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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday November 29, 2004**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome everyone ministers. Members of the Legislative Assembly. Orders of the day Item 2. Ministers' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 035 – 2(2): Minister Kilabuk Absent from the House

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish advise members that the Honourable Member, Peter Kilabuk, will be absent from the House, November 29, 2004, to December 2, 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 036 – 2(2): Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting – Reykjavik, Iceland

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Members of the Legislative Assembly. (interpretation ends) I wish to advise the members of an important event, of which I just participated on behalf of Nunavumiut, the ministerial meeting of the Arctic Council in Reykjavik, Iceland. There were several working group reports presented, but two reports will have a direct impact on Nunavummiut and our circumpolar neighbours.

The first report is on Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, or ACIA. This report is of special interest to Nunavummiut because of the seriousness of climate change impact in our livelihood and because this report uses the results of 300 scientists in circumpolar neighbours, including input in Inuit traditional knowledge from aboriginal groups in the circumpolar region.

Mr. Speaker, the second report is the Arctic Human Development Report, or the AHDR. This report will provide an instrument in assessing progress towards sustainable human development, a tool to educate the public and a handbook as policy makers engaged in international corporations in the arctic. The AHDR will provide an assessable overview of the state of Inuit development in the arctic that can serve as benchmark in assessing progress in the future.

Mr. Speaker, climate change is affecting us all. It is affecting our wildlife and the environment. We must do our best to minimize the greenhouse gas emissions. The recently released Climate Change Strategy must be implemented without delay.

Nunavut has assumed a leadership role in Canada on climate change adaptation and has looked beyond to give and receive inspirations of support in the lead on active exchange of ideas and information, as stated in *Pinasuaqtavut*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 037 – 2(2): Promoting Life

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update members about the Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit – Embrace Life Council and the Senior Officials Healthy Lifestyle Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit, which is represented by eleven organizations, is now in full operation.

Mr. Speaker, additionally we have established the Government of Nunavut Senior Officials Healthy Lifestyle Committee, within the social envelope comprised of nine departments. The Senior Officials is co-chaired by the deputy ministers of Health and Social Services and Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to oversee interdepartmental activities. Additionally, the assistant deputy minister of EIA is coordinating and assisting both Embrace Life Council as a member to the board and the Government of Nunavut senior officials.

Both Embrace Life Council and Senior Officials will be bridging efforts to ensure no duplication is occurring, prioritizing their research analysis requirements, reviewing best practises, gap analysis from service providers to what are the actual needs at the community level to name a few. To support the work of the Council, all departments have been identifying program areas that support healthy living and social wellbeing.

Mr. Speaker, this is an exciting time during our second assembly and for all Nunavumiut to see these pro-active approaches towards promoting life. Collaboration is expanding to other agencies at the local, territorial and national level. We see our youth aspiring to

greater challenges today and we are fostering this approach for the younger population to follow the path of healthy social wellbeing.

Later today, I will be tabling a document on the Government of Nunavut's program areas that reflect how these programs are promoting life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Health and Social Services, if you could give us a copy please. We didn't receive one. Thank you. Ministers' statement. Going back to the orders of the day. Members' statements. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 071 – 2(2): Housing Units in Arviat

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on the issue of housing. My community of Arviat was extremely pleased to hear the news that 15 public housing units will be constructed in the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, Arviat is now the third largest community in Nunavut. Our population is now over 2,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, these new housing units are long overdue and will help address the community's housing crisis. I want to thank all members of this House for supporting efforts to address the housing crisis in my community.

Mr. Speaker, the residents of Arviat are excited about this project and are very much looking forward to next year's construction season. I want to see the housing corporation hold at least one public meeting during the coming months to share information with residents.

I know that the community wants to have its say with respect to such issues as design and location of housing units, and want to be informed about the tendering process and opportunities for employment and training during the construction phase. Mr. Speaker, land is relatively inexpensive in Arviat and we have no shortage of space.

As members know, from having been in the community for our recent caucus retreat, Arviat does not have a lot of mountains or hills to worry about. Mr. Speaker, the community would like to see units built as stand alone homes where possible, and not necessarily as row housing.

As we know, the risk of fire is always present and I believe we should minimize the vulnerability of our precious housing stock. Mr. Speaker, my community has concern with respect to the 2003 construction season and I want to see the corporation tendering process address these issues.

It is important that local residents get every opportunity to participate in economic and training opportunities that such as a major construction project represents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 072 – 2(2): Kugluktuk Christmas Committee

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today in order to tell the house about what some dedicated volunteers in Kugluktuk are doing for Christmas, the joyous times for the entire community.

Mr. Speaker, Christmas is meant to be a celebration for all of our families, however there are many families whose circumstances make it difficult to share in the Christmas spirit. That's why the efforts of the Kugluktuk Christmas Committee are so important.

Mr. Speaker, the committee works each year to make sure that the families do not go hungry and that children can share in the joy of the season. In 2003, almost 500 children received special gifts and about 120 homes received food hampers.

The committee raised \$12 thousand through a series of special events. Mr. Speaker, the Christmas committee is looking to make 2004 even more of a success. I ask all members to join me to celebrate the efforts of co-chairs Millie Kulitana and Danielle Adjun who truly are making a difference in the lives of my constituency.

During the times of celebration and reflection, we must work to ensure that all our people share in the spirit of the season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Member's Statement 073 – 2(2): Opening of New School in Cape Dorset

Mr. Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak about an event of what we did in Cape Dorset.

This weekend I was able to go to Cape Dorset with Ed Picco. I would first of all like to take this opportunity to thank the people of Cape Dorset for participating and also to the mayor for extending his welcome.

We went over to Cape Dorset to open the new school. It was celebrated with all the residents. It will have a good impact on the people of Cape Dorset and the students.

We hope it will be well used and I'm sure that it will be a benefit to the whole community. Also, Anne Freida, who hasn't been there since 1989, was there. This individual was an adult educator from 1983 to 1998.

She wanted to see the opening of the school and I would like to thank this individual for having made a huge contribution to our community and also to the individuals who helped make this happen.

I would like to thank Cindy Gowen, Van Page, Kivaq Bar, and Saa Pitseolak, and also the high school where they had held the adult education programs. I would like to thank them for having had the adult education people there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 074 – 2(2): Constituency Meeting Announcement

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my member's statement, I just want to note that Mr. Akasuk, the complementary Anne Freida, who was the former adult educator in Cape Dorset. Back when we opened up the center 17 years ago, Anne Freida did the orientation with me when I became an adult educator. I went to Sanikiluaq and worked with Anne. So it was nice to see her.

I would like to take this opportunity to announce of this coming Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m., I will be holding a constituency meeting at the Abe Okpik Hall in Apex. Refreshments and translations will be provided.

As well, we have a special guest from the City of Iqaluit Council, Mr. Chris Wilson. Chris will be at the meeting to explain his role as the designate for the City of Iqaluit Apex representative. As well, Chris will be there to help discuss some of the municipal issues.

I would like to invite all Apex, Happy Valley and Tundra Valley residents to attend the meeting on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in Apex, and I am sure there will be lots of questions on power.

We are interested to see how many other people in Iqaluit could ask questions in there for Mr. Tootoo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 075 – 2(2): Charity Hockey Game

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Picco might want to rent the new Arctic Winter Games arena for all the people that might want to come and ask questions on power instead of that little, wee Abe Okpik Hall, that might be part of the strategy.

Today I would like to rise and thank, first off all, a couple of people, Cory Choban, the fire chief of the City Fire Department, and Peter Ma, for helping organize the hockey game, if you want to call it that, last night. I also want to thank members for participating.

Last night, there \$600 was raised for the food bank...

>> *Applause*

...to go towards Christmas hamper baskets for needy people in the community. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members that participated, all the fans that participated, all the firefighters that came out.

Just a note, a former long-standing politician, Ludy Pudluk, I told him to come and watch the game last night and he informed me that he went to church first and prayed for us.

I called him at lunch today and I told him that it didn't work and I told him the only thing I think that would have helped us if there would have been fire called in and all the firefighters had to leave. But it was a lot of fun and I am not as sore as I was last year when we played.

I noticed Mr. Picco slowed down a step too, along with the Premier. He is playing like a true Montreal Canadien. I gave him a wide open pass right in front of the net, but he kind of just let it go between his feet and his stick like he was just a statue sitting there.

So I am sorry, Mr. Quirke, that he's a true Montreal type player and I was very disappointed in him at that time. Anyway, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody and congratulate everyone for a job well done, fun was had, and funds raised for a good cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Members' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 076 – 2(2): Thank the Elders and Pages

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I just want to say hello to Qamukkaq, the old lady and especially all the elders in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven.

It's stormy here. So, I think it's very nice weather in the Kitikmeot right now. Also, the two pages that were here from Taloyoak, they are home now with the help of Johnny Quttuq.

I would also like to say thank you to those two pages that they were here. I will be going home in December after the session is over. I'll also, I would like to say and smile at my parents. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements.

Back to orders of the day, Item 4. Item 5. Item 6, Oral Questions. We have 60 minutes for question period. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 5 on the agenda. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to go back to Item number 5 in our orders of the day. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Mr. Tootoo, proceed.

Return to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was busy reading and I didn't hear the switch, but I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery a former Sergeant-at-arms from Pangnirtung here.

I'm sure he's enjoying coming here watching our current Sergeant-at-arms work and having fond memories of the times when he was the Sergeant-at-arms. I would like to welcome him to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize this individual behind me, Janet Issigaittuq.

She is my CA in Iglulik. She is here this week to work during the session and to get a bit of orientation during the session. So, therefore I would like to notice Janet Issigaittuq from Iglulik, my Constituency Assistant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I don't see any more hands.

Going back to Orders of the day, Item 6, Oral Questions. Just to remind you, we have 60 minutes of oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Center, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 102 – 2(2): Clarification of Newspaper Article

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is not for the Minister of Energy. I think he ran out of energy on the ice last night so, I'll take it easy on him today.

He didn't bring his energizer rabbit ears to go on his helmet last night so that might have been what happened because he wasn't running on all generators.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister Responsible for the Department of Human Resources. On November 19, the Friday before last, I tabled an article from the news paper.

I have one question to start off with the minister and I will quote from the article, which is a quote from a letter that was sent to the individual in bold and it says that "...we are a representative of government and have an obligation to hire on the basis of fairness and equity, and if the community feels, however inaccurate, this process is not fair, then we are obliged to ensure fairness and equity."

I guess my question for the minister, if I could ask him if he could explain exactly what that means to the Members of the House and the people that are listening out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Human Resources. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that this issue involves one individual, so therefore I can't discuss this matter in regards to his question, so therefore I can't respond to his question because I don't have the information in front of me, but I can say that once I have the information, I will be able to respond to you by correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know I am not talking about one single individual, I mean that is how I tabled the document over a week ago to make sure that the information should be readily available in anticipation of questions of tabled documents.

So, my question for the minister is this: if we go by what is said in here, I would just like to ask him if in the community, say here for example, if let's say the Minister of Education hired someone that people in the community didn't think it was fair, how many people and who would they have to tell if they didn't think that it was a fair process for them to act on it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): In regards to the member's question as I have stated before, that I don't have the information readily available in front of me. So therefore, I can't respond to his question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe while he is getting the information, I don't know how much longer he needs to get the information, but hopefully his staff with human resources could explain if that is in fact the policy of this government, if the community doesn't feel it's fair, or they have the right to terminate someone's employment. That's what I am asking, is that policy of this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated before, I will respond exactly the same way because I don't have any information with me right now. Once I have the correspondence information, I will provide the information to the members. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is taking the question as notice. Oral Questions. Mr. Peterson.

Question 103 – 2(2): Tabling of P-3 Project Issues

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance and it concerns private-public partnerships in the government capital planning process.

Private-public partnerships are increasingly being recognized as one method for government and the private sector to develop large projects across Canada. The question for the minister: has the Financial Management Board further reviewed P-3 issues with respect to Government of Nunavut capital planning? If so, will she reveal to the House and the public what the board's thinking is on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been some reviews conducted on that P-3, private-public partnership, I believe it is called P-3.

Anyway, I don't have the information readily available in front of me, but I would be prepared to provide the House with the information on the actual review of that policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Arviat the Minister made a presentation to full caucus on the capital planning process.

In the section on departmental allocation, allocations, the Minister's presentation made the following statement; quote, special projects such as a new health care facility and court house are outside the normal capital planning process.

Financial Management Board has approved funding for them which is separate from the targets. I'm wondering Mr. Speaker, a question for the Minister, could she outline what process the Financial Management Board used to approve funding for these projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the full caucus meeting or any full caucus meeting that have discussions and a lot of those are information that are discussed remain within those walls the discussion of full caucus.

In terms of what I presented at the full caucus retreat, I don't have that information here in front of me. What we do have in terms of arrangement, under the P3 arrangement within government, when we have capital projects or any projects, we try to deal with the arrangements that are most viable for the Government of Nunavut in terms of finances and what the best arrangements are.

We review projects on a project by project basis and proceed and having said that, I want to reiterate that information that we share in full caucus or regular caucus or regular caucus meetings is in camera and I'm not prepared to discuss those in the house today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the Minister if I've breached confidentiality.

In February 2000, Nunatsiaq News did a story on P3's entitled, "Decisions looming on whether P3 hospitals live or die". The former Minister of Finance is quoted as saying, "...policies and procedures study commissioned by the Financial Management Board in May 1999 to guide the Nunavut Government through the development of the award in management of P3 projects is virtually complete".

My question for the Minister, can the Minister tell the house if the policies and procedures study on P3's is complete and whether she'll table it in the house for the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't read the article in Nunatsiaq News. I don't know what the former Minister of Finance had stated to Nunatsiaq News.

However, what I can say and within the government is that we have done a review on the P3 arrangements and I also believe we have policy and I said in my earlier response that I am prepared to share that information with the House, but I don't have it in front of me today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for her answer.

We have, just on municipal infrastructure alone, we have a \$300 to 350 million deficit. Then there is the infrastructure for economic development for roads and ports. We'll probably need \$2 or \$3 hundred million.

Our capital planning process, on an annual basis doesn't even begin to tackle that issue. It seems to me that P3's would be an important way for the Government of Nunavut to consider raising finances and helping us with our economic development municipal infrastructure issues in Nunavut, particularly if we're going to develop our economy in years.

Going forward as a stated priority of the government, I'm wondering if the minister could tell us if the Financial Management Board in cabinet is actively and seriously considering the development of a P3 policy to guide the Government of Nunavut in the coming years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A couple of things. In terms of trying to continue to seek funding for the Government of Nunavut to address our shortfalls in not only capital projects, but also in trying to continue to deliver programs to Nunavumiut through our programs of operations and maintenance. I think we've done, and we continue to do that, and I provided a fiscal update to the House where we were able to get an additional \$1.9 million, \$2 million and a 3.5 beyond that, plus some funding through the Economic Development Forum as well as through Health. So yes, we do continue to try and address the shortfalls we have in our infrastructure and in our budgets.

That will be an ongoing effort as stated in the past. I mentioned again in my first response that we do have a P3 policy, and I am prepared to table that information in the House. It has been reviewed in the past and I also want to say that wherever possible, we try and go around the pursuit of P3 arrangements. But, it also has to be financially viable to us, as we all know in this House, we have a shortage of funding to address all the needs of Nunavumiut, as it relates to program delivery and the development of infrastructure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 104 – 2(2): Wildlife Officer for Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister for Environment. I think that it was in September that we talked about the wildlife officer in Sanikiluaq, but he has since left.

I just wondered what he will be doing in regards to the HTA in Sanikiluaq, and what he is going to do with the wildlife officer position for Sanikiluaq?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for asking me that question. We would like to have wildlife officer positions in each community filled. What we are doing is we are in the process of hiring the individual wildlife officer for Sanikiluaq, but we are having problems with staff housing for that individual. So, we are getting an Inuk wildlife officer in the job offer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): The staff housing, as I understand, there are three vacant houses in Sanikiluaq at present. I was told that sometime in November that the wildlife officer would be available to start his job in Sanikiluaq.

I just wondered whether that job advertisement has been advertised in the paper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I said that this month there would be a wildlife officer in Sanikiluaq. It takes a little while for us to hire wildlife officers and I will let the member know exactly what stage we are at in doing our hiring. There are also some other communities that are without the wildlife officers.

I just wanted to assure the member that we should be able to hire the wildlife officer as soon as there is housing available for that individual.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): This is just a comment, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of residents in the community that do not have any employment. I would like to make sure that there are people being hired from the communities because there is going to be the grading of sealskins and other fur bearing products.

This is just a comment for the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): That was just a comment. Oral Questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Question 105 – 2(2): Washroom Facilities on Airline Flights Over Two Hours

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Transportation. It is in regards to the airlines in the Kivalliq region. When an airline flies for over two hours, we heard that they have to have a washroom on the airline, and I asked a question before, so I just wondered what stage they are at right now.

A lot of people don't like the Kivalliq airline because it is being used for medical patients and it's an inconvenience to the elderly people because they have to fly for a long time. That's a question to the Minister of Transportation.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Transportation. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the question of the member and I will respond in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The minister is taking the question as notice. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 106 – 2(2): Billing by Nunavut Power Corporation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I will have to go back on what I said earlier and ask the Minister responsible for Energy a question.

I guess a week and a half from now is not enough time to get some other people ready for something like that or other issues. So I guess you will have to go back to poor Mr. Picco.

My question for the Minister of Energy is in the past year, the power corporation has, as you had indicated, switched over to a new billing system and at the time of switching, there were a number of people that raised concerns about their bills going up.

In fact, the prices have gone up, but it turns out, during that transition, the corporation realized that they were taking \$18 off for peoples' bills. They were subsidizing it for \$18, that's a base charge or whatever, that they weren't supposed to be doing that.

A few people complained about it and I understand that the minister of the power corporation decided to continue not collecting that money that they should have been collecting.

I would just like to ask the minister, how much has the corporation failed to collect through that process over the last number of years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the power corporation. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is referring to a correction of commercialized accounts billing error that was picked up by the Auditor General of Canada.

Over the last several weeks in this House, we have heard members saying we have to be cognizant and follow the Auditor General for Canada's recommendations. The power corporation is doing just that, and they are trying to recoup the amounts of money that the Auditor General says that was under-billed by the corporation.

As the member has pointed out, that it was reflecting the \$40 monthly charge, which was omitted from the bill on commercial accounts. So it's a commercial account adjustment. I do have the numbers with me. I will go back to 2001 and 2002, there was \$1,300,000.

To the following, the corporation picked up the slack and indeed, for 2002 and 2003, the corporation actually had to do a refund to the customer based at \$532,000 for 2004 and 2005, that the member is talking about there was an under-billing of \$362,000 again with the commercial customers and again, it was a number that was picked up by the Auditor General for Canada and that's why we are trying correct it.

Again, as the members have said, to follow the recommendation of the Auditor General and the Auditor General's recommendation is to pick up those outstanding balances and that's the corporation's intent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for answering Mr. Peterson's question of the other day.

But my question has nothing to do with the commercial rates. This was the residential base charge of \$18 that when they switched over systems they realized that they were subsidizing that and should not be.

After some questions were raised, the corporation or someone decided to continue with the practise of not collecting that and keep subsidizing it, even though they shouldn't be doing it. That's what I'm looking at finding out.

Maybe the minister could explain why that happened and if he knows how much money has been subsidized that shouldn't have been. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to clarify, he's speaking about the domestic commercial rates, which is the base charge of \$18.

He talked about the residential rate or is he talking about the non-government amount rate. There are about 8 different rate adjustments and bases that are put on the bill, so could the member clarify. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the minister was not paying attention earlier. I said it was an \$18 charge, an \$18 base charge that appears on my power bill as a resident.

I don't know whose other power bills it shows up on, but that's the amount that I'm talking about. Hopefully that makes it very clear for the minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think then, he just answered his own question.

He is saying who is not being charged, but the member just told me it's appearing on his bill. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that the \$18 is actually appearing on the customer's bill.

Unless the member has a bill that says it's not being paid, then that customer would want to pay it, then Mr. Speaker, that's why I asked him for clarification. He just answered his question.

If it's on his bill, then my understanding is it's on everyone's bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it's pretty clear that no one over there seems to know anything today, it must be the weather.

I'm saying that it showed up on my bill as an \$18 charge, and there is an \$18 credit put on there as well. That's the credit, it wasn't supposed to be there and was not discovered until they changed their billing system and they realized that they were over-subsidizing.

They weren't supposed to be subsidizing that \$18, so last spring I raised that issue here in the House, and the minister had stated that that charge was not going to be collected, it was going to be continued to be subsidized, so I'm saying, is how much revenue is the corporation forfeiting based on that decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm trying to go through my notes for 2003, I believe that's the period that the member is asking about.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have the amount of under billing or under collection on the \$18 that the member is asking for. It is my understanding that after the Auditor General's comments on invoicing procedures, indeed those amounts were being picked up.

So, we'll have to confirm that for the member, and I should have that information for him tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, Mr. Speaker, if the minister is saying that it is being collected now and not subsidized, and the previous minister stated that it wasn't going to be collected, I guess, when did that change.

Are they, or aren't they. I don't know if they know. So, I think people out there have a right to know if there is going to be a change on their bill or a mistake that's made. Mr. Peterson tabled a letter that showed this is why they were doing that.

You would think if they were going to do that to the rest of their residential customers, they would at least offer the same courtesy to them, to let them know that an error had been made and that they were indeed going to be, in turn, collecting those funds now.

So would the minister be willing to commit to looking into that, if that decision was changed, as of when and inform his customers, constituents, when about that change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a bit of frustration here. I believe that the Hansard will back me up on this. The letter, Mr. Peterson, you keep missing information and mixing up the information. The letter Mr. Peterson tabled was on commercial accounts. That is the question I answered. You asked about that and I answered it and now you have gone back to the residential \$18 amount.

Mr. Speaker, the correction of the commercial accounts billing error that I have answered on behalf and for the member at the beginning, and he just brought that up again, saying that that was the question that Mr. Peterson has asked, we have answered that. There is a \$40 charge, and it has been picked up by the Auditor General for Canada.

Mr. Speaker, the \$18 amount, the residential charge that the member is talking about, on the one hand he says it is not being charged, on the other hand, he says it is being credited. So that is an offsetting charge that the corporation is not receiving.

The information that has been provided to me, as I have just indicated, is that that \$18 has been and is being charged, as the member said just now in the House, he has it on his bill, but now he says that maybe it has been subsidized.

My answer to the House, Mr. Speaker, is that I don't have the information, if the \$18 is continuing to be charged. And I will have that information for him tomorrow. It has nothing to do with the question that Mr. Peterson, asked; that answer has been given. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Order. Order, please. I have to keep the House in order. Mr. Picco. Mr. Tootoo. Please keep the House in order. Thank you. Oral Questions. The Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 107 – 2(2): High Cost of Nutritional Food

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was touring the communities in my riding, there were comments being made about diabetes. I will be directing my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

There were people making comments about the high contents of sugar in the products that are sold at the retail outlets. The items with the high level of sugar content are cheaper than the better foods. Has that resulted in the increase of diabetes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to answer the best that I can. In 2000, there were 3.7 percent studied and 23 percent of those studied were overweight. Around 50 percent of Nunavummiut were not exercising enough and therefore overweight. In 2002, people with type 2 diabetes, was 1.7 percent and nationwide, it was 4.8 percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for giving us that information. I realize these facts are made public by the government. Are we doing anything to make sure that good food is made available to the people of Nunavut?

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, for posing those questions because of course, it has everything to do with healthy living and we have to educate the people of Nunavut about nutrition.

We have pamphlets or books available in both languages at Public Health and the nursing centers, and they have the Nunavut food guide available in all Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it's possible, could you give us the information on how many children have diabetes and other categories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can table that information and also, in my briefing in 1997-2002, there were 41 new cases in Nunavut. Yes, I can table that information. Thank you.

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

Question 108 – 2(2): Emergency Plans for a Flu Epidemic

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Minister of Health tabled a minister statement on November 17, Influenza Vaccination Campaign.

Last year in Cambridge Bay, we had a flu epidemic. It was quite serious. As the mayor, I had to meet with different officials in town to shut the town down to prevent the flu from spreading.

I am wondering if the minister could tell the House if all the communities in Nunavut have, since then, developed emergency plans to deal with a flu epidemic if they break out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for posing that question. The Department of Public Health is responsible for that and they do have emergency plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the minister could tell us what the emergency plans are for communities when a flu epidemic breaks out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't wearing my earpiece. Could you rephrase that question please? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I want the minister to tell us is: What are the emergency plans that are in place in municipalities to deal with flu epidemics when they break out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The public health is responsible and do have the plans. The nurse in charge or the chief medical health officer is also in charge of the emergency plan.

In regards to the vaccinations and flu shots, it's usually in the fall and there are different types of flus. There is one that we can see in November, December, January and February or even a few more months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was the mayor of the community of Cambridge Bay last year, it was a very difficult time because a lot of kids and babies were getting sick, a lot of school kids were getting sick, and many adults in the community as well.

I had to meet with the hamlet council, then I had to go talk to the district education authority, and then I had to convince everybody. In the best interest of the community to close our major buildings. To the credit of the community, we did close down their stores, close down our schools and closed down a number of other venues where people could congregate where the flu could spread.

We talked to people about not coming to the community. I found it difficult, as the mayor, that there wasn't an overarching policy or procedure put in place between the Government of Nunavut and the community about who has the authority to make decisions on shutting down a community where an epidemic breaks out.

Would the minister comment on that, if her department is taking the lead, working with her colleagues and other departments to put a policy in place where there is someone at the top somewhere that can make a final decision with authority. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, it must have been hard and I would like to thank the member for having been a part of the individuals who took charge.

In regards to your question, the Chief Medical Officer would be the one responsible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister. Her staff worked with me to make a lot of those decisions. Dr. Roger Lake, the Executive Director of Health was there and we were in touch with Dr. Talbot here, who was keeping us informed.

One of things that came out in our discussions during the time when this whole emergency was occurring, although this was a small emergency in Cambridge Bay, just localized, in three to five years and who knows how long, there is a pandemic coming across, around the world, North America.

When it hits Nunavut, we're going to have a very difficult time dealing with it. Our communities aren't prepared. The government isn't prepared. I'm very concerned as a citizen of Nunavut about that.

I'm wondering if the minister can tell us, is her department preparing the government and the municipalities for a pandemic. Hopefully it doesn't occur, but if it does occur, will we be ready. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although we have great concerns, if it should happen, if there should be a large outbreak, I'm with you about your concerns.

I am sure that the Chief Medical Officer will be in the process of preparing for a major outbreak with the outlets in southern Manitoba and Edmonton and Ottawa. Those are the routes that we follow.

Hopefully, there will be a protocol in place and in the meantime, I will try and find out what the protocol will be in case of an event. I share with your concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 109 – 2(2): Arctic Bay Airstrip Feasibility Study

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's been approximately two years since there was a feasibility study to make sure that Arctic Bay will get an airport.

Arctic Bay has not heard about the results. Perhaps the minister could table those results. I'm asking this question to the Minister responsible for Transportation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Transportation. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the study that was done for an Arctic Bay airstrip, at this point is still under consideration.

They are doing a feasibility study to see how much it would cost to move the airstrip or to lengthen the airstrip in Arctic Bay. So, it's still under review as we speak. We can probably estimate how much it will cost, but they're still reviewing the figures as we speak. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Arctic Bay residents want to have a clear understanding, since the current airstrip that we're using is experiencing problems.

Everything is deteriorating at the airstrip. What are we going to do with the airstrip. Are we going to continually use it or do we have any other plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes, the current airstrip in Nanisivik is going to be revamped next year or this coming spring.

We've been working urgently on the airstrip in Arctic Bay, we want to make it longer and not utilize the airstrip in Nanisivik. Once I'm able to go to Arctic Bay, I'll go visit that community to do the report to the hamlet council and to the residents of Arctic Bay.

Once we have that opportunity, we'll be going up there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 110 – 2(2): Tabling of a List of Contracts

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure who to direct this question to, but it should either be the Premier or the Finance Minister. I'll let them decide who wants to answer it.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the member of the first assembly and the other members of the first assembly know it's been a long painstaking attempt to ask for lists of contracts and things like that to be tabled by this government here in the House.

I'm just wondering if this government keeps track of all the contracts that it has, sole source contracts. Was there a list of these things, and will they be willing to table that in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I respond, I would like to rebutt the member's allegation that I missed a goal last night. At least, I scored one goal.

>>*Applause*

>>*Laughter*

The member actually put the puck on my stick. When he passed it, I would have actually scored a goal, another one. So I ask the member at least say, that when you make a pass, make it count.

>>*Laughter*

I made a beautiful pass right in front of the net to the member. He was all alone and he didn't score. He didn't score a single goal. At least I scored a goal last night.

Mr. Speaker, in the previous assembly we did table some contracts. I thank the member for asking the question. When we can get all the contracts together for this coming year, I'm sure that we can look at tabling them again.

In some cases, we're bound by contract to keep some contracts confidential, but I will commit to tabling some contracts as soon as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know how this, if it's public money that's being spent on what ever the contract is, that the public has the right to know where that money is being spent.

It doesn't need any details on it but that's kind of surprising. Everyone has the right to know where public money is being spent. But, just to go a little more into it, is there a list.

Do they have a list of sole source contracts that go back. This is something that we've been asking for, for some time. Do they have that information readily available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can put together a list. Each contract varies. Some are local contracts, some are sole source, some are advertised. So, depending on the type of contracts that the member wants, we can work on compiling a list and some details on what particulars. We can disclose the amount but a lot of cases, this is a competitive process and a lot of contractors do not like disclosing.

They are confidential competitive issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at it, sole sourced contracts, I know the minister had indicated earlier in this sitting with his other hat on as Minister of Justice that they do sole source legal professionals for the government. Not just that, but all sole sourced contracts that I am looking at. Is that something that does exist, is there a list and is it readily available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do now have a readily available list of sole sourced contractors. They take, depending on availability, time to put it together, but I can commit to tabling one in the next upcoming session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your Last Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask my last one. I just wondered if this information that the minister had indicated, is this something that is kept just within the government or are there any other different levels of government or any other agencies or groups that this information is shared with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's all internal government services, so we are not in the process of disclosing confidential information to outside sources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Uqqurmiut. Mr. Arreak.

Question 111 – 2(2): Policy on Elders' Medical Checkup

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

Too many elders do not receive annual examinations and those that do often get them too late. Is there a policy within your department for elders to get their medical check-up, for a complete physical? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if we have a policy or not, but I can look into that.

The member's question is a very good question and I appreciate it because I have heard of the same concern where a diagnosis is made too late all too often. We all have to make sure we do not hesitate to seek medical diagnosis when we discover anything abnormal. Quite often the doctors and the nurses can't diagnose you right away for any number of reasons beyond their control. But, I really appreciate his question and I will look into the fact if we have a policy or not. I will look into that and take it as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, thank you Madame Minister for that response. Well, if in the case that is not in the policy, I would be very happy to see the public informed about what they can do to get an annual physical check-up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank, Mr. Speaker. Yes, people used to get a physical when I was a child, with x-ray machines and blood test labs on the hospital ship, so as a result we miss the CD Howe that use to travel around to do medical checkups. I will look into the member's question and let the member know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Oral questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 112 – 2(2): Consider One Bill for Government of Nunavut Utility Bills

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if the minister responsible want to answer this question with his energy hat on or his education hat, but I'll leave that up to him.

Mr. Speaker, I know one of the issues that have been talked about a number of times over the last few years is that the subsidy for power that is out there. I understand that it is Department of Community and Government Services that pays all the power bills for the government and government owned facilities throughout the territories, except for the schools.

I was just wondering if the Minister of Education or Energy, whichever he wants to answer under, would look at trying to put all their eggs in one basket so that, at some point, it might help them figure out exactly what they are paying and how much subsidies are out there.

If all those bills are being paid by one department, so instead of the money flowing through the education budget down to the DEA's and into the schools for the utilities, would the minister be willing to look at including that like all government facilities those bills being paid for and appropriated, funding appropriated to the central bill paying department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Education and responsible for the power corporation, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, under the different departments of the government, the member is correct that the majority of electrical bills, oils bills and so on, are paid by the government.

A good example are the rate subsidies, and the cross rate subsidies that are in place. For example, if the rate is 38 cents in Iqaluit, the subsidy that is in place is 16.5 cents, Mr. Speaker, the public would have to pay that for the first 7 hundred kilowatt hours.

But to the member's question. First of all, the Government of Nunavut, including the Nunavut Arctic College, at the present time, all the bills, utility costs, electrical costs and everything are actually paid directly by the college itself.

As the Minister of Health, we thought that at the time, when I was minister, it was appropriate to have those billings transferred to the department that actually took care of the billings and that administrative cost, logistics as well as finances, was transferred.

Mr. Speaker, the issue has come up, for example, as I said earlier, with the college and the dean that I met yesterday in Cape Dorset and again on Saturday here while the member was off while I was in meetings, meeting with the college people and then travel to Cape Dorset to discuss the issue around how we could facilitate the payments that the college pays.

At the same time, the issue of education had come up on the transfer of the utility cost of the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, it depends on one's interpretation, I'm lost I guess.

Maybe as the Minister of Education, I might get a better or more clearer definition or answer. Would the Minister of Education be willing to look at taking the utilities, the power bills out of the Department of Education and the schools budget and having those funds allocated in and administered through where most other bills are paid through Department of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, I raise this as an issue because I know I was talking to the Iqaluit District Education Authority. I know the Minister knows a lot of those people very well, as they are his constituents, they were indicating that their power bills have gone up. Close to 40 percent over the last three years. With no forced growth funding in the education budget, they are being forced to take money out of the schools just to pay the power bill.

I am just wondering if just on that basis of letting education dollars goes to education and not power. Would the Minister be willing to bring that forward to his colleagues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to stand here right now that over the last couple of weeks I have had an opportunity to try to address the questions on energy and electrical matters and try to clear the record of what occurred.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have some fun with the member, and keep stringing him along, but for the sake of time, we have already done what the member has asked, and indeed, a couple of weeks ago we were at the Financial Management Board and a request came forward by the Minister of Education to remove the utility costs from the education budget.

That was expected by the Financial Management Board, I am not sure if it was in this supplementary, or not, but the decision has already been taken. We think, as the member has suggested, that that would be the proper course of action.

So, instead of stringing him along we have already done what he would like us to do today, we did that actually a couple of weeks ago. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't mind stringing along. Could the minister come out behind that shroud of secrecy. The government, sometimes, seems to hide behind its decision making and inform those people that are affected by the change and policy, so that they will have some relief, not knowing that they won't have to worry about it for the next couple of years, or so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The decision has been and I am not giving away any information because you have to be very careful with what information that you release in the House before it becomes a full house.

I am saying that we have done it. I believe the information may be in that supplementary right there. Therefore and thus, Mr. Speaker, once that is available and the supplementary has been passed, then I would be writing, as Minister of Education, to all the DEA's and to our staff and our administration people and let them know of the very good news that they no longer have to do that.

I also suggested to the member, yesterday, in my conversations with head of Arctic College, Mr. Robert Leonard, that I would indeed be looking at some opportunities to do the same for Arctic College, because they are in the same situation as our schools.

It makes sense logistically, administratively and financially if one agency that takes care of utility and oil costs, and so on, for our schools and our public buildings, does the billing, the invoicing and the receivables. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 113 – 2(2): Power Increase

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my constituents, also my community, is facing an increase in 8.5 percent and Iqaluit is getting an increase percentage-wise. I am not talking about commercial, I am talking about residential. Are we going to get a power increase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the Utility Rates Review Council, right now, is looking at a proposal made by Qulliq Energy Corporation, to look at the rates. I can't say how much the rates will increase. I think the business community and the general public of Nunavut all know that the rates do have to increase because the costs of running the operation since 1998, when the rates were set, has certainly changed and increased, for example, the costs of fuel.

We are not in the position right now, Mr. Speaker, to say how much that will be. We have to let the Utility Rate Review Council process go forward. There are meetings tonight in Iqaluit. They have visited several communities across Nunavut.

I have extended the contract for them to report February 1st. Minister Okalik has responded favourably and extended their opportunity to receive submissions from the people in Nunavut to the 17th of December.

We are listening. We are hearing what people have to say. Mr. Speaker, the long and short of it is I don't know what the amounts will be. There is a proposal by the power corporation.

The Utility Rate Review Council has to hear all submissions, analyze the proposal, make their recommendations to me as Minister of Energy and the Cabinet. We will have an opportunity to look at it and then Mr. Speaker, look at what their rate will be on April 1, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Going back to orders of the day. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report 001 – 2(2): Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Legal Professions Act; Bill 6, Electronic Commerce Act and Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Evidence Act

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not really sure, I guess I have to say Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to report Bill 5, an Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act, Bill 6, the Electronic Commerce Act, and Bill 7, an Act to Amend the Evidence Act has been reviewed by the Standing Committee, Ajauqtiit and that these bills are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68 (5) and have Bill 5, 6, and 7 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Agreed.

Some members: agreed

Speaker (interpretation): Are there any nays. There are no nays. Bill 5,6 and 7 will be put to Committee of the Whole.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Ms. Brown.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 035 – 2(2): Senior Officials Healthy Lifestyle Committee – Departmental Plans Review

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document; Senior Official's Healthy Lifestyle Committee, Departmental Plans Review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 036 – 2(2): Letter from the Mayor of Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document from the mayor of Arctic Bay. It is in regards to the generator and the lighting at the airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 037 – 2(2): Letter from Kugluktuk Christmas Committee

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter from Kugluktuk Community Christmas Committee and it's coming from group signed by co-chair Millie Kuliktana, Danielle Adjun. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 003 - 2(2): Extended Hours and Days – Notice

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on December 1, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Natsilik that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours that the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business for the House and I will be seeking unanimous consent, at the appropriate time, to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Orders of the Day. Item 15. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to seek consent of this House to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 003 – 2(2): Extended Hours and Days

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Natsilik that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours that the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Motions. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 17. Item 18. 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act 2003-04, Operations and Maintenance. Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act Operations and Maintenance 2004-05. Bills 5, 6 and 7, with Mr. Netser in the Chair. We will break for 20-minutes. Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:34 and resumed at 17:06*

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much for coming back to the meeting. (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 1; Bill 2; Bill 3; Bill 4; Bill 5; Bill 6; and Bill 7

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with the review of Bill 4 and the capital estimates for the Department of Justice. After that we would like to proceed with the clause by clause reviews of Bill 5, Bill 6, and Bill 7.

If time permits, we would return to Bill 4, and commence the review of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evygotailak. (interpretation end): Are we in agreement that we will first deal with the capital estimates for the Department of Justice.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. On Friday, the Minister of Justice had delivered his opening comments and also the chair of the standing committee.

Minister of Justice will you need your officials with you at the witness table. Is the committee agreed?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-Arms.

Welcome, Mr. Premier. For the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this afternoon, we have on my right Marcus Wilber, who is the Deputy Minister for Justice, Pierre Chartrand; Finance Comptroller, at our office. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): General comments on the Department of Justice. Do we have any comments on the floor? Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the premier and his officials. I would just like to make a short general comment in regards to the laws that we have grandfathered from different jurisdictions, and that have been adopted without our reviewing these laws.

Those are the current laws that we use today and we have had to make amendments to make them Nunavut-friendly. Those laws were adopted by our government from other jurisdictions without our knowledge, or without our consent.

We have gone through a lot of hardship in abiding by these laws, but we have adapted. As an Inuit society, we adopted these laws without knowing why they were there. I think we can make a lot of different comments on the issue of laws.

In some parts, I think that we aren't doing as much as we should. In all Nunavut communities, we are going through hard times, and I don't know if it's appropriate for me to say in the House, but I would like to touch up on the issue of drugs.

I am not going to be saying any names, but I can say that there are some people out there who are using the monies from the government to buy drugs instead, possibly because there is not enough enforcement, and it's not right. I think it affects all Nunavut communities.

We have to make sure that these laws are used and we have to help one another. The use of illicit drugs is part of the problem of the family. We have to take care of one another, for example, there are people in need of medical attention and they are homeless people around. It's harder in the smaller communities because of the problems with drugs that we have up here.

I think that it's very costly and I hope to see the eradication of the use of drugs sometime in the future. We have to make sure that we deal with the issue of drugs more harshly, and I am saying that because I am an Inuk and I find that life is precious and so are the future populations.

There are a lot of changes that they have to see in the present laws so that we will have healthier communities.

Mr. Chairman, those were my general comments, but I feel that the lesser crimes should be dealt with at the community level, possible by way of Justice Committees, and to also use Inuit societal values in dealing with the offenders because Inuit are a very caring society. I think it is important to use our Inuit societal values and also to use the traditional healing methods in dealing with the lesser crimes.

I'm very pleased to see that justice circles established at the smaller communities, but I think that they should be given the resources financially and to have Human Resources available, so that they can do what they have been mandated to do.

A lot of these committees do it on a volunteer basis and they're doing a very important job. They deal with the offenders and also help the community as a whole, mentally and physically. They deal with social problems on a volunteer basis and I think that we should be recognizing these individuals more because of the contributions they have made to the community.

It is something that I am very concerned about. When it comes to the questions, I will be posing them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I have no other names on my list for general comments. We'll then go on to E-6.

(interpretation ends) Detail of Capital, Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters Region. \$7,860,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Headquarters Region. \$7,860,000. Agreed. Thank you. I'm sorry, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not on the standing committee, so I thought I would ask a question. The Justice Centre is suppose to be a one stop shop. Could the Minister of Justice can give us an update on who the tenants are going to be in the Justice Centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The staff that are currently housed in the current lease facility will be moved there. Family mediation services will also be relocated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. You are in a facility now, what would happen to the leased facility that you have that people are operating out of currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is currently leased, and the lease expires in 2006, so it will revert back to the owners of the facilities. So it is up to the owners to decide what they want to do with the facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recall reading somewhere that the design was going to do away with the bells and whistles and just have basic finishings. I take it that that means that it's going to be a very tight budget. Can you comment on whether the project is within the budget and on schedule? Will it be ready in 2006? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said in my opening comments, yes, it is on schedule. We've done our utmost to make sure that the costs are maintained, and where ever possible reduced. We are relocating the current furnishings over to the new court house. They are being used so that we can reduce the costs. We will be utilizing the skills deemed by the inmates to fix up the new facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project was approved by the last government, so it's with the new government now. This is the first time that we've taken a look at the project.

Can the Minister explain to us why in this tight financial environment that we're in, why we have to spend 15 - \$18 million for a new Justice Centre when we could just as easily spend that money on housing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said, the lease runs out in 2006, so it is an opportune time for us to actually build our own facility. The current facility is inadequate and insecure and the facility does not accommodate security issues in relation to high profile proceedings that may take place. It poses a security risk for members of the public. So it became quite obvious that a new facility would have to address those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister tell us how many people will be working out of the Justice Centre and how many judges will be operating out of there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand there are currently 34 court workers and 3 judges that we'll be locating there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? I have no other names on my list.

We're on page E-6, agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We'll go to E-8. Are there any questions on E-7 or E-8? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did you say on page E-8 to ask questions?

Chairman: Just a minute. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: I'm getting ahead of myself here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the headquarters region, there is an amount for \$449,000 for a men's correctional and healing facility, corrections and community justice.

Could the Minister tell us a little about that project and where it's projected to be located?

I see going forward to 2006-10, that there is an additional \$4,286,000, that is to be requested. Can you update us on that project, Mr. Minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I said in my opening comments, we are currently over housed in correctional services. BCC is always overflowing and we end up shipping the inmates to either Ottawa or Yellowknife.

The Kugluktuk facility will assist us in addressing some of those concerns but we will continue to need another facility to manage ourselves. So, we're committed to building another facility similar to Kugluktuk before the end of our term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. When I was on the Hamlet Council in Cambridge Bay, the issue came up several times about offenders being sent to the Iqaluit Baffin Correctional Centre for remand. The people in town and the community council wanted a facility built closer to home to help look after the offenders and the Kugluktuk Healing Centre certainly contributes to that.

I am wondering if the minister has given more thought to how the offenders, from the western part of Nunavut, will be housed in facilities a little bit closer to home, rather than coming all the way to Iqaluit.

I don't know where this facility is going to go, but it's certainly going to be important where it's placed to help all the offenders in Nunavut stay in their relative area where they come from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, that is being built; we are in the final stages of completing the Kugluktuk Healing Facility so that we can keep as many

inmates that originate in the west in a western facility. So that's the goal, and that's what we are trying to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation ends) Do you have any more questions, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I appreciate and understand what you are trying to do with our Kugluktuk healing center. I think those are probably going to be minimum security type offenders.

I am more concerned about the more serious offenders, the dangerous and violent offenders that I was talking about the other last week in the House. Would the offenders receive rehabilitation and counselling, before they are returned to their communities. If the minister could comment on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated in the past, we can send inmates through the under two or three years throughout facilities, but once they go past two years, then they are out of our reach, they are at the federal penitentiary level.

So we have lobbied the federal government to try and get a federal facility in Nunavut in the past. Unfortunately, we have not been successful. So what we are trying to do is trying to gain some management over where we are at jurisdictions on territorial inmates.

So the more serious offenders are usually shipped to the federal penitentiaries and that's where the distinction is made. For inmates that will continue to require maximum or heavy, they will probably be residents here in Iqaluit where there is heavier security at the facility. Our goal is to try and maximize regional facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister just comment on how many inmates they have at the Baffin Correctional Centre, that they currently have? How many was the facility designed for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, there are currently 80 inmates, and it was originally designed for 55 inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With those numbers in mind, perhaps the minister could offer the House some insight into what type of situations could develop in a facility where you have overcrowding among dangerous offenders, and other offenders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not speculate on what may happen because that is not the goal. What we are trying to do is trying to reduce those numbers by building additional facilities and building more capacity. So that is why we built Kugluktuk and that is why we are planning to build other facilities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) We are on page E-8. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want clarification on the Correctional Healing Facility. Where would the location be? Have you already considered the location of that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We already know the location. We don't want to have any safety issues for any community in Nunavut. Our goal is to have an RCMP in the community readily available, just in case there were any emergencies because the correctional facility needs the RCMP available, although we have not identified the location of this facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I understand that this is more geared to the regional headquarters. What about the smaller communities. If they wanted to have that facility in their community, can they make a request? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although we have not identified the location, we have to look at the safety concerns and issues. So, that's part of our goal and we don't want to have any health and safety issues to anyone.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk, do you have any further questions. Are you finished? I have no more names on my list. We're on page E-8.

(interpretation ends) Corrections and Community Justice, Detail of Capital. Tangible assets. Total headquarters region, \$608,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Agreed. Thank you. Page E-9. Corrections and Community Justice. Tangible assets. Total Baffin Region, \$306,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the \$70,000? Is that for a study? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the BCC study that the member is referring to. As I alluded to, it is currently overflowing, so we're trying to find better ways of managing that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just curious because I just looked an inch and a half over to the right; there is a big number, \$35,000,408 for 2006-2010. Are you planning some major retrofits down the road? Is that what the study is related to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those figures aren't final so that's just a figure to work with. So the study will determine the exact number and we'll have to go back to the House for approval once that study is completed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Men's Correctional Healing Facility in Kugluktuk, how many inmates will be incarcerated in that facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the staffs are finishing up their training and we want to manage it properly, so we'll probably start off with 10 with the eventual goal of housing maybe 16 and max. 20. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Anything else, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister tell us if any other inmates in other facilities outside of Nunavut will be repatriated to this Kugluktuk Facility when it's opened? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is our goal and hope. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This facility, it looks like it will cost \$300,000 and a little bit. That is probably the existing building. Would that be policy of the Government to find the existing buildings, perhaps an old school somewhere, turn those into Correctional Healing Facilities where it makes sense in the community. You just use the old buildings; renovate them, which would be closer to home for the minimum security type of offenders in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were very fortunate to find the existing facility that did not require a lot of retrofitting. So we lucked out in Kugluktuk and the Hamlet was very willing to contribute some infrastructure for a facility that we needed for Kugluktuk. So, we do hope that we can find a similar like arrangements in another community that we could consider. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Evgotailak, did you have your hand up? Thank you. We're on E-9. Total Qikitaalik Region. \$306,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Qikitmeot Region. \$78,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$992,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to E-4. Justice. Department Summary. Total Capital Expenditures. \$8,842,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that this department is concluded? Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming. Do you have any final remarks, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. I don't think I'm done yet so I have to do another department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, it is good that this money will be put to good use. We will be dealing with Bill 5. Thank you. Law Clerk, to the table here. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Justice to make his opening remarks. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to also welcome Maria Lodge, who is going to be with us while we are dealing with the Bills. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to appear before you to speak about the proposed amendments to the *Legal Profession Act* which I introduced in this current session of the Legislative Assembly, and which received second reading at this time.

At any time the law students will be doing their articling. Mr. Chairman, it is, the *Legal Profession Act* specifically sets out the process that graduate law students follow in order to serve and complete 'Articles'. It also sets out the qualifications and the person to whom a student can be articulated. The law society also had the students of the Akitsiraq Law School program in mind when requesting those amendments.

The students who will be graduating from the Akitsiraq Law School may experience serious hardship in completing their articles if the terms under which this can be accomplished are not expanded, before they submit their articling plans for approval by the law society. It is my view that it would not be right for us to put this additional hurdle in their path.

Mr. Chairman, these are my opening remarks. I will be pleased to answer any questions.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have any comments? (interpretation) Mr. Mapsalak, go ahead.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee *Ajauqtiit* had an opportunity to review Bill 5, an Act to amend the Legal Profession Act.

The standing committee understands that this Bill will remove certain restrictions and change some of the articling requirements in the Legal Professions Act. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee supports the Bill at the clause-by-clause of the standing committee review.

Members are supportive in measures to ensure that our law students are able to complete the necessary steps to become fully qualified practitioners.

Members would wish to be kept fully informed on the government's future plans in respect to legal education in Nunavut and with respect to the actual input from the consultations that were held in the development of the Bill.

This concludes my opening remarks. The committee recommends the passage of the Bill to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Just before we continue, there will be general comments from each of the members. So, the floor is now open for general comments on this Bill.

If not, I have no more members on the list for general comments. We will now proceed to clause-by-clause review of the Bill starting with page 1. (interpretation) Do you want to go clause-by-clause?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Bill 5. An act to amend the Legal Profession Act. (interpretation) Clause 1, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to page 3 in English, page 4 in Inuktitut. (interpretation) Do you agree with the schedule?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Good. Thank you. Back to page, oh the interpreters were late. (interpretation ends) Bill 5, an Act to amend the Legal Profession Act. (interpretation) We are on Bill 5. The interpreters do not have a copy of the bill. (interpretation ends) We'll start over again. We are on page 1, Bill 5, an Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act. (interpretation) Clause 1, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause, 2 do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Turning to page 3, and page 4 in Inuktitut. Do you agree with the schedule? (interpretation ends): Do you agree with the schedule? Thank you.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go back to page 1. (interpretation): Clause 3, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 4, do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 5, agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): The bill as a whole, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree that Bill 5 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We will now deal with Bill 6. Mr. Minister, do you have any comments on Bill 6 just before we begin?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have now changed another person at the witness table who dealt with this Act that we are going to deal with this afternoon.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be reading in English because some of them are very hard to translate into Inuktitut.

(interpretation ends) It is my pleasure to appear before you to speak about the proposed Electronic Commerce Act which I introduced in this current session of the Legislative Assembly in which we've received second reading at that time.

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* for taking the time to consider this important bill and for recommending it to the committee for consideration.

Technological changes are having a significant impact on the way we carry out various transactions including those of a commercial nature. These changes are occurring and ever increasing rate and all of us are affected.

The private sector, municipalities, public boards and government at all levels are responding to a world of growing internet access and use of computers to transact business and services.

Our legislation has not been updated to reflect these technological changes. The proposed Electronic Commerce Act is significant for Nunavut in that it will enable Nunavummiut to utilize various electronic media in a manner that is reliable.

It is important for Nunavummiut to have the certainty in regard to the way they carry out their commercial transactions. Enacting the Electronic Commerce Act will be an important step in this direction.

Examples of problems that the Government of Nunavut has encountered directly as a result of the legislative deficit can also be expected in the private sector. Such examples include; Nunavut and Canada exchange electronic data which provides the basis for the seniors' income supplement, or certain health care benefits delivered in Nunavut.

This electronic data is not readily usable in Nunavut because it does not have the same status, or legal effect as a signed document in Nunavut. It will become increasingly difficult for persons born in Nunavut to obtain and update their passports if Nunavut Health and Social Services cannot provide validating information in legally secure electronic formats, as required by federal statutes.

Without this legislation national legislative development to facilitate a computer-based assistance services, payments and transactions in the health sector may be difficult to implement in Nunavut.

The proposed legislation would also remove legal barriers to the use of electronic communications by the government and by the private sector, for example, the proposed legislation would clarify how and when a document, formerly required to be in writing, or signed, may be provided electronically, and or using secure electronic signature. It would also create standards of reliability to prevent the use of electronic records that may have been tampered with.

These statutes will provide certain rules of functional equivalency to ensure that paper and electronic media have relatively similar status, for example, if the law requires that information or a document be in writing, the electronic equivalent is acceptable, if it is accessible so as to be usable for subsequent reference.

It is important to note that the use of electronic media and transactions is always for the matter of consent. Individuals cannot be forced to use electronic means against their wishes. Without this legislation we lack certainty about electronic transactions and their consequences. This will become increasingly important in the context of international trade and commerce, as well as in investments. Failing to implement such legislation will ultimately present the barrier in Nunavut's transaction with the international community, generally.

This Act gives equal status to written and electronic documents. The other Act goes further and will authorize the court to admit these documents into evidence.

(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are my opening remarks. I will be pleased to answer any questions that members may have concerning the legislation.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the Chair of the *Ajauqtiit* Committee have any opening remarks?

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee *Ajauqtiit* has had the opportunity to review Bill 6, the Electronic Commerce Act.

The standing committee understands that this Bill is intended to reflect model legislation that has been developed for use across Canada.

Mr. Chairman, the committee would wish to see the Minister verify for public record what consultations were undertaken in the development of the bills and what input was received from the Information and Privacy Commissioner's Office.

In its review of this initiative, the committee also noted the issue of the Department of Health and Social Services providing certain validating information to the federal government with respect to such areas as passports.

The Standing Committee supported the bill at the clause-by-clause stage of standing committee review.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. The committee recommends the passage of the bill to all Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. I wish to remind members of the following if any of you have any comments:

That you have 10 minutes to speak according to Rule 77(1). However, there is no hands up so we can proceed.

We'll go to Bill 6, clause by clause. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Chair's opening comments, he asked the minister to clarify for the public record what close takes were undertaken by the development of the bill? And what input was received by from the Information Privacy Commissioner's office? I wonder if the minister could give us an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Judiciary, the Nunavut Archivists, the Nunavut Chamber of Commerce would understand, there is also an issue raised by the privacy commissioner and that was already addressed in the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, our standing committee met with the privacy commissioner last summer. Yes, she did raise an issue that identity theft and a whole lot of other stuff. So, it is very important to work with the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

I'm pretty sure that the Minister's comments that she was involved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. Do you have any further questions Mr. Peterson? Electronic Commerce Act.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 1.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 2.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 3.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 4.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 5.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 6.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 7.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 8.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 9.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 10.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 11.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 12.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 13.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 14.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 15.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 16.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 17.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 18.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 19.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 20.

Some Members: Agreed

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 21,

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Clause 22. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the Committee agree to Bill as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairperson (interpretation): Does the committee agree that Bill 6 is ready for the third reading?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you.

Mr. Premier, do you have opening comments for Bill 7. If you would proceed please.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, the Justice Department has to follow through with the acts. This bill amends the Evidence Act to authorize such as facilitate the use of electronic versions of documents in legal proceedings.

This was agreed to the first and second time around and the Standing Committee and Ajauqtiit have also made a recommendation to accept this amendment.

I can tell you that the amendments will be of significant benefit to Nunavummiut. This bill amends the act to authorize and facilitate the use of electronic versions of documents in legal proceedings. The act does not currently make any provisions for such recognitions. By correcting this deficiency, we are further seeking to safe guard the rights of Nunavummiut.

Nunavummiut have experienced changes over a short time that affect the way we carry out our day to day lives. It is imperative that our laws reflect these changes:

- Enacting amendments to the Amendments Act that will authorize and facilitate the use of electronic versions of documents in legal proceedings is an important step in that direction.
- The amendments will let the public know what standards are to be met before electronic records are admitted and provide certainty of our records created in accordance with these standards.

I am sure that you will have any questions.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to welcome the individual. I forgot your name, please.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): This is Thomas Drouin, who was here for Bill 7.

Chairman (interpretation): I apologize. I welcome you to the witness table. Does the Chairman for Ajauqtiit have any comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee Ajauqtiit has had an opportunity to review Bill 7, an Act to amend the Evidence Act.

The standing committee understands that this bill is intended to reflect model legislation that has been developed for the use across Canada. Members also recognize that this initiative complements the Electronic Commerce Act.

Nunavut needs to catch up with other jurisdictions and be able to use electronic versions of documents for legal proceedings.

The standing committee supports the bill at the clause-by-clause stage of standing committee review.

This concludes my opening remarks. The committee recommends the passage of the bill to all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. (interpretation ends) Before we proceed, I would like to remind the members of the following:

According to Rule 77(1), each member has 10-minutes to speak and according to Rule 77(2) subject to the discretion of the Chair, (interpretation ends) a member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

(interpretation) Before we proceed, you have 10-minutes to speak, but at this case, I don't see any hands up. (interpretation ends) We will proceed to Bill 7, an Act to amend the Evidence Act. (interpretation) Clause 1, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 3, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: The Bill as a whole, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 7 is ready for third reading? (interpretation)

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, very much for appearing before the committee. Do you have any closing remarks at this point? Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank my colleagues and my staff for dealing with these bills. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, very much for making an appearance. (interpretation ends) We are going to go for a 10-minute break. Back in 10-minutes.

>>*Committee recessed at 18:04 and resumed at 18:21*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. (interpretation ends) I would like now to ask the Minister responsible for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to make his opening remarks. Hon. Louis Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues. First of all, I'd like to thank the members to start reviewing the capital estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Although the department's budget is small relative to other capital budgets, I would like to assure you that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth does make an important contribution to the lives of Nunavumiut by providing Nunavut communities with the opportunity to reserve and enhance language, culture, heritage and promote healthy, active living.

Mr. Chairman, the department's capital budget of \$1,360,000, will be allocated to 4 capital projects. Capital contributions to non-profit community based individuals and organizations, for heritage, elder and youth centres, capital contributions to non-profit

community based individuals and organizations for recreation facilities projects, the territorial library in Baker Lake, and office renovations in Baker Lake and Iglulik.

As part of my department's commitment to community capacity building, capital contributions from the \$832,000, will be provided to community based individuals and organizations for renovations and minor capital of Nunavut's many heritage, elders and youth centres.

My department will provide capital funding in the amount of \$390,000, for community recreational facilities to foster healthy active living opportunities for Nunavumiut.

Mr. Chairman, 90 percent of the department's capital budget is allocated to community based individuals and organizations. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the key capital contributions funding in the 2004-05 fiscal year.

Under the Elders' Centre, funding has been provided for renovations and minor capital work to the Elders Palace in Cambridge Bay, the Elders' Center in Gjoa Haven, an Elders and Youth Cabin in Whale Cove and an Elders' Centre in Iqaluit.

In terms of youth centres, capital contributions, funding for renovations and minor capital work to Ilisarsivik Society in Clyde River, the youth centre in Pangnirtung and the Baker Lake Youth Centre and the drop-in center in Rankin Inlet.

With regards to heritage centres capital contributions, the Rebecca Idlout Library in Pond Inlet for community archive project that will issue long term protection for the preservation and promotion of local community history.

Additionally, my department has provided capital funding to the Hamlet of Arctic Bay to restore a historical building built in the 1930's and the Recreation Facilities Projects capital contributions, 17 recreational facilities projects have been funded across Nunavut.

The capital funding of \$78,000, for territorial library in Baker Lake represents the budget for the final warranty stage of construction of the \$3 million project. Capital funding in the amount of \$60,000, for the office renovations in Baker Lake and Iglulik will enable the department to streamline department programs and services delivered in these decentralized communities.

Mr. Chairman, members, it is the government's priority to have a heritage centre that can house and promote the rich cultural heritage of Nunavut. Although currently there is no capital funding identified yet for the future Nunavut Heritage Centre, I would like to assure the members that the development towards this facility is taking place.

Our department is partnering with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Heritage Trust to explore funding options towards this project. At the appropriate time, I will seek support from my cabinet colleagues and regular members for the Government of Nunavut's share of this project.

I will be pleased to answer any questions from my fellow members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Do you have any witnesses you would like to bring to the table.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witnesses.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chair (interpretation): Thank you, Sergeant-at-arms. Could you please escort his officials to the witness table. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Minister. For the record, could you please introduce your officials?

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is my Deputy Minister, David Akeagok, and to my right, his name is also David but his last name is Kolot. He coordinates our department.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. David Kolot and Mr. Akeagok, both of them Davids. Perhaps the chair of the standing committee *Ajauqtiit* would like to make an opening comment. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the standing committee *Ajauqtiit*, I am pleased to have this opportunity to make an opening remark as we begin deliberations on the 2005-06 capital estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has a capital budget of \$1,360,000, which represents 1.3 percent of the government's overall capital budget. This is an increase of \$791,000 from the previous fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, members understand that \$78,000 will be used for an addition to the territorial library in Baker Lake. Members look forward to the formal opening of this library, which was expected to be sometime this month.

Members are concerned that, although the Government of Nunavut's feasibility study for this stand alone Nunavut Heritage Centre, was tabled last year, little or no progress appears to have been achieved in its development.

Members are pleased that during the recent full caucus retreat in Arviat, MLA's committed to implementing plans for a territorial and the repatriation of Nunavut's

cultural treasures from other jurisdictions. Members look forward to seeing these plans move forward.

Mr. Chairman, in past years, the department regularly tabled a list of approved capital plans and contribution projects that were funded by the department. However, the last such report was tabled in March 2003. Members urge the minister, in the interest of transparency, to continue to table that information in the House. Members look forward to seeing the 2003-2004 grants and contributions report.

Members expect to be fully informed when new agreements are signed with respect to the Canada - Nunavut Co-operation Agreements for French and Inuit languages in Nunavut and urge the minister to seek increase funding in this area.

Mr. Chairman, as part of the government's March 2004, this department is now responsible for sports and recreation. Members urge the minister to approach its capital funding for recreational facilities in a holistic manner and promote healthy living to our youth in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, members wish to see the department conduct investigations into incidents regarding heritage sites that are reported by the public as being disturbed and inform the appropriate MLAs in their communities of the outcome.

Members look forward to seeing the actual final cost of each project published as final figures are known.

This concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns under the department's 2004-05 capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Before we start, just a reminder to the members that they have 10 minutes for general comments, but I don't see any show of hands for general comments. (interpretation ends) Wherever possible, ask your detailed questions during the page by page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for appearing before the committee, and I would like to welcome them.

Mr. Chairman, in the smaller communities, like my constituencies of Resolute Bay and Arctic Bay, there are no youth drop-in centres in those areas and we are running into problems due to a lack of youth facilities. I wanted to make a comment in regards to that because when I met with the youth council, they have been stating that in the smaller communities there is nothing for them to do, therefore there tends to be more problems.

We get more problems in the smaller communities then there are with the larger communities with services for youth.

They are requesting to get a youth centre in the High Arctic and I wanted to mention that in my opening remarks. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased to see the department and looking at the capital estimates, I know that we have limited resources within our capital budget although all of the communities would like to get Capital Projects in their communities.

And for the youth centres, when your department deals with youth centres, I wanted to mention that in Arviat the majority of the population are youth. The recreation facility that we have is aging and we've been trying to get the youth centre enlarged. And when we enlarge it is still too small. We're still short of space because the population of youth is quite high in that community.

In looking at the capital estimates department for last year and the next fiscal year the department is looking at youth centre projects from 2006 up to year 2010, I know that your department will be utilizing capital funds for such centres.

When we're looking at the capital estimates I want you to look into the community of Arviat when you are reviewing the community. In the capital estimates you should look into or consider the shortages of facilities that we have for the youth.

There are no recreational facilities or youth centres for the youth to meet together. I know your department is working on heritage and to make the lives of the youth in Nunavumiut healthier, so that at least the young people will have a place to go to. I also like to thank the minister for appearing before the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. I have no more names on my list. We'll go to F-5. F-6. Grants and contributions. Total Headquarter Region. \$1,122,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to F-7. Detail of Capital and Tangible Assets. Total Kivalliq Region. \$78,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Headquarters Region. \$60,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$138,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to F-4. Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$1,360,000. Agreed.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you agreed that this department is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk, we were happy to have you and to thank your officials. If you have any closing comments, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to be able to proceed with our department's budget. I thank the members and you, Mr. Chairman, for the approval of my capital estimates for my department. I know that we will be dealing with heritage centres and recreational facilities and to help out the people of Nunavut, especially in regards to languages, as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Legislature for approving our capital estimates. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We hope that next year that you will have more of a budget in your capital estimates. Thank you for coming.

(interpretation ends) Do members agree to go to the Legislative Assembly and complete Bill 4 for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:41 and resumed at 18:43

Chairman (interpretation): Are we going to be dealing with the Legislative Assembly? Mr. Speaker, if you can do your opening remarks.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a pleasure for me to appear before the Committee of the Whole today to present the 2005/06 capital estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will have noted the 2005/06 capital budget for the Legislative Assembly

constitutes less than one tenth of one percent of all Government of Nunavut capital spending. Total planned spending is \$120,000.

Next year's budget is a modest one that has been developed to address some immediate needs as well as building on the Assembly's existing efforts to make our building a showcase a Nunavut's rich cultural and artistic heritage.

A total of \$50,000 has been allotted towards routine furniture replacement. As members will be aware, much building's furniture has not been replaced in over half a decade. Our efforts in this area will focus on the building's three committee rooms, which experience a high degree of usage including numerous events that are open to the public and media.

On going audiovisual and IT network upgrades will provide a higher degree of functionality for building operations.

The Assembly's ongoing art acquisition strategy seeks to publicly celebrate the remarkable diversity of our art. Our acquisition for public display will continue draw on the traditions of different communities and artistic techniques.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this capital plan is the responsible and modest one that will enable us to better serve the needs of members and work towards the ongoing improvement of our chambers and building -- a building of which all residents of Nunavut can be proud.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I look forward to the comments and questions of the members. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring in?

Speaker (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort the witnesses.

Thank you. Mr. Speaker, if you could please introduce your witnesses for the members. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. On my right is John Quirke, who is the clerk of the Legislative Assembly, and on my left is the Corporate Services Chief, Mr. Steve Pollock. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before we begin the Office of the Legislative Assembly, the members have 10 minutes to speak on general comments, one at a time.

There are no names on my list. If we could just continue with the capital estimates.

(interpretation ends) Go to A-6. Office of the Clerk. Total tangible assets. Total headquarters region, \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total tangible assets, \$100,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page A-7, Office of the Clerk. Detail of Capital. Computer hardware and software. Total Headquarters Region, \$20,000. (interpretation) Do you agree.?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Computer hardware and software \$20,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Okay, back to A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditure. Total capital expenditures, \$120,000. (interpretation) Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree we have concluded this department?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now please refer to Bill 4. (interpretation) I would like to thank the Speaker for being able to appear before the committee. If you have any final comments, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I just want to thank the members and you, Mr. Chairman, for supporting the capital estimates for the Office of the Clerk. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, and to your witnesses as well. If we can go to Bill 4. (interpretation ends) We are going to go clause by clause. Bill 4. Appropriation Capital Act 2005-06. (interpretation) Clause 1, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to the next page. Page 2. Schedule to go to capital. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Capital appropriation \$101,903,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total appropriation \$101,903,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 4?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we agreed to Bill 4 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you agreed that Bill 4 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) I think we are done. (interpretation ends) Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are finished with the orders for the day. I would like to make a move to report progress.

Chairman: We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Netser.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Committee has been considering Bill 4; Bill 5; Bill 6; and Bill 7, and would like to report that Bills 4, 5, 6 and 7, are immediately ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Seconder? Mr. Okalik. The motion is in order. All in favour? Opposed? Abstentions. The motion is carried. Item 21. Item 22. Orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder to all members of a meeting of Full Caucus is ten o'clock in the morning in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders for the day for Tuesday, November 30.

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 1
- Bill 2
- Bill 3

20. Report to Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 4
- Bill 5
- Bill 6
- Bill 7

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 30, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:55*

