



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**2nd Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 6**

**Tuesday November 23, 2004**

**Pages 256 – 309**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Jobie Nutarak**

(Tunnunig)

**Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

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

**David Alagalak**

(Arviat)

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**

(Nattilik)

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

**Hon. David Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

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

**Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

**Peter Kattuk**

(Hudson Bay)

**Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Ed Picco**

(Iqaluit East)

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

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

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

(Kugluktuk)

**Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

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

**Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

**Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale  
Cove)

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**

(South Baffin)

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

**James Arreak**

(Uqqurmiut)

**Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk

Susan Cooper

Sergeant-At-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	256
Ministers' Statements .....	256
Members' Statements .....	259
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	265
Oral Questions .....	268
Tabled Documents.....	287
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	289
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	308
Orders of the Day .....	308

**A.**

**Daily References**

Tuesday November 23, 2004..... 256

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

021 – 2(2): Minister Absent from the House (Aglukkaq) ..... 256

022 – 2(2): Interdepartmental Continuing Care Task Force (Brown) ..... 256

023 – 2(2): Present Status of Negotiations with Nav Canada on a Five-year Commercial Contract.  
(Simailak) ..... 257

024 – 2(2): New Member of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit (Tapardjuk)..... 258

025 – 2(2): Fire Prevention Strategy (Kilabuk)..... 258

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

044 – 2(2): Gaining Employment in Nunavut (Curley). ..... 259

045 – 2(2): Recognition of Mayors (Peterson)..... 260

046 – 2(2): Marine Infrastructure Needed (Barnabas) ..... 261

047 – 2(2): Nunavut's Official Languages (Evyagotailak)..... 262

048 – 2(2): Nuiyak School Makes Use TeleHealth Radio Conferencing (Kattuk) ..... 264

049 – 2(2): Habitat for Humanity (Picco) ..... 264

050 – 2(2): Acknowledgement of Individuals Supporting Disabled Persons (Kilabuk) ..... 265

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

062 – 2(2): Clarification – Good Money to Bad (Tootoo) ..... 268

063 – 2(2): Made in Nunavut Power Rate Subsidy (Curley) ..... 271

064 – 2(2): Tabling of KPMG Report (Peterson)..... 276

065 – 2(2): Update on the Departmental Process on the Official Languages Act (Evyagotailak)  
..... 277

066 – 2(2): Insufficient Garage in Resolute Bay (Barnabas) ..... 279

067 – 2(2): Nursing Station Blood Samples (Kattuk) ..... 279

068 – 2(2): Filling Vacant Nunavut Government Jobs (Curley) ..... 280

069 – 2(2): Explanation of Mismanagement of Funds (Tootoo)..... 282

070 – 2(2): Justice System in Nunavut (Peterson) ..... 285

071 – 2(2): Update on Condominium Units (Tootoo)..... 287

**E.**

**Tabling of Documents**

023 – 2(2): Cambridge Bay Elders’ and Youth Reports (Peterson) ..... 287

024 – 2(2): Photos of Abandoned MOT structures in Chesterfield Inlet (Netser) ..... 288

025 – 2(2): Nunavut Fire Protection Strategy Implementation Plan (Kilabuk)..... 288

**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday November 23, 2004**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, 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. Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Orders of the day for today. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 021 – 2(2): Minister Absent from the House**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the House that Minister Akesuk will be absent for the remainder of the week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 022 – 2(2): Interdepartmental Continuing Care Task Force**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce that an interdepartmental continuing care task force has been established. This task force was established in October of this year.

Mr. Speaker, the taskforce is meeting the need for a comprehensive integrated territorial plan to address population aging within Nunavut. The Interdepartmental Continuing Care Task Force includes representation from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Nunavut Housing Corporation, Department of Education, and an elder representative from Cambridge Bay, Helen Mapsagak.

Mr. Speaker, the task force will provide a written report recommending options to address continuing care needs of Nunavummiut. This report will address the possible establishment of 24-hour continuing care facilities, as well as independent and supportive living units within each region.

This report is expected to be complete by January of 2005. The Department of Health and Social Services is committed to ensuring that all of Nunavummiut receive quality care in their lives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 023 – 2(2): Present Status of Negotiations with Nav Canada on a Five-year Commercial Contract.**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I send my regards the Baker Lake residents.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to provide the members with an update on my department's contract negotiations with Nav Canada for our Community Aerodrome Radio Stations master contract. The CARS contract with Nav Canada expired on March 31, 2004. Since that time the department has been working on an interim agreement with Nav Canada that will terminate March 31, 2005.

The current negotiations are to establish a five-year agreement that is intended to be retroactive to this fiscal year April 1, 2004. Nav Canada is presently reviewing my department's final position for these negotiations. The basis for this final offer is to increase our base year funding and to provide for incremental increases for the remaining four years.

In addition to monetary compensation, my department has lobbied for the establishment of the parameters on how this program can be better improved to recognize Nunavut's unique operating environment.

As part of these negotiations, my department has been strongly advocating for an agreement for the establishment of an observer-communicator's training facility within Nunavut, from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories, where all the OC training is currently being held. We want to see this transferred to Nunavut.

Given that, ultimately it is Nav Canada that is federally mandated to provide the Canadian Air Navigations System. Including CARS within Nunavut, we must ensure that the outcome of these negotiations provides the Government of Nunavut with sufficient financial resources to be able to carry out the legal and binding obligations and so we are able to deliver this program responsibly without any added cost to the Government of Nunavut.

I can say that the terms and conditions of these negotiations are, by and large, being received well, and I am hopeful that we will have successfully completed the negotiations before Christmas.

I met with the federal minister of transportation in Ottawa last month, and I brought to his attention the need for successful negotiations with Nav Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I will be reporting back to this House on the proceedings of these negotiations as the information becomes available to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 024 – 2(2): New Member of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this year, due to health problems, Metuq Nowdlaq resigned from her responsibilities as a member of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Metuq during her time as a member of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit. I would like to thank her for her valuable contribution.

Mr. Speaker, we have since appointed Josie Peter from Iqaluit to replace her. Please join me in welcoming Josie Peter to the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit and in wishing all the members productive meetings as they work to provide the Government of Nunavut with guidance on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit issues.

The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit, an 11-member council, provides advice to the government on their efforts to deliver programs and services within the context of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit has a minimum of three meetings per year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 025 – 2(2): Fire Prevention Strategy**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to report on the progress in implementing the Nunavut Fire Prevention Strategy.

The Nunavut Fire Prevention Strategy was developed to provide a comprehensive approach to improving community fire prevention and response efforts. It describes a plan for how the issues identified should be addressed. Priorities include: increased training, upgrading of fire fighting equipment, improved facility maintenance practices, and better public information.



Mr. Speaker, additional training for community fire fighters is a priority and is being undertaken through the Municipal Training Organization in cooperation with the Office of the Fire Marshal. During this year a 40-hour basic fire fighting course will be provided in up to eight communities with participants from across each region.

In addition, two regional loss control training seminars will be offered. These are designed to enhance municipal staff knowledge and skills regarding risks and preventative measures related to their buildings.

There is a need for more fire fighting equipment in the communities. My department will be replacing and upgrading equipment and basic fire fighter gear in each community. We will also be providing 120 sets of the self-contained breathing apparatus used in fire fighting.

We are also completing three regional training facilities which will allow for live fire training of community fire fighters. This greatly enhances the opportunities for skill development.

Mr. Speaker, the Fire Prevention Strategy Implementation Plan, which I will table later today, supports improved fire protection and will assist communities to better ensure the safety of residents and their buildings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Before we go to item 3, I would like to recognize an individual who was a minister in the Government of Nunavut; Mr. Ng, welcome to the gallery.

Going back to orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements. Just a minute please. Mr. Curley.

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

#### **Member's Statement 044 – 2(2): Gaining Employment in Nunavut.**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise concerns expressed to me by the people of Rankin Inlet. Mr. Speaker, every single member of this House is well aware of the employment situation in the communities.

Full-time jobs that pay a living wage and provide decent benefits are hard to come by. Too many of our constituents live on the edge of poverty, one cheque away from not being able to put food on the table or gas into the snow machine.

We tell our young people that they need formal education and training to succeed in today's skilled workforce. It is a cause for celebration when our youth achieve such educational milestones as high school graduation or entry into a post secondary program.

However, Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can do better to support our youth in gaining employment within our own government.

I am sure that every member of this House has at one time or another experienced the disappointment of not getting a job for which one has applied. That is part of life and it's inevitable.

What I am hearing, however, is that there are cases in Rankin Inlet where young people who meet the advertised qualifications for a given position are not even granted an interview after they apply; this is a concern for the members of this House who have also raised this concern. I am not convinced that these are isolated incidents.

When young territorial residents applied for positions for which they meet the stated criteria, we at least owe them the chance to come in for an interview.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): When young residents of our territory apply for positions for which they meet the stated criteria, we at least owe them the chance to come in for an interview. If they don't meet the criteria, we owe them an honest explanation of where they need to improve their skills.

One of my colleagues rose yesterday in this House to illustrate how statistics can tell some human truth. I have a similar picture to paint today.

According to the Department of Human Resources' own figures in December of 2000, there were 115 Inuit beneficiaries working for the Government of Nunavut in my community of Rankin Inlet; that was four years ago.

According to the department's June 2004 figures, the number of Inuit beneficiaries working in the community remained at exactly 115. Not a lot of progress in four years, Mr. Speaker. I think we have to have more employment available to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. The Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Member's Statement 045 – 2(2): Recognition of Mayors**

**Mr. Peterson:** Koana Uqaqti. I rise today to recognize the dedication and hard work that the Kitikmeot mayors perform everyday on behalf of their communities. Indeed, I would like to recognize every mayor of Nunavut.

The Kitikmeot mayors held their annual meeting last week in Cambridge Bay where they discussed a broad range of issues that are important to the lives of the people who elected them and to whom they are accountable.

Mayors are heads of the third tier of government: municipal government. This level of government, which deals with many day-to-day issues, is often the most visible level of government in the eyes of our constituents. Essential services such as water delivery and sewage pickup are the day-to-day responsibility of our municipalities.

If a meeting in Iqaluit gets canceled or a bureaucrat's spreadsheet is being produced in the wrong spot, not too many people will necessarily notice or care. However, if your home doesn't have water or if your garbage has not been collected, you are going to notice it for certain.

Mayors of our municipalities are truly on the front lines. As you know, many members of this House have served with mayors or councillors or members of locally elected bodies in their home communities. We understand and appreciate that our mayors need our support.

Many of the issues that we are debating here in this House were on the Kitikmeot mayors' agenda. Some of the issues included ongoing serious housing shortages in all Kitikmeot communities, the rising price of fuel, the quality of health care, inadequate levels of municipal funding, the need to stimulate economic growth and job creation, and the need to protect our communities from domestic violence and substance abuse.

Mayors of municipalities do not have the luxury of trying to find solutions to many of the issues I have mentioned. They are looking for our help now. Our Prime Minister stated in Hamilton in May 2002, this is a direct quote, "Municipalities do more with less," and have many good ideas.

He made this promise to 1,000 mayors from across Canada. I urge our government to listen to our Nunavut mayors and involve them in every opportunity for discussion where decisions are made. I urge the government to include them during their meetings with foreign ministers on how to make Nunavut a better place to live. I urge the government to respond formally to the recommendations and ideas made by the Nunavut Association of Municipalities.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by asking all members to join me in a salute to Nunavut's hard working mayors and councillors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' statements. The Member for Quttitug, Mr. Barnabas.

**Member's Statement 046 – 2(2): Marine Infrastructure Needed**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform members of the great need for marine infrastructure in my constituency.

Over the last two weeks, my communities in the High Arctic were hit especially hard by high winds that caused damages to homes, shacks, and boats. Some residents of Grise Fiord were forced to take shelter in the school.

My constituents will be cleaning up from these winds for some time. I know that they will work together and help each other. I do not know, however, how long it will take for people who lost their boats or whose boats were damaged to have them repaired or replaced.

It is very important for communities to have proper marine infrastructure in the form of breakwaters to protect our constituents' investments in boats. These boats are very important. They are necessary for Inuit to maintain their connection to the land and sea.

I realize that the construction of breakwaters is the responsibility of the federal government. Representatives of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans visited Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay this summer and fall. Residents of Grise Fiord have been fundraising for a breakwater. I urge the minister to act as a facilitator in talks between the hamlet and the federal government to see that construction of a breakwater in Grise Fiord is initiated.

Resolute Bay is in a unique situation, and issues surrounding the current breakwater are challenging. In addition, the community would like the breakwater to be relocated.

I urge the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to work with his federal counterpart to ensure that every community has adequate marine infrastructure to protect their boats.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' statements. The Member for Kugluktuk.

### **Member's Statement 047 – 2(2): Nunavut's Official Languages**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to rise today and speak my own language.

It is very important that we have the ability in this House to represent our constituents in their own language and broadcast our sessions in those languages.

(interpretation end) Mr. Speaker, while our first assembly was undertaking a review of the official languages act, a similar process was happening with our neighbours in the

west. As a result of the review in October 2003, the government of the Northwest Territories passed an act amending their official languages act, one of the amendments including the recognition of Innuinaqtun as an official aboriginal language of their territory. I look forward to the day when we recognize Innuinaqtun as an official aboriginal language of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, last month the government of the Northwest Territories acted on number of recommendations put forward by the special committee to review the official languages act.

The government of the Northwest Territories established an official languages board. This board has members from each official language community and has the responsibility to review official languages services as well as the effectiveness of the official languages act.

I congratulate those individuals who have been appointed to represent their language communities. I especially want to acknowledge Lena Peterson, Beverly Amos, and Marie Jacobson for their appointments as representatives for the Inuktitut, Innuinaqtun, and Inuvialuktun language communities of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to work hard on Nunavut's official languages. On October 27, 2004 the Minister of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth tabled a document in this House containing the framework of the process.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And "thank you" to my fellow members.

Mr. Speaker, the government will be undertaking a feasibility study between June 2004 and March 2005. The preliminary list of stakeholders to be consulted during the feasibility study includes focus groups from the public.

Innuinaqtun-speaking communities are an important group that should not be overlooked. The government's process must take into account the issues and concerns that have been raised by the Innuinaqtun-speaking communities.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Member for Tasiujaq, Mr. Kattuk.

**Member's Statement 048 – 2(2): Nuiyak School Makes Use TeleHealth Radio Conferencing**

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express how proud I am of the students and staff of Nuiyak School in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, the staff and students at Nuiyak School learned how to make additional use of telehealth's videoconferencing equipment to bring elders from Sanikiluaq closer to elders in other communities.

Yesterday they did some videoconferencing with other elders. This project was to offer the students a course in how to use the telehealth equipment for media and business purposes. They are now hoping to use this new knowledge and equipment to encourage elders to speak with other elders, in order to bring the old dialect back through videoconferencing and taping those conferences for future educational use.

I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for lending the students this equipment and the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth for giving the staff and students financial support.

Mr. Speaker, I wish the staff and students of Nuiyak School continued success on a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 049 – 2(2): Habitat for Humanity**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I had an opportunity to attend an organizing meeting for the Habitat for Humanity here in Iqaluit. Habitat for Humanity was set up in 1976; since that time Habitat has built over 170,000 homes in 100 countries around the world. In Canada over 700 homes have been built.

Here in Iqaluit, the organizing group hopes to begin construction of two homes in 2006. This organization consists of volunteers and companies who donate services and supplies to the organizing committee.

Mr. Speaker, individuals are needed to make this a successful project. Mr. Speaker, the potential homeowners of the unit will need to contribute 500 hours of sweat equity to the project. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Iqaluit organizers: Susan Spring; John Henderson; Rob and Sherry McCullough; Tim McLeod; Don Sinclair-Chenier; and Ms. Pam Hine.

Mr. Speaker, this is a community-based initiative to help facilitate new housing. Join with me in wishing the group every success in their endeavor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

**Member's Statement 050 – 2(2): Acknowledgement of Individuals Supporting Disabled Persons**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want my colleagues to remember that during the elections one of my campaign speeches was that we have to remember and provide services to individuals with disabilities.

I also want to remember all those who work with them. I rise today to acknowledge the people who provide services to people with disabilities. I ask the members to identify and congratulate these individuals and also these individuals who give support and services to people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Curley.

**Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife Sally. I'm very glad that the people of Iqaluit have accepted and have been very hospitable. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Kelvin Ng, the former member representing the riding of Cambridge Bay for, I think, 10-11 years.

Just behind me, I'd like to recognize Gordon Ordborg and Chris Côté of the Northern Transportation Company Ltd. of Hay River, a subsidiary of Nunasi Corporation. Chris is originally from Iqaluit and is in Hay River checking things out for us, then he'll come back here. Welcome to the gallery.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): I would like to recognize my brother-in-law who is sitting over there as the Sergeant-at-Arms. Just to make a short comment, his father's name was Pillarik, and he used to be the nurses' aid and the interpreter for the armed forces.

He got a medal for providing those invaluable services and we never thought that we would see my relative sitting over here. Harry Gibbons was his father and they traveled all over the North with the explorers and other people. I am very pleased that we have him as our Sergeant-at-arms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize the Sergeant-at-Arms who is training the individual and he is also a council member.

(interpretation ends) I also want to recognize a former colleague of mine who is now in a fortunate position of having some time on his hands. So he decided to fly up to Nunavut and see how we are doing. I can now say to him that we are doing pretty good as a government; he used to sit next to me. I saw him over the summer, even though he has all of the time in the world and all of the golf courses where he lives now in Edmonton.

We played three games and I beat him in two games. So I feel sorry for the poor man, even though he has all of the time, he still hasn't progressed to the next level of golf. So I look forward to rematches and beat him some more. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Kelvin Ng. He used to represent Cambridge Bay and Kugluktuk in the NWT. I would also like to recognize Gordon Norberg, he is well known throughout the Kitikmeot region as well.

Johnny Norberg, his father, owned a Peterhead boat and used to have a store in the Kitikmeot region. He used to travel in the Kitikmeot, also re-supplying some stores as well. I would like to recognize Gordon Norberg. Thank you, very much.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and welcome home Mr. Chris Cote back to his community hometown of Iqaluit. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Kelvin Ng and it is very



important to point out that Mr. Ng's last name, NG, some people say ning, some people say ing, some people say something else, but I wouldn't repeat that in the House.

Kelvin was known as the Kelvinator. He was known as the Kelvinator because for terminating things, for terminating questions, for terminating answers, for terminating discussions in poker balances.

Back in 1990, Kelvin and I were attending the liberal convention in Calgary, Alberta and I played a couple of jokes on Senator Kelvin Ng at that famous convention. Mr. Ng always told me that he would get me back and he said that, I remember very well, that revenge was silent.

I would suggest to you that Mr. Ng was anything but silent in this Assembly and, indeed, the Assembly in Yellowknife when I had an opportunity to sit with him.

I can say now for the public record, Mr. Speaker, I paid Mr. Ng his \$350 last night. It wasn't certified check and I would ask at this time that Kelvin would wait until Friday to cash it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Mr. Ng in the gallery. I know a former colleague of ours didn't say ing or ning, he said ink. So, that was just one that Mr. Picco forgot.

Mr. Ng, I'm sure unlike Mr. Picco, is very happy to be sitting in the gallery, he probably has some time on his hands and is happy not having to answer anything, even though he knows the answer. I know that's an attribute that he has that Mr. Picco doesn't have. So, I would just like to point that out for Mr. Picco.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that you're probably quite pleased too, and Mr. Quirke, that Mr. Ng is in the gallery. There seems to be a lot fewer points of order going back and forth between myself and him. I'm keeping you guys busy.

I'd like to take this opportunity, again, to welcome Kelvin back. I'm sure our heated debates are missed. It was fun. It was work. I'm sure that Mr. Picco is going to try his best to fill your shoes in that area, and I'm sure if you stick around for question period, you'll see.

Also, I'd like to recognize Chris Coté to the gallery and welcome him back to Iqaluit. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Going back to orders of the day. Item 6. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 062 – 2(2): Clarification – Good Money to Bad**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Energy, a.k.a the Energy Bunny, as somebody called him.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, and I'll quote from Hansard, the minister, in responding to a question, said "So, before you throw good money into bad...". Relating to the power corporation, I'd like to ask the minister if he could elaborate a little bit on what he meant by that: throwing bad money out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just want to add, first of all, that when I'm answering the member's questions I try, like Mr. Ng, not to procrastinate and indeed to try to be pragmatic. I will do that today in answering Mr. Tootoo.

I don't have a copy of Hansard, but I believe the conference yesterday and the debate in the House centered around some previous history of the corporation. At that time, I said, when the Government of Nunavut, in the year 2003, decided to freeze the rates, we only had one financial statement.

At that time we were in a position where we wanted to analyze the current financial condition of the corporation, so we froze the rates for one year. At that time, I said to the House, and I'll say it to the House again, we weren't sure what the issue of the corporation was: was it a revenue issue or was it an expense issue?

As of today we still only have the two financial statements from the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not having information is not bad, but as the minister indicated before, "you throw good money into bad", it's like saying there were problems there that they were aware of.

Whether it be bad rates, bad spending practices, or bad decisions, he did indicate “before you throw good money into bad.” So, I’d just like to ask for some specific examples of why he would say, or what would make him say, he’d be throwing money away if he put money into the corporation at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it’s just a turn of phrase, it’s a figure of speech. It’s like saying “throwing the baby out with the bathwater.” In this case, as I said earlier, when the opportunity came forward at that time, it was the fuel subsidy rider.

The corporation had asked for five cents. They had changed their mind and came back and said they needed 10 cents. The Utility Rate Review Council looked at it and said, “We only have one financial statement, and we’re not sure of the figures.”

So when we looked at that as a cabinet a year ago we decided, based on the information and public consultations, that we would freeze the rates for one year, and that’s what we did.

Now it’s 2004 and we are going forward with the GRRR application.

So, in short, it was based on that premise: that because we didn’t know the complete financial picture we didn’t feel at that time that we should put all this money back into the corporation until we determined what the issue was.

That is prudent and constructive business practice, and that’s what we endeavor to do. At the same time, instead of putting the rider in place, as the members know, we actually gave the corporation a grant, increasing the equity of the Government Nunavut, for the fuel subsidization rider; I believe it was about \$14 million. So, I hope that helps clarify the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you go back... . As the minister indicated, they knew there were problems, but they didn’t know exactly where they were. But they did know that there were problems there. I think giving the corporation a bail-out of \$14 million was a good indication that there were some problems there.

So, based on that, that’s why, at the time, if they knew that there was a problem, that they really didn’t do anything to try address that problem and just covered it up with a band-aid bail-out of \$14 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't a bail-out. We made it very clear a year ago, the member was in the House, and I sat in the Committee of the Whole and I tried to explain what had occurred... .

We only had one financial statement from the corporation. Mr. Speaker, the corporation started on April 1, 2001. In December 2002 we had the first statement, 3 weeks later, in January, they came forward, asked for the fuel subsidization rider of 5 cents and 10 cents that we talked about in the House. In May we received a report from the URRC, we rejected their proposal, the corporation's, for an FSR of 10 cents and said, based on the numbers, the best guesstimate they had was 7.5 cents. So, instead of putting a 7.5 cent rider on we would freeze the rates for one year, which is what we did, and we contributed \$14 million to the FSR.

At the end of the day, if we had to put the amount down on the FSR, 80 percent of that cost would have directly come from the government anyway. Mr. Speaker, it wasn't a bail-out, it was a grant in lieu of a rider. The corporation is owned by the Government of Nunavut, the people of Nunavut, and we thought at the time that was the best thing to do.

As of today, November 2004, and as I said earlier, we only have two financial statements from the corporation. When the URRC comes forward with their recommendations from the QEC proposal in February we will have an opportunity to look at that time at a complete picture. We'll have three financial statements and then we can look at what the recommendations are for a new rate on April 1, 2005 and be able to bring the corporation some solidity within its corporate and income structure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister said the other day, "I'm not Nostradamus" But one could assume that if the first financial statements showed a deep hole and the second financial statements showed a deeper hole, then the third one is going to show the deepest hole that they've seen yet.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that out. Mr. Speaker, that rider that was requested from the power corporation. I'd like to ask the minister, wasn't there an earlier rider in 1999 that was requested by the corporation from the then Public Utilities Board and that was withdrawn by the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** No, Mr. Speaker, there was no application or submission for a rider in 1999 that was rejected by the Government of Nunavut. That timeframe is wrong.

But I want to go back to the members' original question. Mr. Speaker, it's important to point out, in December 2002 when we had the statements that we just talked about, it indicated the \$5.2 million loss. We had just started the corporation.

We are trying to ascertain what the revenues of the corporation would be on rates that were set in 1998. Today, the rates are still in place for 1998. There is no business in the world that could generate a profit on six-year-old prices.

The subsidy, for example, that is in place right now is based on a Yellowknife rate. It's not based on an Iqaluit or Rankin Inlet rate; it's based on the subsidy rate that was brought forward in the General Rate Application in 1998.

So, it would not be correct to say or assume that the corporation will be coming forward knowing what the amounts of the deficit was, but we said a year ago that we would freeze the rates for one year, get the two or three financial statements from the corporation, and then be able to see what the need is.

By the way, that is the same process that the General Rate Application is doing right now. It is saying: now that they have two financial statements, they are in a better position to look at what that anticipated need would be.

I wasn't Nostradamus, and I couldn't foresee the price of oil, and who could with it going up to \$50 a barrel, and with some of the other contingent expenses, the two collective agreements that have been signed since, and so on.

I think at the end of the day, this process is going forward. The rate will be in place as of April 1, 2005. We don't know yet what that will be; it will be based on the recommendations from the Utility Rates Review Council and for the cabinet then to have has an opportunity to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Rankin Inlet, Mr. Curley.

### **Question 063 – 2(2): Made in Nunavut Power Rate Subsidy**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say that (interpretation ends) I note there is quite a bit of a confusion. I think there still is, with the confusion of three or four years ago with respect to the proposed power rate increases.

Anywhere else except Nunavut, the minister responsible for the fiasco with the power rates would have been asked to resign. But now that he's in there, I would like to ask the minister whether or not he is going to be prepared to look at the other side of the point.

The rate application proposal that has been publicly discussed will, I hope, complete its course without political interference.

So my question is this: will the minister commit now to this House that there will be a made-in-Nunavut power rate subsidy for residents and consumers in Nunavut?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question, and I appreciate the opportunity that the Premier has given me in the last couple of weeks.

Mr. Simailak would be able to descend and probably articulate exactly what has occurred on the file because, as Mr. Curley has stated, there are a lot of misconceptions and so on.

There is a chronological sequence of events that occurred when we received the first statement in December 2002, 16 months after the fact. We had just started the corporation on April 1, 2001; we had to relocate an office of the new corporation with billing and invoicing, there were problems with the computer system, there are some of the issues that have been raised, for example, by the Auditor General.

The Auditor General says that the corporation lost money. The Auditor General doesn't get into any kind of detail of what occurred. For example, the Auditor General would say that the boat sank and five people died. It doesn't explain what happened: if there were forty-foot waves, if there were five holes in the boat, if there were seven people rescued. Her report doesn't get into those types of details.

I can commit to the member that the Utility Rates Review Council process is underway. I am not in a position right now to say what the recommendations of the Utility Rates Review Council are, but they are doing their good work; we have some good people: Mr. Ray Mercer, Mr. Rennie, and some other people on that committee.

They will come forward with the recommendations, and the member and other members of the House and the public at large have an opportunity to do submissions. When they get all of their information together, they will come forward. They will either reject the application by Qulliq Energy Corporation or they may accept it or they may offer a modification. They will come to the cabinet, and then we will have an opportunity to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Speaker, I hope the minister will listen to my question. My question had nothing to do with the proposal being considered by the Utility Rate Review Council.

My question is: will the minister commit to reviewing the current subsidy that is being provided to Nunavut that he said was made in Yellowknife. Will there be a commitment by the minister to review the subsidy so that it will be a made in Nunavut subsidy right across the board, in view of the fact that there will be some adjustments throughout Nunavut with respect to the other side of the coin.

Not only did it cost \$14,000,000 to provide what the Minister of Finance calls a subsidy, or we call it something else on this side, but it also cost the power corporation's CEO at that time, for disagreeing with the minister, in my estimate.

So, I want to ask the minister... . Now is the time to consider subsidies made in Nunavut. That work should begin now. Will the minister commit to do so?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has pointed out quite a few pieces and nuggets of information, and I just want to respond to his direct question. I want to say that the member has made an allegation that the CEO of the corporation somehow left their position because of a disagreement with the minister, and that is categorically wrong, first of all. Let's make sure that the record is clear on that.

And number two, Mr. Speaker, as part of the GRA process, and as part of the work the Utility Rate Review Council is doing, they are looking at the rates. Those rates would include what would be officially available after x number of dollars. So, for example, right now, for the first 700 kilowatt hours, there is a subsidy in place.

The revenue based has to be generated between that amount and what would be coming forward. So, Mr. Speaker, I can commit to the member that, indeed, part of the process that we will be undertaking between now and April 1 is to look at what's available out there in the different subsidy regimes that are in place and so on.

That would be part of the work that the power corporation has been looking at and will be continuing to look at. And the member is correct; the rates right now are based on a rate that was set in 1998, and the subsidy is based on keeping power in 1998, 1999, and, I guess, 2000, based on what the cost of power was in Yellowknife, and it wouldn't be any more outside of that.

That's what the subsidy was set up for. So, we're in a position to be able to look at that in the coming months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What the minister is talking about is because Nunavummiut people don't really understand the power subsidy system.

Now the government has to say, today, because of the power rate increase, that there should be a Nunavut-made power subsidy, and I don't think the minister should be looking at waiting for the proposal if it's going to become 41 cents per kilowatt.

Some of the communities are going to get a smaller subsidy, and it has to be fixed. My last question is: in 2002, the Nunavut Power Corporation executive was appointed. They have had four CEOs since. While they're dealing with the new power rate, will they have the same CEO as they have presently? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Curley is very articulate and very chronologically correct in some of his assessments and I want to point out first of all that subsidy rates... I think the member is correct when he says that there is concern and confusion the way the rates are applied.

So, I will give, as I believe the member has mentioned, I think last week, the Iqaluit rate. I will give an example and I will raise it out. Mr. Speaker, in Iqaluit, the rate charged by Nunavut Power Corporation is 31.58 cents per kilowatt hour.

The subsidy paid by the Government of Nunavut on the first 700 kilowatt hours is 16 cents. So, the rate paid by Mr. Tootoo and me and anyone else living in Iqaluit, homeowners, would be 15.22 cents.

That is the amount that is actually being paid. Because of the cross subsidization that is going on, there are different rates in place. I believe, at some point, over the last couple of days, I have been informed that there are over 100 different rates out there.

I agree with the member that we need to be able to standardize those rates and standardize those subsidies and be transparent. That is what the *Ikuma I*, *Ikuma II* reports pointed out. So, I would agree with the member that that is something where we would hopefully be in a position to bring that information to the House and to the people of Nunavut for clarity.

On the second point, Mr. Speaker, the member wants me to project into the future again and say who is going to be the CEO of the corporation in three or six months. I believe that Mr. Okalik, as the Premier, who has the prerogative, has just appointed Ms. Anne Crawford.

Ms. Crawford has been on the file since 1999, and indeed was probably one of the chief architects of the *Ikuma I* and *Ikuma II* and then she is also a board member. So, she knows the file really well, and I would expect that she would be in the position as the CEO.

Let us make sure that we are very clear on this: the second CEO that the member is talking about, and it is very unfortunate and tragic, that man did not leave of his own cognizance; that man left because of serious health issues. That is why the man resigned from his position. I know that the feelings of this House are with him and his family as he is going through this very difficult health issue, and I don't want to get into it. Let's be clear on that.

The first CEO resigned his position, and I could categorically say again that it was not because of a dispute on their rates for the fuel stabilization rider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Curley.



**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am now clear. Although he agrees with the subsidies that require improvement... . It seems like in Nunavut, we have 29 nations because of the different rates; the subsidy rates are quite different in each community of Nunavut, and Nunavummiut would like to get this clarified.

So, you commit that the subsidies that you will be working on, and that once you make the subsidies new, when are you going to start considering it?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Curley, again, is correct that there are different rates across Nunavut. The reason for those different rates was in 1997 and 1998... . Many of the members remember this, many of the members having been there, and so on, probably participated in those hearings.

Mr. Speaker, the power corporation at that time asked for three different things; they asked for a postage stamp rate, which is what the Qulliq Energy Corporation is asking for right now, and that was rejected. They asked for a harmonized rate, which would be a blended rate, for everyone across the communities. That was rejected, and what they came forward with were zone rates based on what it actually costs to generate electricity in each community.

So, the member is correct. In 25 different communities, there are 25 different rates because it costs a different amount to generate power in each community.

The problem with that type of rate, and Mr. Curley is correct, again, is that, for example, in Clyde River last year we built a new plant. The capitalization costs were \$4 million. How would I expect the people in Clyde River to pay \$4 million and increase their rates?

So, we did not do that because that rate zone program that was in place does have complications and doesn't allow for capital costs or capital programs to be downloaded to the customer base. That is an example. So, that is why we have those rates.

I have committed to Mr. Curley, and I will re-commit again on his question, that we will review the subsidy programs that are in place and try to be equitable. As I said earlier, 80 percent of the power bills are paid by the government, whether directly or indirectly. The other 20 percent are the private homeowners and businesses and so on. I don't believe that Mr. Okalik or the cabinet or the members in this House want to try to get blood out of a turnip.

We don't want to squeeze that 20 percent for 40 percent of the income. That is why we didn't to the fuel stabilization fund a year-and-a-half ago, because we didn't want to look at what was available through the revenue stream. That is why we put the \$14 million in lieu of the rider, so we could ascertain what the rate should be. We asked the power corporation to come forward, and that is why this occurred.

The other point is that the member did ask and mentions that because of the fiasco that the minister would be fired. I have met with the Auditor General of Canada several times, after the Auditor General's report, since the Auditor General's report, and before the Auditor General's report.

The Auditor General never said mismanaging or political interference on the part of or for the minister; it didn't say it was embezzlement, fraud, theft, stealing. What she said was there were issues: logistically, administratively, and financially with the corporation.

You would expect a lot of that when you try to set something up from scratch, Mr. Speaker. So, I appreciate the member's question and an opportunity in this forum to explain them, and we will do what the member has asked and review the subsidies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

#### **Question 064 – 2(2): Tabling of KPMG Report**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. During our Committee of the Whole debate on May 20, 2004, on the main estimates for the department, I requested a copy of the KPMG medical travel study that had been commissioned by the ministers' department.

Can the minister tell me why I haven't received a copy of that report yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The document he mentions is not a public document yet. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite catch the answer to that. But I was at a Kivalliq Inuit Association annual general meeting last month in Kugluktuk and representatives of the department talked about 20,000 airline tickets, 60,000 patient nights, and they're looking at an \$8 million deficit and we're only up to November.

The Minister of Finance talked in her fiscal update about how costs are escalating. I think it would be very important that we see that report. I'm wondering if the minister could commit to tabling that report in the House this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Levinia Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the topic that he's referring to contains general information and about patient medical travel. I don't know if I'm able to table that information with confidential information in it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had this discussion during the Committee of the Whole and the deputy minister also said that. I indicated that I believe that since the government of Nunavut is paying for that document, it's valuable information.

I keep hearing that health costs are escalating, and we don't have any further information to base our information on or our decisions that we will be making in this House with respect to increasing the health budget. Again, I ask the minister if she'll commit to tabling that report this week in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Levinia Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will make it available to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Are you finished? Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

#### **Question 065 – 2(2): Update on the Departmental Process on the Official Languages Act**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question to the Minister of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. (interpretation ends) I spoke about the amendment to the Northwest Territories Official Language Act. One of those amendments was to establish Innuinaqtun as an official aboriginal language of that territory.

I would like to ask the minister if he could provide the House with an update on his department's process towards made-in-Nunavut language legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's true what you say in your question.

We adopted our current act, the Official Languages Act, from Northwest Territories. The previous government struck a reviewing committee to review the Official Languages Act and to look at the proposed amendments.

This was tabled to the House back in 2003. Mr. Speaker, the tabled reports are still being reviewed by Nunavut Tunngavik Inc and our department. They are reviewing the current act and they're reviewing how many amendments there should be.

The report will be given to the cabinet in March 2005. That report is still being reviewed, and after they report on the review, then we will start working on the made-in-Nunavut Official Languages Act.

Mr. Speaker, the report is still being reviewed. They will table the report in March 2005 and shortly thereafter we'll deal with the Official Languages Act for Nunavut.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us whether the timeline indicated in the documents he tabled on May 27, 2004 are we on track. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we're still progressing well. We'll make a report to the cabinet in March 2005. We are still working on the report that I tabled; it's not delayed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This will be my last supplementary. Will the minister commit to ensuring that the Innuinaqtun-speaking communities will be given significant opportunities to participate in all studies and all consultations that are related to language legislation in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we've also started consulting with the elders and the staff. We have to remember, once we get a Nunavut-made Official Languages Act, to involve the French- and English-language groups in our Official Languages Act. We will have to consult with the English and French community.

Before the bill is implemented, it will have to be reviewed by the impacted groups, such as Innuinaqtun communities, and we will have them scrutinize the bill before it becomes an act. Yes, we'll just follow the regular procedures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

**Question 066 – 2(2): Insufficient Garage in Resolute Bay**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. It is in regards to his statement during his minister's statement about the fire fighting plan.

When I was meeting with Resolute Bay Hamlet Council, they expressed concern that the garage is insufficient for the fire trucks, and that some vehicles had to be parked outside as a result. So, I was wondering what your department is going to do about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on, I spoke about the Fire Prevention Strategy and I mentioned the equipment. Just recently, when we were in Taloyoak last fall, we had a happy moment with the community because we gave the community a fire truck.

I would like to identify to members that as we hear about the complaints from the communities. Yes, we will be focusing on the strategy as it focuses on that.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you. This has been an ongoing concern with the garages, for the fire trucks, because the fire trucks and the equipment freeze. Are you going to get garages more suited to the Northern elements?

**Speaker**: Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can tell the member and my colleagues that the Fire Prevention Strategy is geared towards Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Tasiujaq. Mr. Kattuk.

**Question 067 – 2(2): Nursing Station Blood Samples**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's Member for Tasiujarjuaq. My question is brief, directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

There are a lot of Sanikiluaq residents who are confused about an issue, and I will just ask this question because I have experienced this myself; I have considered how to make improvements because of my personal experience.

I went down to our local nursing station for a health examination and they took a sample, but that sample has not returned to the community. Later, the nurse said that she could not then take any samples during the weekend.

I would like to get clarification on what the policies are, because they denied me when I made a request to get a sample from my blood; they said that they don't take blood samples during the weekend.

**Speaker** (interpretation) Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can look into the member's question so that we can respond to him. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is stating that she will take the question as notice and provide you with a response later on. Oral questions. Mr. Curley.

### **Question 068 – 2(2): Filling Vacant Nunavut Government Jobs**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Minister of Human Resources, the Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

In my earlier statement in the House, I mentioned that there are young, able people who are unable to get into the workforce, and they sometimes give up hope when they get interviews and never get hired.

There is one individual who has been working for the government for the past four years and he is still a casual. There's something very wrong with that system.

There is another individual who has completed his high school but has never yet had an interview. He never made it to the short list. Why is that, in Rankin Inlet?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Human Resources, Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, that's not only the situation in Rankin Inlet. The member seems to be saying that there has been an individual who has been a casual for the last four years. I will look into the issue, but I would like to say that I cannot respond to something that is only directed to one individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, in following the policies, I think only 40 percent of employees working for the Government of Nunavut are Inuit. And I can say that the statistics that we have and the ones you have in December 2001 there were 47 vacancies, but in June 2004 there were 56.

Some of the young people who have been trained, have the job skills, and have graduated from high school are not getting onto the short list. But I would like to ask the minister to look into it so that the young people will get into the workforce. There are some young people who will be moving out because they can't get jobs in Rankin Inlet.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the statistics, in June 30, 2004, that is what I mentioned, but I would like to say that we put out reports quarterly on the government workforce.

In September 2004, I would like to say, in Rankin Inlet there were 297 jobs available, but to date we cannot fill all those positions, up to the end of September 2004. But at least we have filled 234, and we still have 63 vacancies.

But one thing that I am very happy about is there are Inuit beneficiaries, where there are 117 at the end of September 2004, and that's 60 percent of the jobs filled by Inuit beneficiaries.

In the other communities, the percentages vary with the number of jobs that are filled by beneficiaries, but I look forward to seeing increased numbers in there.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. But I'm not happy with the numbers. There were 115 Inuit in June. In December 2000, there were 115 and then in June 2004, as I stated in my member's statement, there has been no change.

I don't think that there is an improvement if there is no change in the numbers. I would like to tell the minister that if they are qualified individuals, you could make a direct appointment.

As ministers, they directly appoint instead of going through the competition process. You could do that in order to increase the number of beneficiaries in the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be more than pleased to make direct appointments and to see 100 percent of beneficiaries fill the positions within the Government of Nunavut. I would be very pleased to see the numbers increase, but, Mr. Speaker, we do have rules and procedures.

We do have policies that we have to abide by. We have to go through a process. We have to go through an interview process and the short listing and so on. We have to use our policies and our rules and procedures and, again, you don't want to break your own rules.

We have a hiring practice that we have to follow. In regards to your concerns in your department, we do look at the options during the cabinet meetings and no, we don't say that we have to appoint an individual because they need a job.

But, again, I would like to emphasize that we do have procedures to follow and hiring practices and so on. But I look forward to increasing the number of beneficiaries that fill the positions in the Government of Nunavut.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, it's very good to see the competition process being used.

You could ask the Premier if you could make a direct appointment of an individual into a position that has been vacant for too long. If there was a skilled individual, you could make a direct appointment. Would you assure the House that you will ask the Premier?

There are two processes. If Health and Social Services would like to get an employee, they would work with the Department of Human Resources to look at the position, or if any regional headquarters would like to fill a vacant position, the departments would work together, but the Department of Human Resources provides support to the government departments when they're looking at filling a position.

But, I can tell you that there will be improvements and there will be an increase in the percentages of beneficiaries in the Nunavut government. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Question 069 – 2(2): Explanation of Mismanagement of Funds**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the Minister of Energy's point that he made, something jumped out at me.

My question will be for the Premier. Mr. Speaker, the minister had indicated that it wasn't because of mismanagement on the part of the corporation or the minister, political interference or anything like that, and yet in the Auditor General's report, there are numerous places in there... . If you look at the governance of board of directors... .

I'll quote paragraph 125: "The corporation has been weak overall in financial management and accounting expertise. Senior people should have been aware of the corporations' health and were not. They failed to identify or take action on important indicators of the deteriorating financial situation."



The next paragraph will say they discontinued a rider, the minister discontinued a rider, when they were short \$4 million, before it was what it was supposed to get.

There is also another paragraph that talks about projections, that the board had actually approved, on behalf of management, projecting profit to \$2.7 million and \$1.6 million in two years, and instead they lost \$13.1 million.

That's a huge, huge difference. There were several severe warning letters with copies to the board of directors. There are other indicators that where there was overspending, there were bonuses that were paid out, they had to hire accountants to do basic accounting.

If that's not mismanagement, I don't know what is. I guess the point that Hon. Ed Picco pointed out himself, that the current CEO had been involved with this file since the very beginning... . Given the mess that it's in, I would like to ask the Premier how he could assure us that if they couldn't fix the mess then, and they let it get into the situation that it's in right now, how can he make us feel confident that they are going to do it now?

One term I've heard out there... . I'm sure a lot of people would like to feel comfortable and have some assurances that it's not the case, that the foxes are back in the hen house.

I would just like to get an explanation on to how he expects this to turn around, given the current regime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Paul Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's under new management.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, isn't the new management the same old management. I mean, Hon. Ed Picco just indicated that he was involved with the file from the beginning. He also indicated that the current CEO was on the board of directors and also handled the file from the beginning and did the *Ikuma I*, did the *Ikuma II* reports in her role and her capacity as the deputy for Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

So, it may be a new title but it's not really new management. I'll just ask the Premier again if he could give us some level of confidence why he feels that these individuals could turn it around now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Paul Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's the difference between managing day-to-day affairs and running it from a different department. So, that's why there's new

management. The current president was my deputy, and I know that she's quite capable of managing day-to-day affairs very efficiently and effectively.

So, that's why she's in place in that position because I have complete trust in her management skills and in being able to turn around a corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response, but he forgot somebody. I'm just wondering why he has the confidence and feels that the minister responsible for the power corporation, having been the lead minister right from the beginning to where it is now, can turn it around now, if he hasn't been able to do it over the last four years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Hon. Paul Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's something that took place that a minister can't see day-to-day. I believe that Hon. Ed Picco can help us out in serving out a lot of the tasks and problems that we encounter.

I believe the minister has learned from that experience; he is a learning minister. He is the Minister for Education, so he has to learn things every now and then. He has learned from his experience and I am giving him a second chance to show all Nunavummiut that he can do a better job than what took place in the past. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your Last supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess there is some truth to that saying that you can't teach an old dog new tricks. So, I wish the minister better luck this time around.

I would just like to ask the Premier if this is something that his office would be monitoring very closely in case things don't turn around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. Yes, we have taken measures; not just changing management, but we have created an agency to oversee all Crown corporations and agencies in government.

That is one of the steps that were requested by the Auditor General, and we have taken those steps very seriously. We will continue to monitor not just the Crown corporations, but all agencies that we have some control over. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

**Question 070 – 2(2): Justice System in Nunavut**

**Mr. Peterson:** Koana Uqaqti. My question is for the Minister of Justice. On the evening of September 30 and the morning of November 1, four ladies in my community were sexually and violently assaulted by a dangerous offender who just recently got out of jail for similar offences not too long ago; I think it was only about this time last year.

One of the ladies was seriously beaten. I was talking to the health nurse out there who said that she was black and blue and looking very beaten up.

The hamlet has written a letter to the Minister of Justice, and I would like to ask the Minister of Justice what assurances he could give to the ladies in my community, in fact to all of the residents in Nunavut, that the justice system in Nunavut isn't failing our residents in favour of the criminals who are locked up for these dangerous and violent offences. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Justice. Hon. Paul Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. In Nunavut, the government is in charge of policing. We contract that out to the RCMP, and we lay the necessary charges when the investigation is successful, but that is where our involvement is limited.

The prosecution rests with the federal government here in Nunavut, so the courts are independent of our government. It's very difficult for me to deliver the expectations of the victims and new offenders. Qujannamiik, Uqaqti.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for that response.

I am wondering if the minister could tell us if there is some way that the Government of Nunavut could get in charge of the judges and they would work for us and not for the federal government so that they would deliver sentences under the laws of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Qujannamiik, Uqaqti. Currently, the appointments rest with the federal government for justices in Nunavut. Under the Constitution, all superior court judges are appointed by the federal government and that remains the same for Nunavut.

We have been consulted on appointments in the past, but that's where it ends. Once the appointment is made, the courts are independent of the government completely. The courts operate under the Constitution of Canada and keep an independence from any government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank Mr. Minister. Related to this whole issue of dangerous offenders, in our case, in Cambridge Bay, this dangerous offender was released and nobody in town knew that he was coming back to town. Within a short while of coming back to town, he went on a violent sexual assault spree where he was rounded up tossed back in jail.

I wondering if the minister could tell us a little bit about how the Government of Nunavut and the RCMP work together to track violent offenders so that we know where they are, whether they are in jail or whether they are in a community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working with the federal government on the National Dangerous Offender Registry and we will continue to work with the federal government.

I know that the federal government is currently working on legislation to make sure that the system is in place, for the sake of the victims, in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister give us his commitment that the RCMP and the Government of Nunavut will give hamlets and communities sufficient advance notice when a dangerous offender or a violent offender is being released back into our community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, we're working with the national government so that there is a system in place for everyone. I've said in the past that there are two present penitentiary systems in the country: some are territorial and other ones are federal penitentiaries.

So, we do not always have information when an inmate serving time in a federal institution is being released. So, that is why we feel strongly that a system has to be national in scope, so that for everyone, regardless of which institution they may have come from, the community knows that the offender is being released to their home community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Thank you. Going back to orders of the day. I'm sorry, Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 071 – 2(2): Update on Condominium Units**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got caught off guard. There is still time left. The clock started ticking again. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

As the members are aware, on Friday I tabled a copy of an RFP that was put out by the Nunavut Housing Corporation for remedial work for the condominium units up in the Road to Nowhere subdivision.

I'd like to ask the minister if he could explain exactly what that work entails. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Minister for Nunavut Housing Corporation.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people that are going to be residing in those condos... Their houses were inspected and there was not enough fire prevention equipment in their apartments. But I can say that in August 2004, we put out an RFP to have them updated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I'm sure the minister is aware, those units are in Iqaluit Centre, and I was talking to some of the owners of those units. They were telling me that in fact the architect has decertified the units.

Can the minister indicate if that was the case and exactly why? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was looking at my information sheet but I do not see anything that the member was asking about, so I will take the question as notice and respond later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister is taking the question as notice. Question period is now over. Going back to orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Mr. Peterson.

**Item 13: Tabled Documents****Tabled Document 023 – 2(2): Cambridge Bay Elders' and Youth Reports**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the month-end reports, the elders' and youth reports from my constituency and tell the minister if he gets a chance to read them, they have some

very good comments from the elders and youth of Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Mr. Netser.

**Tabled Document 024 – 2(2): Photos of Abandoned MOT structures in Chesterfield Inlet**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a series of photographs taken recently in the community of Chesterfield. As you will notice, the photographs are of abandoned structures located on the old MOT site.

These structures contain asbestos and are located across from the community's main school. Mr. Speaker, constituents have expressed concern to me about the need to clean up this site, and I hope to see action on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of documents. Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

**Tabled Document 025 – 2(2): Nunavut Fire Protection Strategy Implementation Plan**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document. I spoke of it today: the *Fire Safety Strategy for Nunavut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 14. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Orders of the day, Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Bill 4, Appropriation Act, Capital, 2005 and 2006, with Mr. Evyagotailak in Chair. We will take a break for 20 minutes before we go to Committee of the Whole,

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:22 and resumed at 15:56*

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

**Chairman:** I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 4, Appropriation (Capital) Act 2005-06.

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

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of the capital estimates for Nunavut Housing Corporation, and once completed, proceed with the review of the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Are we in agreement that we will deal with the Nunavut Housing Corporation?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Kilabuk, will you need your officials?

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do members agree that we have witnesses in the chambers?

**Some members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms.

Welcome back to the witness table. For the record, Minister Kilabuk, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I was with these officials already; Peter Scott, President of Nunavut Housing Corporation; and also to my left, Abraham Tagalik, Mr. Scott's assistant. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Welcome President Scott, for Nunavut Housing Corporation. Welcome Mr. Tagalik. We are on page L-11. Are there any questions? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we were almost falling asleep yesterday dealing with these capital estimates. Yes, first of all, I just wanted to make a comment.

Before we move on to the details, I would like to thank the minister and his officials for coming. I would like to ask the minister in regards to his response to the standing committee's questions in the September meeting, there are two.

The dates were December 22, 2004, and yesterday the questions posed by the standing committee have come, why did you respond very late in time? Is that done on purpose and this information was just given to the standing committee yesterday afternoon. I don't think this standard procedure. Could you respond to that?

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can elaborate to my colleagues here that this was not done, not on purpose, when we gave the information pretty late. We didn't have any plans to delay the information in giving it to the members. Thank you.

**Chairperson**: Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley**: Yes, thank you. I certainly hope so, because it is no laughing matter, Mr. President. It's really shameful because this information that was required by the committee involved \$1,000,000 fire fund, as well as other allocation funds.

It came in about one or two hours before the consideration of the House, this committee for the housing budget and it really was troubling to some of us. I am wondering if you could assure this committee that it will not happen again.

**Chairperson**: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will assure the House that the next request from the standing committees, or members in preparation for our appearance before the Committee of the Whole or in any sitting, we will make every effort to provide the information as soon as we can have it available. Thank you.

**Chairperson**: Thank you, Mr. Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes, thank you, for reassuring us. It would be ideal when we are planning to review the department, the information will help, and I thank you, Mr. Minister.

My next question is in regards to the information we receive in regards to cost per unit went down a bit by about \$213,000 that was standardized. It costs around \$250,000 per public housing unit.

We were living in that kind of expensive unit, and if you are homeowner, it is very expensive to build and construct and the cost is still increasing.

Do you think the average cost is going to be closer to the \$250,000 range? I am sure the sea transportation fees are going to go up.

Have you found or looked at cost savings or how to put the cost down?



**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are still using close to \$250,000 range per unit. Also, before the construction of the units there were quite a few over-expenditures. So at times, the prices would go down in other units and other ones were overspent. We are going to keep continuing to look at how we can keep the costs down because we rarely get any surplus from our plans. Thank you.

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I would like to ask, last year, the units that were tendered out in Rankin Inlet, I think we over-budgeted by \$200,000 and they were for labour only.

What is happening to the units that were going to be constructed in Rankin Inlet?

**Chairperson:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The units that were going to be constructed, we now have plans to start constructing them this coming spring in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): And they weren't constructed last year. I don't think the construction supplies arrived to Rankin Inlet last year.

The units that were going to be constructed last year, are they going to be constructed? The units from 2003-04, because the tenders and the bids were too high, and because the bids for 2003-04 were too high, are these the same units that we're talking about that were going to be built in 2003? These units that were going to be built in 2003 will be constructed in 2005?

**Chairman:** I would like to remind members that we are on page L-11. Questions on page L-11, L-11 sorry. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information that I have that the units that were supposed to be constructed previously, are supposed to have been constructed, and the units that were going to be built by 2003-04 will be constructed this coming spring.

I apologize, Mr. Chairman, the units from 2003-04 have already been constructed. In 2004-05, they were supposed to be constructed will be constructed this coming spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes, if they are going to be constructed, on the labour just last spring they over budgeted by \$200,000. In the Keewatin region, Rankin Inlet construction budget isn't here. It is not included here.

How come they are not included here and they were supposed to be constructed last year, but they will be constructed in 2005. How come they are not included under the Kivalliq region's budget in the detailed estimates?

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information we have at hand, I don't know what page he is on. Perhaps if my colleague can elaborate to me what page he is talking about. Then I'll ask President Scott to respond to his question in regards to the construction. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Curley they are asking you what page you are on. L-12.

**Mr. Curley**: Mr. Chairman, mainly for your information. We have the hardware sitting in Rankin Inlet but there is no labor estimates, labor budget in this Kivalliq region capital spending exactly will be, I believe there are three units that will be constructed in Rankin Inlet this coming season, but there is no item on it. How is that possible?

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now I understand. The construction labour only has already been approved during the House, even though they weren't used in the previous years, they can be rolled back to another year. The funding that is already been approved, will be carried over. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is going to be the case, my question then is in regards to the labour estimates. In this current fiscal year the bids were over \$200,000. Has there been an adjustment, or have they gone over for the last two fiscal years?

Are we going to see the construction of these units next year? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They will be constructed in Rankin Inlet this spring. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Then, I have another question. What I read in the statement, that the official responsible for the NNI Policy, have you had discussions on how those bids will be taken care of because they go way over when they are bidding for contracts with the Government of Nunavut. They are saying that the reason for that is because of the NNI Policy.

If there is going to be no changes in this trend have you decided on looking at cheaper ways of constructing units? Or have you talked about the supply only and have the local companies erect the unit?

Have you thought about the alternatives or other options that you might apply? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not speak on behalf of the minister who is responsible, but for ourselves, we would like to see more training involved in the construction of these units. We will implement our plans. At this time, I cannot respond to the NNI Policy. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Curley for all the questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for coming before us again today. I would like to follow up on my line of questioning yesterday.

What size of houses would you be constructing in each of the communities that are being allocated housing; two bedrooms; three bedroom; 1,000 square feet; 1,500 square feet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have Peter Scott respond to the question, but I would like to remind the members that if we go ahead with the construction of the units, we will inform you when that will be taking place, and in which community.

Also, we'd like to consult with the communities to see what type of housing or units they would like to see constructed in their communities.

I will pass on the microphone to Peter Scott.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Scott.

**Mr. Scott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The units that are delivered this year, in particular Cambridge Bay with the triplex, I believe it is a two bedroom triplex, each fill the living units, I believe is a little over 780 square feet per unit. They are pretty well the same units across the board, with the exception some of the senior's fourplexes that were delivered.

For next year, delivery with our plan to go ahead with an intensified delivery schedule, we'll have to discuss with the communities what type of housing that they want, whether it's large multiplexes, with one bedroom, or if they want larger units. Those discussions haven't been held yet with the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Scott. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister tell us what the average cost per square foot is to construct a housing association house in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time we pay about \$330. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister share with us some information on why it costs \$330 per square foot to construct a Housing Corporation house in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have Peter Scott give you further details but, to date, we've been using this formula and Peter Scott will give a supplement.

**Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Scott.

**Mr. Scott:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total full cost of construction is affected by a number of factors; there is the cost of materials, the cost of shipping, freight, beach handling, cost of land, all of those added up, land development, the foundation system and all of that add up to a very high cost of construction.

Even here in Iqaluit, the construction costs are very high, with new home construction in that same range, in that same area as the public housing construction. And that's private construction, done through private firms.

We do go through a public tending process with this last year for material and we've gone through a public tending process for labour. Through that process, that is how we establish our costs to deliver. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Scott. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Three hundred and thirty dollars a square foot does sound quite high. I have a 1,600 square foot house in Cambridge Bay, and using that figure, my house would cost \$520,000 to construct now.

There might be a few people in Nunavut that can afford \$520,000 but I don't think the average citizen in Nunavut could afford to construct a house. At that cost, I'm thinking that we're trying to encourage private home ownership. How can your ministry encourage that if it's going to cost \$330 per square foot? If that's what it's costing you, then surely it's going to cost other people. You have to be in a greater economic scale to purchase materials and get lower freight costs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that it's extremely expensive to build a house and what has been the past experience is that the government has had to give financial support for the construction, and that is the only way that we have been able to get the houses up.

In regards to homeownership, we are promoting it for Nunavut, and we will keep doing so. We will look at where we can give further support to the potential homeowners. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two years ago, when I was working with Nunavut Association of Municipalities, we were getting information to do a lobby document for federal officials in Ottawa, and the number cost per square-foot we were given then was \$225 per square-foot. So it has gone up over \$100 in a little over two years.

I am concerned that those inflation costs or those escalation costs are \$330 today, or when you construct the houses, within a few short years, it could be over \$500 to \$550 a square-foot.

I am wondering if the minister could comment on what his department is doing to try and control the costs, so that we could afford to build more houses in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, it's impossible to hide, and I think it's no secret that it's extremely expensive to build a house up here in Nunavut. We have had ongoing discussions with the federal government that it costs a lot higher to do construction up here than with the other jurisdictions.

With the houses that we are going to build this year, and since there's going to be a larger number, we hope that it will reduce the costs for transportation and for buying because of bulk purchases. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move to the community allocation.

Can the minister tell us if, for example, in Kugaaruk and Arviat, where they put 15 houses into each of these communities. Will that have a significant impact in terms of decreasing the pressure on the requirement for more housing in subsequent years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It definitely will have an impact and put a reasonable dent in reducing some of the pressure for the communities identified. So it will also have a ripple effect in easing some of the pressure for Nunavut as a whole, because the current allocation that we have in place now is really geared towards extreme measures of trying to address the overcrowding and severe housing shortages, especially in those communities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will those communities possibly going to need another 10 to 15 houses in those subsequent fiscal years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are certain that the communities will need the same number of houses or even in the excess, but I remind all members that the funding and assistance that we are getting from Infrastructure Canada, which we are using to do this, may not be there, the following year.

We will continue, as I had stated earlier in the House yesterday, that we will continue to lobby the federal government for more assistance to provide more houses in all of Nunavut communities over the next 10 years. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister confirm for us that when these houses go in into these communities that they will be built in the construction year which they're approved. For example, when they go into the communities next August, will they be constructed available for occupancy within that fiscal and not carried over into the subsequent fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll remind my colleagues that in the Kitikmeot, they have a two-year delivery cycle. We are still proceeding to aim at constructing the units in those communities specified. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Hon. Peter Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week, I tabled a 208 name petition from the Cambridge Bay Housing Association, they indicated in their petition that they could have probably got a couple hundred more, more likely. So there is a great urgency for houses in Cambridge Bay. At least the people, themselves, who apply for houses are telling us, me and other elected persons, including the Hamlet Council of Cambridge Bay. Judging by the letters and emails I get, the phones calls, that there is a need for housing in Cambridge Bay.

I'm not exactly sure how your allocation formula worked out. I'll have to trust that it was done fair and objectively in the desktop exercise that your officials did. I know that even as the minister of Housing Corporation, the Member for Pangnirtung, that you are number 20 on the list.

I'm not sure I want to be the minister of Housing Corporation and have to go back and tell my constituents that he can't provide housing for them, additional housing.

However, Mr. Minister, I think people need hope in their communities that there will be housing brought to them or delivered to them, without hope, what else do we have for people. They depend on us to bring affordable housing, social housing, public housing, and elders' homes. We have to give them hope. The folks that you are proposing to give housing for are very fortunate.

I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the minister could commit to the members that he will assure that the communities will be moved up in the system in the list when allocating housing in the next fiscal year so that in the subsequent fiscal year, they will receive higher priority for receiving houses than the top seven communities. That will give some of the people in our communities that there will be housing coming in the future fiscal years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all in response to his first comments about this not having been an easy decision to make. It definitely was not an easy decision to make, but it was also, at the same time, made easy by the high demand and high need for extra houses in those communities where the pressure is the greatest. I can assure the member that I can have staff members go over the allocation method that was used to determine the numbers.

It is quite easy to understand. The other part of his question that this will ease the pressure for the communities not getting houses this year, it definitely will decrease the pressure from those highest need communities now, and chances are that communities not receiving units now will get moved up.

I guess the best assurance I can give my colleague is that once we have constructed and move people into these houses, we will definitely re-evaluate the priority list for all the communities. Until such time I have had a chance to do so, I don't want to do any guess work here by saying which communities will move up because it is not my practice to do that, first of all, and secondly, it would only be fair that we give accurate information to my colleagues.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. I would like to remind the members we are on capital estimates 2005-06. Please keep your questions to L-11. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm hearing the minister saying he can't give any assurances or commitment that the other communities that aren't receiving housing will receive housing in future fiscal years. I think that is what I'm hearing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I'm not indicating that we will not build houses for those communities not receiving any this year. Maybe it is my English so I will try this again in my first tongue – Inuktitut.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I want to be clear that what I said was at this time the communities that are not getting any housing, will probably be in a priority list for the following year. What I'm committed to do is we'll have to do a study after the new houses have been built in those communities, and do a study again, do a priority listing once again.

The monies from the federal government will be coming, probably not the same amount of monies we have been receiving, probably half of them, as long as we don't find any other funding from other sources. We have no plans to stop building houses.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.



**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to be clear as well. I fully support every community in Nunavut requiring housing. I know there is a great need. We talked about the great need across Nunavut. There probably won't be enough money from anywhere to achieve on the housing levels that we need, unless there is some fairy godfather, a godmother out there that come along with a magic wand and solve our problems for us. I recognize that the minister has a lot of difficult choices to make.

I have to go back to my riding, and other members have to go back to their ridings, and talk to the people. We have to give them some kind of assurance that the formula allocation that the Nunavut Housing Corporation will at some point, within a couple of years, hopefully, result in them getting some houses allocated to their communities. to alleviate the local housing crunch in those communities.

That's what I'm trying to get at if the minister could assure the House that this will be done with the greatest urgency that we as members on this side, and I'm sure some of the other members, the ministers will have to do when they go back to their constituency. They will have to talk to some very upset and concerned and desperate people as I mentioned that are living in dangerous and overcrowded situations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, what we want to do is to build as many houses as possible in places where they are in real need. We will not build the same amount of housing in the same communities, but we'll do our best with the funding that we have received.

As I have mentioned before, the communities that are not getting houses this year, we will be building houses in those communities.

So, if I was to say there was a lot of people that are in a desperate need of housing, we recognize that. There are also other communities that are in great need of housing. In Pangnirtung, there is a great need for housing, but they're not as desperate as in some other communities.

I just want to make it clear that what we're trying to do right now is to build houses in these communities and then there will be houses being built in other communities. I want to make sure that they have hope to get houses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is end of my line of questions.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister, and your officials. We have ships coming in from Montreal to the Keewatin communities, and the Housing Corporation is going to have to order from Montreal.

I bought a vehicle from Montreal last summer, a quarter truck, and my nephew ordered one from Churchill. The little truck was \$2,300 for shipping, while my nephew only paid \$900.

Kivalliq residents have always requested to order stuff for shipment from Churchill, Manitoba. With regards to the retrofit program, is there any way we could get the rest of the lumber from Churchill instead of Montreal next shipping season. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we get to my other portfolio on Community and Government Services items, I can get into further detail. On the details we are dealing with at this time, we would like to be able to get cheaper rates, but some communities don't have very much money, and they have to pay for the shipment of those items.

Those are the types of concerns that we will be having. We will try our best to make sure that we get the cheapest shipment rates from Montreal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The next question I would like to pose is, in Sanikiluaq, they had students construct a unit for training purposes just not too long ago. Likewise, that happened in Clyde River.

Once the training program is completed in the fall, I was wondering if this training program is going to continue because the communities would like to see training on construction.

Once the pilot projects are completed, there is no follow up done for the students who did the training. Last year, there were two individuals who did that training in Coral Harbour and then they went to Goose Bay and they did very good training. Now that they've completed their course, it seems like nobody is worried about them.

Is that going to happen again in Sanikiluaq and Clyde River program? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I have stated in the House, just to elaborate further, that we are using that initiative to encourage students to get into construction. That goal was very beneficial to the communities.

I can use them as an example, and I am very proud to see these initiatives. We can also look to see if students can also do retrofit work on existing buildings. If the communities would like to have the students trained, they can approach our department.

Once these individuals complete their education, we can encourage them to continue their education after they have taken the construction training part in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. (interpretation) I would like to remind the members that we are on L-11, right now. Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for asking something totally out of the page. That's it for my questions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this question is along the line of my colleague's in regards to looking at the funding that are presented here. They are not all too exorbitantly expensive.

I have a question geared towards the Nunavut Housing Corporation. I am somewhat concerned whether the capital estimates here will be sufficient. The local government, I am sure, are always in support of adequate funding for the construction of the units.

Back in the 1980's and 1990's, we were not too overly concerned about the price of lots, but when we start constructing apartment buildings now, and when individual hunters have to be housed in these apartment buildings, there is a concern raised.

They have all this winter hunting equipment and summer hunting equipment and they have to abide by municipal bylaws that say they can't be too close to the units. They are all restrictive bylaws, and hunters are quite concerned.

I was wondering if the Nunavut Housing Corporation can incorporate those needs while making sure their plans meet municipal regulations and to make sure that the individuals involved accept what is worked out.

I don't want to overlook this aspect in this capital estimates when we have to consider funding. I know that looking at the funding that your department is focusing more on apartment buildings, when we should be constructing single dwellings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to my colleague's concern on the lots and the plans with the Hamlet Councils in the

communities, I'm sure we can work closely with them. Yes, we'll need to work with the municipal councils and work closely with the communities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Thank you, Mr. Alagalak for your questions. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page L-11 and also the tabled Minister's statement, I have a question just to get further clarification on the community allocations, on the ranking system.

How long have you been using the ranking system for? Were you using the ranking system to allocate units. How long have you been using this ranking system, first of all? That's my question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, when we were reviewing housing, for example in one case, we were looking at four items; the housing shortage; the number of children living in one unit and; the number of people living in one household. So we have four things that we follow. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk.

Capital. Details of Capital. Grants and Contributions, Kivalliq region. Questions on page L-11. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, in your tabled document on the allocation of housing, when we look at it, there is only one community now from the Kivalliq that really qualifies under this new ranking system.

My question is to the minister of the housing corporation. Given that these seven communities have been allocated up to 15 units each, and the rest of them 10. In view of these allocations, once they were given these top marks, with respect to housing allocation, which rank do they then fit in for next year?

Do they still remain on top, in view of the fact that they may still have overcrowding, and a lot of kids have grown during that year, and have much more colder winter than the rest of them. I would like to ask the minister exactly how it is going to get applied, because when we look at some communities like Rankin Inlet, we're ranked 17<sup>th</sup>, so we probably will never qualify for units of that amount in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of the total funding available to us, I won't tell you that Rankin Inlet or any other community will never reach the need for that number of units. We want to be able to provide housing to all the

communities that are in severe shortage, but we have to live within our means. So we're trying to allocate housing to communities that are in severe need.

Yes, we will continually look for housing. In the future we will construct housing in those communities where units weren't constructed, given the severe shortages. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. The staff has just reminded me that we don't need a quorum to deal with this unless we are dealing with page-by-page, then we'll need a quorum. Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask about your response, although I envy the other communities. The next question I'd like to ask the minister is on the ranking system. Once local housing organizations have capacity, I'm sure that it could go further because when there are no more rental arrears, I'm sure tenants can construct their own units, rather than going further into debt with rental arrears.

I think there should be incentive programs for ranking systems so that the communities that have the least arrears and the most efficient maintenance should be rewarded.

There should be a reward system. Right now, however, there is none, so I was wondering have not considered this. Perhaps the President of Nunavut Housing Corporation can respond. Thank you.

**Chairman:** I had mentioned that if we're going page-by-page I should have said line-by-line then we'll need a quorum. Thank you, for your question Mr. Curley. Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I agree with my colleague, perhaps we can look at incentives for some of the concerns like in our plan, I'm sure this winter we'll be able to come up with some kind of incentives in the next session.

I would like to thank my colleague for the suggestion and I'm sure that we'll be able to discuss this. Yes, I agree with him that we should have more incentives out there. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. And thank you, Mr. Curley. (interpretation ends) To page L-12, the Nunavut Housing Corporation's information item. Detail of Capital. Grants and Contributions, Kivalliq region. Ok, to page L-12, Nunavut Housing Corporation Information Items, Detail of Capital, Grants and Contributions, Kivalliq Region. Total Kivalliq Region, \$5,946,000 agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. L-13, any questions? L-13, any questions? L-14. Details Capitals. Grants and Contributions. Kitikmeot Region. Total, Kitikmeot Region. \$3,922,000. Total. Grants and Contributions. \$21,193,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Back to L-4. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Department Summary. Total. Capital Expenditure. \$21,193,000.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are you agreeing? \$21,193,000?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that the Nunavut Housing Corporation is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. Thank you, President of Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Scott, thank you. Mr. Tagalik, Thank you. You have any more last comments to make, Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank all the members, and once we have digested all the information in regards to the rating system and other information, we will deal with it.

The hamlets and local housing associations are going to be kept informed and up to date on the information. Thank you.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk. I forgot to state that Steve Mapsalak will not be here. He wanted to stay with his family for a moment. He will inform me tomorrow regarding to this week.

(interpretation ends) I would like now to ask Minister Brown. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak:** I would like to suggest that we have 10 minutes break before we go into that because we still have about an hour to work on it.

**Chairperson** (interpretation): Maybe 5 minutes/ Is that okay? Okay.

>>House recessed at 16:58 pm and resumed at 17:13

**Chairman** (Arreak): Thank you, very much. At this time we will be dealing with the Department of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask Minister Brown if she would like to start with her opening comments.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2005-06 Capital Estimates for Department of Health and Social Services. Every concept of our Operation and Maintenance cost. Our Capital Budget is focused on strengthening and building infrastructure to delivery more and stay closer to home Nunavummiut.

This Capital investment will help reduce some of our out of territory costs by helping Nunavummiut stay in their communities while they receive health care also help create future employment for Nunavummiut.

The recent of our Health Council of Canada with an opportunity to show case the state of our healthcare facilities. I have circulated a sheet with the aid of some of our facilities some construction dating back to 1958.

The average age of our health care facilities in Nunavut is 20 years. Some of our health care facilities have been slated to be replaced over the next five years. Simply upgrading some facilities to meet the code compliances can cost millions of dollars.

Mr. Chairman, facility replacement requires a substantial amount of money dedicated to health capital expenditures. To attract and more importantly retain health professionals delivering health care closer to home and to support the Bathurst Mandate priority of healthy communities, Nunavut's health care facilities need improvement.

Mr. Chairman, members understand that the decision to own, or lease regional health facilities in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit have not yet been finalized. The Kitikmeot Development Corporation has submitted a proposal to lease a Kitikmeot Health Center to the Government of Nunavut and the Department of Community and Government Services and finance are analyzing this proposal.

The youth hostel in Cambridge Bay will be renovated to become a boarding home for Kitikmeot residents who will travel to this community for medical care. For the Kitikmeot Region, the department will issue a proposal for a boarding home and its operation in Rankin Inlet.

In the interim, hotels, bed and breakfast and private business will be used to accommodate medical travelers and their escorts. Mr. Chairman, in October 2004, an interdepartmental continued care task force was established to address population aging.

I am pleased to report that early in the new year, the department will bring back a plan based on the needs of elders which will address the establishment of 24 hour care facilities for elders in this government's mandate.

The departmental cost budget for 2005-2006 is \$25,392,000. This includes \$22,000,000 for new construction, \$380,000 for equipment and vehicles and \$997,000 for renovations and \$2,000,000 for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the members for the opportunity to speak to you today and I welcome any questions regarding the Department of Health and Social Services capital estimates for 2005-2006. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Brown. For the record, could you just check with that on for Kitikmeot Region, you mentioned that on paragraph two on page two, is that Kivalliq, or Kitikmeot? Thank you.

You said the department will issue a request for proposals in the Kitikmeot. Is it the Kitikmeot, or the Keewatin? Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Okay, thank you. For the Kivalliq Region, the department will issue a request for proposals for a boarding home and its operation in Rankin Inlet.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Brown. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Yes.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Sergeant-at-arms if you would escort the witnesses.

Please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation):** We have Rosemary Brown, on my left, and she is responsible for capital projects, and my right, Bernie Blais, who is the Deputy Minister.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Madam Minister. Does the Chairman of the Committee have any comments? Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, I am pleased to have this opportunity to make some introductory remarks as we begin deliberations on the 2005-2006 capital budgets of the Department of Health and Social Services.

The Capital Estimates for 2005-2006 reveal that the Department of Health and Social Services has a budget of over \$25 million, with the greatest proportion being directed towards construction of the Qikiqtani General Hospital.



The Committee has been informed that the final construction and staffing of the Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet health facilities is scheduled to be completed during the current fiscal year.

Members remain concerned about the challenges in hiring and housing qualified full-time staff to provide services at the three new facilities.

Given the Government's significant financial investment in these projects, Members expect the House to be regularly updated on their progress, including meaningful information on the final ownership or leasing arrangements for these multi-million dollar facilities as well as the final costs for each project.

It would be a tragedy if we were to open these modern new facilities one day, only to have to close beds and cancel services the very next day because we cannot properly staff them.

The Committee notes that a boarding facility in Cambridge Bay is being re-designed to accommodate individuals from neighbouring communities who will be traveling to receive medical services.

Boarding home services provided both within and outside of Nunavut continue to be a source of concern and Members encourage the Minister and her officials to give full consideration to the issues that have been raised while negotiating contracts relating to these services.

Committee Members urge the Minister to proceed as quickly as possible in evaluating, assessing and planning for community-based facilities to provide care for Elders, youth, individuals with disabilities or requiring long-term care, and victims of violence. This is especially important for those Nunavummiut who are placed outside of Nunavut, away from their homes and family, in order to receive care.

Mr. Chairman, I am confident that all Members will recall from the Arviat Caucus Retreat that one of our goals was to support expanded access to 24-hour care facilities for Elders.

The Committee was pleased to note that the department has committed funds for the replacement of the Arctic Bay Health Centre.

Members encourage the department to undertake its capital planning efforts in consultation with communities to ensure that planning takes into account issues identified by local health committees, local transportation needs, population growth and other factors.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I am sure that individual Members will also have comments and questions.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. 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 Rule 77 (2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to move that we report progress.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favor of the motion. All those Opposed. Thank you.

Okay, thank you, Minister Brown and your officials. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 20, Report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Arreak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 4, and the capital estimates and would like to report progress. Also Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Madame Deputy Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Deputy Clerk** (interpretation): I will be reading in Inuinnaqtun, so be patient with me. Orders of the day for Wednesday, November 24:

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): This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, November 24, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:33*

