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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday November 24, 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, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. I would like to say welcome to the Premier, the ministers, and the members. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 026 – 2(2): Changes to the Homeowner Repair and Renovation Programs

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the members with an update on the recent changes to the Nunavut Housing Corporation's repair and renovation programs.

I am pleased to announce that household income limits for those programs have been raised to \$125,000, plus an additional \$6,500 for each additional household member. similar to the income adjustments for families currently used under the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program.

Two other important changes have been made to the Home Repair Program, in particular. The Corporation has increased the maximum amount of assistance under this program from \$33,750 to \$50,000, and streamlining the way funding is given to clients under the Home Repair Program by eliminating the sliding scale for assistance.

Mr. Speaker, in the past the amount of funding that a client received depended on how much they earned, up to the income limit. Now there is no sliding scale. Every client approved for Home Repair Program funding will be eligible for the full \$50,000, if their project requires it. This is consistent with recent changes made to the federal programs that provide the Nunavut Housing Corporation with additional funding for repair and renovation projects.

As the government, we are pleased that the Nunavut Housing Corporation has taken these important steps forward, towards more responsive, simple and effective renovation and repair programs. The Corporation will monitor the effects of these changes and will continue its work to develop programming options that meet the needs of Nunavut homeowners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements, Minister Simailak.

Minister's Statement 027 – 2(2): Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti, Unit Set-up

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the members today that the Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti – or NNI – unit has now taken on new life under the Department of Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

This program responsibility was transferred to my department and over the last several months my officials have been working to create the NNI Secretariat in the department.

The unit will ultimately consist of four staff – one of whom has already been hired and is taking on more and more responsibilities. Staffing for the other three positions is ongoing and we expect to have the unit fully staffed by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Speaker, over the next four to eight months, the focus will be on the implementing a database and information collecting processes to enable the unit to carry out monitoring and evaluation mandates. Further attention will be focused on building rapport with other stakeholders, particularly NTI, and other organizations focused on building skill and delivering trades training.

The overall focus of the NNI Secretariat will be to continually reinforce the NNI policy message to the business community, the public as well as to community governments. I am very pleased that we are moving forward on this, and meeting our obligations to build a central agency with adequate resources for the purpose of following up on progress and ensuring the consistent application and awareness of the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 028 – 2(2): Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Human Resources continues to expand professional development opportunities for Government of Nunavut staff.

You may know that Kakivak Association has delivered the Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program to several Nunavummiut since January of 2002. This diploma program is specially co-designed by Saint Mary's University for the delivery in the North. I am pleased to announce that we have partnered with Kakivak Association to deliver this opportunity to our Government of Nunavut employees.

This management program consists of ten modules providing "hands-on" experience. Participants complete group and individual exercises that gives them practical information for immediate application in the workplace.

Participants completing the program will earn a Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma from Saint Mary's University.

Most importantly, this program adds to the increasing number of made-in-Nunavut training programs to develop effective and professional leaders for the Nunavut Public Service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 029 – 2(2): Early Childhood Development Report 2002-2003

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to table with this House, later today, a report prepared by the Department of Education, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, that meets our obligations under the Early Childhood Development Agreement signed by provinces and territories in the year 2000.

Our vision for the children of Nunavut is that they be valued and encouraged to develop their unique physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual and creative potential. Through the Department of Education, our government supports early childhood development in many, many ways, including:

- Licensed daycares that meet standards for programming and safety
- Head start program to help children at risk
- Start-up funding to help more childcare facilities open, and
- Healthy Children initiatives, such as family resource centres, prenatal nutrition and family literacy.

The report also provides baseline information on the early childhood development system in Nunavut, as called for in the Multilateral Agreement on Early Learning and Child Care that the Government of Nunavut signed in March, 2003. In the period covered by the

report, fiscal 2002-03, there were positive trends worth noting. There was an increase in programs of over 22 percent with four new licensed day cares, three new licensed preschools, one licensed after school and one licensed home day care. The number of childcare spaces increased by 149 spaces from 2001/2002 to 2002/2003 representing an increase of over 16 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the report outlines the many projects and services offered to young children in Nunavut through the government and the agencies we fund. It shows how we are moving from a patchwork arrangement of children's services towards a more organized system that actively supports early childhood development.

The Government of Nunavut spent more than \$4 million on early childhood development in 2002-03. This report shows not just how it was spent, but why, and to what effect. For anyone who works with young children in our territory, it is a worthwhile read and one I would encourage them to make. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 030 – 2(2): Peabody–Essex Museum Inuit Art Exhibit

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to my colleagues that the first official exhibition of the Government of Nunavut's contemporary art collection will open on November 24th at the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts.

Entitled *Our Land: Contemporary Art from the Arctic* the exhibit will run through to January 30th, 2005, and includes over 50 works; sculpture, ceramics, textiles, photography and multimedia. The exhibition is organized around the themes of Inuit cosmology and spirituality, the family, and expressions of time, season and place. A full-colour, trilingual (Inuktitut, English and French) catalogue has been produced in conjunction with the exhibit, and the museum will be hosting a variety of public programs and events featuring Inuit art and culture.

Mr. Speaker, this exhibition is the product of two years of planning and collaboration between the Department of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the Peabody-Essex Museum, and it forms an integral part of a broader Nunavut – New England cultural and economic development initiative.

This initiative has been coordinated through the office of the Canadian Consul General to New England and also involves partnerships between Nunavut's Department of Environment, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated on Nunavut promotion and marketing opportunities in New England.

This exhibition also demonstrates the integral role that Inuit artists, young and old, continue to play in the preservation and celebration of Inuit culture and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, this exhibition uniquely reflects our hopes and dreams for a strong and prosperous Nunavut, and I know that all Nunavummiut can be proud of this exciting achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 051 – 2(2): Kivalliq Annual Sealift Changed

Mr. Alagalak: I rise today to add my voice in support of many residents of the Kivalliq who are speaking out very clearly on the issue of the annual sealift to our communities.

The links between the communities of Kivalliq and the province of Manitoba took many, many years of hard work to establish. It was through the hard work of the mayors, chamber of commerce, and individual business people that we were able to build an excellent trade, transportation, and economic partnership with Manitoba.

The Kivalliq was shocked when we were told by the Government of Nunavut that our sealift arrangement would be changed. We did not see how this would benefit us. Frankly, the Government of Nunavut has been completely unable or unwilling to explain to the people of the Kivalliq region why the change happened.

The government needs to review this matter; we need to re-establish our natural, economic, and trade links with Churchill and other Manitoban communities. It is time for some common sense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 052 – 2(2): Kitikmeot Trade Show

Mr. Peterson: Koana Uqaqti. I am very pleased to rise today and inform the House that Cambridge Bay will host the 2005 Kitikmeot trade show from February 14 to 17, 2005.

The Kitikmeot is home to some of Nunavut's hardest working businesspeople. Some of the members of the business community are large and dynamic corporations with assets in the millions.

Some are small-scale entrepreneurs who design and produce traditional clothing. Others build on our connection with the land by working as skilled guides and outfitters in the tourism and sport hunting sectors.

The Kitikmeot trade show was established in 2000 as an event to highlight the business and investment opportunities in the Kitikmeot and to provide an important venue in which contacts and introductions can be made between our business community, potential partners, and investors.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the trade show allows youth and elders to interact with the business delegates to learn more about their products and services. For youth, this is a good chance for them to think about perhaps starting a business themselves some day.

Many members have spoken in the House during session about fostering a better climate for business in Nunavut. I agree, and I think it's important that we make it clear to our young people that there are options out there other than becoming yet another cog in the bureaucratic machine as known as the Government of Nunavut.

I don't believe that the goal of Nunavut was to create entire generation of paper shufflers. We need to help our youth gain the skills to create businesses and jobs, to grow the wealth of our territory, to bring opportunities home.

In most parts of Canada, it is a common knowledge that businesses create most of the jobs and wealth that sustain our generous and well-regarded social safety net.

Recently, data released by Statistics Canada revealed that in 2000, Nunavut's economy suffered a 7.6 percent drop in its economic growth rate. A negative growth rate does not bode well for our future if this trend continues.

It is well known, Mr. Speaker, that an overdependence on all levels of government to provide jobs creates an artificial economy. When any government runs up a deficit, they must look at cut backs and one of the first things they review is the elimination of jobs. The loss of jobs is hard on families and communities.

It is important that the government support our fledgling business sector with easily accessible start-up capital and tax incentives. It is important that all levels of government review the negative impact that some of the policies or taxes or levies will have on businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I request 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. Peterson, proceed.

Mr. Peterson: Koana Uqaqti. It is critical that the government of Nunavut takes the message to Ottawa and the provinces, and sustains that message, that Nunavut is a vital

partner in Canada and that we need their support and investments to develop our economy. It's very reassuring, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Nunavut has stated that the economy is going to be a priority for this term. However, Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words.

Kitikmeot trade show organizers were elated that the Premier and the Minister of Department of Economic Development and Transportation both accepted the invitations to attend the trade show. Their participation sends a strong message to delegates and investors alike that the Kitikmeot is, as we all like to say back home, open for business. We all look forward to their visit in February. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 053 – 2(2): Additional Funding for Alcohol and Drug Committees

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about community alcohol committees. In my two constituencies, they've been requesting to get an alcohol and drug committee. They want to do education about alcohol and drug abuse, as we hear that 90 percent of the time, alcohol is involved in crimes that are committed.

If the alcohol and drug committee had more training programs, community residents would be more aware of the abuse. It would be ideal to get additional funding for alcohol and drug committees in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 054 – 2(2): Infrastructure Plans for Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have devoted many hours, undertaken several initiatives, and made a number of presentations in this House to move forward one very important issue for the community of Arctic Bay. I was extremely pleased to see that these efforts have achieved a significant result. A new health centre for Arctic Bay has finally appeared on the government's capital plan.

I rise today to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for giving due consideration to the difficult working conditions suffered by the health staff in Arctic Bay.

Mr. Speaker, during our last session you will recall that I tabled a number of photographs that revealed the decaying physical condition of the Arctic Bay health centre and the overcrowded working conditions.

During my terms of office in this Assembly and the last, and even before division, I raised this issue on many occasions. I am very pleased that the members of this House recognized the desperate need for a health centre in Arctic Bay and supported my

community. When the 2005-06 capital estimates were brought forward just a few days ago... . Mr. Speaker, I'm seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues. I am very pleased that the members of this House recognized the desperate need for a new health centre in Arctic Bay and supported my community.

When the 2005-06 capital estimates were brought forward, it was extremely satisfying to see that the capital plan for the Department Health and Social Services finally includes this essential project.

I would like to let my constituents in Arctic Bay know that it is important that we continue working together as a community to bring forward issues of concern, especially when they seriously affect our health and well-being.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister and the Department of Health and Social Services has taken action on the concerns that were raised: funding has been allocated to this project and planning will soon be initiated. I will continue to work to have this project moved forward.

My constituents can be assured that I will be keeping a close eye on the progress in this area. I look forward to the day that the minister and I will stand together and open the doors of the new health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements, Hon. Ed Picco.

Member's Statement 055 – 2(2): Congratulations to Karen Dunphy

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to inform the House about a young constituent of mine who is involved with a program called Canada World Youth.

Karen Dunphy is presently in Powell River, British Columbia. She's working at an elementary school; she assists in the classroom and so far has been involved with raising money for their local food bank and participating in the community gardening project.

Mr. Speaker, Karen will be leaving Powell River shortly for the second stage of her program and travelling to China. In China, Karen will be the guest of a Chinese family. Karen is currently learning Chinese and will be there for several months. In China, Karen will work in a school teaching English and helping the community while sharing the culture of Canada and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, Karen is a young ambassador for Nunavut and her country. Join with me in congratulating Karen Dunphy and wishing her much success with Canada World Youth.

Mr. Speaker, I also note that Karen's brother Nick, right here to your immediate left, is also a page this week here in the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 056 – 2(2): City of Iqaluit Feasibility Study

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to rise and acknowledge the city of Iqaluit: the mayor and the council and the administration. As members probably heard on the news yesterday, there was a story about the city revisiting and re-looking at a feasibility study for a deep-sea port here.

I'd like to tip my hat to them and wish them all the best. I think it's a lot of foresight on their part to take the lead in a project like this, and I also look forward to continued cooperation and to working with their counterparts in our government. I'm sure that this is one thing that they can approach any one of the three MLAs here in Iqaluit for support and any assistance.

So, I would like to ask all members to congratulate the city. Join me in congratulating them on their foresight and for hopefully alleviating some work that needed to be done by a government department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Item 6. Oral questions. The Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 072 – 2(2): Responses to Application of Approval or Denial

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, to try to assist him and support him in the work that his department is doing in regards to yesterday's discussions that we held.

I would like to give him some more to do. I would like to thank the minister and his department for the announcement he made through his minister's statement; it will be very good for the people of Nunavut.

My question is: in my community, there have been a lot of people requesting... We were told when we had a meeting in Rankin Inlet that some people who applied to the Nunavut Housing Corporation never hear back from them.

I just wondered whether your employees in Arviat can write to those applicants.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they can write to them. This is not the first time that I have heard this problem, that the applicants don't get any responses.

I will not leave it like this; I will relay the message to my staff in Arviat that they should be responding to the applicants, whether they have been approved or denied. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. We wanted to be able to assist those people in Arviat or in Rankin Inlet. If the applicants could then provide a copy to their MLA, as I don't want to produce the name in the House. But, I can say that the letter is correct by saying that a regional staff member in Arviat said that even if people have not been approved that the applicant should not be responded to or given notice of whether they have been denied or approved.

I would like you to tell your president of the Nunavut Housing Corporation that this is not the right way to do things. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member, and I would like to assure the member that as the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, I will relay this message to our staff in Arviat.

To make a clarification about my minister's statement, they will be reviewed in April and we will find out in April whether the procedure will be followed or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 073 – 2(2): Board of Directors Overseeing Evaluation of Bonuses

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the Power Corporation. Last May the previous minister made a ministers' statement indicating that the board of directors had stuck an audit committee to review all the finances and oversee all the finances for the corporation.

Also in the ministers' statement, there was a section that indicated that the corporation was going to be consistent with the government and that the excessive management bonuses regime would be eliminated.

Mr. Speaker, also in relation to that topic, the Auditor General's report, chapter 6 of her report, which is devoted entirely to the power corporation, indicated that the annual objective of reviewing evaluations on bonuses did not take into account how well the corporation was doing financially.

I'd just like to ask the minister if that has been added to what the board looks at in deciding whether or how much management bonuses are paid out to its employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for the Power Corporation, Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a result of Ms. Fraser's report that we received, as the member was pointing out just this past spring, in April I believe, in 2004, based on the 2003 operating year she did the raise the issue around the bonuses. Those were carried over from the Northwest Territories Power Corporation into the Nunavut Power Corporation.

As Hon. David Simailak said in his statement at that time, those excessive bonuses have been eliminated, and indeed the process now for senior managers of the corporation is to follow the... . The Power Corporation board of directors has adopted the Government of Nunavut Excluded Employees Handbook.

So, those employees now follow the Government of Nunavut excluded handbook rules, regulations, and processes that are in place for all senior managers within the Government of Nunavut, and in this case, now, the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I knew that, but what I was asking, and let me just repeat it to the minister, is: is one of the factors that is taken into consideration in deciding on the bonuses... . Does it include how well the corporation is doing financially, or is that something that isn't taken into consideration when deciding on the bonuses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. In the past performance evaluations, it was called at-risk pay, at that time. The at-risk pay was based on the performance of the employee, the individual; it wasn't based on the overall performance of the corporation.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the rules and regulations set down by the GN Excluded Employees Handbook is what is in place right now, and that handbook outlines any type of incentive bonus that is put in place for senior employees of the government, for example assistant deputy ministers or deputy ministers. So, that's the process that is being carried out now.

It's not based on how the corporation itself is doing on the bottom line, it's based on the Government of Nunavut Excluded Employees Handbook, which has been adopted by the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the minister for clarifying that. I'm sure that the minister is aware that in the Auditor General's report they pointed out that there was \$670,000 paid out in the first two years in bonuses, and I understand they range from 15-33 percent of income.

But given that it has changed to follow the guidelines outlined in the excluded employees handbook, can the minister explain if the requirement to pay those out is something that is part the employee's contract? Or is it just something that is stuck in the handbook as an extra benefit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contractual obligations that are outlined within the GN Excluded Employees Handbook outline what those incentives would be and the amounts, if there are any.

I do know that in the case of all government departments' senior civil positions, for example, assistant deputy ministers and deputy ministers, there is a bonus scale. That is reviewed by the Senior Personnel Secretariat of the government, and it's my understanding that is what in place right now for the corporation.

The bonuses that were paid out previously... I could go through the scenario of why that had occurred and so on for the members, but I don't want to delay the House.

So, in conclusion and very quickly, the GN excluded handbook is in place right now. The senior staff with the departments or with the corporation follow the rules and regulations as outlined by the GN excluded handbook, as well as the processes that are in place from the Senior Personnel Secretariat of the government.

So, I think it's pretty safe to say that what we have seen in the past is not occurring today or in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to inform the minister that the reason I am asking this that a resident of Iqaluit got ahold of me over the weekend and told me that they knew someone who worked for the Power Corporation and had got paid a bonus. He was asking me: why are they getting a bonus and we are having to pay more?

So, if it is a contractual obligation under their employment contract, that's why. I am glad that answer is out there and that the minister explained that.

But, given the fact that those bonuses were just paid out last Friday to Power Corporation employees, the process that it follows, does the minister see that or sign off on that, or is it approved by the audit committee of the board of directors? And how much was paid out in bonuses this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reasoning of the bonuses was, as I thought I said earlier, they were called at-risk pay for the employees. I was not aware as minister that they were actually paying this out.

That was a decision that had been made by the senior management, and I found out about it was when an individual came to my office and said that they were going to sue me, a year ago, because they were not getting their bonus that they were promised.

At that time, I sent an email to Shakir Alwarid, who was the CEO of the Power Corporation, and I asked what was the scope of the bonuses that were being paid out, because I was not aware of any bonuses that were being paid out. I was not aware of the amounts of the at-risk pay.

The CEO came forward and said that the previous CEO had gone to the employees and made a commitment. Under contractual law, what occurred was the CEO had done individual professional personnel reviews of the employees, and the bonus was based on that, on their performance appraisal. Then the employee was told that they would receive \$5,000 or \$10,000 and would be paid this on July 1 or June 2, whatever the date was.

I did not want to pay that money out, so I asked for a legal opinion at that time: was there an obligation for me as the minister and the corporation to pay it out. It hadn't come to the minister; I only heard about it secondhand, something that the member has pointed out.

When that information came to me, I asked for a legal opinion. The legal opinion came back that in contractual law, if you have been promised something and you were already made a commitment based on receiving X number of dollars, then indeed, you have to pay that out.

We could have gone to court and fought it, and it would have cost us several thousand dollars to do that. In that instance, we went with opinion to go with the payment, to pay them and basically hold our noses.

At that time, a year ago, those bonuses were reviewed and eliminated, and as Mr. Simailak said in his statement just recently, that the member quoted from, that was not the case.

The member has now just said that this past Friday there were bonuses paid out. I'm not aware of it, and I don't think any of them, the Minister, the Premier, Hon. David Simailak, or anyone is aware of that. So, I can't comment on that, because I don't know if that indeed is the case.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you right now that the minions who monitor the Legislative Assembly, I'm sure are right now making phone calls to the corporation to find out if that is indeed the case, because that is news to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 074 – 2(2): Review Details of Meeting with Mr. Godfrey

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this month provincial and territorial ministers met with Minister John Godfrey, the boss at Infrastructure Canada, to discuss the initiative A New Deal for Canada's Cities and municipalities. My question for the Minister is: when will the Minister reveal details, for regular members of the public, about the results of that meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to inform the members that Minister Godfrey and I will meet this weekend. I will be leaving to go meet with him this weekend. After my meeting with him I will be able to inform the member of the outcome.

With regards to the meeting, we have identified how the communities are looking at them and we are in the process of negotiating an agreement, but I haven't met with them. So, I will be able to inform the members afterwards.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Minister, for that comment. It was my understanding that the provincial and territorial ministers had already met. For the information of the House, the Government of Canada committed a portion of the gas tax that will flow to cities, communities, for investment for infrastructure; I think they're projecting \$5 billion over five years, beginning in 2005.

So, negotiations are going to be very important for Nunavut. I'm wondering if the minister could indicate to the House or tell us what portion of the gas tax Nunavut will be seeking out of this \$5 billion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From the \$5 billion fund that my colleague is talking about, we certainly would like to receive as much as we can. As a matter of fact, the first meetings that I will be attending will be to have discussions with Minister Godfrey and his office on our ideas as to the funding levels we should be receiving from the gas tax money.

So, the first meeting that I will be attending will be to start the negotiations on what we feel would be sufficient for an acceptable level of funding for the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, Mr. Minister. In the past, Nunavut would get ripped off when we had these per capita allocation formulas, because of the small population base. A couple of years ago we were successful in negotiating a 1-percent base allocation formula, and that's why we got an extra \$20 million for the strategic housing fund; \$20 million out of \$2 billion, based on 1 percent, that was great.

Can the minister tell the House that at the very minimum he will be seeking 1 percent of the base allocation out of this \$5 billion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for these questions. The discussions that we three territorial ministers have been having on which percentage would be acceptable... . As the member has indicated, when the funding formula is distributed on a per-capita basis it just does not meet our needs.

So, in furthering our discussions we're looking at as high as 1.5 percent, which would definitely increase the level of funding the Nunavut Government would receive. I can assure the member at least 1 percent would be acceptable for Nunavut, for looking at our infrastructure needs in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I mentioned in my member's statement the importance of involving the mayors of Nunavut as a lobby organization; they have connections in Ottawa and in the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

I'm wondering if the minister could tell us whether his department, the Department of Community and Government Services, is working closely with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to lobby Ottawa for this 1 or 1.5 percent on behalf of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague is reading my mind very well today. As a matter of fact, I'm pleased to inform the House that when I travel to meet with Minister Godfey, I will be taking with me the NAM President to these meetings in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 075 – 2(2): Kugaaruk Sewage Lagoon Concern

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

Prior to my arrival here I visited one of my communities and we had a meeting where I asked for their concerns; the major concern with the hamlet was their sewage lagoon. I'd like to ask the minister if he has received any correspondence from the hamlet that there should be work done on the sewage lagoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were first told about this in the spring of 2003. I'd like to assure my colleague that it's still being planned, and that plan should be completed by this spring. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you. So, can the hamlet of Kugaaruk expect that the work will start in the summer of next year? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Peter Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have set aside some funding for that, about \$160,000, and we have made clear to them that this will be included in the plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. The Member for Pond Inlet, Mr. Arreak.

Question 076 – 2(2): Improvements to the Boarding Homes in Iqaluit and Ottawa

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is in regard to boarding homes in Iqaluit and Ottawa.

They're always filled to their capacity, and I've heard complaints about them. Are there any plans to make improvements to those boarding homes? I know they are not owned by the department, but are there any plans to make improvements in this area? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the concerns that he is raising in regards to the boarding home in Iqaluit, they are going to do a study and make plans to see if it can be expanded, and the same thing with the boarding home in Ottawa. It should be done fairly shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for those plans. We are very appreciative of the Iqaluit boarding home because they take in boarders. But, I would like to ask further... . The lease contract is short-term, and we have been told that the contract might be extended. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's clear that there will be some changes made, because with the new hospital it will be used. And the one in Ottawa will always be used for those people who need operations. We will have to give this a closer look, but at this time I can't specify exactly when that will start. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 077 – 2(2): Monthly Reports from the Power Corporation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

I am going to refer, again, back to a minister's statement made last May, and I will quote from it. It says, "The corporation's staff will be required to provide timely and accurate financial statements and projections to the board of directors and the Financial Management Board on a monthly basis."

I would like to just ask the minister responsible if they are in fact receiving this information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to verify an earlier question by the member. As I indicated, the minions have been at work and the minions have informed me that indeed, to the best of my knowledge and from information provided to me, there were no bonuses paid out by the corporation last Friday or in the last little while. So, I would be able to clarify that first of all. I guess that rumour doesn't seem to be correct.

It is my understanding that the information and the financial system and health of the corporation is being made known and made available to the corporation and indeed, one of the members of the audit committee of the corporation has now been put into position of being the new president of the corporation itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that the minister clarified that and that his dedicated employees are hard at work and listening to his every command.

He had indicated that the corporation was getting that information. Is, as the statement outlines, that information flowing from the board of directors to the Financial Management Board on a monthly basis? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was saying the minions, I meant the minion I have upstairs: a very dedicated, long-serving employee of mine, Ms. Lori Anne White, who is manning the television. So if we could thank Lori Anne, she is the minion that we are speaking about.

It is my understanding that the Department of Finance has been working very closely with the senior staff of the corporation for the last past several months, and through the Crown Agency Council, and the information on the corporation's finances is being made known on a regular basis to the Department of Finance.

So the answer to the member's question on the information is correct. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then if I'm correct, the accurate timing and accurate statements and projections are being done on a monthly basis. I would assume that is correct, that that is what the minister is indicating.

Given that, could the minister indicate, based on the last month's information that they would have received from the corporation, what the board and the staff at the corporation are projecting the situation to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't say on a monthly basis. It's my understanding it's on a regular basis; it could be six weeks, it could be four weeks. So I said a regular basis. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier here, I don't have a copy of the audited financial statements for the corporation for this fiscal year.

It is my understanding that the Auditor General has not signed off on them yet. We would hope to have them in the coming days. I know I'll have them by February, when the House sits again, when we look at the recommendations of the Utility Rate Review Council. They should be coming forward at the same time.

We will be in a better position to look at it. The losses of the first two years of the corporation were \$5.2 million, a little over \$7 million the second year, and I would expect in the third year of the operation, which is what the member is asking for, the loss will probably be comparable. I know that there are some estimates that the loss could be between \$11 and \$12 million for the third year. Again, it wouldn't be correct to say that until I actually get the statements. Maybe it's less. I would hope it's less. It may be in that ballpark: 11 or 12. I would hope that it wouldn't be more. So, I think that's what the member was alluding to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for revealing that information.

But, the information that I was seeking is on its projections and not for a time period that is done already. If they're not following the minister's statement where it says they will be required to do it every month and they're not doing that, why? I have a question about that.

Mr. Speaker, it does say that they will provide that information and the projections and that's for every month. And that's what I'm talking about. Currently, what are they looking at right now on their variance reports or whatever? I'm sure that that's what the department or the corporation is putting forward. What are their projections for the current year for their fiscal outlook? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to speculate on what the numbers are, so, when I said based on the first year, 5, and then 7, and we know the costs have been going up, that's why I said that it may be 10 or 12. It may be less.

It may be more, but I don't think there's any point in speculating until we actually have the documents in front of us, and Mr. Speaker, I would hope to have those over the next few days.

Mr. Speaker, their estimates and so on have been made available on a regular and ongoing basis to the Department of Finance. Because at that the end of the day, the corporation's revenue base is paid for by one customer and that's the Government of Nunavut.

I think it's important to point out that since April 1, 2001, when the corporation set up, there has only been \$14 million put into the corporation by this government, in the last three and a half years. If you look at that amount that was put into the corporation, the \$14 million, 80 percent of that, in lieu of a rider, would have been paid by the government anyway, or \$ 11.2 million.

So, the subsidy that we talked about yesterday to the people of Nunavut is about \$2.8 million, because that's what they would have paid out of that total amount. So, I hope that helps clarify the answer to the member. Thank you.

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

Question 078 – 2(2): Appointments to the Human Rights Tribunal

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

(interpretation ends) I believe a few days ago the minister made a statement in the Legislative Assembly with respect to the appointments to the human rights tribunal. I would like to congratulate all the members that have been appointed, particularly from small communities throughout Nunavut.

But I had a concern with one of them, and I wonder if the minister would be prepared to explain exactly why he would appoint someone who is a legal counsel to the Legislative Assembly.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked for submissions from all members and from the public to see who they think would be ideal for serving on the tribunal. I'm

very glad to submit that we'll have good broad representation from throughout Nunavut and from different backgrounds. It helps to have legal counsel. She will not serve as legal counsel for the tribunal but will sit alongside the other members and represent her views to the tribunal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope so. I would think that the member, this particular legal counsellor, will then have to probably declare conflict of interest and whatnot when dealing with human rights legislation and with issues that are related to human rights issues and so on.

I wonder if the minister should seek advice from the integrity commissioner, and if not, why not?

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Where there's private proprietary interest involved for elected officials we have an integrity commissioner. I don't see the point being made here; we are dealing with human rights, not proprietary interests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 079 – 2(2): Number of Probation Officers in the Communities

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice.

Social workers in many of Nunavut's communities are doing double duty as probation officers. This places a great deal of additional stress on their shoulders; they already have a difficult job, as we all know. It also exposes them to more danger, as some of the people that work at probation work with offenders, dangerous offenders, violent offenders, that are being released from jail.

Since 1999 it's been recommended that at least 18-23 community corrections officers be hired to deal with probation services. My question for the minister is: can the minister inform the House how many communities currently have community corrections personnel, and how many do not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand currently there are eight communities that have corrections workers. Yes, it would be ideal to have probation workers in every community, but unfortunately we haven't had the resources to cover all the communities to date. We have done it, and we have tried to cooperate with the federal

government to try and coordinate both activities and fund them jointly, but we have not been successful to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister clarify how many social workers currently also provide probation services in their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department works in coordination with Health and Social Services, but I don't have those figures right now. I know that we have probation workers in at least eight communities that I know of.

So, I could get back to the member with the exact figures on how many social workers coordinate their activities with our department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister describe the working relationship between his department and the Department of Health and Social Services for the direction and compensation of social workers who are providing probation services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to get back to the member because it involves getting information from another department at this time. I will commit to providing that to the honourable member as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. The Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 080 – 2(2): Amounts of Financial Projections

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is once again for the very popular minister of the Power Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier the minister indicated that he is getting current and accurate financial information and projections from the Power Corporation, and I would assume that that's for this fiscal year that they are operating in right now. Given that, I would like to ask the minister: if they had that information and there are accurate projections out there, why does it seem like it's such a secret, that they are not letting people know what kind of a

shortfall the corporation is going to be looking at in this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess we still have several months to go in this year: December, February, March, and up to March 31 of this fiscal year. Again, as I stated earlier, I have not received the audited statements for this fiscal year going back to last year, from April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2004. I don't want to be in a position of trying to say what an amount may be as of March 31, 2005.

That's the reason why we are not saying what those are. There are some projections, they have made forecasts; any business and government does forecasting on what we believe the expenditures will be for a coming period of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask the minister: is it the view of this government and the corporation that the public doesn't have a right to know how much public money is being looked at to go into bailing out again the Power Corporation this year?

If they have this information, what's the big deal about letting people know what it is if someone is asking for it? I can understand if no one is asking for it: it would be great; don't say anything.

But given the interest in this and that people do have a right to know... . As the minister indicated, there are projections that they are looking at. If the government calculates projections, they need to know how much to plan to put aside for the corporation and not wait until after the year end and the year later when they get the audited statements; they don't wait that long.

Is it the view of the minister and this government that this is information that the public doesn't have a right to know? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process has always been when you receive the audited financial statements, signed off by the Auditor General, you table them in the House.

That has not been to say that our projections right now are saying X number of dollars and so on. I don't see to any benefit of making those known; I guess that would be the quick answer.

The second answer on the bail-out: since April 1, 2001 this government has only provided \$14 million in actual cash; 10 and 4; \$10 million in lieu of the rider and \$4 million for operating costs.

If we had put the rider on as first asked for, we would have paid 80 percent of that anyway. So, \$11.2 million would have come directly from us because we provide 80 percent of the revenue to the corporation.

In reality, the bail-out that you talked about, and the member has said, will be \$2.8 million since 2001; in a three and a half year period, that is what we would be paying. And Mr. Curley made a good point yesterday when he said, "What is the rate of the subsidies that are out there and how do we provide an escape from a rate shock for our customer base?" That's what we're trying to do.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, the government has to be conscious of the electricity that we're spending, come up with better energy management processes, and that's what we're working on. At the end of the day our government provides 80 percent of the revenue to the corporation, and I don't think that it is correct phraseology to say that the government bailed out the corporation. In a three-and-a-half year period, all we've provided is \$2.8 million, because that is what the customers would have paid; 20 percent of that \$14 million. We provided \$11.8 million that we would have paid anyway if the rate had been put in place.

So, I hope that helps clarify the answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the key word there is if that had been put in place. The fact of the matter is it wasn't. So, you can paint it any color you want; it's still due this money that was given by the government to the corporation to cover its shortfalls, for whatever reason.

Again, I would like to ask the minister: do they have current projections for this year? I'm not talking about last year. They have to know what they're looking at having to cover off for this fiscal year and next fiscal year prior to the new rates kicking in.

Why does the minister not feel the public has the right to know what that amount is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, since April 1, 2001, we only have two audited financial statements that the members have seen and that the Auditor General has looked at. We will be in receipt of the third audited financial statement, signed off by the Auditor General, in the next couple of weeks.

As soon as we receive those, we'll table them. If the House is not sitting, it will be in the February session when we deal with the Utility Rate Review Council recommendations, at the same time.

To say right now what our projection is, based on March 31, of a cost factor, Mr. Speaker, would be inappropriate because we're still dealing with some of the costs. For example, I note that there is an oil tanker standing off shore pumping oil right now, and there's another tanker.

I don't know what the cost of that will be to this corporation. Is there a new cost based on that? Will those costs increase? So, if I made a projection in this House and said the corporation expects to generate \$2 million worth of profit up to March 31, March 31 comes along and it loses \$10 million, then the members would say I misled the House or something.

So, you need to be able to deal with facts. There are projections that have been put forward to the Department of Finance, which has been working on a regular basis with the power corporation. We do have the Crown Agency Council that the Auditor General suggested that we set up, and that's in place, and they're reviewing the financial projections and statements. Mr. Speaker, at the same time the board of directors and the audit committee of the board of directors are also dealing with it.

So, I guess that's the reason why I'm not saying what those projections are, because they're only guesstimates and projections and they may change. They may change in the next couple of weeks based on any new costs that occur. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the government as a whole has no problem in projecting what they look at for the year. Just last week the Minister of Finance gave her budget address, and there were projections in there of what things were planning to be at the end of the year.

Given that, if you look back through our short history, for almost every quarter you could say our fiscal update has been like a yo-yo, much like the power corporation's projected profits and losses; they go back and forth.

Given that, Mr. Speaker, why does it seem inconsistent to provide that information with the government as a whole? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no inconsistency here. When the Minister of Finance tables financial projections and so on, it is based on audited financial statements from the year before. She actually knows and the House knows and the members are informed of what those projections are and then we have a debate on it.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, the government makes projections. That's why we have supplementals. That's money spent outside of what was budgeted when the House was sitting. The corporation doesn't have the opportunity to bring forth supplemental appropriations based on the amount.

So, there is no inconsistency in the way the format is run. The financial statements are audited, they come forward, the members can look at them, and based on those statements and based on projections, the government sits down here and makes a budget and tries to project what we are going to spend.

Mr. Speaker, that's why, as the member points out, sometimes they're up and sometimes they're down. It's the same thing with the corporation. When I have the copy of the audited financial statements for the fiscal year that ended, we'll have three financial statements; when we'll be in this House in February, I'll table those statements and I'll be able to give a projection. We'll be six weeks away from the end of the fiscal year and then we'll have an actual honest projection. Then we'll be able to do that. I think it's a bit premature to do that right now in the third week in November. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 081 – 2(2): Provincial Status and Northern Strategy

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. I've been following with interest the media attention of the last couple days on the Prime Minister's comments, made I'm not sure in what country, about the provinces and the three territories; he said something about eventually achieving provincehood.

So, I was wondering, in light of that recent comment, if there is a decision to develop an honest strategy, if the Premier thinks they should develop a timetable to reach provincehood as part of the discussions currently being held with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Government Leader, Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of provincehood has not been raised in our meetings with the Prime Minister to date. This issue came up in an off-the-cuff discussion with one of the governors in Brazil.

The good governor from Brazil was asking what was the status of the territories; that was very kind of the governor. And the Prime Minister made an off-the-cuff statement that he would like to see the territories become provinces one day and have the same status as the rest of the country.

So, I applaud the Prime Minister for his honest answer, that he feels that we should one day join our rightful place in the Confederation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier, for those comments. Yes, it was kind of a shock. We've been moving to devolution and suddenly the Prime Minister is talking about provincehood. Perhaps the Premier can update us on the discussions that he is having with the federal government on devolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Premier, Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been making some progress, but we have not concluded anything as of now. We've been very up front with the federal government that we would like to conclude a devolution agreement during our term. That still remains our position. To date, the discussions have been very preliminary and we're not going to sit back and take that.

We'll continue to push very hard on this issue through the Northern Strategy, and we have very good partners in the Northwest Territories that are pursuing the same goals that we are. We'll continue to press this matter until we come to a successful conclusion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few years ago when I was in Ottawa lobbying on the same issue for Nunavut, a senior official with DIAND at that time told us that devolution is an important step in evolution of a territory. I asked him what that meant and he said, "Well, it could take ten to fifteen years."

The Premier stated that he would like have devolution within the life of this government, and I wondered if the Premier could tell us today, or give us an indication, of how receptive the government of Canada is to his stated wish that we want devolution by the end of this term. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, they have not said no, so I feel that's a sign of encouragement that discussions are ongoing, and I am very optimistic that we can conclude one.

There was a time when the bureaucrats in Ottawa used to say that you can't have your own government in Nunavut. A lot of those same bureaucrats are in that same department. So, I am optimistic that the Prime Minister of the day has very good views towards the North and I would like to take advantage of that and conclude agreements that are successful both for Ottawa and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know, as politicians, we sit around and talk about devolution, and I think we all realize how important it is for our territory to succeed at devolution, but many people in Nunavut don't understand what devolution is and how it would benefit us.

I wonder if the Premier could take a few seconds or minutes and explain to the people of Nunavut how devolution would benefit Nunavut over the next five to ten years, how it would benefit us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we look at where we are today, we are mostly, solely, dependent for our financial resources from Ottawa; up to 90 percent of our budget comes from Ottawa. The reason why that is the case is that we don't have the ability to generate our own revenue. One area that is very readily available to us is our natural resources, which we can generate revenue out of.

So, that is one area that would definitely help us, that we would be managing our own resources and have our own financial resources at our disposal. We often also hear about concerns towards the environment. Today, we have no role as a government, even though we are the most affected, in the management and control of the resources in our backyard. So, that is one area that we could greatly benefit from.

We live with the after-effects of development; we could look to Nanisivik, for instance, where the environment is in such poor state that we can't reuse the very precious infrastructure in place because of what took place before.

So, those things we would love to be able to manage one day, so that we can manage our resources and take advantage of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 082 – 2(2): Providing Statements to the House

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my question is for the minister responsible for the Power Corporation.

Since the minister is aware of what the projections are and the Financial Management Board is aware of what the projections are and of the losses or the financial situation that the Power Corporation is looking at for this year and more likely for next year, and don't feel that's in the public's interest to know what it is... . As the minister's statement in May indicated, there would be monthly statements provided and projections provided to the minister.

Will the minister commit to at least providing the members of this House with a listing of, since then, when those statements were received and for what time period they covered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I would commit to the members of the House and to the Nunavut public, again, is based on the audited financial statements of the corporation. Those are actual and verifiable.

It is my understanding that they are pending sign off by the Auditor General of Canada, and then I would be able to provide those. Mr. Speaker, the projections for this current fiscal year, which is ending March 31, 2005... I would hope to be in a position to update the House on that situation when we sit down and reconvene, I believe it's in February, when the Utility Rate Review Council reports and so on, and then that will bring clarity to the issue.

That would be consistent with the processes of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't asking for financial information or any numbers. I was asking the minister if he would commit to providing the members of this House with the dates and the fiscal periods for those monthly accurate financial statements and projections, that according to the last minister's statement, will be required to be made to share with the members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm attempting to do that. I could, in two weeks, receive the audited financial statements from the Auditor General and make them public or something, and then the members of the House wouldn't have a chance to debate them.

What I'm saying is consistent with what the process is. As soon as I receive the report signed off by the Auditor General of Canada, I will bring those forward. I will table them. I said, and I commit to the House, that I will be able to do that, I'm sure, by February, because the Auditor General has indicated that it should be a number of days for these current statements.

If the Auditor General of Canada signs off on these statements for this fiscal period in the next several days while the House is sitting, then I would table them at that time. And that would be consistent with the process. I wouldn't be in a position to table projections based on numbers provided by the corporation on what their best guesstimate is of their balance sheet on March 31, 2005.

So, I would commit to updating the House on that amount in February when the House reconvenes. When I actually have the third audited financial statement in hand and we're only six weeks away from the year end, we would be able to provide that information.

I think that's fair and consistent in what's been occurring. To do anything else wouldn't give any opportunity to the members to be able to debate the issue and indeed raise it in the House. I think that the members should be provided with that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how much clearer I can make it. I was not asking for financial information to be tabled in this House. I know that the minister is required by legislation to table that information.

What I was asking for is, in the minister's statement last May, is says that the corporations will be required to provide timely and accurate financial statements and projections. What I'm asking for is not what those projections say or what those statements say. I'm asking for a listing of when they were received and for what period they covered, for the minister to provide that information.

Otherwise, how do we know that this is happening? They're saying, "Oh yes, we're getting it regularly." How do we know? Are they doing what they said they were going to do? We don't know that.

What I'm asking the minister for is not the numbers in there but the dates when they were received and from what period that information covered. Will the minister commit to providing that information to the members of this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last five years Mr. Tootoo has probably been one of the clearest members that has sat across from me in the house. I can reassure Mr. Tootoo that clarity... .

Sometimes I have been blamed for making up my own words, so I'll use one right now. I would say that clarity and fairness are consistent with the process. I would say to Mr. Tootoo that his request is not redundant. I don't believe that the request is out of line.

I will, at the break sometime today, see what information has been provided, the dates and times, if that's what the member is asking for. I don't think it's appropriate to bring forth projections. That's not consistent with the process that we follow in the House.

I can, though, bring forward, as the member has asked, what information, if it's been an income statement and a balance sheet, brought forward to the board of directors and the

dates. But I would not commit to giving the amounts and so on because I don't think that would serve the purpose that the member is asking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 018 – 2(2): Social Assistance Payments

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister of Education.

I understand that Statistics Canada reported that social assistance rates across Canada's provinces went down between 1993 and 2003. Last week in a member's statement I referred to the importance of having the basic information to evaluate whether or not programs are effective. Information from our social assistance program can tell us a lot about whether adult training, education, and work programs are having the desired effect of getting people to be more self-sufficient.

As a result, Mr. Speaker, this is the question I'll ask. Broken down by community:

1. What amount was expended in social assistance payments for the following fiscal years: 2000-2001; 2001-02; 2002-03; 2003-04?
2. What was the average monthly social assistance caseload in the following fiscal years: 2000-2001; 2001-02; 2002-03; and 2003-04?
3. For the following fiscal years, broken down by case size, how many individuals received social assistance and how long have they been receiving assistance? Again, for the same time period.
4. For the following fiscal years, how many applicants for social assistance were assessed, what percentage of those assessed clients reported net income, and what was the total net income reported that were the total needs assessed? Again, for the same dates.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 019 – 2(2): Eyewear and Related Services

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to put my glasses on. Not only me, most of us here use glasses to read. I know there are concerns,

especially in Kitikmeot, for those of us who use glasses. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, my written questions is to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

1. What entity currently holds the contract to provide eyewear and related services, pursuant to Government of Nunavut RFP 115223, to communities in the Kitikmeot?
2. How is the eyewear service provided; what are the department's contractual standards for delivery?
3. Was this contract tendered or was it sole-sourced?
4. What entity currently holds the contract to provide optical related services (pursuant to Government of Nunavut RFP 115225) to communities in the Kitikmeot?
5. How is the optical service provided, and what are the department's contractual standards for delivery?
6. Was this contract tendered, or was it sole-sourced?
7. When does the contract to provide eyewear and related services expire?
8. When does the contract to provide optical related services expire?
9. What is the value of the contract to provide eyewear and related services?
10. What is the value of the contract to provide optical related services?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 020 – 2(2): Trades Training

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are no trades schools in Nunavut. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, especially in regards to trades training for Nunavut. I will read it in English. (interpretation ends)

1. How many full-time trades certification programs are currently offered to Nunavut residents in Nunavut and in which communities?
2. How many full-time trades certification programs are offered to Nunavut residents in jurisdictions outside of Nunavut and in which communities?
3. How many students are currently enrolled in trades certification programs in Nunavut?

4. How many students are currently enrolled in trades certification programs outside of Nunavut?
5. What is the total amount of funding allocated to providing trades certification programs in Nunavut?
6. What is the total amount of funding allocated to providing trades certification programs outside of Nunavut?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Written Questions. Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 8. Replies to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 002 – 2(2): Review of the 2004 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, I am very pleased to present the Committee's review of the 2004 Auditor General's Report to the Legislative Assembly, and I am sure the members opposite are quite eager to see it as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to the Members of the Standing Committee, Mr. Alagalak, Mr. Barnabas, Mr. Curley and Mr. Peterson. We all worked exceptionally well together during our hearings earlier this year and they were very productive meetings that were held.

As you know, the Auditor General reports annually to the Legislative Assembly on the audit of the Government of Nunavut's financial statements. Management issues that arise during the course of the audit are brought to the attention of the Legislative Assembly.

In June of this year, the Standing Committee undertook the most comprehensive and in-depth set of public hearings ever held to date on the AG's Report. The Committee took the opportunity to rigorously question GN witnesses on the issues raised in the AG's Report, and to scrutinize areas of concern to the Committee. These hearings constituted an important accountability exercise in the management of the government's scarce fiscal resources.

Mr. Speaker, on the first day of the Committee's hearings, one of the Members noted that the Auditor General's report was a "serious wake-up call for the government." As all Members know, serious issues were raised in the report with respect to a number of matters facing the Government of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Report that your Standing Committee is tabling today contains a total of 21 formal recommendations. In some cases, the recommendations deal with new matters. In other cases, they build upon past issues addressed by Standing Committees and seek to generate action in areas where progress has been slow or non-existent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a number of areas in our report.

Earlier this year, it was revealed that the Government has used up over 70% of its available borrowing limit. The majority of this is due to guarantees made on behalf of Crown corporations. The Standing Committee has recommended enhanced transparency in the reporting of the Government's borrowing activities and debt position.

Mr. Speaker, during the Committee's hearings, much energy was devoted to addressing the challenges facing Crown corporation governance in the territory. For its part, the Government has identified the work of the recently-created Crown Agency Council as being critical to achieving progress in this area.

Indeed, the Premier reminded this House just yesterday of the importance that the Government places in the Crown Agency Council in addressing the issues facing our Crown Corporations.

The Standing Committee has recommended that the work of this body be regularly disclosed and reported to the Legislative Assembly and the public, and not be shrouded in secrecy. The Standing Committee has also recommended that the Crown Agency Council act decisively to produce formal letters of expectation to clarify the role and performance benchmarks of Crown corporations.

Mr. Speaker, the Government is required by law to table the annual public accounts by December 31 of each year. This is not a matter of discretion or something for the Government to do at a time of its own choosing and convenience. It is the law. For some time now, we have heard that one of the reasons why the law hasn't been followed is because the fiscal year-end of Nunavut Arctic College falls on June 30, rather than March 31. The Standing Committee is formally recommending that the legislation governing this area be amended so that the College's year-end date is the same as with other entities of Government. We are optimistic that this will assist the Government in meeting its legal requirements.

Mr. Speaker, progress has been achieved over the years with respect to the amount of information that is disclosed to the public and the Legislative Assembly through the annual main estimates process. The Standing Committee's report contains a number of important recommendations for further improvements in this area, including enhanced transparency with respect to disclosing Government contracting and leasing expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, it was revealed that the planned transfer of the petroleum products function of the Department of Community and Government Services to a new Crown corporation has been delayed until 2005.

Given the significant challenges and problems facing the Government as a whole with respect to energy issues, the Standing Committee is of the view that this transfer should be deferred at least until such time as the Qulliq Energy Corporation receives a clean audit opinion.

Mr. Speaker, a significant portion of the Standing Committee's time was spent examining the issues surrounding the Nunavut Power Corporation. One of the Standing Committee's recommendations is that a recovery business plan for the Corporation be brought forward and tabled during the next sitting of the Assembly, in early 2005.

This recommendation is closely related to our position that a comprehensive GN-wide review of energy subsidies is necessary. Mr. Speaker, the trend towards greater transparency and accountability is a national one. Indeed, as we have even seen recently at the federal level, the heads of national Crown corporations are now being subjected to parliamentary review and scrutiny prior to their appointments being made.

Your Standing Committee is recommending that a review take place in Nunavut concerning the process by which major appointments are made. As Members of this House are well aware, millions of dollars are being spent to construct major new health facilities throughout Nunavut.

The public still does not have a clear picture of exactly how the government plans to pay for two of them. It is important that the government clarify its position with respect to the use of P3s, and the Committee has recommended that it do so.

Mr. Speaker, it's important to note for the record that the recommendations presented by the Standing Committee have been designed to support our collective commitment to strengthening financial management in government.

As you will recall from our recent Caucus Retreat in Arviat, one of our stated goals was to act decisively on recommendations made by the Auditor General and Standing Committees of this House.

Our recommendations have been developed in the spirit of constructive improvement, and should not be misconstrued or misinterpreted or misrepresented as being mere annoyances or inconveniences for the bureaucracy.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by noting that your Standing Committee, pursuant to Rule 91(5), is requesting that the Government table a formal written response to our report within 120 days.

I move, Mr. Speaker, that the report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Do members agree that the committee report be received and adopted by the Legislative Assembly according to Rule 91(5) and that it be written as read.

Some members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 12. Item 13, under orders of the day, tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 026 – 2(2): Early Childhood Development Report 2002-2003

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table as per my Minister's statement, the Early Childhood Development Report 2002-2003 and also its student loan fund.

Tabled Document 027 – 2(2): Student Loan Fund

Student Loan Fund as required under the Student Financial Act.

Speaker (interpretation): Please provide a copy of the document that's being tabled. Tabling of Documents. Orders of the Day. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Bill 4, Appropriations Capital Act 2005-2006, with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

We will take a 20 minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*Session recessed at 15:26 and resumed at 15:54*

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the Committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with. Bill 4, Appropriation Capital Act 2005-2006. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends): I would like to continue with our review of the capital estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services and if time permits we would commence with the review of the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we agreed with the review of the department.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown do you have any witnesses you'd like to bring to the table?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): I did not have this placed so could you repeat your question please?

Chairman: Madame Brown, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Levinia Brown: Yes.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring the witnesses...

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms if you can assist the witnesses

Thank you. (interpretation ends) For the record, introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes. With me today is Rosemary Brown; from Capital Planning, on my right, the Deputy Minister, Bernie Blais.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Brown. (interpretation ends) Yesterday we were on page H-5 of the capital estimates for Health and Social Services.

Before we proceed, I would like to remind the 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 the matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

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

(interpretation) Thank you. H-5. H-6. (interpretation ends) Health and Social Services Details of Capital. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can you please face the members once in a while? I would like to welcome the minister and her officials. I think that's your sister that is beside you on your left because her last name is Brown. Welcome.

Under your statement, Ms. Brown, in your speaking notes, I wanted to ask you a question in regards to boarding homes. You said that in the Kivalliq Region there's going to be a Request for Proposal for a boarding home, but it doesn't state anything about Request for Proposal for a boarding home. When will the Request for Proposal be brought about? Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be doing my best, as a minister of this department, to answer all of the questions. I will answer all of the questions. If I don't know the answer, I will pass it on to my Deputy and Ms. Brown I think it would be better to be transparent that way.

In regards to Mr. Curley's question, I will be giving it to the Deputy Minister for his response. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of the boarding home for the Rankin Inlet Health Centre will be dealt with and starting in the new year, we will be having a meeting with the Community and Government Services to determine what approach we will use.

There are a number of things that have to be done as well as that these contracts, boarding home costs are paid by Health Canada in all of our boarding homes currently and we have to negotiate a fixed rate with Health Canada to determine what they are prepared to pay in each of the communities that we currently have boarding homes like Yellowknife and Edmonton.

So, our hope is to start in the early part of the new year to determine whether we build ourselves, I guess, to some extent, or we will request, send out an RFP to have someone build that boarding home for us and pay them a fixed fee, as we do in several of our boarding homes now, the fee that Health Canada would agree to fund the government.

So, the expectation is that in the early part of the new year, we will begin that process with Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response. So, it will be the new year, early year coming in there. So it has not been fully decided yet whether or not it would be, the space requirement form is probably not fully laid out but you're standing by, before the construction season, that you would put out an RFP.

If that is the intent, I would think then, that the decision is probably yet to be made with respect to whether or not the private contracts out there will design, construct and ultimately lease the facility for a number of years.

Is that what you have in mind? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curly. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is the idea to determine. Currently, we have two different models. We have several sites such as Winnipeg and Yellowknife that basically there is a lease on that building. We have a contract to operate and clean the building.

The preferred model, the one that I think appears to be very effective is the Edmonton and Ottawa model where basically all we do is we pay a fixed fee for each patient or escort in that building. So, those are basically the two types of possibilities that we will be looking at, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We're on page H-6. (interpretation end): Directorate. Details of Capital. Tangible assets. Total, Qikiqtaaluk Region, \$ 24,195,000. (interpretation): Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): H-7, Health and Social Services. Detail of Capital. Detail of Capital. Tangible assets. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had asked this question before during Question Period. There doesn't seem to be anything in here of a nursing station to built or Health Centre in Repulse Bay. I talked about the land development for the Health Centre in Repulse Bay, and I don't see anything in these capital estimates.

It has been deferred numerous times and there is nothing at all in these capital estimates for the Health Centre in Repulse Bay under the Kivalliq Region. I wonder why it's not in

the estimates. Did they completely take it out, or did they forget about it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at the question that the member has for a health center in Repulse Bay. It is slated to be done in 2008. \$309,000 has been allocated, and a design is to be ready in 2007. It has been deferred because we had to build the three regional hospitals first in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, and Iqaluit. So, for that reason they had to defer that Health Centre in Repulse Bay. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is in regards to vehicles. Whenever there is an emergency, they usual have an ambulance that has the stretcher that brings patients to the hospital during emergencies.

I just wanted to find out whether those vehicles will be able to have stretchers in the vehicles.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In all of the communities they have received mobile equipment and they will have enough room for stretchers in the vehicle so, that's, and I know that the vehicles will be able to house those stretchers in the vehicles. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the Minister and her officials to our hearing. I was noticing that while reviewing Capital Estimates that there doesn't seem to be very many new projects for group homes. There are no group homes on your Capital Plan and we know that in the other communities in Nunavut we have a need for those types of facilities for our youth.

And I noticed in August there was an RFP, Request for Proposals, issue for group home for disabled children in Cambridge Bay. I'm wondering if the Minister could update me on the reason for that RFP and then what do you intend to do with that in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within Nunavut, those are most frequently asked questions and I can answer that there is one in Rankin Inlet for

both adult and children, and in Chesterfield Inlet, I don't have the information in front of me. Maybe my Deputy Minister can clarify this further.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: I have to apologize, I cannot answer that question at this point and time. I know that we are doing, we have sent out an RFP but I can't recollect exactly all of the background related to that. So, I wish I could answer that question. I just can't at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe in the Kitikmeot, we have one group home and that's in Cambridge Bay. And I'm not exactly sure whether there are beds available. I think there might be six or eight, that's available, I guess that would be in total for the entire Kitikmeot.

But then if you compare Kitikmeot to the other regions, I believe in the Kivalliq Region there might be as many as 50 or more beds in the Baffin Region well over 70 beds for youth. So, you can see there is a great discrepancy between the regions in terms of providing group home facilities for our youth who are in need of help.

Where it becomes a large issue is when the social workers are looking for foster parents, for kids with foster care, or in a home and they don't have foster care. There are not enough people to or willing or able to take in more children when you don't have a group home facility to assist with that problem.

So, I wonder if the Minister could comment on what their plans are or what their department's plans are for providing more group home type facilities in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good questions. I'll ask my Deputy Minister to respond...

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first line of our initiative, right now, has been basically to do an inventory across all three regions in terms of the number of group homes, elders' facilities and those types of things, so we have that information, currently.

What we will be doing hopefully, next year, Mr. Chairman, is that we will be looking at some kind of strategy to look at where is the need. We know clearly that in the Kitikmeot region, based on all the resource allocations and staffing, we know that it does not compare with the other two regions, and with the group homes, as well.

Our hope is to come forward with a plan in the new year to address that need and then put forward to our Minister a recommendation on how we might do that over the next three to five years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Peterson, supplementary.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another issue of concern in my riding is the need for special care facilities. I have been in touch with Minister's officials to help two or three people in my riding with serious problems that their families just couldn't help them, and one got sent to a special care facility, and I think that there are some already down south, but there are several others in Cambridge Bay who require special care facilities, and it is very difficult for the families and the communities at large. I also know that to send people out, it is very costly. It could be as much as \$1,000 a day, or more.

I am wondering if the Minister or her officials could comment on what their department is doing to look at how you can assist people who need special care facilities in their communities, or be sent to special care facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you. Those are very good concerns. I can respond partially. Due to the lack of group homes in Nunavut, there are over 90 people who are outside of Nunavut, and it is very expensive to have people outside of Nunavut.

I understand his question. What we had thought of was that we want to bring the people back to the north and this will have to be worked on, and I will want to include you during our plans. I will ask my Deputy Minister to add to that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of things that our department has done so far. I think that up until about a year ago, we didn't even know how many people we had that were in this category, that we were funding or paying for outside of territory. Now we have that information today.

The next step is to determine how many of those, there are 45 children and 45 adults, that are currently being housed out of territory in these special group homes. The next step is to determine how many of those could be brought back to Nunavut. Hopefully, build capacity here so a business case, hopefully, in the foreseeable future would be coming forward to our Minister.

The second piece of that is that we are also looking at doing an inventory of how many children in this particular category, Mr. Chairman, do we have in Nunavut? I guess that that's never been done. We don't have a good idea of the number of children that we have that require specialized services at this time.

Also I think a bit of good news, Mr. Chairman, is that we have looked at developing three rehabilitation programs; one each of the regional health centres. And you will note, when you visit the Cambridge Bay Health Centre, for example, that it has a fairly large rehabilitation area. I guess that has been put in for that purpose.

So we have a program, currently, reasonably well advanced in Nunavut, and that is fairly new. We have another one that has started in the Rankin Inlet area, and hopefully our next step is to try and establish a rehabilitation service in the Kitikmeot area, as well.

The other piece of that is, I am sorry the answer is long, but there are four pieces to dealing with the continuing of care for these children. The other piece, as well, is that we also have to train our home community care workers to provide additional supports in the home for parents who have children with severe disability.

So we will be working on that as well in the future and then of course, the idea would be to look at whether or not we could build, if we can create a critical mass or a cluster of these types of clients, look at building the group home that will accommodate that, the same type of model as Chesterfield Inlet .

So then we will begin work, then we will continue on in the coming year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was reading through this document it is called *Nunavut Addictions and Mental Healthcare Strategy*, prepared by Health and Social Services. In March 2002, what I found on Page 29 a priority recommendation 2, will establish a 24-7 facility for severely and persistently mentally ill clients in Iqaluit. I think that has been done.

Then #2, it says to explore or respite/group home facility in the Kitikmeot Region and in the background it says; growing number of clients in each region similar to those clients in #1 above. #1 above being persistently mentally ill.

So I am wondering if the minister and his officials could update me on where that project is at right now in this current fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): We are planning those and this will be ongoing and if that is approved by the Cabinet, then we will proceed. The closer to home plan; we would like to see the content of that. We will plan on this, depending on the funding we will have.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last few days, my colleague from Kugluktuk and I have been talking about the problems with women's crisis shelters in the Kitikmeot and the concern is that there is only one that is operational.

I was in Yellowknife in early September I had an opportunity to visit and tour the Alison McAteer House, that is operated by the YWCA. I believe they said it's a government facility.

I am wondering why, in Nunavut, the Government of Nunavut doesn't provide facilities such as women's crisis shelters. It's left to the hamlets to develop those crisis shelters and operate them, although you do provide the operational funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. That is true. The Department of Health and Social Services give funds to the hamlet councils and then it's handled by the hamlet councils. They are very different from community to community. Some already have some existing buildings, and I know the funding comes from the government.

Chairperson (interpretation): Do you want to make an addition? Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that's always a good question; should we operate facilities, whether they are boarding homes or shelters. I think in essence the direction that I, I have worked in six jurisdictions, so I can speak with some experience.

Typically the best null is when communities own or operate a facility because there is more sensitivity to the issues within those communities.

The government operating all facilities, I guess that there are many and there are some models like that, but for the most part, shelters and group homes typically are operated, in my experience anyway, by non-profit agencies and I believe that is a good model that communities have an ability to operate and run those facilities but the government contributes to that. So, that's about all I can say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister and Mr. Blais. How many women's crisis shelters are currently operating in our Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information right in front of me but I think Rosemary Brown can answer that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Rosemary Brown.

Ms. Rosemary Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now there are women's shelters in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet and Kugluktuk and in some cases women are flown in from other communities for respite there, or sometimes in the case there are beds available in Yellowknife or Churchill, depending on whether if the others are full or if those communities are closer. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Rosemary Brown. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I heard Ms. Rosemary Brown say that only there's only three crisis shelters operational in Nunavut. I think that Cambridge Bay has a crisis shelter, Kugluktuk does have a crisis shelter, but if I hear correctly from my colleague in Kugluktuk that's not operating. So it's still only that we have three crisis shelters, is that correct, Ms. Rosemary Brown?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Rosemary Brown.

Ms. Rosemary Brown: My understanding is that the one in Kugluktuk was operational, I may have had the wrong information.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week, I tabled a resolution from the Kitikmeot Inuit Association's Annual General Meeting that the women of the Kitikmeot that they asked for help from the government to establish crisis shelters in each of their communities.

I don't know what form, whether it's to provide funding to help them operate, or to provide a physical structure. I appreciate Mr. Blais' comments that it's better for the community to operate it, and I happen to agree with that.

However it becomes difficult on the community level for hamlets for example who are constantly underfunded, on many fronts, to operate a facility, find a facility in the first place and then fund operations and maintenance. I know that the government does not fund them 100 percent so that places a huge burden on them to find the additional funding.

One of the great difficulties in operating crisis facilities is that you pretty much have to keep it open 365 days a year and most Nunavut communities, where they have them.

So it's going to cost you \$160,000 and you only have \$85,000, there's a problem there. I think that's what happened in Kugluktuk, it can't operate due to funding problems. In

Cambridge Bay they are managing. So I think it's something that your department should look at very seriously.

Look at providing facilities, regional facility. As Ms. Rosemary Brown said that those facilities are full then the people have to be sent somewhere else and you can't leave them in a dangerous situation especially if they don't have family members to help them out.

I wanted to move on, Mr. Chairman, if I can get an update on the patient boarding home facility that is going to be constructed next year as part of the overall Kitikmeot Health Facility Project. If Mr. Blais, or the minister could update me on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the question of the proposed boarding homes. Yes, we've been looking at the old school site. It's two floors and the new one will be revamped because since it's more than one story, we'll have to install an elevator in the building and I'm sure that my colleague knows that this building is going to be utilized in Cambridge Bay.

Yes, we are lacking facilities and we have limited resources and that's why we're working on the plans of the boarding home. As I have stated, it will start in January 2005.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Any further questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the Minister for that. Just to clarify, I think that the boarding home will be open in January 2006, not 2005.

I'm a bit unclear as to how the logistics are going to work when the health facility, itself, opens. I don't have an exact date. I think it might be in March or April. You're going to bringing in patients to Cambridge Bay from around the Kitikmeot but you don't have a patient boarding home open until January.

If there is a delay, it could be further into 2006. How is the Department of Health going to accommodate patients coming in from other communities looking for medical treatment at the health facility if the boarding home isn't available until 2006. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to my understanding, the plan is that the buildings will be used in Cambridge Bay before this boarding home has been opened. The hospital will be open in March 2005, and we've been looking at leasing private buildings and my Deputy will made a supplementary response.

In regards to the women's shelter, the Kugluktuk Women's Shelter is operating. Their first funding was received and they signed off the funds. So therefore the Kugluktuk Women's Shelter is in operation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The idea in regards to how the health patients will be housed in that period, is we in Iqaluit, for example, we use billeting. We have a lot of patients housed in private housing by individuals, so we'll be looking at that, hotels and other accommodations. So that will be the strategy for that time.

You have to keep in mind as well, Mr. Chairman, that the hospital won't be open 100 percent on day. It will take us about up to the end of December to open the health centre completely because there is staff training involved, recruitment, as well as a lot of the programs, some of the programs that will be introduced in Cambridge Bay, do not exist right now.

So, we expect that that will take approximately nine months for the health centre to be fully open so we feel that we can accommodate the volume of patients that will be coming to Cambridge Bay through this other process, hotels and billeting mostly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think one thing that we have to keep in mind is we don't want to be constructing these facilities and having them be opened, be there and not be operational. I think we're going to be affected a little bit by the recruitment strategies of your department in terms of finding doctors and nurses and other health professionals to go into a facility and provide those medical services, whether it be in Cambridge Bay or Rankin Inlet or even here when the new hospital opens.

I wonder if the Minister, or Mr. Blais, could comment on the overall recruitment strategies to make sure that you have people in the facility providing the medical care when they open and phase it in until it's 100 percent fully operational. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We're on page H-7. Who is going to respond? Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we've been quite concerned about this issue due to lacking nurses, and doctors and equipment. And yes, this is quite heavy of a concern for us because we have heard in nation wide we are in shortage of nurses and we have heard through the media that one hospital is closing due to shortage of nurses and the experts keep continually say that by the year 2000 we'll be in shortage of nurses because a lot of, they majority of the nurses will be retiring.

I can say, that we have staff, that we have nurses that are arriving from overseas. We are looking at 50 nurses for February, 2005, and an additional 50 that we will be requesting, prior to September 2005, there will be 100 nurses.

Since Canada is in shortage of nurses, the Canadian provinces, they do look for nurses overseas and I'm sure that everyone is aware of that. Yes, we have to proceed and we have to be very careful with our patients and that we have to handle all these. I really appreciate the questions that are being posed.

Those two health centres in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay are going to be opened in March 2005. After having said that, the equipment will be needed too because all the wiring and all the plumbing will have to be inspected for 2 months even after it's been opened to make sure the hospital is inspected.

My Deputy Minister, Mr. Blais will make an additional response.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a number of initiatives that are happening. I guess the Minister has just alluded to the international and national recruitment strategy. I guess effective as of tomorrow. We have two people that will be accompanying Trillium, a company that we have hired to help us recruit 100 nurses up to December 15th. So, we're working towards that February deadline to recruit 50 nurses. So, that is under way.

We also have been very successful in recruiting physicians. We now have a dedicated position equipment person. And the result is that we have recruited five new physicians for Iqaluit right now. Two will be coming in January and one with the specialty in geriatric or elder care as well, which is very unique.

So, this physician recruitment process, Mr. Chairman, it seems to be moving along very well. We have another prospect for Cambridge Bay we have been working on for at least three months and we believe that unless we've missed the balls that person we'll be coming on board as well in the foreseeable future. We have two other prospects as well.

The only piece of that in terms of physician recruitment, Mr. Chairman, is that our Medical Director has been meeting with all of the universities. He's just come back from Manitoba, with myself and the Minister recently meeting with the universities to look at asking for their help inspecting our new health centres.

And I just returned from Ottawa as well, where I think we had very successful meeting with the University of Ottawa to look at how we might be able to attract new graduates from that program. I hope to be able to report maybe in six months from now, Mr. Chairman, that the success that we've had in Iqaluit will continue through to both Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay.

We are working very hard to address that need, both nurses and physicians. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. I would like to remind members that we're dealing with capital estimates. We'll have time to deal with general estimates early 2005. Mr. Peterson you have any more questions?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought the same thing, these are all linked, the capital projects are linked to the nurses and doctors. We don't want to have facilities open that don't have staff. That's an important part of the decision making that we have to keep in mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister, I don't think that was a question, more of a comment. Do you want to respond to that?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes. I would like to thank my colleagues for asking those questions and we are willing to respond to questions that might be posed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: I'm a little lost as to where I am now but I'm going to try and ask questions. I understand that there's been a proposal for midwifery programs in Arviat in the last couple of years. I'm just wondering in looking at the capital budget requirements in the Kivalliq region, I don't see any new money to provide or buy additional equipment or new equipment to be used for that type of program.

I wonder if the minister could clarify my misunderstanding that if we are going to go ahead with this program, and I understand that there is a little more capital money required to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my Deputy Minister respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Brown. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue of the midwifery program is a challenging one, but I think it's one that we will be addressing in the new year. We have put forward, I think a very comprehensive plan to government, I guess most of you know it's closer to home. In that plan we are asking for some resources to initiate a number of priorities, one of them being maternal care, which is one of the top priorities in that plan.

We also need to look at training a Health Inuit workforce. both in midwifery and in other disciplines as well prior to opening any new health centre, or midwifery or birthing centre, we need to make sure, that I think as Mr. Peterson has said, that the resources are in place to accommodate the facilities that would be coming on board after that.

We will also be putting in place this year a comprehensive plan.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: I only asked why any money needs to be allotted to buy extra equipment to do that type of program in Arviat, that's all I asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital allotment for this year and it looks like for next year is \$75 million. So basically that minimizes the opportunity to move forward on that particular project. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is too that we talked about for quite some time now about telehealth. A telehealth system is lacking in Kivalliq Region, it seems as though there is no money for telehealth equipment, or better equipment and computer equipment, in this capital estimate. I just wonder where that is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I understand what the member is talking about and I would like to say that new equipment is being placed in the new health centres that are going to be built. Perhaps Rosemary Brown can elaborate on that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Rosemary Brown.

Rosemary Brown: Thank you. I believe most health centers right now in the Kivalliq, except two have telehealth equipment and have for a few years. With the recent grants from the Federal Government, the remaining two health centers are to acquire that equipment. I think with local training, there will be more use of it. They're doing it for family visitations. I know there's pilots in the Kivalliq with the use of trying to get the health committees say Arviat hooked up with Sanikiluaq, so that they could also be used for training, or meetings other than staff learning, or patient use.

Again I think this applies to the other regions. I think there's about two communities each region that with the additional grants from the federal government, I believe by the end of the year, all communities will have the telehealth equipment to communicate.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Rosemary Brown. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's it for now and I thank the Minister and her staff.

Chair (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague from Cambridge Bay for bringing the question up that I was going to bring up regarding the women's shelters. And also, I'd like to thank the Minister for stating that the women's shelter is operating now with the money that they have now. I thank you for that.

In your speaking notes, you have mentioned that the department will be bringing back the plan based on the needs for the elders and which will address the estimates for 24 hour care facilities for our elders in this government mandate.

On page 7, we don't see that here. But anyways, I wanted to ask the question that before I ask the question. Our elders, there are a couple elders who are out of Nunavut that they should be in Nunavut if there were facilities in our region.

It's kind of sad to see their grandchildren not seeing their grandparents being out of Nunavut. The airfares are costly to go and visit, especially from Kugluktuk. We only have one airline, which is First Air.

I'm just wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the Minister can provide us with some new money for the new fiscal year for an elders' facility for the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has been a concern of many members in this House. I understand that as a government in the next four years that they will be built, an elder's center and after 4 years, there will be another elders' facility being built in one of the other communities.

I believe that we can do that but we have to work together with the members and perhaps we have to do need assessment for each community. Perhaps Bernie Blais can talk about the funding that would be available to build elders' facilities.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department has been directed to come back with a plan to build elders' centres and in October of this year, an elders' task group has been put together.

We have already undertaken to look at the needs of each of the communities. We know that there are no elders' facilities at all in the Kitikmeot region. As I said earlier with the group homes, the same thing, we have done our inventory. So once that plan is ready, we will be bringing back a proposal hopefully with a costing to that to our minister to bring forward to Cabinet.

So we expect to have a recommendation with a plan in place on the next steps by January of 2005. At that time, I guess it will be up to our minister and the cabinet to decide to allocate resources to achieve this goal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad that the minister is committed to do some work for Nunavut. This is very serious and very important to the Kitikmeot communities that the elders' facilities are in need because we don't have them in our region and they don't want to see any more of their elders go outside of Nunavut to go to these facilities. I thank the minister for giving me a good answer. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Was that a question or was that just a comment? Perhaps I can answer your question, if it was a question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Minister, but what the member is saying is that he is just appreciating what you have done. (interpretation ends) Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question. The plan for elders' facilities, it's good to hear that there is a plan in place, but I would like to ask a question. In Rankin Inlet, there was a petition and it was signed by over 200 people. I just want to find out what is the status on that? Perhaps if she can respond to that one first. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the people that signed that petition because our elders are our last resource and it really hurts us when they have to leave the community where they are living.

Perhaps if I can get my Deputy Minister to respond to where that petition is at.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has received the petition and we will be providing a response shortly, and it will be similar to what I just suggested that we have a committee in place.

We are working to bring back a plan as directed and once that plan is in place, then location would be determined, I presume based on the review that we will have done. We will be making, hopefully, some recommendations based on some way of prioritizing the building of elders' care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Deputy Minister and I would also like to say that there was an elder that left the community that was shipped down south from Rankin Inlet because of no facility and no care for that individual.

It's not fair for those elders to leave their family and to go to a strange location, down south, especially. The government should be taking care of the elders; they should be assisting them rather than shipping them out and forgetting about them. I just want to know if there could be some help for them. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I agree with the member. We cannot just abandon our elders. We have to treat them the same as everybody else as a government. I will get my Deputy to respond to that as well. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure how I can answer that particular question at this point in time. The direction that I've given to my staff is to look at an elder's care continuum or program that would encompass a number of opportunities to provide services in Nunavut and to bring, we have 90 people out of Nunavut right now, and our goal is if we could bring 100 percent of them back, that's what we're working towards.

It will require us to do our homework and look at the various support structures that we can provide. We'd probably be looking at enhancing home care, supportive living, with some nursing support, elder's care and a chronic care facility, which we will be starting to explore with Community and Government Services in the coming year.

So, it's hard to provide a direct answer on that until we've done our homework and we do come back with a more comprehensive strategy on how we may be able to address that need. Our goal is to repatriate all of those people that are out of territory, some of them have been for 30 years, back to Nunavut. So that is what we're working to. So, I don't have an exact answer for that other than it's our objective to try and achieve exactly that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Under page H-7, I have a question. The Minister talked about the boarding home in Rankin Inlet. It just seems like there is no money allotted for that boarding home and they stated that it's going to be a fixed cost.

Are you going to be negotiating right now or are you going to wait until you can get a price list? Are you going to put out an RFP when you find out the price?

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has asked a very good question and I don't want to estimate the answer so I will give it to my Deputy.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: The answer to that is no. We will try and assess what the cost of building a facility of a certain size, Mr. Chairman. From that we will then be sitting down with Health Canada to determine, hopefully, to achieve a rate that would cover the cost of running that boarding home over a certain period of time.

Whether we build it and operate it ourselves, or whether we completely outsource that, our hope and what we have seen in the majority of the boarding homes, we already have, Mr. Chairman, is that they tend to pretty well self finance themselves. So, we expect that this one will be probably the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, it's in the statement but there doesn't seem to be any funding set aside for this and if it's going to be, it will eventually be built in 2006. That's how I see it. Is that the case?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my Deputy to answer to that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no need to put money aside at this point in time because the revenues that we will get from Health Canada, the per diems that they will give us for each client, it is our expectation and belief that the revenues will more than pay, or pay for the costs of operating and building those facilities.

That is why you're not seeing it here. It is no different with Ottawa and the Edmonton model. The per diem basically covers the cost of operation and leasing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way I understand it, the Kitikmeot Region is getting \$700,000, and that is there because it's from the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's true, if Mr. Blais can respond to that, I'll appreciate it.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is basically a building that is owned by the Government of Nunavut and is now being converted to a boarding home. The retrofit for that is costing us \$700,000. So, we will attempt to recover that when we negotiate a per diem rate on a per patient basis with Health Canada, as well as the operating costs and once we get close to the end date of that, we will hopefully have all that completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at this figure, the boarding home has used \$536,000 that you spent last year. What was it used for and what is going to become of it?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, for reminding me, Mr. Evyagotailak. We will ring the bell. Thank you, we now have a quorum. Mr. Curley, you were asking questions. You can proceed.

Mr. Curley: I'm going to ask you again, what happens then to the \$500,000 you spent last year on boarding home in Kitikmeot? Is that part of the one you are talking about or is that a separate one?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Rosemary Brown can answer this.

Chairman (interpretation): Rosemary Brown.

Ms. Rosemary Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Initially when this project was started, we thought that the whole project could be paid for about \$500,000. We hired an architect and that we found that some of the building code standards had changed quite significantly from air control for when the building was used as a student hostel. So we put some extra money in this fiscal year.

The long and the short is about \$200,000 will be spent 2004-2005, on the design phase, then in the spring the design and renovations will go out for tender and it is expect that there would be need to carry money over for the total project which we expect to run over \$8 or 9 hundred thousand, just because some of code issues and the elevators, which effects the structure of the building. So, yes it's all part of one project.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Rosemary Brown. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought there was no funding and you're willing to spend 1.5 million to renovate the old building. And if it was done by a private sector, I don't think it would cost that much and there is nothing in the Keewatin. You seem to be spending a lot of money in one region so I don't understand why it is like that.

Will it be exactly as \$700,000, Rosemary Brown stated that it will go over 9 hundred thousand, is that how I understood? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Mr. Curley, for your question. I'll let Rosemary Brown answer that.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Rosemary Brown.

Ms. Rosemary Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difference is in Kitikmeot there was an empty Government building that was no longer used by the Department of Education. By making it more handicapped accessible, adding the elevator, doing a bit of an expansion, the building which is less than 10 years old, is a good investment for the Government.

In Rankin Inlet, there is no government building or any building that would be suitable in size to be renovated like that. So, what we're looking to do is for the Request for Proposal for, if this is the way the Government chooses to do it, for to private sectors who want to go out and build a new building and with the successful negotiation of a rate with the Government of Canada, there will be an equally good building in Rankin Inlet except it will not be owned by the Government. But either way, the per diems will be paid by the federal government.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Miss Brown. Mr. Curley? Thank you. I don't have anybody else on the list. We're under H-7. Tangible Assets. Total, Kivalliq Region, \$110,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Same page, sorry, Kitikmeot. \$1,087,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to H-4. Of expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures \$25,392,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Concluded. I would like to thank the Minister and her officials at this time. Do you have any closing remarks, Miss Minister?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank my officials, Rosemary Brown and Deputy Minister, Bernie Blais and all the members who asked questions because they were very interesting.

A lot of the time we only get more information if we ask questions and yesterday, I would like to apologize for yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. I would like to thank Bernie Blais, and Rosemary Brown and you, Minister Brown, thank you. That concludes your department.

(Interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Maybe we can proceed with Community and Government Services.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. I would like to ask Minister Kilabuk, Minister of Community and Government Services to say his opening remarks.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to present the capital estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services.

I would like to start by saying just a little about the department and the overall infrastructure issues we are facing.

Mr. Chairman, we provide a number of services to other government departments such as information technology, management of leases, property maintenance, contracting, and purchasing.

Community and Government Services is a one-stop shop for many community government concerns our community support services and municipal transfer payments and developing community capacity through training programs.

Communities are assisted with programs and service deliveries through managing and evaluation services. Community and Government Services are also responsible for consumer services, planning and lands, protection services, and petroleum products supply.

Our focus today is on our capital planning and technical services. Those include planning, design, and management services for government projects carried out on behalf of communities and client departments.

We ask those communities in identifying their long-term capital requirements, developed the supporting infrastructure plan, and specifying technical standards for infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut communities have unique needs and infrastructure challenges involving everything from water and sewage systems, from community health and recreation facilities to transportation infrastructure.

The challenges are driven by the fact that our population increased by over 70 percent in only 20 years, one of the fastest growing populations in the country. We have health and social challenges that are due in part to infrastructure deficiencies and which are warned to worsen if not addressed. The lack of infrastructure puts pressure on existing facilities which are further stressed by our northern environment and isolated communities.

The harsh climate and overuse of infrastructure leads to higher maintenance costs, reduces the length of it's life cycle and negatively affects quality of life. Adequate and appropriation infrastructure can also minimize stress to the environment. (interpretation ends): We know all these things, but as a government with limited financial means we are pushed to the limit to address the serious infrastructure needs of communities. Mr. Chairman, these are all points stressed in a letter I recently wrote to the Hon. John Godfrey, Federal Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities.

I provided him with a copy of our infrastructure vision paper and stated that Nunavut cannot address these needs of our own. A joint long term strategy with Canada is required. On November 12, 2004, I joined my colleagues from the other 12 jurisdictions in a meeting with Minister Godfrey. The subject of that meeting was the new deal for cities announced by the federal government.

I use this opportunity to again stress the unique infrastructure needs in Nunavut. Mr. Chairman, in these efforts I have been working in cooperation with the Nunavut

Association of Municipalities and that organization has also written Minister Godfrey again stress the unique infrastructure needs in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, in these efforts I have been working in cooperation with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and that organization has also written Minister Godfrey to describe the situation in Nunavut and we have both invited him to come to Nunavut to meet with us and see first hand the situation. We hope that happens soon, Mr. Chairman.

I should also state that we have received some assistance from Canada. We have a substantial jointly funded with them to invest in water and sewage needs over five years. In addition, Mr. Chairman, we are currently negotiating for more federal funding under the Municipal/Rural Infrastructure Fund. This can be used to address some smaller water and waste issues plus some other high priority needs such as access roads and community centres.

We are hopeful that the federal new deal for cities will see substantially more funding flow to Nunavut for infrastructure in communities. (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, with that as a background, let me focus for a moment on the priorities in the Capital Estimates now before the committee.

By far, the bulk of the department's capital allocation is invested into projects of direct benefits to the municipalities. Examples include water, sewage and solid waste facilities, mobile equipment and as funding allows a limited number of community complexes such as the Pond Inlet Community Hall and Arena. Future work on the Igloolik Community Hall and future work on Resolute Bay Arena.

Some significant water and waste projects land in the next five years include work on the Cape Dorset sewage system, upgrades to Rankin Inlet Utilidor Sewage Treatment Plant and future significant upgrades to the Taloyoak water supply system.

And for the Petroleum Products Division, there are several high priority projects. Fuel storage facilities exist in all the communities but many are aging and new regulations are placing pressures on the Division to be compliant. As communities expand, the demand for petroleum products continues to increase and we must build bigger facilities.

Most of the Petroleum Product Division projects relate to upgrades to existing tank farm facilities with the one exception being an annual program for spill response equipment. In the Capital Plan you will not find any new government building projects given the priority for funding in communities. The only government projects that are currently planned are ongoing minor works such as repairs, swipe card access installations and similar small projects that come aboard from year-to-year.

Mr. Chairman, I trust these opening comments give the committee an appreciation of the demands upon my department for capital funding and associated challenges. I also hope Chairman that you will agree with me that the allocation of our existing resources is equitable, reasonable, and responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Kilabuk (interpretation ends): Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Yes I do, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the Committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms if you could escort the officials. For the record, minister, if you can introduce your officials.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman., to my left Tom Rich, Deputy Minister for the Department of Community and Government Services and also to my right the Capital Planner, Doug Sitland.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Chair of the Committee on Infrastructure Housing and Economic Development have opening comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chairman of the Standing Committee I would like to welcome the minister and his officials Tom Rich and his capital planner. I would also like to thank the standing committee for Infrastructure Housing and Economic Development.

Mr. Chairman, as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2005-06 capital estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Community and Government Services in September to review the draft 2005-06 capital estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the committee members are concerned that Government of Nunavut funded projects in some communities are not subject to provisions that will ensure economic benefit to the community through local employment and the use of sub-contracts for local companies. For example, members have received correspondence from the hamlet of Repulse Bay stating that the company contracted to repair the tank farm in that community purchased their own heavy equipment perhaps using the government money rather than renting Hamlet-owned equipment and that the local workers are only being hired for menial positions.

Even though there are skilled workers in that community, the hamlet had been under the impression that the contracted company would be using their heavy equipment in hiring local workers. This example highlights the perception that exists across the territory that the NNI policy is not being applied consistently and rigorously. Committee members

urge the minister to ensure that the contract provisions are transparent, fairly enforced, and clearly communicated to the hamlets concerned.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, Standing Committee believes that every Government of Nunavut construction contract is an economic development and training opportunity for the community in which it takes place. All members are aware that the infrastructure in many communities across Nunavut is failing.

During the last session of this House, a member tabled documents indicating that the federal government was proposed to take legal action against Hamlet Councils, including threats of imprisonment, because of sewage lagoon failures. Mr. Chairman, this is only one example. Across the territory, sewage lagoons are failing, solid waste sites are reaching capacity and water supplies are breaking down. Members applaud the minister's effort to secure Canada Strategic Infrastructure Funding for many of the projects. However, as environmental regulations become more stringent, additional upgrades will be required at facilities across the territory.

Committee Members urge the minister to continue raising these issues in Ottawa to work towards a solution that recognizes the fiscal situation that hamlets are in, focuses on cooperation between all levels of government and does not involve continuous threats of legal action.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, Committee members have noted a move away from existing sewage lagoon designs towards mechanical treatment of sewage, especially in the bigger centres.

While members understand the need to improve treatment facilities, concerns exist that not all hamlets tend to have the expertise. The funding that is necessary for operation and maintenance for mechanical treatment.

Committee members are concerned that the loans being transferred from Government of Nunavut to municipalities is solid way of saying to meet current environmental regulations.

Members urge the minister to include a provision for funding reclamation for landfills in transfer agreements with municipalities.

(interpretation ends) Committee members noted that the department continues to invest in spilled response equipment. Members have noted with alarm the confirmed reports of fuel spills in the wild are known in a number of communities during this year's re-supply.

Committee members urge the minister to continue investigating these incidents and look forward to discussing the completion of the minister's current review of fuel contracts in Nunavut.

Members have noted that over the past several months, the department has transferred funding between projects that knows it will not approve in 2004 and 2005 and even created new projects.

In the future, committee members would want the minister to provide information on the actual spending and total cost of each ongoing and completed capital projects for committee review.

(interpretation) Members recognize the importance of community halls for the health of communities and support projects to build and expand community halls. Members encourage the minister to continue working with his colleagues to plan and construct multi-use facilities.

That concludes my statement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like to take this opportunity to move a motion to report progress.

Chairman: There is a motion to report progress. All in favour of the motion. I would now like to report progress. (interpretation) I am sorry. Yes, I would like to thank the minister and his officials for coming before us today. I will rise to report progress.

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, you 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): Secunder to the motion, Mr. Netser. The motion is in order, all in favour, all opposed, abstain? The motion is carried. Item Number 21. Item 22, Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Thursday, November 25:

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 Thursday, November 25, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. I would like the members to join me for a get together.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*Session adjourned at 17:33*

