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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday November 30, 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. Evyagotailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier and members, good afternoon. Orders of the day for today. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 038 – 2(2): Update on the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy**

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last session I updated the members of the Legislative Assembly on how the Department of Education is developing a new system for adult learning here in Nunavut.

It is a priority for this government to have a coordinated approach to adult learning so that everyone can acquire the skills needed for a healthy and productive life. Mr. Speaker, the research phase is now at an end. We now have a draft document that sets out what we have learned, both through research and consultations, and the options that we need to choose among them.

Mr. Speaker, we are now poised to begin the final phase of this process, which generates the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy. I am pleased to announce today that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut will be working together to complete this strategy.

We will do this through the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy working group. NTI and the Government of Nunavut will name the co-chairs of the working group. Representatives from Nunavut-based organizations involved in adult training and education will be asked to serve on this working group.

We are confident that a working draft of the strategy will be ready for public review and comment by this time next year, if not earlier. There is keen interest in seeing a more coordinated approach to adult learning in Nunavut. The process to develop the strategy

will promote collaboration among the many agencies involved in education and training. Our long-term goal is to foster the active involvement of Inuit in the economy, and education is truly an engine of the economy.

The Government of Nunavut and NTI are working together on yet another project that advances implementation of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement. Our work is in keeping with the framework, set out earlier in the memorandum of understanding, between the government and NTI.

Mr. Speaker, now more than ever the Government of Nunavut needs to ensure that we make the best use of our limited resources by working together with NTI, with stakeholders, and with Nunavummiut on major projects.

The Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy links directly into our economy. We need to ensure that Nunavummiut have the skills needed for the jobs that are coming with development as well as the jobs that they can create themselves.

I look forward to the support of the members for this significant initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 039 – 2(2): Wildlife Regulations under the new Wildlife Act.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I would like to update members of this House on the status of the development of regulations necessary for the implementation of the new Wildlife Act.

Last December a major legislative initiative came to an end when the first Legislative Assembly passed the Wildlife Act. This massive project, conducted in partnership with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, produced a piece of modern wildlife management legislation that incorporates Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and respects the harvesting rights of Inuit.

The Wildlife Act will come into force in July, 2005. This date allows sufficient time for the finalization of the detailed regulations and sufficient time for consultation on these regulations.

(interpretation ends): The drafting of the regulations began last year and has been proceeding very well all through the summer and fall. The effective partnership process that was followed to develop the Wildlife Act has been copied for this project, with one important change: a representative of each of the regional wildlife organizations has been participating in all working group meetings. This direct participation by the regional

wildlife organizations has been very productive. It provides direct input from the community. Both sides can learn immensely from this process.

The drafting of the regulations is nearly complete, and staff from my department, again in cooperation with our partners and the regional wildlife organizations, is planning the consultations. These consultations will provide Nunavummiut with the opportunity to comment on and have direct input into the regulation.

Consultations will be underway from January until May. I encourage all members of the Legislative Assembly, hunters, members of the public, and other stakeholders to work with their hunters and trappers organizations to participate in these consultations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 040 – 2(2): Nunavut Public Service Studies Certificate

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that the Government of Nunavut has partnered with Carleton University to deliver a unique program, the certificate in Nunavut Public Service Studies.

This custom-made program, approved by Carleton University, is designed for government employees in Nunavut who seek special training in public service studies at the undergraduate level. Completion of this certificate will be equivalent to one year of a Bachelor's degree program. Students can participate on a course-by-course basis or in the certificate as a whole.

The Carleton University School of Public Policy and Administration will deliver the course in Nunavut and the curriculum will deal with Nunavut issues, policies, and challenges. Students may take two to three courses each year. Courses will include such subjects as the History of Northern Canada, Effective Writing, Management of Federal-Territorial Relations, and Introduction to Economics.

Mr. Speaker, to date, we have 32 employees enrolled in the Nunavut Public Administration course, and 53 percent of the participants are beneficiaries.

Government of Nunavut employees who are granted departmental approval to take this program will be sponsored for leave-time and tuition costs. Distance delivery of these courses is now taking place in Iqaluit, Arviat, and Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, this program will allow participants to study with their co-workers and gain tools they need to meet the challenges of working in an expanding public service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 041 – 2(2): Bilingual Strategy for Nunavut: 2004-2008

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to advise that later today I expect to table the *Bilingual Education Strategy for Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, this important document and strategy sets out the steps that the Department of Education will take to ensure our school curriculum meets the language needs of our students. The strategy will guide the implementation of the three languages of instruction model; this is a new method for teaching in Inuktitut, French, and English.

Our goal is to help students better develop their abilities in their first language while providing more opportunities to learn a second language equally well. I strongly believe that a four-year-long timeline can be met; however, it will require the dedicated commitment of teachers, parents, DEAs and department staff. The department will work closely with its partners in education to make the changes needed to create a bilingual system that works.

The strategy is a living document; it will evolve over time in response to suggestions advice and input from Nunavummiut. The Department of Education will ensure it meets the needs of students, our communities, and our economy.

Education is a key priority for this government. The implementation of this strategy will help us meet the priorities set out in *Pinasuaqtavut*: increasing the relevancy of the Nunavut K-12 curriculum; strengthening Inuit culture; ensuring our grade 12 graduates are fluently bilingual; and Promoting Inuktitut as the working language of government.

The Department of Education and the Government of Nunavut as a whole will be proactive in implementing these changes. I welcome any and all comments from members of this House on this important step in the evolution of our education system.

I look forward to the support of members for this significant initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 042 – 2(2): Northern Mines Ministers' Meeting

Hon. David Simailak: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to inform members of a meeting I attended late last week in Ottawa of Northern Mines Ministers. This forum, chaired this year by federal ministers Scott and Blondin-Andrew, was an opportunity for my two

territorial colleagues and me to discuss the potential that the North holds in the mineral sector.

The conference is important for representatives from the mining industry, aboriginal organizations, territorial governments, and environmental groups to share their views with the federal ministers responsible for mining in the North. During the conference, we heard presentations from several stakeholder groups on issues that are important to mining in the North and then met privately to discuss these and other mining-related issues.

I was very pleased to have had such a strong representation at that meeting from Nunavut, including Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Kitikmeot Corporation, regional Inuit organizations, the Northwest Territories-Nunavut Chamber of Mines and several of the exploration companies currently involved in building a vibrant mining sector in our territory.

We all know that Nunavut's mining industry holds a great deal of potential, with over \$120 million spent on exploration in the territory this summer. This promise for the future will increasingly provide sustainable and substantive benefits to Nunavummiut and to Canadians. Our discussions at this meeting are significant to developing Nunavut's mineral sector and I appreciate the collaboration of all ministers and mining industry representatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 077 – 2(2): Last Sitting of the Year

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today on what may be our last sitting day of the year. It is hard to believe that when we convene again at the Assembly next February, it will be over a year since we were elected to represent our constituents and communities.

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of Christmas, I would share with you and the House some observations on what has been naughty and what has been nice during our recent session and on these meetings.

Mr. Speaker, as a newly elected member of the Legislative Assembly, I have found this past year to be a learning experience, and that is an understatement. On the positive side, I have been impressed by the commitment shown by all elected members of this House to work together to achieve progress for our territory. We may disagree at times on strategy and details, but I have no doubt that members share a number of common goals.

Mr. Speaker, on the other hand, I have been greatly frustrated by the attitude demonstrated, on an almost daily basis, by some elements of the bureaucracy towards the work done in this House. Before I was elected, I never dreamed that there were so many different ways of saying that something was “under review” or “being looked at”, or “moving forward towards the strategy to develop framework options for further discussion...” or other such babblegab.

Mr. Speaker, the language of administration is truly unique, and I confess that I don’t understand a lot of it yet. I also didn’t expect the extraordinary resistance or reluctance on the part of certain elements of the government to reveal almost any detail and substance to this House, its members of committees, or the public.

Mr. Speaker, if it is this difficult for elected representatives to get answers from its bureaucracy, it is no wonder that so much of the public feels alienated from its own government.

Mr. Speaker, transparency is nothing to fear, and this lesson will be learned in the second Assembly. During this session I believe that some valuable scrutiny has been directed towards the government’s spending requests and initiatives.

The work in this House and the committees is important, and I am looking forward to our upcoming budget session, which I anticipate will be very lively.

I represent a part of Nunavut that is on the verge of making great strides; with the hard work of my Kitikmeot colleague, colleagues on both sides of the House, we are making progress.

>>*Applause*

The other night, Joe-Allen and myself were on the starting line-up with the Premier in the hockey game; we actually scored three goals, so that’s a good sign.

As we said at the caucus retreat in the beautiful community of Arviat, Nunavummiut are entitled to a standard of living no less than that of any other Canadian citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All too many of our people live in difficult circumstances. I believe the government can help correct the conditions for growth and opportunity.

A strong education system is the foundation of the future and the means by which our next generations will succeed.

An economic development strategy that maximizes our resource potential and makes a clear commitment to being open for business will help to alleviate the crushing poverty that affects many of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I wish you and all of my elected colleagues and all Nunavummiut a safe and joyous holiday season and I look forward to getting to back to the Assembly in the New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 078 – 2(2): Language of Instruction

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At times, we get nervous before we rise to make a statement, but we are learning. Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you some experiences of my own, as well as views expressed by my constituents on the issue of language and its role in our education system.

I have followed with interest the Minister of Education's statements and activities relating to education reform in Nunavut. I have listened very carefully to the comments and suggestions from my communities relating to the issue of language of instruction in our classrooms.

My mother tongue is very important to me and to my family and to my community and to my culture. I learned my language from my parents at home and on the land, not in school.

Since I became a parent myself, I, too, have made efforts to raise my children to speak the language of my family and my culture. Mr. Speaker, while my wife and I share important responsibilities at home in teaching our children our language and culture, the school system also plays an important role in providing a different kind of education.

The formal education system is designed to develop skills and provide different types of knowledge, some of which is foreign to my culture, but still important for surviving and succeeding in the world we know today.

As an example of this, Mr. Speaker, just yesterday the Hon. Minister of Justice indicated that he would make his comments on Bill 6, The Electronic Commerce Act, in English, because some of the terms are very difficult to translate into Inuktitut.

Mr. Speaker, about 50 people attended a recent public meeting in my constituency of Coral Harbour. One topic raised by many parents was the importance of having our school system provide a solid education in the English language.

On the one hand, parents have the responsibility to teach their children the language of our culture and they should not give that up to a formal institution such as a school. On the other hand, Nunavut needs well-educated graduates who can succeed academically and gain the skills... Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) On the other hand, Nunavut needs well-educated graduates who can succeed academically and gain the skills needed to succeed in today's complex world.

Members will recall that one of our collective goals from the Arviat caucus retreat was to work for a public education system that focuses on graduating bilingual youth who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to succeed in post-secondary studies.

Working together, parents and educators, we can give our children the tools they need.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that there are different opinions on language and the role that our school system plays in teaching and preserving it. I support the Minister of Education in his efforts in this area because I understand that this is not an easy issue to address.

Mr. Speaker, whatever solutions are proposed in this area, it is important that we maintain a balance. We need to consider what expectations are realistic; we need to set objectives that can be achieved with the resources provided, and when we set our goals, we must spare no effort to meet them.

I am very proud that my oldest daughter is fully bilingual and will be ready to begin a professional career once she has graduated. It has taken the combined efforts of family and school to give her these skills.

I listened very carefully to the minister's statement, and I look forward to working with him in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 079 – 2(2): High Cost of Living

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to push forward an issue that has been raised many times by my constituents in the High Arctic communities.

We all note that the high cost of living in the North is even higher in the more remote communities. Anyone who travels between Nunavut's communities knows that the cost of some very basic products can double and even triple the further you travel from the first-stage transportation points.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this summer I wrote a number of letters to ministers of the government and our federal member of parliament on this issue. At the appropriate time, I will be tabling copies of the correspondence related to this issue.

One response to my letter provided some new and some not so new information on food cost and on food mail programs. The food mail program is very good program supported by the federal government that subsidizes transportation costs for nutritious food and other items.

I was very interested to note that the federal government's Department of Indian and Northern Affairs tabled their planning documents in the House of Commons on October 8 of this year. One of the department's targets for the coming year was to improve the food security and health of Northerners by ensuring that each of us use the food mail program and pass savings onto the customers through regular monitoring and reporting of the prices.

Mr. Speaker, in my letter to the Minister of Community and Government Services, I indicated that I would be interested to learn of any reviews undertaken by the consumer affairs division that addressed this same issue.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it does not appear that such reviews have taken place yet, or if they have, they clearly have not been reviewed.

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

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I asked some questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services because when people don't get enough nutritious food, this leads to health problems.

Today, I wish to encourage the Government of Nunavut to look into the matter of access to affordable, nutritious food. Especially, I would like to suggest that the Department of Community and Government Services undertake some initiatives to ensure that

Nunavut's more remote communities are being treated fairly by private sector businesses such as suppliers of food and household goods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Hon. Leona Aglukkaq. I thought you raised your hand for a member's statement. Members' statements, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 080 – 2(2): End of Fall Session

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we approach the end of our fall session, I want to rise today to reflect on the progress, as some call it that, from May to date, during the second Assembly, and look ahead to the coming years' work.

Mr. Speaker, in the few short months since the election we have come together as a Legislative Assembly to produce a set of important and worthy goals for our term of office. New members on both sides of the House are finding their feet as they approach their different responsibilities.

However, I do want to say that it appears as though some questionable lessons are being learned in the spirit of that famous work, *A Christmas Carol*. As you will recall, Mr. Speaker, Ebenezer Scrooge was visited by a number of ghosts during the Christmas season including the Ghost of Christmas Past.

Well, it would appear to me that in this House we have been paid a visit by the ghosts of certain ministers past. Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that ministers have rapidly learned the art of stonewalling, greatly and improved their skills of deflection, and worked hard on their ability to muddy the waters. Mr. Speaker, the Scrooge was stingy with his dollars, and this government is showing signs of becoming a miser with the information it reveals to this House, and the public is watching.

Mr. Speaker, just yesterday I posed an important question to the minister regarding some practices of his department. But then with the answer I received, I felt like a character in *Oliver Twist*, having asked for some more gruel.

Christmas is a time of giving, but I think there are some ministers who should get some lumps of coal in their stockings. For members on this side, we are hoping that our stockings are filled with the responses to the many questions that remain outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, in less than 90 days we will be reconvening for the main budget session. The government will be coming forth with expenditure requests amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars. We will need to work hard to make sure that these dollars are being allocated wisely, and we can only do this if we have all the necessary facts and information before us.

Good government is a Christmas present that all our constituents deserve, and it is up to all of us to make sure that we deliver. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member's statements. Orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my wife Susanna and our adopted baby, her name is Cynthia Aglak Evaluarjuk Barnabas, and my mother-in-law, Bertha Takitiapik. She's been very instrumental in our community, and I'd like to recognize her for all the work she's done. She also visits people who are ill. I'd like to recognize Eva Kadlutsiaq, my sister-in-law. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. As I said before, traditionally, you are not supposed to mention your sister-in-law's name. Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great pleasure to recognize an individual that put a lot of work into helping Nunavummiut in troubled times, and that's Eva Onalik, from Canadian North airline, over here.

Members will recall the function where we were invited to meet with the Canadian North people; Eva was not present. She was ill that evening, and I know that Eva is the one that put it all together and organized it all.

So, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the members of this Assembly and all Nunavummiut, to thank Eva for all her hard work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize, even though she was already mentioned, Bertha Takitiapik, I call her Attippaakuluk; my late mother has the same namesake, Tuugaaq.

I used to call him uncle, although my stepfather's name was Alaralak. I remember my uncle giving a toenail to her. She is just like my mother, and I look up to her when I need to talk to someone. She was not afraid to discipline me as I was growing up, and I really appreciate that.

Also, Susanna and Eva, I would like to thank them for being here and I would like everyone to recognize them.

Also, right behind me, there's a non-Inuk: Qajaaq Robinson is the daughter of an Igloolik resident, and both of her parents are non-natives. She can speak Inuktitut; it's quite embarrassing to talk to her in Inuktitut because she is very good at talking in Inuktitut. So, we are quite proud of her.

Also, the students, especially the younger teenagers, I encourage you to use the Inuktitut language. It's going to be very useful when you become fully bilingual in Inuktitut and English. Although some Inuit people are quite shy to speak Inuktitut, don't be shy to speak Inuktitut.

So, I rise today to recognize those people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize three individuals who are not in the gallery, but they are very close to the gallery. It's our interpreters; they are three individuals from my riding in Cambridge Bay.

Attima Hadlari, James Paniujaq, and Henry Ohokannoak, it's good to see them here every day to keep me company; they do a great job for Joe-Allen and myself to send our message back home through interpretations and translations.

So, I would like to recognize them and say hello to everybody back in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Going to item 6 on our orders of the day. Oral questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 114 – 2(2): Caribou Herd Crossing

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the person who is walking, to Minister Akesuk. Please listen carefully.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct this question to Minister Akesuk. I am pretty sure you are aware that in Keewatin, the Beverly herd around Baker Lake, there are herds of caribou in the games sanctuary and the areas where the people can hunt caribou. That has been around for about 40 years or more.

There's a growing concern for my constituents of Arviat; they feel that where the caribou cross, there are some problems, especially for the sport hunters in Arviat and Baker Lake, even though they can get some caribou from that herd. There have been some problems.

I would like to ask a question: has anything been done where there appear to be boundaries? Is there any work being done on that? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Member for Cape Dorset.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding the Baker Lake caribou herd, we still provide some funding for a study, along with the other provinces who also do studies.

We mainly concentrate on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in managing the Baker Lake herd. If we were to do more studies on how they can be managed, we could probably work on that. If one of them were to write a recommendation, later, on how they can be better managed, then I agree. I promise that I will work closely with the other provinces that are affected by this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I truly understand your answer.

There are a lot of people working on it. This would be a big stepping stone for the hunters and tourism operators and for the big game hunters for how it can be managed. I think it's about time that they start this.

I wonder when should we expect this kind of thing that you can provide for us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we will be corresponding about this pretty soon with the Member for Baker Lake. We discussed earlier on what the situation is at this time, and I am anxious to hear more.

Maybe we can correspond about making some funding available. If we were to see proposals within the next year or so, then we could start from there. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Minister Akesuk.

Yes, this would be a great stepping stone. In the winter when we will have a session, I am pretty sure you will be able to have more concrete responses as to progress to date. That is my final question, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will advise my staff to answer that because I don't want to be put on the list of ministers who haven't answered.

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

Question 115 – 2(2): Amendments to the Power Rates

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the Power Corporation. I know the minister is aware, as everyone, I guess, that it's publicly advertised that the URRC was having public hearings here yesterday and today.

I understand that there were some shocking revelations made at the meeting last night. Mr. Speaker, apparently there was an amendment made some weeks ago; it was only made public late yesterday afternoon on the proposed... . As a result of questioning at the URRC hearing.

The higher proposed increases affect both businesses and residents by about six per cent. In the case of Iqaluit, Mr. Speaker, the residential rate will rise not by 69 per cent but by 75 per cent or 82 per cent with the surcharges included. In the case of the commercial rates here in Iqaluit, it will not rise 92 per cent as previously advertised and proposed in the distributed information, but by 98 per cent or 107 per cent with all the surcharges included.

The disinformation was filed apparently with the URRC some weeks ago, but throughout all the community hearings up to yesterday afternoon the Power Corporation continued to hand out information packages, even at the meeting yesterday afternoon, with the old information packages containing the old rates. Yesterday they were very reluctant to discuss what the new rates were.

My question is for the minister: is the minister aware that the proposed rates have been amended? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the good work that is being done by the URRC, and the public input as well, are welcomed by the government and by myself as minister. Mr. Speaker, very quickly, the proposal that is put in front of the URRC is just that: it's a proposal.

Mr. Speaker, the member tries to say that the rates will go up so on and so forth. We haven't finished this process yet; the URRC has to continue its process of hearing from the public, ascertaining the information, the veracity of that information and so on.

In answer to the member's question, the answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a surprising answer, as the Power Corporation is not keeping, the board of directors is not keeping the minister involved, aware of changes to the amendments made to the General Rate Application. I'm just wondering, then, if the minister wasn't aware of that, then was he also not aware of the fact that the Power Corporation was providing the public with outdated information which hid the full extent of the rate increases for all their public hearings except for after the first meetings here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's be very clear on this, Mr. Speaker. The Power Corporation has brought forth a document and they have asked to put a General Rate Application, a GRA application, to the URRC. The whole basis of the public input and consultations and the role of the URRC are to provide that check and balance so that at the end of the day, the information, the veracity of the information that is being put forward can be checked and balanced by an independent organization.

That is URRC. Everything the member has said tells me that the process is working. If there were changes being brought forward... I wasn't at the meeting and I don't think that the member was probably there either, and if he was, he can correct me.

My understanding, as well, is that after the hearings yesterday, the Power Corporation did send out the wrong information and then they corrected it. That's the information that was provided to me this morning.

The member is asking for a transparent government. This government is listening. Not only have we extended the dates for the Utility Rates Review Council to do its work, but we have also extended the written submission, a proposal part of the General Rate Application, until December 17.

So, I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the people of Nunavut, that the process is working, that they are actually uncovering issues within the General Rate Application document.

Again, Mr. Speaker, the General Rate Application document was a document that did not come to the cabinet; it was not produced by the Government of Nunavut. It's a proposal on behalf and for the Power Corporation, based on what they feel they need.

That's why you go through an independent process like the Utility Rates Review Council, who will be able to ascertain and provide that check and balance. So, Mr. Speaker, the process is working. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the minister contradicted himself. In my first question, he said he was not aware of any amendments and then he just said in his second response that he was aware this morning that there had been an error and that it was changed. To me, if that's not an amendment, then I don't know what is.

Would the minister agree, as I do, that the ability for the communities consulted to respond appropriately to the General Rate Application has been compromised by the failure of the corporation to provide them with accurate and up-to-date information on which they base their intervention.

They are not providing the public with the correct information. To me, that jeopardizes the integrity of the whole process. It was not until a lot of dragging it out of the Power Corporation and its officials at the meeting last night that they admitted the rates in the General Rate Application that were handed out to every community, that were on the table last night, were in fact wrong and that they had been increased, that they didn't tell anyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to quickly go back. The member asked me if was I aware of any amendments and I said, no, I am not aware of what it was.

Mr. Speaker, the information given to me this morning was simply that the corporation had provided information that was incomplete and inaccurate. They have tried to correct their record; that's my understanding from an e-mail I received this morning.

As the member knows, when I came out of caucus, it was 11-11:30; I just found out that information.

So, I am trying right now to ascertain what exactly was that information. I can only go by what the member is saying now in his questions that indeed, there are issues around how much the rate was increased and so on.

Mr. Speaker, the whole process of the Utility Rates Review Council is to take that application to allow intervenors like the chamber of commerce, like individual citizens, to say, "Look, this is what we believe based on the application by the Power Corporation; it is it right, is it fair, is it too much," and so on.

That process is continuing, Mr. Speaker. If there is inaccuracy within the information provided by the Power Corporation, then we will have to deal with the corporation with that.

It is my understanding that the corporation has done and tried to do due diligence on the application process that they put forward; it's in the General Rate Application. Mr. Speaker, if there is incomplete and wrong information, the first I have heard of it is right

now, other than being told this morning in an e-mail that information provided at the meeting was incomplete or inaccurate.

I don't know what the amounts and the rates were. I was told the information was wrong. So, I was not aware of any amendments to it, only the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say that an error in the rates provided by the corporation in the General Rate Application, distributed publicly through all the meetings, even after they made the change, still providing the wrong information, to me, jeopardizes the integrity of the whole process.

If they give information to the public to be able to respond to that is not accurate, then what was the point of doing it? Does the minister know what's going on over there? He is the minister responsible; the buck stops with the minister. The minister is supposed to be on top of these things.

I would like to ask the minister what steps he is going to take to make sure that this process is done properly, so that people have accurate information on which to base their inventions.

To me, the process, going around with inaccurate information was a waste of time. Will the minister commit to finding out the information. If he doesn't know it, I'm surprised he doesn't know it.

Will he look at finding out the information and ascertaining and letting the public know if they, in fact, will re-look at the whole process? Because to me, going around with public consultations with inaccurate information is a waste of time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is one thing I've learned and, Mr. Speaker, as the Premier tried to point out the other day, everyone is learning, is that you can't go on one side.

Mr. Speaker, the member has said that the information provided... . He quoted numbers. All the information I have right now, we only heard about this morning, myself, the Premier, the other members, after the hearings were held, was that there was information provided by the Power Corporation that they tried to fix.

That's my understanding. I don't know what the information was. He's got other information. I don't know if he was at the meeting, and he's making allegations that the veracity of the report, the statutory declaration that has been signed by the CEO of the

corporation, indeed is inaccurate and that information has been provided that may not be complete.

Mr. Speaker, those are serious allegations that I need to be able to review with the cabinet to see what direction we take. However, at the end of the day, the process for the Utility Rate Review Council is to look at the information that has been provided, which is what they're doing, and to ascertain if that application process should move forward with their rates that have been proposed by the corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the due diligence on the part of the corporation is what was put forward in that proposal. The minister doesn't go through it with a fine-tooth comb to see if every piece of information that was provided is accurate.

That is the basis of the proposal itself, and by the management of the corporation, and that is why there was a statutory declaration by the CEO to say that their information provided was correct.

Mr. Speaker, now the member has raised some issues and I and the Premier and the rest of the cabinet will take that seriously and we will find out what indeed has occurred and if, indeed, the Premier who is Minister Responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, will speak to this chair to see if he believes that there is a concern with the process to date.

I haven't heard that. I haven't seen any communication from the Utility Rates Review Council chair to say that they feel the whole program and the consultation has been fruitless because of this new information.

That's the best answer we can give. Again, on the basis of transparency and accountability, we will look at the information that the member has raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 116 – 2(2): Update on the Northern Vision Strategy

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier.

It is concerning the Northern Vision and Strategy. Mr. Speaker, during the throne speech, I heard a reference to a Northern Vision and Strategy being developed by the three territories' premiers and the Prime Minister of Canada.

I was hoping for an announcement about how much progress had been made on that strategy and vision. Could the Premier make an announcement, tell us when he's going to make that announcement.

Is it going to be during this sitting, or will we have to wait until February? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were all hoping that we could finalize that this week.

But as everyone knows, the Prime Minister's agenda was sort of hijacked by a visitor that is trying to work with our government, the national government. We're looking at probably December, if not, January to finalize our northern vision.

I just got off the phone with Minister Scott, the Indian Affairs minister, and they're trying to finalize it this week with a view to having the Prime Minister on with all the premiers from the North to join in the announcement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that update.

Can the Premier tell the House how Nunavummiut will be involved in consultations in the strategy, or have they been involved in consultations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, we have just had discussions, and we are working on a joint agenda on what we can deliver jointly in the short-term, medium-term, and long-term.

So, we are very optimistic that we can come up with an agenda and some deliverables in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I share with all Nunavummiut the interest of finding out before the Christmas holidays how the strategy and the vision will help them.

Perhaps if the Premier could give us an update and explain to this House, on behalf of Nunavummiut, how the Northern Vision Strategy will help Nunavummiut overcome our housing, economic development, health and education, and many other issues, so that they and we can enjoy the same standard quality of life as other Canadians do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that it's a work in progress, so I can't outline exact details of the statement and discussions that we are having, but I made it clear that devolution has to be a part of the short-term.

So, that's one area that we are working on, but there's a lot of others, like housing and other initiatives that Nunavummiut feel strongly about, that we will make sure are addressed in that strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier give us an indication of whether this vision strategy will contain announcements of additional federal funding to help us with some of our problems in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I spoke with Mr. Scott and he was hoping to finalize this strategy and clear it with his government by the end of the week so we can work on finding ways to jointly have an announcement with the Prime Minister and the two other territorial premiers.

So, hopefully next month; if not, then the following month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 117 – 2(2): Plans to Place Wind Generators in Nunavut

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that there are a lot of windmills going up everyday in the world. I would like to ask the minister if he is starting the plans to put up some wind generators in Nunavut.

And also, a second question: how many wind generators are there in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A little over a year ago, we had a meeting with the federal department of natural resources who provided funding to us to complete what's called a "wind map" by Environment Canada, to show us the best opportunities to place the wind generating system, commonly referred to as a windmill.

Mr. Speaker, the plans are in the works to look at some economies of scale for putting some windmills in place. Two locations seem to be conducive to that, one being in the Keewatin, another in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, I had meetings with the minister of energy in Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro, to discuss the opportunities to look at the wind project that they brought forward, a wind farm.

Mr. Speaker, in our case that the member is talking about, we have in the past, the Northwest Territories government and the Power Corporation, put up single generating windmills, one or two here and there.

Mr. Speaker, the evidence and the information, as the member has said earlier in the House, is that you need a wind farm; you need some economies of scale, and that is the plan we are moving forward on.

I believe, Mr. Speaker, at the present time, there are approximately four or five windmills in Nunavut. I believe one is actually in place and is actually generating some power. I will have to confirm those numbers.

Mr. Speaker, when I was in Kugluktuk with the member a few weeks ago, I did see, again, the old windmill in Kugluktuk that was collapsed and lying on the ground. At some point, we would like to be able to have the technology in place so that we would actually be able to put in the new windmill, fix the issue with the windmill in that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister of Energy. The windmill in Kugluktuk has been down for a couple of years now; I'm not sure exactly how long it's been down. But, I sure would like to see the wind generator fixed. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the minister if he's got any plans to work on it and get the wind generator fixed in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are some technical issues around wind generation in Nunavut. In most communities that you see in the South, in places where they put wind farms, when the windmill operation is working at efficiency, that is when the wind is current and the power is being generated by the wind turbine, any excess power is fed into a grid system, meaning you would have four or five communities, and it would power 3000-4000 different houses. In that way, it goes through the whole system.

In Nunavut, we are at a bit of a disadvantage. Because in our case we have no way to feed the extra power other than to put them into batteries, into dry storage batteries that are being associated with the windmill. In the past, with the technology that was in place, it's my understanding for the engineering feasibilities and so on, that when the wind turbine was creating energy, that excess energy also means that the generator at the

power plant is still on, and you'd have a case where the power cuts in and out on the generator and causes damage to your major generator.

There are some issues, technologically, with how you can have that fixed. That is one of the reasons why the Power Corporation in the past has put up a windmill here and put up one there: to see how that could be played out and see if they can work out the technical bugs. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that technology has moved and progressed, and that's where there may be an opportunity to be able to look at moving forward with opportunities with wind energy.

The first step was to have the wind map in place, and that's done right now. The next step is to look at the capital budget requirement and to see if there's money available from the federal government, and we spoke about that over the past week in the House of this government. When I was minister previously, we thought we were the first jurisdiction to sign on the Kyoto Accord for Canada, and there is funding available from the federal government to displace, for example, diesel fuel and to then use cleaner energies.

So, that would be the direction that we would be moving in, Mr. Speaker. There is an energy strategy being developed and I would hope to be in a position, in the coming months, to table that in the House in regards to other energies and the emerging technologies like wind turbines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 118 – 2(2): Allocation of Polar Bear Quotas

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for wildlife. In my constituency and also from all Nunavummiut, we have a great interest in hearing about the polar bear quota in the communities. I was wondering if the minister is also responsible for allocating polar bear quotas to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Hon. Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am involved with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. They give me their recommendations on the allotment of the polar bear quotas. To date, not of all of the polar bear memoranda of understanding have been signed off. We are working with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in regards to the allotment of the polar bear quotas.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister know if all of Nunavut will receive an increase in quota? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Hon. Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As they are being recorded, I can't really tell you what the progress has been, because the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board will have to give me the recommendations on the quota.

So, we would probably, perhaps by next month, have a better idea whether there is going to be an increase. So, please wait patiently until we get the recommendations from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some communities are anticipating polar bear quotas because the polar bear population has increased and the polar bears are disturbing the communities.

I was wondering what's the real reason why it takes so long to allocate their quotas? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to review the MOUs for the polar bears and we have to look at the polar bear management zones. These management zones were recently created when it was still the Northwest Territories. We are still using the same policy.

So, that is one of the reasons why it takes so long. We have to look at the polar bear management boundaries. It has been about 15 or 20 years after that fact, but they have to review the management zones or the polar bear management boundaries.

We have to look at the boundaries first, before we can review the increase of the quotas. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your Final supplementary. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it takes a while to deal with this issue, and there's a lot of high interest by the public; they want to harvest polar bears as the polar bear population is increasing drastically.

Perhaps, while you are working with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, you can ask them to speed things up a bit so that the process could be done a lot sooner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. We have to be very careful in dealing with this process because we want to do it properly for the people of Nunavut.

Yes, if we rush into that, we have to be very careful not to overlook anything so that all the documentation could be done properly. I will take your advice, and in doing all the things that I can do, I will try and do my best for the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Question 119 – 2(2): Reply to the Federal Government on the Species at Risk List

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a minute. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment, although I asked this question back in November 24 and was not too happy with the response.

The federal government is now working on a legislation, schedule 1 to 3, of a Species at Risk Act. Back in October 23, 2004, the federal government made an announcement that there was going to be an addition to Schedule 1 to 3 in regards to special concerns of various species.

There are 76 species that they want to put into this species at risk special concern. These 76 species include polar bears; they want to put polar bears in the special concern. The federal government has written a letter about the amendments and they wanted to get our reply by a certain date.

Did our Nunavut government write the reply on time, and what did it contain? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to species at risk, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is responsible for that. We will have a bit of work to do on the species at risk matter, and we have to be steadfast.

I stated in our recent meeting, as a member of the Legislative Assembly, that Inuit considerations on wildlife should be recognized more. During our Ottawa meeting last week I requested that Inuit people's views on wildlife be recognized, especially the knowledge of Inuit people on wildlife and environment. Nunavummiut have been working very closely with the polar bear matters and we've also worked very closely with the species at risk and special concern matter.

Yes, we've already be working on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not understand one bit why we should not be concerned about all our species in the North.

Polar bears are very important to Nunavummiut, and if they're going to include polar bears under "special concern", is it going to have an impact on the number of polar bears that we harvest. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. I probably misunderstood you. I'm sorry if I did not make myself clear. I'll try and be clearer. That NWMB & GN work closely together with the communities on SARA issues, because there are other management zones where the polar bear population has declined, and half of the world's polar bear population resides in Nunavut. For that reason, we're going to work very diligently, because we are also part of the world polar bear research. Other countries are quite concerned about the polar bear population as well.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I had asked the questions on what the correspondence contained, I would like to get the copy of the correspondence about this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I could supply you with the correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Question 120 – 2(2): Washroom Facilities on Airlines

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday I had asked a question to the Minister Responsible for Transportation.

I'd like to get back to my question. As we are all aware, if the airlines fly for more than two hours, they require washroom facilities.

We've had a bit of a problem with washroom facilities. Once we hear the policy on the washroom issue, perhaps the minister can encourage the airlines to abide by the new policy. I would like to hear about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although you had asked that question, there was no response as of yet because the federal government has a

mandate to oversee the airlines. We don't have the jurisdiction. The federal government has the jurisdiction over the policy.

We are still requesting more information from the federal government. Once we get the information, we'll provide the member with the information. By way of having frank discussions with the airlines, we can deal with that once we get the information from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 121 – 2(2): General Rate Application Increase

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation. Before coming to this session, I worked really hard with a homeowner and whose power was cut off due to lack of home heating oil. Now, we have the GRA which proposes to increase electricity costs.

I know if we increase the power rates it's going to have a negative impact on homeowners. For the first home owner, I think it was 14 per cent, and today new homeowners face an increase of 18 per cent in Sanikiluaq.

My question is why, as we sit here in the Legislature, we finally get the information when it might be the last day of our session. I am concerned because the regular members will have to provide that information to our constituencies, so why do we have to get the information the very last day of our session? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process that is underway right now, and we've been discussing in this House for the last couple of weeks, is the General Rate Application by the Power Corporation.

The subsidies that were in place since 1998 and the last application that was made to the government of the Northwest Territories are still in place today. The big issue with the power corporation is, as the business community and the members in this House have said, that the revenue stream was too low; the rates are too low, the rates have not kept up with the cost of living and the increase in fuel, and so on and so forth, since 1998.

Therefore, the application process that's underway right now by the Power Corporation is to have its rates looked at. That URRC process is to provide that check and balance. The corporation just can't go out and charge whatever it wants. It has to prove its case to the URRC and then, Mr. Speaker, those recommendations come back to the cabinet.

There will be no increase in rates until the URRC has completed its work. They have to report to me as the Minister of Energy by the first of February, and the GRA is intended to take place, the application process for a new rate, as of April 1, 2005.

We will have at that time, an opportunity in February, to look at what is being proposed. I would hope to be able to bring that forward during our February sitting and have input from the members as well as the stakeholders, businesses, and householders.

So, Mr. Speaker, I can't say right now what the amount of an increase will be. It will be dependent on how the URRC hearings go, what the recommendations and everything that takes place through that process. That process will continue up until and including, December 17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He stated earlier that before this review is completed the increase will not come into effect. What can we inform our constituents, even though they are expecting this? We are told that until they come up with their recommendation we won't know, but we will be going home this week and there's no doubt that these questions will come up from my constituents.

What can we answer them? Can we say that there will be hearings and they will go to the communities, and that's when that will come into effect? So, how can we respond to our constituents to that question in regards to the increase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every member in this House, I am sure, including myself, had been asked by constituents: how much will the rates go up and what will the impact be on homeowners by means of having to pay their electrical bill in Nunavut?

Mr. Speaker, the short answer is: we don't know yet what that increase will be. We have to let the Utility Rates Review Council process continue. The application the corporation has asked for has moved forward.

The revenue stream of the corporation is too low and other rates are too low and how much and what percentage of those will increase... I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that we will be in a better position in February to answer those questions.

I think the good news for Nunavummiut is that the Government of Nunavut realizes that there is hardship. We are trying to foster our economy, we are trying to help grow private houses and home ownership; we want to be able to support our businesses, and Mr. Speaker, we have a difficult challenge ahead on how we will balance that with the cost revenue that the Power Corporation needs.

So, I would suggest that the member would say to his constituents that he would be in a better position, and we will be in a better position, when we review the process' completion and the report of the Utility Rates Review Council on the General Rate Application by the Power Corporation, and then we will have an opportunity at that time to look at the suggestions.

Mr. Speaker, it would not be correct right now to suggest what an increase will be on April 1, because we just don't know yet. We have to let this process go forward. So, I hope that helps clarify the question of the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A concern is whether they can do the hearings in Sanikiluaq; I wonder if he has any information in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, as a government, again, have been listening to the concerns from the Nunavummiut. That is one of the reasons why we extended the deadline for February 1 for the Utility Rates Review Council to be able report back to the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, the minister responsible for the Utility Rates Review Council, Mr. Okalik, has recently agreed to extent the deadline for submissions and so on until December 17. We have actually added a couple of extra dates, for example, where there has been interest, for example, here in Iqaluit, for more public consultations and hearings.

At the end of that process, the Utility Rates Review Council may want to do more visits and so on, but it depends on what logistical and administrative means are present that give them an opportunity to travel to other communities. So, there have been some requests to go to some more communities and they have to weigh those options and see what the opportunity is.

At the same time, the members of the communities in Nunavut concerned with the increase that is proposed by the Power Corporation have an opportunity to provide written submissions.

The minute the member can make those submissions to me, as Minister of Energy, I will pass them out to the Utility Rates Review Council. I have already received, from the constituents, copies of the Utility Rates Review Council submissions that I have provided to the Utility Rates Review Council by e-mail, for example.

So, there are opportunities for Sanikiluaq still to have a say and for Nunavummiut to still have a say, because the deadline doesn't end until December 17. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for High Arctic. Mr. Barnabas.

Question 122 – 2(2): \$2,000 to Get a Passport

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Immigration minister, Minister Picco.

Today if we try to get a passport, we have to pay \$2,000 to get our photos taken because the photos have to be done through a certified photographer. Does this apply even to the smaller communities such as my constituency? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Immigration, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past several months, as the Minister of Immigration, we have had an opportunity to have discussions with the federal minister, Judy Sgro. Indeed, a couple of weeks ago there was a federal-provincial-territorial meeting of immigration ministers. We weren't able to make that meeting because of House sessions and other meetings.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, the member has quoted a number of \$2,000. We are very fortunate, right now, for example, here in this region in Nunavut, to have in place a private business in ownership of Mr. Stephen Lowe who is in the position to be able to take passport photos. I know that Mr. Lowe does a very good job and the members are familiar with him.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government, since 9/11, has passed several different regulations and administrative changes in the passport application process, including the photo ID. Members may be aware, for example, that the federal government has now requested that people getting their passport photo taken not smile in that photo.

Mr. Speaker, if the member has an issue with the photo itself, what we will do, through our offices here, is to help the people of Nunavut get passport applications. If there is an issue about the photo itself, we have been able to work around that, in some regard, being able to get the photos taken that will meet the standards put forward by Immigration Canada for the passports.

Mr. Speaker, if the member has constituents that have issues raised, where they were not able to do that, I would be happy to work with the member to facilitate it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, we have to spend a lot of money in order to get our pictures taken for our passports. The motor vehicles department can also take

pictures. Can't they get certification to take pictures for passports? Otherwise, we have to spend a lot of money in order to get our pictures taken, and this is creating problems, especially for my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in this House the members ratified and passed and are just waiting for the Electronic Commerce Act. Mr. Speaker, part of the Electronic Commerce Act that we did yesterday, it is my understanding, allows us, for example, to electronically send photos.

Mr. Speaker, this could be a way for communities, like the member's, in Nunavut to be able to provide that information, those pictures, electronically. There is an opportunity under that Act to do that.

There are mechanisms in place so that we have been able to work with Immigration Canada, with the passport office, and with Nancy Karetak-Lindell, who has done good work for us as our MP in Ottawa, to facilitate the passports.

Like I said, I would be very pleased to work with the member to help in cases where the member's constituents need passports, to help them facilitate that. The Act that we passed yesterday will be one of those tools that will come in handy to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How will unilingual people, who have no idea how to operate computers, be assisted in that way? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had many residents from Nunavut travel all over world using Canadian passports. The Canadian passport is one of the most recognizable passports in the world.

Mr. Speaker, there are federal regulations and administrative details to the passports. The passport is issued by the Government of Canada and through our office here, as the Minister of Immigration, we work with those processes to help with constituents, to help Nunavummiut to be able to access their passports.

Mr. Speaker, in the case of someone who is unilingual, we would be able to help provide the information as well as help that person, facilitate and help them get a passport.

So, we would provide that assistance to someone who is unilingual. Again, Mr. Speaker, if any of the members or indeed the member has a constituent who is having issues trying

to get a passport, he would make that information known to myself as minister and we will try to help that individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 123 – 2(2): Concern on General Rate Application Increase

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

I'll make it very short, and hopefully the answer is very short as well, just a simple yes or no. Is the minister concerned that he was not aware of these changes that were made in the rates that were inaccurate in the General Rate Application?

Is he concerned, yes or no, that he was not made aware of these changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think all members of this House, and people in general, would be concerned if information provided in the application process by the Power Corporation was in error.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding, as I said earlier, I only know this from an e-mail this morning, that the CEO, the acting chair, Ms. Crawford... . There was a member of the panel presenting on behalf of the business community; they pointed out there may be some inaccuracies in some of the information provided by the Power Corporation, as the member has stated.

In the meantime, the CEO, Ms. Crawford, said that she would correct that mistake. My understanding is that they've done that. I don't know how much the amounts were. I don't know the rates. Mr. Speaker, at the break, in five minutes, Ms. Crawford will be here to discuss with me the issue around the Utility Rates Review Council and the information that had been provided by the Power Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if that's a yes or no.

But, I guess in light of that, I'm very surprised that the minister responsible wasn't informed, as the minister himself has said many times before that the minister is where the buck stops. So, he's the one responsible. He's the one that should have the information given to him.

Mr. Speaker, I know the minister stated earlier something about the statutory declaration that was signed off. He's already said that there was an error in there, so that tells us what

that statutory declaration... . To the best of their ability... . But I guess they didn't have all the accurate information in it.

Given, in fact, Mr. Speaker, that this information was provided to the Utility Rates Review Council just after the first hearings that were held here in Iqaluit, and that the wrong information was distributed to all the public hearings that were held, will the minister commit to sending a copy of the new rates, the revised rates, to all communities where consultations were held and apologize for the corporation providing inaccurate information to them during their public hearings, even after they knew that it had been changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, in the other request by the member, Mr. Speaker, I'm only going on the information that I have. They have been addressed in the meeting.

I was in meetings this morning. We had a caucus meeting. I received an e-mail. I've asked the CEO to come as soon as the break starts, to be briefed, to find out exactly what has occurred. I can't go by just what the member has said. He's hearing second-hand information. He wasn't at the meeting. He's hearing information that the numbers and figures and so on are wrong.

I haven't heard from Mr. Mercer who is the chair of the Utility Rates Review Council or any member of the Utility Rates Review Council say that they believe that the whole process is flawed.

Mr. Speaker, I don't even know what the depth of the information that the member is talking about means, if it might be an issue. So, Mr. Speaker, I need to be able to read, to be responsible, to be able to review what has occurred and then follow up with the staff of the Power Corporation and to see what information has been changed or fixed or amended and to see if indeed, that has an impact on the hearings that have occurred so far.

So, Mr. Speaker, that is what I will do as minister. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I can let the minister know that on item 13 I will tabling those new rates that were received from the Power Corporation at the public hearing last night, for the minister to become aware of and all members of the Assembly to be aware of.

Mr. Speaker, given that 68 percent error, if you want to call it that, in what the rates are, would the minister, if that is indeed the case, consider that to be a fundamental

discrepancy in the application put forward by the Power Corporation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole process that we are involved in through the Utility Rates Review Council is to determine if the process, the General Rate Application that the Power Corporation has put forward and the information contained therein, are accurate and if it doesn't reflect accurately what the Power Corporation needs.

Mr. Speaker, if some of the information is wrong, that's why the Utility Rates Review Council is out there: to provide that check and balance. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, depending on what the amounts were and so on, then there needs to be some corrective work taken on that process.

I believe the process is working. If the Power Corporation has inadvertently made a mistake, and I don't know what has occurred again... . The member says he is going to table the rates that have been changed; he said 68 percent.

At the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, what has come forward from the Power Corporation is a proposal. The Utility Rates Review Council can accept, reject, or modify the request being made and then it has to come to the Minister of Energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I will go back to what I said earlier. I wondered when the minister is finally aware of what these changes are and aware of the fact that the corporation provided this information to the Utility Rates Review Council before most of the community consultations took place, and once he becomes aware of the fact that that information was not changed in the community consultations process, even though it was done before that, will he commit to sending out the new information to all the people that were at the meetings?

I am sure they have got a list of it; they have probably got legal notes. Maybe they are good at keeping track of notes and members, but will he make sure that new information gets out there, with an apology to them for not having that information to them at the time of their hearing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, the Power Corporation has inadvertently made a mistake on the file and has provided members information that has not stood the scrutiny of the Utility Rates Review Council hearing.

Mr. Speaker, I will, as the member has just stated, make sure that the intervenors, the public-at-large, the hamlets, and the stakeholders are aware of those amounts. If an apology is necessary on the file, then that's something that will occur.

At the end of the day, as we have tried to say, I am not here to mislead the House or lie, Mr. Speaker. I am just as upset or probably more upset than the member is. At the end of the day, I can only go, and the House can only go, by the information provided by the minister. The minister can only go by the information provided by the corporation, and the Utility Rates Review Council can only go by the analytical information that they have a chance to answer to.

So, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day, mistakes are made. So, in this case, I have to ascertain. In a few minutes, I will be having a meeting with the CEO of the Power Corporation to find out what has occurred on the file.

My understanding is that yesterday the CEO did correct the information that was provided. Again, I have not heard from Mr. Mercer anywhere else on the Utility Rates Review Council to say that they believe it impacts the work that they have already done and I will have to ascertain that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco.

Oral question period is now over. Going back to orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 023 – 2(2): Activities Conducted under the Fire Prevention Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This written question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Question one, Mr. Speaker, deals with activities conducted under the Fire Prevention Act.

1. For the fiscal year 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date, within the meaning of the Fire Prevention Act, how many of the following activities were undertaken by the Office of the Fire Marshal;
 - a) Investigations under subsection 3 (b)
 - b) Inspections under subsection 3 (c)
 - c) Reviews under subsection 3 (d)
 - d) Reports under subsection 3 (e)
 - e) Recommendations under subsection 3 (f)?
2. For the fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-2005 to date, how many prosecutions were undertaken pursuant to the Act?

3. Within the meaning of subsection 3 (e) of the act, when will the annual report of the Office of the Fire Marshal for the fiscal years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 be tabled in the Legislative Assembly?
4. For the fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date, within the meaning of subsection 3 (a) of the Act, how many fires took place in structures that have been previously inspected by the Office of the Fire Marshal within the meaning of subsection 3 (c) of the Act?
5. For the fiscal years 2003-04 and 2004-05 to date, broken down by community, how many inspections of Government of Nunavut-owned structures, Government of Nunavut-leased structures, condominiums, schools, and daycare facilities in Nunavut took place?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Written Question 024 – 2(2): 2004 Fuel Resupply

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this written question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. It has to do with the 2004 fuel re-supply.

1. With respect to the 2004 fuel re-supply, broken down by community,
 - a) what was the schedule for each community's fuel re-supply?
 - b) what was each community's planned re-supply order by class of product?
2. With respect to the 2004 fuel re-supply broken down by community,
 - a) what were the actual dates when fuel re-supply vessels arrived?
 - b) what was the actual quantity of fuel delivered by class of product?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written questions. Going back to orders of the day. Item 8. Returns to written questions. Mr. Picco.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to WQ 001 – 2(2): Power Generation in Iqaluit and Related Issues

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the return to a written question asked by Mr. Tootoo on November 16.

Mr. Speaker, my response to the written question will be now read orally by myself. Mr. Speaker, Iqaluit experienced a total of 17 outages for the period commencing April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2004, inclusive.

The complete list of outages, including the duration, is on the page, and the causes are provided in a table that is attached to the answer. During the three-year period that was asked about by Mr. Tootoo, there was a total of 473 minutes, or 7 hours and 50 minutes, of outages, both planned and emergency.

Planned outages, Mr. Speaker, is when they're doing work on the line. The average duration of each outage was only 27 minutes. The combined capacity of the two plants in Iqaluit is 15,460 kilowatts or 15.46 megawatts.

Qulliq Energy Corporation does not have to comply with any specific federal or territorial requirements with respect to reserve capacity. However, Mr. Speaker, Qulliq Energy currently ensures the capability and capacity availability for each plant equal to 110 percent of the peak-load with the largest engine out of service.

The Iqaluit Capital Work Project, during the first 3 fiscal years, is included in the table. As well, Mr. Speaker, that table is attached, but as an example, there was work on the fuel system upgrade, the cooling system, the 99 unit, the 99 exhaust, distribution upgrade, as well as the federal plan condemnation.

Mr. Speaker, the Qulliq Energy Corporation has prepared an emergency plan for all 25 communities that address contingencies in the event of major interruptions of power for extended periods of time, a copy of the Iqaluit draft emergency plan is attached, this is a federal 99 draft document as we wait for community input to finalize the draft.

Mr. Speaker, I have also provided the executive summary of the Iqaluit emergency plan for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker (interpretation): Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Return to WQ 011 – 2(2): Workers' Compensation Board Investment Policies and Practices

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
Asked by Mr. Tootoo on WCB investment power system practices.

While the WCB does not publicly provide details on specific investments within the accident fund of the WCB, the policy is to invest 25 percent of the portfolio in Canadian Equities. As the major banks in Canada are representative of the best quality Canadian equity investments, the WCB would normally be holding BMO, Bank of Montreal, BMO stock in the portfolio.

Neither governance council nor internal WCB staff make any decisions around buying or selling individual company stock. This authority is delegated to investment professionals, whose training in experience make them the best decision makers on individual companies. The governance council and staff take an arms-length relationship with investment professionals.

There have been no specific instructions given to the WCB's investment professionals about investment in companies based on their dealings in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

At present, the governance council has placed no ethical screening criteria on its investment professionals based on tobacco and alcohol production or distribution.

The governance council's investment guidelines for its investment professionals address risk, diversity, and quality of investments.

The objective of the governance council's investment policies is to minimize risk and to maximize the return on investments to meet the long-term needs of its stakeholders – injured workers and employers in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Returns to Written Questions. Returns to Written Questions. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 038 – 2(2): General Rate Application Increases

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table three pages. One page is the revised commercial rates by community. The other one is the revised residential rates by community for the Power Corporation for the minister and the Cabinet to have a look at.

Also, Mr. Speaker, on the front page there is a breakdown analysis for Iqaluit specifically that shows the change in the rate application that was put forward that everyone received and chose a difference of six percent for the commercial rates increase, and six percent increase on the residential rates. Also it shows the proposed surcharges on there and what the surcharges included in the application that go up the rates would increase. It shows up to 106 percent and 82 percent for residential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 039 – 2(2): High Cost of Baby Products and Healthy Foods at Local Stores

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement, as I have stated that the nutritional foods are very expensive in Nunavut. I would like to table this document in regards to the statement that I made earlier on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 040 – 2(2): Towards a Representative Public Service: Statistics as of September 30, 2004

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents. The first one is for 2003/04 government services for Inuit Annual Report.

Tabled Document 041 – 2(2): 2003-2004 Public Service's Annual Report

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a document on Inuit employment statistics. We have to table these quarterly reports annually. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabled Documents. Ms. Brown.

Tabled Document 042 – 2(2): A Ten Year Profile of Cancer in Nunavut 1992-2001.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two documents. The first one is the Nunavut report on Health and Health Statistics for 2004.

Tabled Document 043 – 2(2): Nunavut Report on Comparable Health Indications 2004

Also another document that I would like to table. For the ten years, for people with cancer, starting from 1992 up to 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The documents that are being tabled, please forward them to the Official's table. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akesuk.

Tabled Document 044 – 2(2): 2002 Reflections Document and the 2002 Annual Report

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, the 2002 Reflections Document and the 2002 Annual Report from the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Mr. Okalik.

Tabled Document 045 – 2(2): Minimum Wage Annual Report 2004

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table this document to have the Department of Justice minimum wage for the year 2004 being the second annual report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 046 – 2(2): Bilingual Education Strategy for Nunavut 2004-2008

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to table a document entitled the Bilingual Education Strategy for Nunavut in French, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut and English. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Mr. Simailak.

Tabled Document 047 – 2(2): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2003

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2003. During this period, our staff was able to increase our loan portfolio by 30 percent and reduce its accumulated deficit from \$698,000 to \$235,000.

Tabled Document 048 – 2(2): Annual Report for the Nunavut Development Corporation for the Fiscal Year 2003-04

I wish to also table the following document, the Annual Report of the Nunavut Development Corporation for the fiscal year 2003-04.

I am pleased to announce the Corporation employed 154 Nunavummiut, either directly or indirectly, however, it does not indicate how that translates into hundreds of income earning opportunities for individuals relying on harvesting, fishing, sewing and arts and crafts sectors of our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Please provide the copies of your tabled documents to the pages. Tabling of documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 049 – 2(2): Interim Financial Report (Unaudited) March 31, 2004

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, the Interim Financial Report (unaudited) March 31st, 2004. Thank you.

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

Tabled Document 050 – 2(2): Sole Source Contract Report for Government of Nunavut Contracts from 2000 to Date

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in the House the Minister suggested that after more than half a decade in office, the government still finds it difficult to compile and table some basic information about its contracting practises.

Mr. Speaker, to get the ball rolling on this I am going to table today a list of Government of Nunavut sole sourced contracts that was provided to me by a concerned citizen. I would invite the government to review this list and publicly indicate wherever there are, in fact, any errors.

Mr. Speaker, if the government would just listen and table this information itself, on an annual basis, we wouldn't need to be asking questions all the time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask if we can get back to Item 5 in our Orders of the Day. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Speaker (interpretation): The Member is seeking unanimous consent to get back to Item 5 in our Orders of the Day. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Simailak.

Return to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I would like to recognize these individuals from Taloyoak; Patrick Angujjuaq, Uriash Amarok, Bryan Paunngan, Lawrence Uvingayaaq and the fifth one is from Coral Harbour.

(interpretation ends) These five young men are here over the weekend for some wrestling matches. I am sure that they are getting ready for bigger and better wrestling matches in either the Arctic Winter Games or other games down south. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 13. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 004 – 2 (2) Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on December 2, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member of Nattilik, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its sitting in Iqaluit, that it shall be adjourned until February 22, 2005 and Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask for further consent of this Assembly to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 16: Motions

Motion 004 – 2(1): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its sitting in Iqaluit, that it shall be adjourned until February 22, 2005, and further that any time prior to February 22, 2005, that the Speaker satisfied with the consultations with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet in Iqaluit at an earlier time during adjournment. The Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to do at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The motion is in order to the motion. Comments to the motion. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstention. The motion is carried. Motions. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act 2003-04. Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act 2004-05. Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act Number 2, 2004-05 with Mr. Evyagotailak as the chair.

In accordance with the authority vested in me, by Motion 3-2 (2) that the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out. Before we start the Committee of the Whole, we'll take a break for 20 minutes.

>>House recessed at 15:41 and resumed at 16:08

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

Chairman (Mr. Evyagotailak): I would like to call the committee to order.

In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with. Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act #4 2003-04. Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act #2 2004-05. Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation, Capital #2 2004-05.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with the review of Supplementary Bills and supporting documents starting with Bill 1, then Bill 2, and concluding with Bill 3. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. If you agree, we can start with Bill 1. Thank you.

I would now like to ask the Minister Aglukkaq for the Department of Finance to make her opening remarks. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before your committee today to speak to the following three Bills.

- Bill 1. 2003-04 Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance #4; this Supplementary Appropriation will provide additional funding in the amount of \$20,000,27 for the retroactive cost of the new Nunavut Employees Collective Agreement and the year end accounting adjustments.
- Bill 2. 2004-05 Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance #2; this Supplementary Appropriation will provide additional funding in the amount of \$45,000,502 for such item as the following: \$13,479,000 for the retroactive cost of the new Nunavut Employees Collective Agreement; \$10,000,000 to increased healthcare cost; \$9,000,700 to address increased utility for Nunavut Housing Corporation and Community and Government Services; as well, \$3,000,113 for the continued investment in the Nunavut Telehealth Network.
- Bill 3. 2004-05 Supplementary Appropriation for Capital #2; this Supplementary Appropriation will provide additional funding in the amounts of \$56,000,537 of which \$54,000,844 is for capital carryovers from the 2003-04 fiscal year. This is for capital projects that were not completed in 2003-04 and there is no net affect on government operations as funding is being transferred from one prior year capital appropriation.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to answer any questions from the committee members, as well as I have two witnesses I would like to invite as well. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses? Thank you. Sergeant-at-arms, could you please escort the witnesses in.

For the record, Madam Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: To my right, Bob Vardy, Deputy Minister for the Department of Finance; to my left is Paul Ferretti, Director of Expenditure Management. Thank you.

Chairman: Welcome to the Committee of the Whole. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following:

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

I suggest to members that wherever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Sorry. We are in Supplementary Appropriation, Operation and Maintenance #4 2003-04. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to take the opportunity, with the witnesses at the table, first, I welcome them here. I understand they had a hard time getting in. So, I am glad that they could make it.

But I think that one thing that I know of that I pushed for a number of years and I know the former Health Minister, Mr. Picco, and as we have seen in other areas that there doesn't seem to be as accurate a budgeting process as could be.

It's getting better, but it still needs some improvement and I think that going back to the way that the government does it, departments' do its budgeting is based on historical figures from the past.

I don't know if all members recall, and I am sure that the minister and her staff do as well, is the budget that we inherited from the Government of the Northwest Territories was basically a slash and burn budget.

So, that's what we inherited, I don't think that in anyway really reflects the actual needs out there.

I think that we should take some time, not all at once, but may in an area-by-area, some type of a process to take a look at doing some actual, okay, what do we really need and never mind numbers that we are going on from before.

Hopefully something like that will help to continue to improve the process, our budgeting process for the government and then we could spend time in Committee of the Whole looking at Supplementary Appropriations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Do any of the members wish to say their comments, members? I have no more names on my list for general comments.

We will now proceed to page-by-page review of the supplementary book, starting with page 4. 2003-04 Supplementary Operations and Maintenance #4. Legislative Assembly, Operations and Maintenance, Branch Arrears, \$12, do the members have 2003-04 Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance #4?

Do any of the members not have any? Mr. Peterson. Can one of the staff please, do you have, oh, sorry. Okay, Mr. Peterson. Sorry about that.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, to the Minister and Mr. Reddy and Mr. Vardy. I would like to extend a special thank you for Mr. Vardy for loaning me his hockey equipment on Sunday here. I did him proud. I scored two goals using his equipment. So, I might make a comeback.

I just want a point of clarity, Mr. Chairman, because we are going to be seeing this reference throughout. What is the difference between the terminology, “retroactive costs of compensation benefits, northern allowance?”

And then when we look down on the same page, there is, “yearly adjustments for employee leave benefits.” What is the difference in that terminology? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The retroactive costs are back dated to the 2003-04 for the collective agreement that was signed. It was signed last...I think it was June, this summer, and it went back to 2003-04.

So, we have to show the expenditures in that fiscal year through a supplementary bill. As well, the amounts charged to the leave and termination accruals are made to general accounting standards. Again, where costs are charged to appear in which the expenditure occurred.

So, we have to go back again to identify that. In the case, there will be some differences between regular departments, as well as Department of Education in those amounts, but those figures include leave and attendance for the fiscal year, for both ending staff or teachers bargaining units and what not, it includes all the accrued leave and attendance in that fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just needed to clarify this because I just thought we should get clarification on the first page because I see four or five other times on subsequent pages. That clarifies it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Legislative Assembly, Operations and Maintenance, Branch, not previously authorized, Various Total Department, \$295,000, does the committee agree? Can't hear you.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 5. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Operations and Maintenance, Branch, not previously authorized, Various Total Department, \$420,000, does this committee agree? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It might be a good idea if we could ask a question here. At the bottom in most of the pages they reference allowance for doubtful accounts.

So, I am wondering about the amount on this page, that's \$6,000, but is larger on the subsequent pages. Would Mr. Vardy or the minister explain what the allowance for doubtful accounts are, and if there is a listing for allowance for doubtful accounts that they are showing on these pages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This section on allowance for doubtful accounts is basically receivables that we feel we will not be able to collect from various agencies for various reasons. In most of the departments there will be a line associated with that.

I would just like to inform the House that there are initiatives on a regular basis to try and collect that, but however, we still have to record it in the books the figures that we feel that we will not be able to collect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Any other questions Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us if it's possible to get listings of the allowance for doubtful accounts. It's such a small amount on this page, but there are large numbers on subsequent pages.

So, I am wondering if we could get that information. Also, if the minister and her officials could take us through the process that they put in place to monitor doubtful accounts and the collections process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At any time when the Government of Nunavut writes off any doubtful accounts, that information is tabled in the House and the organizations are listed, but for the ones where they have not been written off, I mentioned earlier, we have continued to try and collect that wherever we can.

In terms of looking at providing that information, where we have not provided the writeoff of that particular amount, again, we would have to go through the listing and through the privacy issue of seeking permission to release that information.

However, in the other question that I am going to have, Bob Vardy walks through the process of the second question.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process of collections in the Department of Finance is, any account that is overdue is flagged and our collections officers make contact with the party following the amount to government and make efforts to collect the money.

Sometimes it's achieved through telephone calls, it's followed up with letters, sometimes we have to set off amounts that is payable to those individuals or companies to offset the amounts owing. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for that explanation. The reason I draw attention to that, if we add up all of the allowance for doubtful accounts, we are at close to \$1,000,000 for that particular year and we are talking about the last fiscal year.

Are these people that set up the allowance for doubtful accounts, have they received money through contributions from the government. How do they get money that they owe us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Do you want to answer that?

Chairman: Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amounts owing is the total amount owing at that point in time, which is March 31, 2004.

A lot of the doubtful accounts go back to the time of division. A lot of the companies involved are no longer in existence. Some of them are bankrupt. Some of the individuals have left the territory and they are very difficult to find.

It's likely that a high percentage of those will have to come forward for a writeoff before long, but it's something, every cent owing to the government, we think it's important and we go after it.

Like every government and every organization, you never collect 100 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the government assess whether it's worth collecting some of these accounts? What I am trying to say is, is that worth going after them or is it better off to cease trying to collect because many of them have left the territory, or many of them bankrupt? At what point do you decide not to try and collect from the people that owe the money? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At a certain point, the decision is made not to collect and at which point that information is written off and presented in the House in terms of how much time and energy and human resource staff it takes to get to that point. Maybe Bob can answer that question in more detail.

However, I suppose in certain types of situations where a person is perhaps deceased, it is one example where we can put a stop to try and collect that and put forward that is a writeoff in our books, but perhaps Bob can elaborate more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that Minister has covered it. Each case is different and once we move into a situation of having accrual budgeting, we can bring our budgets and our financial statements in line and we will have a line item for doubtful accounts, and then you don't have to come here through the Supplementary Appropriation process.

But I have asked our government accounting staff, after the questioning from regular members yesterday, to see if we can do a more precise estimate under doubtful accounts and breakout anything that could be collectable from anything that we see for certain that can be written off at this stage or that we can recommend to be written off. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Vardy. When a company or an individual who receives a contribution from the government, let's use an example of say

\$100,000, if they don't provide in the accounting for that entire \$100,000, is that all deemed collectable and then eventually it would be set up as amounts for doubtful accounts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I will get him to respond to that.

Chairman: Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member is referring to contribution agreements.

A lot of those are from other government departments. When there is no accounting for expenditures under those contributions, we have to take every effort to ensure that, in some cases, we have to work with the parties to reconstruct their statement because sometimes it is not deliberate misappropriation of funds by those third parties, it might be just a case of poor book keeping.

If there are cases that we can determine that monies were spent for purposes other than what was intended, there are efforts to correct those funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Vardy. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister made a comment. There was a commitment made yesterday, I don't know if it was her, or staff, that they would provide a listing of that.

Maybe I could get a better explanation as to why we don't have that list. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information that he requested yesterday is tabled, I don't know how many pages that there are. That still has to be translated. When we met yesterday morning, at ten o' clock that was when it was initiated, so it is not available to be distributed in the House today, however, we have listing to speak to each member's questions for projects specific initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: If that is the case, Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask that each, the executive and one of them will say that is a doubtful account for \$6,000, I know that that is not a lot.

Why would you have to write off there? I could see in finance the payments were made for facilities or different things like that through the consolidated revenue fund. What is the \$6,000 for? One top of that is when can the minister expect to have that list ready for the members to have a look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list that I committed to providing, during the Regular Caucus briefing on the sub-bills, yesterday morning was related to the capital projects. It didn't relate to collective agreement initiatives.

We all are trying to work on getting the appendices that we have had in our files translated. It is in charts, accounting formats. They won't be done today, or maybe tomorrow.

The other area in terms of the figure he makes reference to the \$6,000 on page five, perhaps I can clarify again, and we are not requesting that these amounts as write offs in this document.

I was saying earlier to Mr. Peterson's response that doubtful accounts, when we do write them off, that information is listed and tabled in the House. What we have to account for in the sub-bills is to show receivables that we feel that we are not able to collect in the fiscal year that the expenses were incurred. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was in no way shape or form. I don't think that I said that these were going to be written off. I said why they would be in there as an allowance for doubtful accounts. I am wondering what this is for. I know it is for age receivable but for what? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the listing of what those amounts are. What would they account for? We don't have those listings by departments. I mentioned earlier that we have to show in the sub-bills the receivables that we didn't collect in that fiscal year in the sub-bills. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering if you don't have a listing by department how come they have an amount by department in there? Why do they come up with the number? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That information is provided by the departments. What I was saying is that it's not in the supplementary books. We have the back-up materials to come up with those figures like any other accounting process that we work with. We have the background information with us in the government accounting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, it's something that I've been pushing for, for many years in here. If you have it, why won't you share it. Is it a big secret. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, I think I've responded to that earlier as well to Mr. Peterson.

We share the information in terms of what we write off in the accounts in the House. To actually share the listing of people that owe money to the Government of Nunavut, part of the process, would also interfere with the collection efforts of the Government of Nunavut.

The other issue is privacy issue. We have to look at each case. But there is information that is contained or gathered by government accounting that makes up these figures.

They don't come out of a hat. There are background materials for each of those items. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I know, I figured that and I know that. I know that there is back up information for that. My point is, we have no problems listing people that we give money to. All the students that owe us money, who we have given money to through student loans, I think have to be published.

Like the minister said, the writeoffs have to be published. I don't understand what the big deal is about being clear and transparent and providing information that states how public money was spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said earlier, we don't have the complete listing of every single item under doubtful accounts in the House. To do that, I would have to bring in government accounting staff to go through the listing in the House line by line.

The other thing is I think is important to be aware of is that to list all of that would also interfere in our efforts to collect those funds from individuals. I said earlier, and I'll say it again, when we provide a writeoff, that information is presented in the House.

I believe the information you make reference to in terms of student financial assistance, that's part of the listing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, operations and maintenance branch. Not previously authorized. Various total department, \$420 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page 6, Finance, operations and maintenance. Any questions. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question in regards to \$8 million being requested by the government as a year end accrual to reflect the potential liability of the settlement of sexual abuse claims. Is this all related to the same case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the answer is yes.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will the final settlement be reached. It seems to be an ongoing thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second law suit for this particular case involving about 70 more victims was filed in January 2004. We have to wait through the court process to get to the end of that. It has to work through the courts before we can. I don't know when it will be over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question. When are the Nunavut Employee's Union going to start their negotiations again.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. September 2005. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's quite a huge sum of money for the Employees Union Act.

It's very difficult to find out when or how much the agreement will cost. Funding is not always readily available. I know that it's not going to be complete within one year. I'm sure of that, and the employees expect to get a raise.

The union expects to get a raise and they have to negotiate their agreements. During after the agreement was reached, have you heard how long this union agreement's term is for. There is no Inuktitut terminology.

What percentage, for example, in the first year they will have a 10 percent increase and perhaps the very next year, 2005-06, perhaps they'll get a 3 percent raise. Are there such agreements for future years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go back to an earlier response I provided the year is September 2006 not, 2005.

The collective agreement that was signed, it was a 3 and a half year collective agreement for Nunavut Employees Union. The percentages for those years were 3 percent for every year and the last six months is a percentage and a half. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that it was back in 1999, that the agreement was reached.

I think that was the last agreement. I know that it costs quite a bit of money after they reached the agreement and after they agreed again, that there is a supplementary appropriation for the union agreement.

In 2006, I know that the union will want a raise again. We make predictions or forecasts as to how much it will cost in the future. Perhaps the Minister for the 2005 main estimates up to 2006, can the Minister make a forecast in your house, what kind of costs she expects to see the union increase.

Perhaps by the next session she could be tabling that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'm just going to perhaps explain the process of it. The supplementary bill before you for 2003-04, of course that was retroactive from when we signed the collective agreement. That agreement is, as I mentioned earlier, three and a half years.

The next year's operations and maintenance bills will include in the base, the increases that are retro, or not retroactive, but are agreed to. We have to go back to 2003-04 because at the time the collective agreement was signed, we had already passed 2003 and 2004 budget years.

So, we have to account for the money the year that it was incurred. So, we're back tracking in our accounting. In terms of trying to predict down the road after 2006, what to anticipate, I can't predict what we will anticipate.

Those figures are negotiated with the collective bargaining teams. Prior to collective bargaining, there are management teams that do research on various subject matters that are up for negotiation.

At this point in time, I'm not able to provide a prediction as to what financial impact the next collective bargaining will result in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although that is the case, I know that the union is going to increase their salaries.

Negotiators, perhaps, I believe were not too strong. There are huge sums of money in there and it's evident just looking at the decentralized communities, and their assets and looking at their infrastructure, and there is a lot of things missing.

When we expect to see an increase after the agreement has been signed, I know that it's impossible to make predictions or to make forecasts as to how much they will cost, I know. It's impossible to make predictions but I believe that there is room for improvement.

Under contingency plan, as members of the Legislative Assembly, we want to utilize some of the money for other purposes. I know this is a very difficult situation, but I believe and I'm urging the government that they give strength and truth to the negotiators.

I'm in support of this. I believe because of the agreements being signed, the funding that could have been used for other services is now being used for those. Those are just some of the comments that I wanted to make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak.

Finance, operations and maintenance, branch. Not previously authorized. Various department. Total department, \$8 million 823 thousand. Does this committee agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 7, Human Resources operations and maintenance. Any questions.

Human Resources, operations and maintenance, branch. Not previously authorized. Various total. Department, \$1 million 368 thousand. Does this committee agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Justice, operations and maintenance. Any questions.

Justice, operations and maintenance, branch. Not previously authorized. Various. Total Department, \$459 thousand. Does this committee agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Public Works and Services. Operations and maintenance. Any questions.

Public Works and Services. Operations and Maintenance branch. Various. Total Department, \$1 million 179 thousand. Does this committee agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 10, Community and Government Services. Operations and maintenance. Any questions. Any questions. Community and Government Services, operations and maintenance branch. Not previously authorized. Various. Total department, \$546 thousand.

Does this committee agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Operations and maintenance. Any questions. Any questions.

Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, operations and maintenance. Branch. Not previously authorized. Various. Total Department, \$312 thousand.

Does this committee agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Number 12, page 12, Education. Operations and maintenance. Any questions. Any questions.

Education, operations and maintenance. Branch. Not previously authorized. Various. Total department, \$4 million 104 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 13, Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance. Any questions. Any questions.

Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance. Branch. Not previously authorized. Various. Total department, 1 million 753 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sustainable Development. Operations and maintenance. Any questions.

Sustainable Development, operations and maintenance. Branch. Not previously authorized. Various. Total department, \$588 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Operations and maintenance. Are there any questions.

Nunavut Housing Corporation, operations and maintenance. Branch. Not previously authorized. Various. Total Department, \$180 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Going over to page 3, back to page 3. Operations and maintenance. Branch Not previously authorized. Various. Total operations and maintenance, \$20 million 27 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Going to Bill 1. Bill 1. Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act number 4, 2003-04, definition 1,

Clause 1, do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2, do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3, do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4, do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sorry, I'm going ahead again. Go to schedule, under clause 3. Sorry. Clause 3, go to schedule, page 2, schedule, vote 1, operations and maintenance, total operations and maintenance, \$20 million 27 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total supplementary appropriation, \$20 million 27 thousand. Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 3, Do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Clause 4, do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 5, do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6, do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7, do you agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree to Bill 1 as a whole.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you agreed that Bill 1 is ready for third reading.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance, Number 2, 2004-05. Does the committee have the document. Everybody. Thank you.

Page 4, Legislative Assembly. Operations and maintenance. Branch, not previously authorized. Office of the clerk. Total office of the clerk, \$102 thousand. Does this committee agree,

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Expenditure on behalf of members. Total expenditures on behalf of members, \$90 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Office of the Speaker. Total Office of the Speaker, \$5 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch. Not previously authorized. Any questions. Page 5. Any questions. Page 5.

Branch not previously authorized. Office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Total office of the Chief Electoral Officer. \$14 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Office of the Independent Commissioner. Total Office of the Independent Commissioner, \$13 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department, \$224 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 6, Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Operations and maintenance. Any questions.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Operations and maintenance. Branch not previously authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate, \$39 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Communications Policy, Planning and Evaluation. Total Communications, Policy, Planning and Evaluation, \$75 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Statistical Service. Total Statistical Service, \$13 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Branch. Page 7. Nunavut Cabinet. Any questions.

Branch. Not previously authorized. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Nunavut Cabinet, \$123 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Commissioner of Nunavut, \$5 thousand. Does this committee agree. I can't hear you.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Intergovernmental Affairs, \$25 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Branch, Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Any questions.

Total Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs, \$28 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total department, \$308 thousand. Does this committee agree. Thank you.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 9, Finance, operations and maintenance. Any questions. Any questions.

Branch, not previously authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate, \$111 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Fiscal Management. Total Fiscal Management, \$149 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Internal Audit Service. Total Internal Audit Service, \$39 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Finance, operations and maintenance. Branch. Any questions.

Branch, not previously authorized. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the second part, administered funds, there is the amount of \$3 million 159 thousand that is noted as a short fall in Government of Nunavut wide programs administered by the department.

I'm wondering Mr. Chairman, if the minister could tell us what is causing these shortfalls. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The shortfalls, a lot of it has to do with the increases associated with the collective bargaining process. Some of the essentially administered programs include WCB premiums, dental premiums, employee medical travel that resulted in the increase in that section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister clarify for me, are the costs of the medical travel increasing or is it the cost of the programming increasing. I wasn't quite clear on your answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I listed the areas that are essentially administered in the area.

There is a shortfall in the medical travel. It's due to an increase in people accessing medical travel, having to travel outside of their communities to receive medical treatment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Being relatively new to the government system, I wonder if the minister could tell us, aren't the departments themselves responsible for paying that or do you recover some through the interdepartmental transfers of funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the program itself, of course, that's administered through the Department of Health.

For our government employees, the costs associated with medical travel for employees is administered centrally through the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just wondering if the minister could give us a breakdown of how much of this is \$3.159 million is going to worker's compensation fees, how much of it is going to employee medical travel and how much of it is going to the dental premiums. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, WCB premiums is \$1 million 161 thousand; dental premiums are \$158 thousand; Government of Nunavut employee medical travel \$1 million 940 thousand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if that's a good thing that we have more people taking advantage of medical travel or not.

I guess I'm just wondering if this is a reflection of the staffing levels increasing throughout the government and we're seeing more usage of this area and also, if that's the case in all these areas, are we going to be seeing base budgets increased in future years so that we don't run into the same problem again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increase since 2001 has been around 20 percent in all those categories. In terms of taking advantage of the medical travel, I don't know if they're taking advantage of it. I think it's more of a necessity to take and get the health care service down south in outside jurisdictions and what not.

Hopefully, with the regional hospitals, that level of travel will be reduced down the road. We do monitor that. And my deputy is getting older. So, anyway, the areas, we do monitor those.

There has been an increase in 20 percent all around and of course some of the information you provided in terms of more employees being in the system, they have the same benefits as all the other employees to, so. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other day, the minister's deputy was saying he was feeling younger and he said he had some proof too.

>> *Laughter*

Mr. Chairman, I'm glad that it's because there are more people taking advantage of the program because we have more staff and not because anyone working for the government makes people sick. So that's what I was getting at.

I'm glad because we have more people working out there. Mr. Chairman, my next question deals with another item on that page. It's liquor management area. There is over a half a million dollars being requested to operate the Liquor Commission and the Liquor Licensing Board in Rankin Inlet.

I'm just wondering if the minister could elaborate a little bit on the status of the repatriation of those functions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding of \$524 thousand again is to operate the Liquor Licensing Board Office in Rankin Inlet.

The funding covers the Liquor Board as well as the Liquor Licensing and Enforcement part. In the past, this function was covered by the territorial government. That arrangement ended this year and we had to identify in our books the cost of operating the establishment in Rankin Inlet as a separate item, as a new item under our Department of Finance.

In the past, we had arrangements with the Government of the Northwest Territories to provide that service for us and that was through a contribution type of arrangement. So, we again didn't have to show this as a separate item.

This year, we have direct control and management of that function now, so that's a new item under the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well it's good to hear that we're repatriating these services from the Government of the Northwest Territories or the other territory, one of the other territories.

Mr. Chairman, that agreement expires this year. I'm just wondering if all the staff are in place to be able to take on these functions now or what is the status of the staffing floor of that office there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Staffing is under way in Rankin Inlet. There is a director in place. There are also staff at the liquor warehouse here. The board is in place. So, there are some vacancies, but of the 7 positions that are vacant, I believe probably half of those are filled.

Those continued efforts are made to fill those vacant positions. We have a casual on in Rankin Inlet as an example in filling that service. Staffing is well under way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know when the Minister's predecessor, I recall him doing his Minister's statement on the location of that warehouse in Rankin Inlet and he's indicated that there was going to be 2 positions there and I'm just wondering what the new total of positions located there for these functions is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The previous finance minister is correct in that there are 2 incremental positions. The rest of the positions were transferred from Gjoa Haven to Rankin Inlet. In the past they had identified the liquor warehouse management would be in Gjoa Haven, but of course we all know Gjoa Haven is a dry community so we had to look at alternative arrangements.

Rankin Inlet was selected, so those positions make up the 7 positions that I mentioned, 7 or 8. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's good old footprints. It's nice to see some common sense change is taking place.

Mr. Chairman, just on that facility, where the offices are, is that a government owned facility, does the Government of Nunavut own it or does the commission lease it out or do they lease it from someone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The facility is leased. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are those lease costs included in this half million dollars. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My other briefing binder is on the other side that covers that detail, but in terms of the coverage, the funding to cover the lease is covered through the Liquor Commission Revolving Fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: I was going to ask if that information could be made available to members at some point as to the lease of that facility. That's not something that I don't expect her to have it right now, but if she could provide that information, it would be good. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't believe there was a question. He was making a comment to provide the information some time down the road and we'll look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just am kind of curious, in the Kitikmeot, the folks there have to order all their alcohol through Yellowknife because we don't have a liquor outlet there. How does the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board, if it's based in Rankin Inlet, how does it service the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask Deputy Minister Vardy to answer while I pick up my other briefing binder. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Deputy Minister, Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The warehouse in Rankin Inlet will provide a better service to the Baffin communities, and the communities in the Kivalliq are not dry communities. I am not aware of any immediate plans to provide the service to the Kitikmeot region because of the geography. We'll look into that option. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Vardy. One of the issues in the Kitikmeot, and I hear quite a bit in Cambridge Bay, is the logistics that is required for folks to do the paperwork, to put an order in to the liquor board in Yellowknife. They have to go through Kugluktuk to get the license. There is a concern that because of the paperwork and the red tape involved, that people are finding it easier to go to bootleggers and buy a bootlegged bottle of booze.

There are some people asking why don't we have a liquor board, a liquor warehouse in the Kitikmeot, somewhere. So I just wanted to bring it up as something that the minister might want to comment on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I was just going to ask that of Mr. Vardy too. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It has been a long few weeks. In terms of the inefficiencies to providing that service to Nunavumiut, we recognize that and we are trying to improve the services to individuals in each community, in getting liquor from Yellowknife, Rankin Inlet or here.

Basically I want to with Mr. Peterson's observations that, yes it can be improved and we'll continue to do that. The one advantage to our part is that we now have that service directly under the Government of Nunavut, whereas before it was in the Northwest Territories. We will be able to take on some of those issues that are within our control, so that will help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Finance. Operation and Maintenance Branch not previously authorized. Finance Operations. Total. Finance. Total Finance Operations. \$529,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total. Centrally administered funds. \$3,159,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Liquor management. Total. Liquor management fund. \$524,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total department. \$4,511,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 11. Human Resources. Operations and maintenance. Any questions?
Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this page there is \$30,000 for interdepartmental transfer from operations and maintenance to the capital, to complete the office renovations at the Trigram Building.

I am just wondering exactly where did that money come from, what the department does in provision of services to be able to put that money into capital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just going to go through the notes for a second. The information that we have from the department is that \$30,000 came from Purchased Services, under Staffing Branch, another \$30,000 from travel, materials and supplies, from the Job Evaluation Branch and \$40,000 from Purchased Services under the IEP Branch. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in cases like this where departments, you know the old saying in budgeting circles is use it or lose it. This is a good example where you are taking out of O&M and putting it into capital. Do they really need it in that area.

I would just like to ask the minister if this is something and her staff will take a look at to try and, hopefully, help generate more accurate and reflective budgeting figures for the departments in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member's comments and concerns. We'll continue to monitor that. It doesn't happen too often. I believe that we have, in this last year, three or four transactions of this nature. The amounts were insubstantial, but I agree with the comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other question that I have on that as I recall last year, or the year before, that we did look at a supplementary for some renovations to the Trigram Building, the relocation of all the staff for human resources, specifically the IEP positions that are located up in the Brown Building, to relocate down to the Trigram Building, there was a supplementary to prefer some amounts to do those renovations there.

I am just wondering if this is for the same thing. What is the total amount of renovation being paid for by the government to the Trigram Building for human resources? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's important to recognize that there are more departments outside of human resources that are located in the Trigram Building. There has been some funding that has been spent on that building, Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, as an example, Human Resources is there. I believe that the WCB or the Housing Corporation was there in the past, as well.

This new division was created under the Department of Human Resources in order to accommodate the development of that division; we needed to do some adjustments to the building.

So the department has put forward reallocations from its divisions to cover those additional costs. In the last few years, in 2003 the total spent was \$756,000 prior to the IEP Division was established. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$756,000, does that include the money that is in here. That we are looking at. What is the overall total for human resources? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figure that I provided was from previous years, the money spent on renovating the Trigram Building and is not included in the sub-bills, as well as the funding from previous years that was approved covered to departments, I believe that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth was

one of them, and the other was the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth was in there, Education was upstairs there for a while. The Housing corporation used to be there. WCB used to be there.

I am just wondering for Department of Human Resources, what are the total costs of the renovations for Department of Human Resources since they have been in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the figure, the \$756,000 broken down by Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and Department of Human Resources, I believe, and I was the Deputy Minister at the time of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, the project was in simultaneous with Department of Human Resources at the time. We were looking at a department building and not two separate buildings, so it was one contract that was awarded, I believe, from what I remember from that file.

The information may be covered through more details through Public Works and Services, but from what I recall, it was a one project initiative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Human Resources. Operations and Maintenance. Branch not previously authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$51,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Staffing. Total Staffing. \$20,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Assistant Deputy Minister. Community operations. Total Assistant Deputy Minister. Community operations. \$89,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering why we are seeing that one in here for this department, but we don't see it listed separately in other departments, for Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community Operations fall under the Assistant Deputy Minister, perhaps that is just the way it is described in the books. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Assistant Deputy Minister. Community Operations. Total, Assistant Deputy Minister Community Operations. \$89,000. Does this committee?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 12. Any questions to page 12? Branch not previously authorized. Job evaluation and organizational designs. Total job evaluation and organizational designs. \$1,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Inuit Employment Plan. Total Inuit Employment Plan. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the job evaluation and organizational design there is \$30,000 taken out, as the minister mentioned earlier and in the one you are talking about, the \$40,000 from the IEP section.

Exactly where in there did they, is because they are not doing job evaluations, or they have done enough of them. There are vacancies within that within division for both.

I am just wondering if we could get an explanation on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ran through that list earlier. The \$100,000 from Purchased Services, under the Staffing Branch, the other \$30,000 from travel, \$4,000, materials and supplies \$9,000, purchased services, \$11,000, fees and payments, \$6,000 that swelled up for under job evaluation and under the IEP Branch, the \$40,000 came from purchased services under the IEP Branch, and totals \$100,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Inuit Employment Plan. Total Inuit Employment Plan. \$60,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 13. Human Resources. Operations and Maintenance. Any questions? Human Resources. Operations and Maintenance. Branch not previously authorized. Training and Development. Total training and development. \$35,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Employment Relations. Total. Employment Relations. \$47,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total department. \$303,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 14. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Any questions? Any questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is on the law enforcement. The RCMP contract, is that a one time increase, or an increase to the department's base budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$1,227,000 is for the additional funding for the RCMP contracts with respect to law enforcement in Nunavut. Is it an increased cost in the base?

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that. This increase under the law enforcement part is a one time increase but there has been an increase in the base within the Department of Justice, overall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister tell us if we are going to have more police officers in every community with this increase? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that this increase is a result of total incremental costs that was related to their collective bargaining process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been an urgent request by the mayors in Nunavut for more police officers; they are bringing it up at their Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting every year, so I was hoping that some of this funding would go to more officers in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one moment. I believe the Premier, and the Minister responsible of Justice is quite aware in terms of the demands for increasing the RCMP at the community levels and is working to try and address that.

As a result this item is strictly related to the collective bargaining increases for the RCMP contract. On a side note, the separate issue that he has raised, I believe is being looked into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madame Minister. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Branch not previously authorized. Directorate. Total Directorate. \$95,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Law Enforcement. Total. Law Enforcement. \$1,227,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Legal Services Board. Total. Legal Services Board. \$45,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 15. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is an amount indicated under Lawyer Support Services of \$750,000, for the payment of Government of Nunavut's share of the costs being incurred in defending sexual abuse claims. My question to the minister, is this all for lawyer's fees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is to cover the legal fees; travel costs, hotels and what not, in representing our case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister tell us if the Government of Nunavut is fighting the claims? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the areas is also covered under this funding is the requirements or the victims, themselves, have to travel to these other jurisdictions to see psychiatrists, and what not, that also covers the travel of those individuals.

In terms of what I want to comment about the actual court case, itself, I don't have that information to speak to the details of what our position is in regards to that file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister may have partially answered my next question. Why is this process proving so costly to the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular case, I think that many individuals in the north are aware of the file, indirectly or directly. The first lawsuit involved about 90 claimants. That was settled in 2002. It cost the Nunavut Government a substantial amount of money.

The second lawsuit involves about another 70 plaintiffs, and those individuals are all over Nunavut; they are not in one community. So that requires the travel of legal lawyers, and what not, and them to go down and see medical psychiatrists, and what not, so the cost is quite high, and why it is taking long because there are more cases that are coming out with the settlement of the first lawsuit that resulted in a successful settlement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer, Madame Minister. Could you give us an indication of what the total liability may be to the Government of Nunavut from this lawsuit, and having to pay compensation to the victims? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are estimating our share of the cost to be approximately \$8,000,000 under the second case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: No further questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Branch not previously authorized. Lawyer Support Service. Total. Lawyer Support Service. \$844,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Registrars and Court Service. Total. Registrars and Court Service. \$188,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 16. Any questions? Justice. Operations and Maintenance. Branch not previously authorized. Correction and Community Service, Total Correction and Community Service, \$610,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Human Rights Tribunal, \$6,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department, \$3,015,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 17. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth Operations and Maintenance, any questions? Any questions? Branch not previously authorized, Directorate, Total Directorate, \$90,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Official Languages, Total Official Languages, \$75,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Cultural Heritage, Total Cultural Heritage, \$80,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 18, any questions? Branch not previously authorized, Community Programs, Total Community Programs, \$36,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sports Nunavut, Total Sports Nunavut, \$38,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Recreation and Leisure, Total Recreation and Leisure, \$49,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Department, \$368,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 19, any questions? Education, Operation and Maintenance, Branch not previously authorized, Directorate, Total Directorate, \$33,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Policy and Planning, Total Policy and Planning, \$57,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Corporate Service, Total Corporate Service, \$89,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 20, any questions? Branch, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that is another good synonym, I wish. There's \$1,300,000 for a one-time bridge financing it's called to address current deficit. I am wondering if that's just another synonym for bailouts.

But I am just wondering, it also states that it is also to assist them in implementing recommended improvements in management's effectiveness and accountability.

In that quite finely crafted paragraph, I must say, is the minister aware of or can she tell us what the current deficit of the college is right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try and answer the question as it relates to the Nunavut Arctic College, but the minister is also here to speak to those details.

At one point, the deficit was about \$1,600,000. In June of 2004, the amount was about \$1,600,000.

Perhaps the Minister of Education can respond to that question more effectively. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Minister of Education.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the member repeat his inquiry. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is not paying attention. Earlier, he was too busy consulting with one of his colleagues on another urgent matter, I am sure.

Mr. Chairman, my question was, I know that there is a \$1,300,000 in here for Nunavut Arctic College for a one-time bridge financing and I mentioned that's a nice synonym for a bailout to address their deficit and to assist them in implementing recommended improvements and management effectiveness and accountability.

My first question to the minister is: What is the college's current deficit right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier this week, this past week and I actually was in meetings with Mr. Bob Lennon, who is the chair with the board of governors of Arctic College to deal with some issues around the financing and funding of the college.

Last year on the deficit reduction exercise of the government, the college received a reduction of about \$1,000,000 of their base budget.

They feel that this has had impacted negatively onto their budget and we had an opportunity to review that based on some of the current pressures and so on that the Minister of Finance has spoken about.

The \$1,300,000 will be able to bring them into an equilibrium position on their budget and the board of governors will be meeting, over the next couple of weeks by teleconference, I believe, to approve the operating for that upcoming fiscal year.

Their current situation, I believe, Mr. Chairman, I don't have the numbers on me with the deficit amount within the college, but I can get that information for the member for tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I read a very interesting part of that paragraph and that's, again, I commend the minister's staff on the fine crafting of the phasing.

But it says: to assist in the implementing recommended improvements in management effectiveness and accountability. I guess, how much of that \$1,300,000 is going towards deficit and how much is going for improving management effectiveness and accountability? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the breakdown of that figure here with me. In terms of the wording of that, thanks for giving us credit, but that came from the Department of Education.

Mr. Chairman, I don't have that breakdown in terms of how that \$1,300,000, if it will be up to address the deficit or the implementation of the new management framework, but I can commit to providing that information to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if the minister responsible is aware of what he needs that money for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that question was directed to Minister Picco.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier, the college last year, you know, government-wide, we did have a reduction exercised and the college was no exception to that.

Previously, its budget was a little over \$15,000,000. They received the reduction of about \$1,000,000. This impacted on their bottom line. The \$1,300,000 that is found here within

the budget, on top of what the Minister of Finance has explained, it goes towards some of the logistical, as well as the administrative concerns the college has.

The member may recall that as minister responsible for the college, when I was appointed, I asked for an external review of the college, its operations, and so on. Some of the management issues that resulted came out of that report we are dealing.

I would say to you, Mr. Chairman, the largest amount of the deficit is because of the funding situation of the college and it's based on, this will actually restore it.

And, like I said, when I met with the chair of the board of governors over this past weekend here in Iqaluit, we discussed this and, like I said, they would be bringing forward to me a balanced budget and indicating where they would be able to make adjustments within the budget without cutting programs, without closing down the center to bring that deficit that they had underlined and in control.

So I hope that helps clarify where that \$1,300,000 is going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not at all, but good try, Mr. Minister. Would the minister be willing or commit to providing that information by tomorrow of exactly where that money is going? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought it was pretty clear. As I indicated, the largest amount of the deficit is a result of the deficit exercise that the government went through as a whole. I believe I will endeavor to make that information known to the member tomorrow.

So, I will try to do that because it's now 5:45 and most of the government offices are closed, and so we start at 10:00 tomorrow morning and I will need to be able to get some of the staff to be able to work on that between now and 10:00 tomorrow morning.

So, I think we will be able to provide a breakdown, but I should have it sometime tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That list has to be out there somewhere. They didn't come up with that number out of the area, I guess, the Minister of Finance referred to earlier. So, I don't think it would be too much of a problem for the minister to come up with that.

Mr. Chairman, the Auditor General discussed the Nunavut Arctic College's financial management problems in their 2002 report and I am sure that the minister is aware of, and I guess, reflecting that that there were some serious concerns raised by the Auditor General in there and wording in here of recommended improvements in management effectiveness and accountability.

I don't know if the Minister of Finance, I don't expect her to have this, but the minister responsible could probably tell us what they have done to date to implement those recommendations that were made by the Auditor General to improve their management over there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All of the recommendations by the Auditor General are taken serious by the government and the crown agencies of the government, the college is no different.

Some of the recommendations recommended by the Auditor General included areas around the fiscal management and control of the corporation itself and I say corporation meaning the incorporated body of the college.

The corporation of the college moved very quickly to hire additional staff to look at the financial needs. For example, Mr. Chairman, the corporation hired an additional bursar position about a year and a half ago.

That position is in place very, very well and the knowledgeable person within the fiscal framework of the college and has made some real smooth transition programming and planning on the financial aspects of the college.

There had been other things brought forward by the board of governors as per the Auditor General's recommendations to strengthen the financial management and accounting system.

There have been other issues raised for example on the fiscal year-end of the college and how that impacts on the government's statements, as well as how that fiscal year-end affects the operations of the Government of Nunavut under annual reporting structures. So, that has been reviewed.

So, there have been several things put forward. I guess the main one would be the additional staffing and indeed, having a full-time bursary position hired who is based in Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Income Support, Total Income Support, \$47,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Adult Learning and Post-Secondary Education, Total Adult Learning and Post-Secondary Education, \$2,220,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 21, any questions? Branch not previously authorized. Career and Early Childhood Service, Total Career and Early Childhood Service, \$275,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Curriculum and School Service, Total Curriculum and School Service, \$203,000, does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 22, any questions? Branch not authorized, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the minister, there's a note saying that \$1,900,000 additional resources required due to increased enrolments and partial implementation of the revised funding formula.

Is that a one-time funding increase or an increase to the base budget of the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a one-time increase in the supplementary bills that we are looking at addressing the bases for the next term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister saying that's the renewed formula funding where they call it, school funding formula is that what you referred to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the Minister of Education to explain the school funding formula to Mr. Peterson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the commitments we made early on was to review the funding formula and I believe all the members would agree that the

current funding formula that is in place was put in place in 1995-96 from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

It was revamped in 1998 and has not kept up with the immediate needs for our schools. So, for example, when the formula was put in place, it didn't include new technological advances for example of computers, internets, and wire services.

It left the principal within the administration mix of the school. It didn't compensate for the special needs issues that we see right now in our schools. The funding formula was based on enrolments of the previous year.

So, for example, October 1, 2003 would be the enrolment numbers that you would be going on right now in 2004 and it would not be able to compensate and reflect that increase from year to year.

One of the commitments I made when I became the Minister of Education was to review the funding formula. We have done a partial review of that and the \$1,100,000 that you see here is indicative of that first increase.

Because of the funding enrolment pressures that we see right now, and as the minister said later in February again, we would hope to be in a position where we could look at that base so that our schools have the resources that we need and we need to be able to do that under the formula.

I will give just one very quick example of the school funding formula. The school funding formula is in use right now and Mr. Barnabas was talking about it earlier. Mr. Barnabas pointed out some of the issues around school counselors. It's pretty sad to say, for example, in the Kitikmeot I think there is only one school in all the Kitikmeot that has a community school counselor.

However, in the Baffin most schools have a community counselor because it's in the budget. The counselors of the three different divisional boards of education, the three different board of education decided on which way they would spend their money on their prioritization.

So, that's one of the issues around the school funding formula. We should have the school funding formula and be able to compare each school in each community and they should have the same resources.

Today, that's not the case and that's the reason for the slight adjustment that you see now, and hopefully, we will be able to bring something forward in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's explanation. In Cambridge Bay, we have been looking, for many, many years, for a school counselor in the high school, we do have one in the elementary school. There is a great need in Cambridge Bay for a high school counselor.

Could the Minister of Finance or the Minister of Education tell us which communities and which grade levels are experiencing the largest increase in enrolment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We see an increase right now of over 5 to 7% percent enrolments across Nunavut. Some communities, of course, have higher pressure within it.

Arviat is a good example, Gjoa Haven has some huge issues right there, and Mr. Chairman, Iqaluit has some real issues with forced enrolment and all my members that were there in October of 2003 and comparing that to October 1, 2004.

So, we realized that again, that's part of the issue that we would hopefully be able to deal with in February when we have an opportunity to crunch those numbers and when we would look at the new school funding formula. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would not expect the minister to have all the details at his fingertips on the communities' enrolments. Perhaps he could bring that information for Mr. Tootoo tomorrow to share that information with us as well.

Could the minister indicate when will the new funding formula be fully implemented? It talks about partial implementation, but when will it be fully implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said, right now, the school funding formula, as we said earlier is very complex because it's a hybrid. It has metamorphosed itself from the genesis of the formula in 1995-96 to the point to where we are today.

So, Mr. Chairman, while we would be able to say that we are still working on it and I would hope to be in a position to have that new formula in place for that fiscal year of April 1, 2005, but that means there is a lot of financial analysis as well as logistics and administrative issues that need to be dealt with within the formula. So, that would be my timeframe. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the answer from the minister. Could the minister be more definitive about when we might expect to see him table the funding formula in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, when I met with my senior staff, when I first appointed as the Minister of Education, and the first question was: Can you explain the school funding formula?

I know that Mr. Tootoo, over the last few years, has been asking questions on that, and very few people can, and the reason for that is because the metamorphosis that has taken place on that file from the genesis back in 1995-96. It has been bastardized to the point where it's really hard to do an analytical review of it.

So, as I said before, Mr. Chairman, and I would maintain that I would hope to be in a position and I would anticipate the members and the Minister of Finance to be able to bring forward that new funding formula for the school, for our students, for our children by April 2005. I would hope to be in a position to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: No further questions, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to follow up on the Minister of Education's comments on this hybrid thing that he is working on, how does he plan on, he said he met with his senior staff to come up with it. Is it just his senior staff and himself that are going to work on this or is he planning on consulting.

I know, for example, Mr. Chairman, that the Minister is in receipt of a letter from the district education authority here in Iqaluit raising a number of issues and concerns with relation to the formula.

Also, Mr. Chairman, during the public hearings on the old Education Act or the Education Act that wasn't, I guess you might want to say, there were a number of recommendations that were made in there in those consultations as well.

Is the minister going to take those recommendations into account in developing the new formula. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since April of 2004, I've had an opportunity to meet with every district education authority chair in Nunavut.

I've had consultative meetings in the Kitikmeot, in Kugluktuk. I've met with the Kivalliq chairs in Baker Lake this past summer and indeed in September, I met with all the Baffin chairs, including the chair from the Iqaluit District Education Authority.

I've also at the same time, Mr. Chairman, have visited I believe 12 or 14 communities included meeting with DEA's, principals and teachers. At the same time, I've held consultative meetings with our senior staff as well as our regional staff.

All of these meetings Mr. Chairman, point out the same thing, Mr. Chairman, that there is a concern with the current funding formula, that it doesn't seem to be meeting the needs and we've already talked about that.

So, the recommendations that we have heard from the DEA's as well as my own advisory council to the Minister of Education that we have set up was again to review the formula to funding our schools.

That input is also included in the funding formula that we're trying to put into place. That formula will actually reflect the needs of the class rooms, the needs of the teachers and the needs of the students.

It is complex and that's why I'm saying that there was a hybrid, not the new formula. So, I hope that helps to answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess in relating to that process, one of the things that failed in the past was the fact that they had these consultation meetings, but once they come up with something, people weren't given the opportunity to have a look at it and get some feedback on it.

Is that mistake made in the past, that the minister and the department have learned from and are going to change in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Yes.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo.

Branch. Not previously authorized. School operations. Total School operations, \$1 million 930 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total department, \$4 million 854 thousand. Does this committee agree.

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page 23, Health and Social Services, operations and maintenance. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: There is a motion on the floor to report progress. It is not debatable. All those in favor of the motion. All those opposed.

>>*Laughter*

It's not funny. Okay, as the chairman, there is a tie and as the chairman, we'll break until tomorrow. I'll report progress. I will now rise to report progress.

Sorry. I'm getting ahead of myself. Sorry. I would like to thank the Minister and her officials. Does the Minister have any closing remarks. Oh, you're not finished. Sorry about that Madame Minister.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day. Item 20, Report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1 and Bill 2 and would like to report that Bill 1 is 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. Is there a seconder to the motion. Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order. All those in favor. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Going back to the orders of the day, item 21, third reading of bills. Bill 4. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 4 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2005-2006 – Third Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for South Baffin that Bill 4, Appropriation Capital Act 2005-06 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion. The motion is in order. I'm sorry. I'm ahead of myself. All those in favor. All those opposed. Abstentions. Bill 4 has had third reading. Third Reading of Bills. Premier Okalik.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move seconded by the Honorable Member for Netsilik that Bill 5, an Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All in favor. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried and Bill 5 has had third reading. Third Reading of Bills. Premier Okalik.

Bill 6 – Electronic Commerce Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for Baker Lake that Bill 6, Electronic Commerce Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favor. All those opposed. Abstentions. Bill 6 has had third reading. Third Reading of Bills. Premier Okalik.

Bill 7 – An Act to Amend the Evidence Act – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 7, an Act to Amend the Evidence Act be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favor. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 7 has had third reading. Third Reading of Bills.

Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Mr. Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders for the day for Wednesday, December 1.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

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 2
 - Bill 3
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 1
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, December 1, 2004 at 10:00 a.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:18*

