those particular Crown corporations. In view of that, the Crown corporation is now normally subject to review by most of the committees of the legislatures, including Ottawa as well as some provinces.

Why isn't the Premier prepared to seek the advice of the appropriate committees when appointing senior executive officers, instead of appointing someone that is close to him?

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

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

As I said, I work with my colleagues. I've never heard of a deputy minister being appointed by committee. That job rests with me as an accountable elected official. So, I will continue to exercise my authority and work with my colleagues, as they have to work with those individuals on a day-to-day basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, my question really is in respect to the Crown corporation Qulliq Energy Corporation. To be exact, the Nunavut Power Corporation.

A recent announcement was made by the Premier, I know the legislation is quite clear that the minister responsible would make the announcement. I would ask that he tell not only that.

My supplementary question is this: what criteria, exactly, were used to appoint a particular CEO or president of the Qulliq Energy Corporation, Nunavut Power Corporation, and why wasn't the position put out to competition?

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the decision rests with me and in talking with the board, the chair of the board, and in talking with the minister involved. So, I try and make sure that their concerns are addressed, as they have to work with the individual on a day-to-day basis.

I will not appoint people that will not be able to perform those functions. I have to get to know them. At the same time, we've gone through advertising for deputy heads in the past, when we can, but due to the time constraints involved, we could not go through that process.

We've gone through the competition process before for that particular position; we've got the resumes and we have looked at those past resumes, and we felt that at this time the individual that we appointed is the most capable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): You last supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My last point is clear now that government is not interested in developing a policy or criteria for appointing senior executive officers, particularly related to Crown corporations.

Will the government consider establishing criteria and policy rather than continuing to appoint people that are close to the Premier and thereby subject to the appearance of a patronage appointment?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We live in a very small territory. Unfortunately, I know a lot of people and I have to work with a lot of people. I have to make sure that they can do the job. I am not going to smear these good people that are trying to make a difference for this great territory of ours.

I take offence to the issue of making patronage appointments to particular individuals because I consult with my ministers and ask their opinion and see who they will be comfortable working with. That is my job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 047 – 2(2): Power Bill Payment Agency

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

Although I don't want to ask him everyday, we have been informed in our constituencies of some information. They are complaining about the paying of their power, because it varies.

Sometimes we use the Co-op as our payment agent for our power bill. At times it gets confusing when the Co-op is your payment agent and you are paying your power bill there; the Co-op has to send out the payment information to the regional office or headquarters. The payment receipts are sometimes lost and can't be found. After two weeks they have still not input the data. That is why some clients' power gets cut off, because the receipt of the payment has not been put into the databank.

I believe in closing either the regional office or the headquarters and just giving the payment agency to each community rather than having to transfer the payments. There are a lot of Inuit people in the community who are very capable of running payment agencies.

Although this is my preamble, I would like to ask the minister if he is willing to consider my suggestion that the communities take care of receiving payment of bills. Perhaps close the headquarters or the regional office so that the community can take on the payment agency, rather than having the payments go through the stores, so that Inuit will be more comfortable in paying their bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to very quickly mention to the member that he and I were caribou hunting two years ago, and I was in the area this summer but I didn't find his knife. But I did find a case, so I'm going to give it to him; maybe his knife was in there.

Mr. Speaker, on the power bills, very quickly, when a person pays their bill, they can go to either the Northern or the Co-op, for example. I know what the member is saying: that there is a feeling in some communities that the recording structure by the Northern or the Co-op store, when they pay their power bill in the community, is not fast enough.

We had, in the past, had the power employees from each community, for example, the person who keeps the plant going, be a payment agent. There was a lot of pressure on that agent to collect money, remit the money and make changes, and so on.

So the power corporation, a few years ago, decided that they would contract different organizations within the community, commercial organizations like Northern, like the Co-Op, and that is the situation that we have in place.

I would be very pleased to speak with the board of governors of the corporation and senior management to see if that process is still working and indeed, look at if there is another way of making an opportunity for people to pay their bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

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

We have had this concern since this summer in Nunavut communities. Perhaps it could be a good economic opportunity if you opened a payment agency in each community and have it be responsible for the payment agency.

Although the Co-Op or the Northern stores are the payment agency, they just send the receipts. The money is being used by commercial companies. These clients, when their power is going to be cut off, they have to go somewhere else and they give them the runaround. When they try to call the payment agencies, they refer them to different numbers.

This individual who was referred to did not speak English well, so he wanted to speak to an Inuktitut-speaking representative, and there was no one available in that office.

So, this has been experienced by the communities. I would urge the minister to get a payment agency in each community that the energy corporation is responsible for. Perhaps I could have a discussion with the minister, to come up with ideas so that we could have another avenue of paying our power bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some issues around the payment. Right now, for example, when I go in to pay my bill, whether it's in Clyde River or Sanikiluaq or anywhere else in Nunavut, or if it's at the Northern or at the Co-Op, there is a receipt book there, and I pay the account; I get a copy of the receipt, the store has a copy of the receipt, and in some cases, they are duplicate and triplicate copies.

If in two or three weeks I receive my bill and it hasn't been credited, I have the opportunity of phoning Baker Lake, to the Qulliq Power Corporation, where the majority of our workers, I believe at the last count it was about 80 percent, are Inuk and can answer the question. I can say, "here is my receipt, I paid it, how come it is not credited?"

So, there is that opportunity. To go out and try to set up a whole system of power corporation-driven account payment agencies in communities would be an extra expense, when in most cases it has been covered off by the commercial agencies, whether it would be the Co-Op or whether it would be the Northern. Some communities like Iqaluit have their own payment agency because of the size of the community.

So, I would be prepared, with the member, to have a look at some of the opportunities around making sure that when the payments are made, they are expediently addressed on each client's bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think the minister can agree with me. So therefore I am just going to ask him again. The power bills have no Inuktitut syllabics on them. For example, my father does not read and write English, even today. And there are still no translations done in Inuktitut on the power bills.

What is the minister's response? Is he going to have the power bills translated into Inuktitut?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to thank Minister Simailak, as this question came up last spring in the House, and Minister Simailak, at that time, told the members of the House that indeed, Nunavut Power Corporation bills would be translated and indeed, that is the case.

The member may not have received his recent bill, for November. Since October, Mr. Speaker, there is Inuktitut on the bills that does an explanation of the bill. I think that's something that we should be very pleased about. It's been a long time coming, but now there it is in place and indeed the bills are in Inuktitut and English. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last power bill that I received had no Inuktitut translation on it, and that is why I had asked this question. We have not seen any Inuktitut translations on power bills. So I will look into the minister's response to make sure it's true, to make sure that the power bills are translated into Inuktitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): That was just a comment. Oral questions, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 048 – 2(2): Amount of Funding to the Nunavut Power Corporation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Energy. I understand he's been recently nicknamed The Energizer Bunny by some people around town.

I know that the minister will more than likely have this information on hand, as the Minister of Finance committed him to provide this information yesterday. I would like to ask the minister how much we are looking at for bail-out funding going to the Nunavut Power Corporation for this year and next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Minister of Finance said yesterday that she can't see what will happen in the future; she is not Nostradamus.

So very quickly, there are two associated debts with the power corporation. On April 1, 1999 when the territory of Nunavut was set up, we had an agreement in place, signed off by the interim commissioner for Nunavut, Mr. Jack Anawak.

It allocated, through the transition agreement, the deficit and the debt by the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and that was split between the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and the Nunavut Power Corporation. That was done in our transition agreement and that debt is on the books of the Nunavut Power Corporation, like it's on the books of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, when we split both of them up. That is part of the accumulated debt.

Then the other part of the debt is the current year debt, and that is the \$5 million loss in year one and the \$7 million loss in year two. We haven't got the audited financial statements for this year, and that has been the whole issue around the Power Corporation, as the Auditor General for Canada has said. The income coming from them, on the statements and so on, are so late.

A good example was in the first year when we didn't receive the income statements and the financial statements and the audited statements until December of 2002, almost 16 months after the corporation began.

So, it's my understanding that the minister will make all known in February when we return back to the House, when we actually have the third financial statements of the power corporation and can ascertain at that time what the real financial situation of the corporation is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really surprised they've given the attention that the lack of accurate financial information coming from the power corporation over the last two years... . That the minister responsible is indicating that he really doesn't have a clue as to what their debt is planning to be.

Is that what he is indicating? Does he not have a ballpark figure, an estimate of what they are looking at for debt for this year and for next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to remain serious. The member can read a financial statement like everyone else in the House, I'm sure. If he can't, he has staff that can help him with it.

Mr. Speaker, we have two financial statements that indicate the debt; for me to stand up here and take a guess and say it's going to be this or that for the third year, not only

would it be inappropriate, Mr. Speaker, it would not be serving any good deal for the people of Nunavut.

So, there are two financial statements that are available that the Auditor General for Canada talked about, and the member can read them and he can come back and tell me how he feels about it.

We'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to be serious too. The government operates projects. The Minister of Finance indicated in her address that they're going to be putting money forward in there for that.

The Minister of Finance also said that the Minister of Energy would be better to answer that question on how much. They must have an idea of what they're looking at. They have projections. They say they don't have any projections at all; they haven't got a clue.

This government doesn't have a clue what kinds of losses their corporation is going to operating on. If that is the case, how the heck do they come up with a general rate application to offset those costs if they don't even know what they're going to be.

So, I would like to ask the minister if they have any projections as to what the debt of the corporation is, based on the current rates that are out there, that this government is going to have to pay for over the next few years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I believe there is some miscommunication on what the Minister of Finance said yesterday and what the member is alluding to.

I can tell you honestly in the House that the accumulated deficit and the debt of the corporation was based on the two financial statements that are available. I said in an earlier response to Mr. Tootoo's questions that we would have the audited financial statements signed off by the Auditor General of Canada for the third year of operations, again, 14 or 15 months late. That's an issue and the member is correct on that.

I will have those in a couple of weeks. The Minister of Finance will see them. Then, we will be able to see what we need to come up with in February. That's why the minister, the government, the members of the House know we're going to have to look at those amounts.

I can't say how much they are, and I don't feel confident in projecting what the estimates are. I think the Minister of Finance, rightfully so, said in her statements yesterday that we know this is coming. We're trying to allocate money for it, and this is what it is.

The deficit that the member is talking about, the general rate application, are new rates that kick in on April 1, 2005, and those rates are supposed to be in place to make the corporation solvent.

It is not to deal with debt before that. It is to deal with making the corporation solvent so that the corporation, in the GRA application, and it's a huge binder, it has made a proposal to the URRC based on what their best projections are to be solvent.

That's what has occurred. Those rate increases, as the Premier has said, will not be on the backs of homeowners, as members have said in the House and so on; 80 percent of all revenue generated by the power corporation comes directly from the Government of Nunavut.

That is important to point out and at the end of the day and at the end of the next couple of weeks, when those statements are arrived at, they are tabled. All the members can see them, the people of Nunavut can see them, and then the Minister of Finance in February will be in a position, after we receive the URCC recommendations to cabinet, to the minister responsible for it, myself, to see what the recommendations are.

Then, the Minister of Finance will have an opportunity, based on that, to look at what needs to be brought forward in February, as she has already said. So, I hope, Mr. Speaker, that helps clarify the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Point of Order

Speaker (interpretation): Point of Order. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe it's a point of order and I'm sure that he'll correct me if I'm incorrect.

I think the minister had given some false information to the House; he has indicated that it was the URCC that the Crown corporation presented the report to. I want to correct the minister. It is not the URCC, it's the URRC. Hopefully, the minister can get the right information for us, so he knows. Maybe that is the problem. He is sending it to the wrong council. So I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): That was just to make sure that it was not URCC, but that it is the URRC. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is Friday and we try to have a little levity. I appreciate the member's comments earlier about the energizer bunny. Maybe I am speaking a little bit fast and I am sure if the audio tapes were heard, that would probably say URRC.

So, for the record, and I know that the member and everyone working for the URRC will feel very happy and content, and the people of Nunavut will be very excited and exalted, now that Mr. Tootoo has corrected the record.

So, for the record, I agree with Mr. Tootoo that everything is going to the URRC, and I could use a few more adjectives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 013 – 2(2): Status of Nanisivik File

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I will direct this to the Department of Transportation. (interpretation ends) Can the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation update us on the status of the Nanisivik file:

- a) What specific actions have been taken in the past six months?
- b) What specific decisions have been taken with respect to the mine site?
- c) When will the managers/coordinators start working?
- d) When will the ministers responsible for Nanisivik file come to Arctic Bay to address concerns?

Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

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

Written Question 014 – 2(2): Human Resources Statistics

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This written questions is for the Minister of Human Resources and it deals with human resources statistics. I understand that Human Resources now has personality; I think that's what they call their payroll tracking system.

So, I would like to get some information from "personality."

- 1) How does the Government of Nunavut's Department of Human Resources calculate the absenteeism rate of employees of the Government of Nunavut and its Crown corporations?

- 2) Broken down by department and Crown corporation, what was the absenteeism rate for the following fiscal years:
 - a) 2002-2003;
 - b) 2003-2004; and
 - c) 2004-2005 (April 1, 2004 - September 30, 2004)?

- 3) Within the meaning of sections 32 and 33 of the Public Service Act, broken down by department and Crown corporation, how many employees were suspended and-or dismissed during each of the following fiscal years:
 - a) 2002-2003;
 - b) 2003-2004; and
 - c) 2004-2005 (April 1, 2004 - September 30, 2004)?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written questions. If you are going to be tabling written questions, please hand them over to the Clerk. Orders of the day. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 016 – 2(2): Nunavut Housing Corporation Request For Proposals

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a copy of an RFP that was put in Nunatsiaq News in June.

The RFP is calling for remedial work for a 16-plex and a 7-plex here in Iqaluit. That's the condominium units on the Road to Nowhere subdivision, for remedial work, and that was put out by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I would just like to table that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 017 – 2(2): Concern on Public Housing

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): I would like to table a document that was sent to the Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation and copied to me from Mr. Arragutainaq, Chairman of the Qammaq Housing Association in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Arragutainaq requests the minister to visit Sanikiluaq to see first hand the conditions of the older houses and the shortage of housing in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 018 – 2(2): Nunatsiaq News Article, “Gossip Leads to Firing of GN Worker”

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table another document, a copy of an article out of Nunatsiaq News on November 5 entitled, “Gossip Leads to Firing of Government of Nunavut Worker”. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of documents. Item 14. Notices of motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 1-2 (2) Acceptance of the Report and Recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut-Notice**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on November 22, 2004 I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, that the report and the recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut regarding the conduct of the Hon. Olayuk Akesuk be accepted.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking consent to deal with that motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 15, Notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Okalik.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**Bill 5 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act – Notice**

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, November 23, 2004 that Bill 5 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act be read for the first time. Mr. Speaker, I will seek consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 6 – Electronic Commerce Act – Notice

Further, I give notice that on Tuesday, November 23, 2004 that Bill 6 – Electronic Commerce Act be read for the first time. Mr. Speaker, I will seek consent to deal my motion today.

Bill 7 – An Act to Amend the Evidence Act – Notice

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Tuesday, November 23, 2004 that Bill 7 – An Act to Amend the Electronic Evidence Act be read for the first time. I will seek consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 15. Just before we go to item 16, we will take a break for lunch for an hour. When we come back, we will resume with item 16 in the orders of the day.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 12:16 and resumed at 13:19*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Going back to orders of the day. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to start off by thanking you for a lovely lunch. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion. Any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 001 – 2(2): Acceptance of the Report and Recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My motion is on the acceptance of the report on recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut.

Whereas the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly has tabled the report of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut regarding the conduct of the Hon. Olayuk Akasuk, and whereas the Integrity Act requires that the Legislative Assembly shall consider a report laid before the Legislative Assembly within 10 sitting days after the report is laid before the Legislative Assembly, and shall respond to the report before the end of the session in which the report is laid before it, and whereas the Integrity Commissioner has made certain recommendations, and whereas the Legislative Assembly may either accept or reject all of the Integrity Commissioner's recommendations, now, therefore I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, that the report and recommendations of the Integrity Commissioner be accepted.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. There is a question. Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak to the motion. I apologize to the people of Nunavut and to the members of the legislature for not reporting what I was supposed to report to the integrity commissioner.

I would like to apologize very much to my constituents and to the people that I represent and to my children and my wife and to members of the legislature, and to say thank you to the members of the Legislative Assembly for giving me the opportunity to learn from my mistakes. It will make me strong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Comments? All in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried.

Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I request the consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement for the first reading of Bill 5, An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive the two-day notice requirement to deal with the first reading of Bill 5. Are there any nays? Mr. Okalik.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 5 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. With this consent, I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove, that Bill 5, “An Act to amend the Legal Profession Act,” be read for the first time. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): Bill 5 has had first reading. Are there any nays? All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried.

First reading of bills. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two-day notice requirement for the first reading of Bill 6, “Electronic Commerce Act.” Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the two-day notice requirement for the first reading of Bill 6. Are there any nays? Mr. Okalik.

Bill 6 – Electronic Commerce Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: With this consent, I move, seconded by the honorable Member for Baker Lake that Bill Number 6, “Electronic Commerce Act,” be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): For the first reading of Bill 6, are there any nays? All in favour? Carried. Bill 6 has had first reading.

Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive the two-day notice requirement to give Bill 7 first reading: the Act to amend the Evidence Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is seeking unanimous consent to do first reading of Bill 7; are there any nays? There are no nays. Hon. Paul Okalik.

Bill 7 – Act to Amend the Evidence Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: With this consent, Mr. Speaker, seconded by the honourable Member for Amittuq, I move that Bill Number 7, an “Act to amend the Evidence Act,” be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour? All opposed? Bill 7 has had the first reading.

Item 18. Second reading of bills. Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: I request the consent of this Assembly to waive the one day notice requirement for second reading of Bill 5, an Act to amend the “Legal Profession Act.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the one day notice requirement to have second reading of Bill 5. Any nays? Please go ahead, Hon. Paul Okalik.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 5 – An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With this consent I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Baffin South, that Bill 5, an “Act to amend the Legal Profession Act,” be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the “Legal Profession Act,” to allow articling students to serve part of their articles outside of Nunavut with a judge or an active member of the

Law Society of Nunavut, and to allow the executive of the Law Society to waive or vary an articling students' articles in special circumstances.

The bill updates the Act by changing references to the Northwest Territories so that the act will refer to Nunavut and repealing transitional provisions that no longer apply. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): All in favour of the motion? All opposed? Bill 5 has had second reading and is now referred to a Standing Committee. Second reading of bills. Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the consent of this Assembly, I would like to waive the one-day notice requirement for the second reading of Bill 6, "Electronic Commerce Act." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a request to waive a one-day notice to do second reading of Bill 6; are there any nays? There are no nays. All in favour?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Bill 6 – Electronic Commerce Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Hon. Member for Pangnirtung, that Bill 6, the Electronic Commerce Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the use of electronic information and documents, sets out requirement for their use, and facilitates their use in business transactions. The bill also contains consequential amendments to the "Interpretation Act," to further authorize and regulate the use of electronic forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): All in favour of the motion? Opposed? Bill 6 has had second reading, and is now be referred to a Standing Committee. Second reading of bills. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request the consent of this Assembly to waive the one-day notice requirement for second reading of Bill 7, an "Act to amend the Evidence Act." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking consent to do second reading of Bill 7. Are there any nays? All in favour?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Bill 7 – Act to Amend the Evidence Act – Second Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 7, an “Act to amend the Evidence Act,” be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Evidence Act to authorize and facilitate the use of electronic versions of documents in legal proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): All in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 7 has had first reading; it is now referred to a Standing Committee. Second reading of bills.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Orders of the day. Item 19. Bill 4, Appropriations Act, with Mr. Evyagotailak on the Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *The House recessed at 13:33 and resumed at 13:34*

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

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): I would like to call the committee to order. The committee has the following item to deal with: Bill 4 – Appropriations (Capital) Act, 2005-2006. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we would like to review the capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you.

Chairman: Are we in agreement that we deal with Bill 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like now to ask the minister responsible, Mr. Simailak, to make his opening remarks.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here to deal with my department's 2005-06 capital plan to the Committee of the Whole.

The Department of Economic Development and Transportation is proposing a \$2.87 million capital plan for the 2005-06 fiscal year. The department's capital plan primarily emphasizes transportation-related expenditures.

A total of \$2.77 million, or 97 percent, is related to transportation, because of the growing pressures in this area; 75 percent of the department's total capital commitment will be related to community-specific projects, while the other 25 percent is planned for strategic spending throughout the territory.

Many of the communities are in need of heavy equipment such as loaders, plow trucks, graders, and snow blowers to maintain roads and airport facilities. A total of \$1.59 million is included in the capital plan for such equipment.

As a department, we are responsible for maintaining the quality of airstrips and related infrastructure. Planning for upgrades is done on the condition of the airstrip and the remaining lifespan. The 2005-06 capital plan includes \$125,000 to commence work on the rehabilitation on the runway apron in Grise Fiord. This is a multi-year capital project that will see \$925,000 in planned expenditures over the next three years.

Access roads are public roads or trails that connect the community and its residents to nearby locations including recreational sites, camps, and archeological sites. They are critical in giving residents access to local resources and access to water or ice to support the fishing, hunting, and tourism opportunities.

The department has identified \$150,000 in its capital plan for access roads. This investment reflects my department's commitment to upgrading access road infrastructure

within the territory and will result in increased economic potential for our communities via tourism, traditional hunting, and fishing activities.

The Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program is a partnership program with the federal department of transport for investment into transportation related infrastructure and studies consistent with the Nunavut Transportation Strategy. For infrastructure, the federal government contributes 66.6 percent of the costs, and for studies the federal share is 50 percent. In 2005-06, the department will contribute \$430,000 to this partnership program.

Currently the department has identified the following projects as priorities under SHIP, as proceeding currently and to be completed during the 2005-06 fiscal year. Those are the Pond Inlet air terminal, the Coral Harbour air terminal building and the Gjoa Haven air terminal building.

A total of \$100,000 has been included in the 2005-06 capital plan for the Bathurst Inlet port and road project. The Government of Nunavut's contribution will go to fund a feasibility study and environmental assessment directed towards the development of a deep-water port on Bathurst Inlet and the construction of a 295 km all-weather road between the port and the ISOP mineral deposit, which will also serve a number of existing mineral properties both in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.

The 39.7 km Arctic Bay-Nanisivik Highway is the only ground transportation link between the communities of Arctic Bay and Nanisivik and the Nanisivik airport. The condition of the highway has been deteriorating over the past few years and users' concerns regarding safety and vehicle damage has been brought to the department's attention. A recent condition survey has identified many areas with wash-outs, serious erosions, drainage deficiencies, and severe loss of surface materials. The capital plan includes \$100,000 to fund parts of multi-air projects to undertake required temporary remedial repairs to the sections of highway experiencing most severe deterioration.

Mr. Chairman, at the outset of my presentation, I stated that 97 percent of the Department of Economic Development and Transportation's capital plan is transportation related. The other three percent is targeted to three projects: In 2005-06, an investment of \$25,000 for the Nunavut art bank will continue. This investment will focus on the acquisition of artwork by Nunavut artists that will be displayed in government offices.

Visitors' centres play an important role, not only as places where tourists learn first-hand about a community, but also as centres that actively support community activities and events. A total of \$50,000 has been allocated in our 2005-06 capital plan for Nunavut visitors' centres.

Finally, \$25,000 has been allocated for the purchase of books and equipment for the upgrade and enhancement of Visitors' Centres.

Mr. Chairman, this plan makes good use of existing resources by clearly focusing upon supporting the needs of the communities that fall under the department's mandate. Certainly, there is much more that needs to be done to ensure that economic development and transportation continues to be a priority.

As minister, I will continue to work hard with all of our partners, including the federal government, to seek ways to access more funding in order to meet our goal in economic and transportation infrastructure needs, which are vital to our economic wealth and social prosperity.

I will glad to answer any questions for my fellow members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. David Simailak: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the witnesses in?

Mr. Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me, on my left, Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Alex Campbell, and on my right is Irene Adams, Director of Corporate and Strategic Services for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the chairman of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes. Thank you. Yes, we do. (interpretation): First of all, I would like to welcome the minister, the deputy minister, and the director of corporate services.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2005-06 capital estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

The Standing Committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation in September to review the draft 2005-2006 capital estimates.

Committee members are concerned that detailed information was not provided for projects qualifying for Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program funding from the federal government. Members look forward to the review of detailed information regarding the actual year-by-year cost and scope of these projects in the near future. I just might note that some of these figures were released during the opening statements.

Mr. Chairman, members look forward to reviewing the GN's Mining Strategy in the new year. Mining offers the potential for substantial economic development and employment opportunities across Nunavut.

Members are concerned that there is a lack of clarity with respect to the allocation of funding for access roads. Members encourage the minister to provide detailed information to hamlet councils regarding the proposal process for this funding to ensure that each community clearly understands the process.

Mr. Chairman, members are concerned that no funding is provided for the Kivalliq-Manitoba road project in the department's five-year capital plan. Members understand that a feasibility study is underway and that funding will be dependent upon the results of the study. Members are concerned, however, that many infrastructure studies have been undertaken that do not produce concrete results. Members look forward to reviewing the feasibility study for the Kivalliq-Manitoba road when it is completed and tabled.

(interpretation) Members noted that funding has also been allocated for a deep sea port study in Iqaluit. Committee Members urge the Minister to continue lobbying the federal government for sufficient funds to actually commence construction on large-scale projects such as deep sea ports and intercommunity roads.

Mr. Chairman, harvesting is a traditional part of Inuit life. The fish and animals that we harvest have export potential, but members believe that it is important to add value to these products before shipping them south. Mr. Chairman, this means having meat and fish processing plants. Members noted that the Nattivak Hunters' and Trappers' Association recently issued a request for proposals for a fish processing plant feasibility study in Qikiqtarjuaq. Members urge the minister to support the association in its efforts to develop a fishery in Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Chairman, members are concerned that this is the second year in a row that there has been no capital funding for the Nunavut Development Corporation. The Nunavut Economic Development Strategy states that fishing is one of three sectors with "excellent prospects for large-scale economic growth." Members realize that the Minister of Environment has responsibility for fisheries. However, Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Development Corporation, which is the responsibility of the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, holds shares in meat- and fish packing plants in the territory.

Members were pleased to note that the federal government recently entered into an agri-food agreement with the GN to allocate up to \$180,000 annually for commercial musk-ox

and caribou harvests in Nunavut. (interpretation) Mr. Chairman, members were concerned that there have been no specific details provided regarding how the funds will be used. Given the overlapping responsibilities for meat and fish harvesting and processing, members urge the minister to work closely with his colleague at the Department of Environment to invest in this sector in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, economic development was mentioned no less than nine times in the Throne Speech on Tuesday. Members are concerned that the details of the federal agreement for \$90 million for the three territories have not been determined.

Members share the minister's frustration on foot-dragging by his federal counterpart and encourage the minister in his negotiations with the federal government so that these necessary funds can be put to use in a timely fashion.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased by the recent announcement by one of our scheduled carriers of the purchase of new commercial aircraft to serve Nunavummiut. Members are very concerned, however, that not all of the territory's current runways meet the requirements of these new models. Members urge the minister to continue working with the federal government to increase the capacity of Nunavut's air infrastructure to accommodate new services.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, that concludes my comments on the 2005-06 capital estimates of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. It shouldn't say Nunavut Housing Corporation, it should say the Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members, please note that for the balance of the day we have only two pages to assist us.

Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following. According to Rule 77 (1), you have ten minutes to speak, and according to the Rule 77 (2), subject to the discretion of the chairman, members may speak more than once to a matter under their discretion not until each member who wishes to speak has spoken.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we're going to have more opportunity to review the capital estimates, I 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?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

>>*House recessed at 13:54 and resumed at 13:57*

Deputy Speaker (Mr. Netser) (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. (interpretation ends) Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Deputy Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 4, capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Ms. Aglukkaq. Thank you. The motion is in order. All those in favour?

Some Members: Agreed.

Deputy Speaker: All those opposed? The motion is carried. (interpretation) Are there any abstentions? I don't think so. The motion is carried. We go to item 21. Third reading of bills. Item 21. Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At 3:00, a meeting of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit in the Nanuq Board Room, and a reminder to all members of the group photo to take place in the Chambers at 3:30 this afternoon.

Orders of the Day for Monday, November 22:

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. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration 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, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Monday, November 22, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:01*

