



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 14

Friday February 25, 2005

Pages 778 – 833

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Jobie Nutarak
(Tununiq)

Steve Mapsalak
(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
*Minister of Culture, Language,
Elders and Youth; Minister of
Human Resources
Minister Responsible for
Sport Nunavut*

David Alagalak
(Arviat)

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq
(Nattilik)
*Minister of Finance; Government
House Leader
Liquor Licensing Board
Crown Agency Council*

Hon. David Simailak
(Baker Lake)
*Minister of Economic
Development and Transportation
Business Credit Corporation
Nunavut Development
Corporation*

Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)
*Minister of Education; Minister
of Energy; Minister Responsible
for Qulliq Energy Corporation
Minister Responsible for Nunavut
Arctic College; Minister
Responsible, Homelessness and
Immigration*

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
*Premier; Minister of Justice;
Minister of Executive and
Intergovernmental Affairs
Utility Rates Review Council*

Joe Allen Evyagotailak
(Kugluktuk)

Patterk Netser
(Nanulik)

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)

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

Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)

Hon. Levinia Brown
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale
Cove)
*Deputy Premier; Minister of
Health and Social Services;
Minister Responsible for the
Status of Women*

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)
*Minister of Environment;
Minister Responsible for the
Workers' Compensation Board*

James Arreak
(Uqqurmiut)

Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)

Officers

Clerk
John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-At-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	778
Budget Address	778
Members' Statements	793
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	800
Oral Questions.....	800
Petitions	822
Reports of Standing and Special Committees	823
Tabled Documents.....	824
Notices of Motions	826
Motions.....	826
First Reading of Bills	829
Point of Order.....	830
Point of Order.....	831
Second Reading of Bills	831

A.

Daily References

Friday February 25, 2005 778

B.

Members' Statements

102 – 2(2): Child Protection in Nunavut (Curley)..... 793

103 – 2(2): No Infrastructure Plans for New Airport in Arctic Bay (Barnabas) 794

104 – 2(2): Lupin Gold Mine Closing (Peterson)..... 795

105 – 2(2): Election Results in Pannirtuuq (Kilabuk) 796

106 – 2(2): Congratulate the Music Society (Tootoo)..... 7976

107 – 2(2): Training Programs Needed in the Mining Sector (Alagalak) 797

108 – 2(2): Water Supply in Kugluktuk (Evyagotailak) 799

109 – 2(2): Thank Individuals (Aglukkaq)..... 799

C.

Oral Questions

142 – 2(2): Status of Pimmarsarvik Service Contract (Netser) 8010

143 – 2(2): Plans for Training in the Mining Sector (Alagalak) 801

144 – 2(2): Funding for Arctic Bay Airport (Barnabas)..... 803

145 – 2(2): Investigation on Water Quality and Treatment in Kugluktuk (Evyagotailak)..... 804

146 – 2(2): Organizational Charts Increase in PYs (Tootoo) 805

147 – 2(2): Consultation of Elders for Child Protection (Curley)..... 809

148 – 2(2): Status of West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan (Peterson) 811

149 – 2(2): Language of Instruction in the Schools (Netser) 813

150 – 2(2): Planning Stages for Multi-use Facility (Barnabas)..... 815

151 – 2(2): How Funds from the Federal Government will be Incorporated (Tootoo)..... 816

152 – 2(2): Liquor Warehouse for the Kitikmeot (Peterson)	819
---	-----

D.

Petitions

004 – 2(2): Co-op Refunds and Income Support.....	822
---	-----

E.

Committee Reports

003 – 2(2): Appointment of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut (Netser)	823
---	-----

F.

Tabling of Documents

065 – 2(2): Letter to the Information and Privacy Commissioner and her Response (Peterson)	824
--	-----

066 – 2(2): List of Capital Needs for the Hamlet of Grise Fiord (Barnabas).....	8254
---	------

067 – 2(2): Future of the Nanisivik Mine Site (Barnabas)	825
--	-----

068 – 2(2): Return to Oral Question 005 – 2(2) DNA Testing (Clerk)	825
--	-----

069 – 2(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Third Annual Report for the Year Ended March 31, 2004 (Picco).....	825
---	-----

070 – 2(2): Government of Nunavut Petroleum Products Specifications (Kilabuk).....	825
--	-----

071 – 2(2): Letter to Tagak Curley in Regards to Bad Gasoline in Rankin Inlet (Curley).....	8265
---	------

F.

Notices of Motions

009 – 2(2): Appointment of the Languages Commissioner – Notice (Netser).....	826
--	-----

G.

Motions

009 – 2(2): Appointment of Languages Commissioner of Nunavut (Netser)	826
---	-----

007 – 2(2): Tabled Document 053 – 2(2) Referred to Committee of the Whole (Tootoo)	827
--	-----

010 – 2(2): Adjournment for the Day (Tootoo).....	832
---	-----

H.

Bills

Bill 8 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act 2005-2006 – First Reading 829

Bill 8 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2005-06 – Second Reading 831

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday February 25, 2005

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning. I would ask Mr. Evyagotailak to say the opening address.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, Mr. Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, members of the Executive. We have received correspondence dated February 20, 2005, and addressed to Jobie Nutarak, Speaker of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly.

“I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following Bills during the second session of the Second Assembly:

- Bill 8, *Appropriation Act – Operations and Maintenance, 2005 – 2006*
- Bill 9, *Supplementary Appropriations Act Capital 3., 2003, 2004 and 2005*
- Bill 10, *Supplementary Appropriation Act Operations and Maintenance 3, 2004-2005.*

Thank you,
Lena Metuq,
Deputy Commissioner of Nunavut.”

That was the correspondence we received. Item 2. Budget Address. Minister Aglukkaq.

>>*Applause*

Item 2: Budget Address

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Honourable colleagues, and for Nunavutmiut today, I am pleased to table the second budget of the Second Legislative Assembly.

As we prepare for the second year of this government, I want to emphasize to Members and all Nunavutmiut that, although we have made significant progress in a number of

areas, we must bear in mind that Nunavut is a young territory. This means that at times, there are and will be difficulties as we move forward.

We have the opportunity to ensure that an efficient and accountable government is provided in our territory. This is a significant challenge and comes with tremendous responsibilities - responsibilities that flow from the public service, to cabinet to you, the members of the Legislative Assembly, and ultimately, Nunavutmiut.

We have many initiatives to strengthen financial management and accountability within the public service. Many measures for better assessment and control of the spending of government revenues are being put in place.

Mr. Speaker, since my first budget address, three major positive developments in which Premier Okalik has played a prominent role took place.

There were two First Ministers' meetings in the fall of 2004 that benefited us greatly. The first one in September dealt with health care funding issues, the second in October considered Equalization and Territorial Funding Financing transfers to provinces and territories.

As well, the Prime Minister and the territorial premiers announced the development of a Northern Strategy in December 2004. The strategy will permit us jointly to define new ways of working with the federal government to achieve our objectives in the years ahead.

Mr. Speaker, our budget process outlines how we as a government will meet our responsibilities to deliver public services to Nunavumiut and to manage our financial situation in the coming year. It establishes a fiscal framework and identifies financial priorities consistent with the priorities of the government for our current term as set out in *Pinasuaqtavut*.

While *Pinasuaqtavut* sets out the priorities, it is this budget that provides the blueprint for how we use our financial resources in the coming year to realize our priorities.

Implementing these priorities will enable us to expand our economy, build a stronger cultural foundation based in Inuit societal values and continue with our efforts to improve education, housing and health care.

We will continue to build a positive business climate in Nunavut. Having a strong private sector and a strong public sector will ensure that we reach our goals.

Our efforts will continue to be shaped by our full commitment to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

In carrying out our work we will be guided by the eight principles in *Pinasuaqtavut* that embody Inuit societal values.

We will use these important principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in our efforts to make our government and the programs and services we offer more responsive to the people we serve.

Departments are currently completing work plans to implement *Pinasuaqtavut* priorities. These plans will be both reflective of these principles and tied to the fiscal and economic blueprint that I am providing to you today.

Once these plans are developed, they will form the basis of a three year fiscal plan we will be detailing in the 2006 budget and business plan a year from now. The input of Members of the Legislative Assembly into this medium term fiscal plan will be sought through a fiscal planning retreat proposed for the fall of 2005.

I will now provide a fiscal update for the 2004 – 2005 year before outlining our plans for the coming year.

FISCAL PERFORMANCE FOR 2004 – 05

Mr. Speaker, our projected revenues for 2004 – 05 are \$45.4 million higher than projected in my first budget in May 2004.

This increase in revenues results from a new framework for Territorial Formula Financing agreed to as a result of the First Ministers' Meeting in October.

The additional revenue has given us the flexibility to deal with the fuel costs and pressures in health, education and other key expenditure areas.

As a result, our revised expenditure projections for 2004 – 05 based on approved appropriations to date are \$40.9 million higher than originally budgeted.

The net impact of these revenue and expenditure adjustments means that the projected deficit changes from the 2004 budget level of about \$13 million to a current level of \$8.4 million.

However, additional requests for expenditure appropriations for the current year will be brought forward for consideration by the Legislative Assembly later in this Session. Included will be a request for an extra appropriation to deal with the financial requirements of the Qulliq Energy Corporation up to March 31, 2005.

CHALLENGES

The challenges of our new territory are large. Much progress has been made, but the hurdles we face as a new territory remain great.

However, we must renew our efforts to deal with these challenges.

Patience and persistence will lead to success. The outcome of the September First Ministers' Meeting on health recognized that the delivery of health care North of 60 was significantly different from the model that operates South of 60.

The federal government provided additional funding to help us deal with medical travel. In the South, there are roads to access hospitals and basic health care needs. In the North, we use airports and landing strips.

People understand this when they come to visit us. But, knowing the problems does not automatically result in solutions. It took a persistent and constant presentation of our facts before additional monies were made available to us.

Similar action was required to deal with per capita funding. This concept simply does not work for jurisdictions with small populations, particularly for Nunavut.

Only after we patiently made our case at every opportunity did the federal government change its approach in allocating new federal funding in important areas such as infrastructure and most recently in the sharing of the federal gas tax.

Mr. Speaker, of even greater significance is the need to succeed in getting our fair share of the wealth from our abundant natural resources. To achieve this, we expect soon to begin discussions in earnest with the federal government about devolution that will bring about this result.

At the same time, the government will continue to lobby at the national level for additional funding and the lifting of various barriers to the development of our economy, especially in the case of fisheries.

The recent boom in natural resource exploration activity within Nunavut gives us greater hope that in the future, we will be more fiscally independent and will not need to make a strong case for federal transfers. We all look forward to that time.

But here again, we must be persistent. We can only benefit from our natural resources if we have province-like powers. In order to get these powers, we need a devolution agreement with the federal government.

At the launching of the Northern Strategy initiative in December 2004, the Prime Minister of Canada indicated that he would support our Premier's efforts in advancing this important process.

We know already that it will not be easy to negotiate a deal that fully benefits Nunavumiut. But, Mr. Speaker, we accept this challenge because if we do not persistently pursue it, we will always be relegated to being heavily dependent on federal transfers.

This is our single largest challenge. It is key to solving and dealing with social and economic needs in our communities – whether in housing, health or education.

We are a capable and competent people. Most of us are Inuit, but we are enriched by the wide variety of other Canadians and world peoples that find our land so appealing.

If we are ultimately to be masters of all the responsibilities over this vast area of Canada, we must demonstrate our capabilities as Nunavutmiut and the fact that we are fully accountable for our actions. Mr. Speaker, this high degree of accountability is evident in the fiscal plan I will now outline.

FISCAL PLAN FOR 2005 – 06

Each year through the budget process the government allocates its available resources for programs and sets out an overall fiscal plan. The goal of the process is to identify and use resources in the most efficient manner to address our priorities.

Since 1999 the Government of Nunavut has consistently maintained a prudent approach to the management of its finances that has allowed us to avoid large accumulated deficits and the build up of significant levels of additional direct or guaranteed debt.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that the 2005 Budget will be balanced.

>>*Applause*

After taking into account estimated appropriation lapses mainly for capital projects of about \$27 million and a contingency of \$60 million, we are projecting a surplus of approximately \$3.6 million for 2005 – 06.

Part of the contingency is set aside to cover additional costs to government related to electricity.

On February 28, Minister Picco and I will announce the electricity rate increases which will be granted to the Qulliq Energy Corporation and changes to the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program. The final Report from the Utility Rates Review Council also will be made available.

At that time I will be providing details of the effects these changes will have on government operations and maintenance expenditures, including subsidies to the consumer. A \$15 million provision is contained in our fiscal framework for the cost to government of these changes, including any further financial support the corporation may require in 2005 – 06.

Mr. Speaker, a major objective of this government is to continue to ensure that electrical energy is available to Nunavutmiut at the most affordable rates possible. It is also

critically important to make decisions that will lead to a much more financially secure Qulliq Energy Corporation.

In the medium term we expect to be able to meet all our operating requirements and maintain a relatively aggressive capital expenditure program within the constraints of a balanced budget.

We are aware, however, that budgetary deficits may result from unanticipated events such as a slower than expected level of economic activity. This can result in a combination of lower revenues and higher expenses.

Currently we have approximately \$53.5 million available under the borrowing limit of \$200 million. To date \$141 million has been used to guarantee debt of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Most of this guaranteed debt was assumed prior to division. We also have \$5.5 million of direct debt for the mortgage on the Sivummiut office building in Iqaluit.

A case can be made for borrowing to fund capital expenditures given that such outlays should yield benefits in future years to offset the interest and other costs associated with this method of funding investment. We have not seriously considered this approach at this stage in our development.

We remain hopeful that the borrowing authority of \$200 million imposed on Nunavut as part of the federal *Nunavut Act* will remain adequate to look after our financing requirements over the medium term.

As prudent fiscal managers, Mr. Speaker, we want to avoid high debt levels and the associated high debt servicing costs.

REVENUES FOR 2005-06

For the coming year our revenues are projected to be \$972.4 million. This represents a 5.4 percent increase over the 2004-05 revised revenue forecast.

Mr. Speaker, this increase is due mainly to increases in federal transfers. We are expecting our Territorial Formula Financing transfers to provide an additional \$27.3 million and other transfers stemming from the September First Ministers' Meeting on health to increase by about \$15.5 million. In total, we expect to receive an additional \$42.8 million in federal transfers this coming fiscal year.

Our own-source revenues also are expected to increase in 2005-06. Increased income taxes and other taxes and fees are expected to provide \$81.5 million to our revenues. This represents an increase of about \$7.2 million above what these revenue sources brought in last year, with no increases in tax rates. Mr. Speaker, our taxes remain the lowest in the country.

The federal government has announced that it will provide \$40 million of additional funding to Nunavut over three years. This will provide us with additional capacity to help achieve the objectives of the Northern Strategy in the short term. These funds have not yet been included in our fiscal framework.

The vast majority of our revenues still come from the federal government in the form of transfers. The Formula Financing Arrangement between Nunavut and Canada expired March 31, 2004. In the lead up to the October First Ministers' Meeting we were able to negotiate increases in the base funding we receive from this important source.

At the time of the First Ministers' Meeting in October, the federal government announced a new framework for Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing.

The new framework established a floor for the Formula Financing Arrangement for 2004-05 and 2005-06 and sets an escalator of 3.5 percent for the floor after 2005-06.

At the same time, the federal government announced that an expert panel would be set-up to review the Formula Financing Arrangement and to determine how funding should be allocated amongst the three territories. The expert panel will provide its report before the end of the coming fiscal year.

While the Government of Nunavut is in a relatively good fiscal situation, we must continue to show fiscal discipline and to consider all our expenditures carefully. This high degree of fiscal responsibility is reflected in the expenditure plans for 2005-06 that I will now present.

EXPENDITURES FOR 2005-06

Mr. Speaker, total expenditures in the 2005 Budget are \$935.8 million, of which about 89 percent or \$833.9 million is for operations and maintenance expenditures. The remaining 11 percent, or approximately \$102 million, is for spending on capital projects.

EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker, to reflect the important role the Department of Education plays in both education and the delivery of social services the departmental operations and maintenance budget has been increased to \$174.2 million in 2005-06. This represents a 10.5 percent increase from the 2004-05 budget.

Minister Picco has an ambitious plan for the department for the coming year.

On the education side this plan includes:

- developing a new school funding formula to reflect truly the needs of schools with implementation over the next three years,
- enhancing services available to special needs students, and

- initiating a 'Young Parents Stay Learning' program to assist with child care expenses for parents 18 years and younger.

With regard to social services the plan includes:

- increasing the social assistance food allowance by five percent,
- exempting co-op dividends from reportable income, and
- coordinating homelessness issues and services.

Work called for in the Bilingual Education Strategy will be implemented and multiple graduation options for high school students will be developed.

As well, the department will undertake feasibility studies needed to consider the possibility of trade and cultural schools for Nunavut.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Mr. Speaker, the 2005-06 operations and maintenance budget for the Department of Health and Social Services has increased to \$215.2 million. This represents an 18.1 percent increase from the department's 2004-05 budget.

Minister Brown will introduce a new direction for the provision of health care in the coming year called *Closer to Home*. This initiative will strengthen community capacity in delivering health care, and expand the scope of services currently being provided locally in Nunavut.

This new approach to delivering health care will be simple, accessible and responsive to the needs of Nunavutmiut. It is very considerate of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* and the goals of *Pinasuaqtavut*.

Mr. Speaker, the new health centres in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, are a practical example of the *Closer to Home* vision in action. These new facilities will open during 2005 and will introduce more and better health services for these communities, and indeed for the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq. Construction will continue on the Qikiqtani General Hospital in Iqaluit, which is scheduled to open in early 2007.

To support the new approach to health care, an education and training program will be developed so that Nunavutmiut can begin to pursue careers as health care professionals. This program will include a Continuing Education Strategy that will enhance the skills of our current staff.

In the coming year, extraordinary efforts will be made to recruit new nurses and doctors for the territory.

A recruiting firm is working to help us find 100 new nurses by September 2005. As well, eight additional doctors will be hired. First priority will be given to filling positions at the health centres in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

This summer a new family practice clinic will be opened in Iqaluit. This new clinic will be staffed by nurse practitioners and supported by doctors providing much needed service to the growing population of our capital.

Mr. Speaker, in order to provide better care for expectant mothers, the Midwifery and Maternity Care Services offered by the department will be expanded. In 2005-06, six new positions will be added so that these services can be provided in more communities.

In addition, a maternity care training program will be developed in partnership with the Nunavut Arctic College so that Nunavutmiut can be trained as maternity care workers.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a comprehensive strategy will be developed to ensure that elders receive better quality health care and support. This will include a plan to create 24-hour elders care facilities in more communities.

HOUSING

Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation will continue to increase the Nunavut housing supply in the coming year.

The corporation will spend a total of \$181.2 million in 2005-06 when contributions from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Infrastructure Canada's Strategic Infrastructure Fund are included.

At least 80 units will be built in Nunavut communities this construction season under Phase Two of the Infrastructure Fund.

Mr. Speaker, this means that in total 160 new public housing units will have been constructed under this initiative.

To help ensure adequacy and suitability of private homes for Nunavutmiut, additional funding will be made available to a number of popular initiatives the corporation offers such as the home repair program.

In the new year, Minister Kilabuk, in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, will continue to lobby the Federal Government to partner with us in the implementation of the *Nunavut Ten-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan*.

JUSTICE

The operations and maintenance budget of the Department of Justice will be increased by \$5.6 million to \$54.6 million for 2005-06.

In the coming year, the department will:

- increase the funding of the circuit court system to ensure Nunavutmiut have access to the justice process in communities,
- provide more training for justices of the peace and coroners, and
- increase the number of labour standards audits.

As well, additional funding will be provided to ensure that the growing number of court-ordered mental assessments of accused can be carried out in a timely manner.

Mr. Speaker, as Members know, the Akitsiraq Law School initiative is nearing completion. Minister Okalik is proudly looking forward to this summer graduation of Nunavut's first locally trained lawyers. In order to ensure the successful start of the graduates' legal careers, the Department will fund five of the 11 potential graduates for six months of their articling after graduation.

The Department of Justice provides important programs to our communities. These programs cover a wide variety of issues from public safety to settling disputes between individuals. The department will increase its funding generally to communities in the coming year and specifically will ensure that the spousal assault program in Rankin Inlet continues.

Additional funding also has been set aside to ensure that elders who provide guidance and counseling to youth and adults are appropriately compensated for their contributions.

CULTURE, LANGUAGE, ELDERS AND YOUTH

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth will continue to preserve and enhance Nunavut's culture and to provide healthy active living opportunities for Nunavutmiut.

In the coming year, Minister Tapardjuk will lead the consultations on developing made-in-Nunavut language legislation. The department will continue to hold terminology workshops to research and develop enhancements in our languages.

A new elder advisor will also provide cultural input to the department and coordinate community-based projects that focus on incorporating Inuit societal values. These projects will be designed with the input from the Department of Justice to accommodate the need for restorative justice in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the department will continue to work along with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Heritage Trust to identify funding sources so we can build a Nunavut Heritage Centre.

To ensure that Nunavut continues to participate in the Arctic Winter Games and other national games, additional funding will be provided to Sport Nunavut.

In 2005-06, the department will provide \$5.4 million in grants and contributions to communities to support capacity building in the areas of culture, heritage, language, communications, the arts, sport, recreation and leisure.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Speaker, in our efforts to develop a sustainable economy in which Nunavutmiut are to be in control, we face many challenges.

To meet these challenges, Minister Simailak will continue working with all parties to implement the *Nunavut Economic Development Strategy* and to develop a positive business environment.

An example of this is our work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to develop a process and plan to invest our share of the \$90 million provided in the 2004 federal budget for economic development in the North over four years.

The department will establish a *Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti (NNI) Secretariat* in the new year to coordinate the implementation of the incentives built into the NNI Policy.

We are confident this will help ensure the *NNI Policy* becomes more effective in promoting increased participation of Inuit in the workforce and in supporting the growth of Inuit business.

In the upcoming year, the department will focus on two key initiatives:

- implementing the Nunavut Transportation Strategy, and
- promoting growth in our mineral resource development sector.

Mr. Speaker, our economic future depends upon improving our transportation infrastructure.

In collaboration with the Government of Canada, we will invest in key transportation projects that will strengthen the Nunavut economy and promote local business.

The mining, tourism, fisheries and sealing sectors and their many spin-offs, as well as local arts and crafts enterprises, will all benefit from improved transportation infrastructure.

We will also focus on improving infrastructure in individual communities through initiatives under the Small Craft Harbour and Airport Investment Strategies for Nunavut.

It is also a key priority to increase investment in support of mineral exploration.

Our government will continue to work with the mineral sector to streamline and clarify approval processes for new developments, while maintaining environmental as well as social and economic requirements.

We will work with the mining industry to develop both our mineral resources and our human resources. Through the *NNI Policy* and the new *NNI Secretariat* we will promote greater Nunavut and Inuit employment and business participation in this sector.

Mr. Speaker, we are providing an additional \$4 million to support sustainable economic growth and employment in all sectors and all regions of Nunavut. When combined with new federal government spending, there will be over \$45 million of additional investment in our economy over the next few years.

ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Environment was created last year to reflect the priority this government places on its responsibilities for the protection and promotion of our natural resources through *avatimik kamattiarniq*.

This budget continues to support initiatives started last year to deliver on a wide range of regulatory and program functions.

Minister Akesuk will continue to focus on developing and maintaining strategic partnerships with organizations both within and outside of Nunavut. This will help to ensure the long-term protection of our environment, and sustainable development of our natural resources.

Funding support will continue in the new year to the Hunters and Trappers Organizations, Community Harvesters Assistance Program, and Regional Wildlife Management Boards.

As well, the wildlife research program and the community programs to support the harvesting and management of wildlife in Nunavut will continue.

The *Nunavut Sealing Strategy* and the *Nunavut Fisheries Strategy* will be implemented in 2005-06. These strategies will provide support towards maximizing the economic opportunities in these sectors for Nunavutmiut while honouring the principles of conservation and sustainability.

Mr. Speaker, to provide community based fisheries training, we will partner with the federal government in a new training program. This program will help Nunavutmiut take advantage of opportunities in our emerging fisheries industry.

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The creation of the Department of Community and Government Services last year has allowed the government to maximize the use of resources to support communities and other departments.

The new department emphasizes community support and has put in place a one-stop concept for communities for a range of services, funding and training.

This budget demonstrates a firm financial commitment to supporting municipalities. Minister Kilabuk is very pleased that our government will be providing an additional \$4 million under the Municipal Operating Assistance Program in 2005-06. Combined with the increase provided two years ago, Mr. Speaker, this represents a 30 percent increase in municipal operating grants over three years.

The department will undertake revisions to the Water and Sewage Subsidy Program and has increased the funding by \$500,000. The department will continue, in collaboration with Nunavut's municipalities, to change the program so that communities can increase their abilities to manage individual programs.

An additional \$1 million will be provided for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange. This municipally owned and operated insurance organization has managed to reduce claims and improve loss control practices across the territory. With the additional funding provided this year the government will have contributed \$4.5 million to this initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the department has tabled the Nunavut Fire Prevention Strategy that laid out a vision and a progressive implementation plan to reduce fire losses. In 2005-06, \$2 million will be allocated to this strategy.

An ongoing success story in communities is the work of the Municipal Training Organization. Government is again providing core-funding support, which assists that organization in obtaining funding from other partners. Over the past year the organization's programs have attracted 660 participants and provided over 5000 training days to all levels of municipal staff.

This year will see many infrastructure projects funded with support from Canada. The funding from the federal government is matched by Nunavut and will allow us to address priority needs in communities.

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities will join us in forming the Community Infrastructure Planning Committee and will work with the federal government and the Government of Nunavut in establishing an Infrastructure Technical Planning Secretariat.

The need to manage and conserve our energy has never been more evident than it is today.

In response to this need, we will be implementing an *Energy Management Program* throughout the government.

This program is designed to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and reduce government spending on energy.

As part of this initiative, educational and training programs will be developed for government employees, schools, and building operators and managers.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Under the direction of Minister Tapardjuk, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Human Resources will lead the implementation of the Inuit Employment Plan. The 2005-06 budget for this priority program is \$5.6 million - almost 30 percent of the departmental budget.

This plan will utilize clearly defined measurements to judge progress in achieving the goals of this program. This will increase the accountability of departments and agencies with regard to Inuit employment. It will also ensure that job opportunities are accessible to beneficiaries across Nunavut, and will allow us to make faster progress towards having a representative work force and meeting the objectives of *Pinasuaqtavut*.

The reduction of barriers to the staffing and job evaluation processes will remain a high priority. The Priority Hiring Policy is being reviewed to assess its effectiveness. The audit of job descriptions will eliminate artificial barriers. Inuit cultural and language components will be integrated into all positions.

Funding for the Nunavut Summer Student Employment Program will be increased by \$250,000 to almost \$1 million. This government-wide program will provide valuable working experience to more of our young people.

We value the contribution of our employees and will foster a close working relationship with our public sector unions so that Government's programs and services can best meet the needs of Nunavutmiut.

The department will deliver courses and workshops to improve the well-being of employees and to ensure safe working conditions. This will improve the morale, productivity and retention rate of our employees.

Also, the Public Service Act will be reviewed and changes will be proposed to ensure that it fully reflects our human resources policies and practices.

FINANCE

In the Department of Finance, the administration of the Nunavut Liquor Board and the Liquor Commission has recently been centralized in Rankin Inlet, and a new liquor

warehouse has been constructed there. These changes will mean a more efficient liquor administration.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Nunavut Liquor Board to provide me with suggestions for improving various aspects of liquor education that fall under the board's responsibilities. We also will be following up with the chairs of the local alcohol committees to obtain their suggestions. These committees can serve as a valuable tool in helping us educate Nunavutmiut on the dangers associated with the inappropriate use of alcohol.

The department will continue to coordinate efforts to strengthen financial management across government including Crown corporations and agencies. This effort will focus upon the management of resources, risks and information.

The Financial Management Board, utilizing three government-wide committees with clearly defined mandates, provides overall direction to this effort. These committees are the Financial Management Committee, the Audit Committee and the Interdepartmental Committee on Capital Planning. In addition, the Crown Agency Council advises Cabinet and the Financial Management Board on a wide range of policy and financial management issues.

Improvements in financial management will help us to deliver programs more effectively. It will improve accountability by making public employees more aware of the responsibilities they have in delivering programs to benefit Nunavutmiut.

EXECUTIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs carries out the key role of advising Cabinet on the development of our full potential as a territory and as a people.

In the coming year, it will coordinate the completion of the work plans flowing from *Pinasuaqtavut*, and will work with the Department of Finance to ensure that these work plans are integrated to the maximum extent possible into our fiscal plans.

It will renew its efforts to work in partnership with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the federal government to implement and meet the obligations of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The department will coordinate government's efforts to begin to negotiate a strong devolution agreement, which is key to our achieving the economic vision for the development of our territory described in *Pinasuaqtavut*.

As well, the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will provide the focus for the series of consultations to be undertaken to gather the views of Nunavumiut and additional information necessary to develop the Northern Strategy announced by the Prime Minister and the Territorial Premiers in December 2004.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude Mr. Speaker, the budget tabled today outlines how we will meet our responsibilities to deliver public services to Nunavutmiut and to manage our financial situation in the coming year.

It establishes a fiscal framework and identifies financial priorities consistent with the priorities of the government for our current term as set out in *Pinasuaqtavut*.

It confirms our firm commitment to:

- strengthening financial management and accountability;
- strengthening our economy;
- building a stronger cultural foundation based on Inuit societal values; and
- improving education, housing and health care.

We have accomplished much since 1999. This new budget will ensure that we continue that progress, as will our three-year fiscal plans that we will be developing over the coming months.

We look forward to working with all Members of the Second Legislative Assembly and all our partners to achieve Nunavut's full potential. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Finance. That was very interesting. To go back to our Orders of the Day. Item 3. Item 4. Members' Statements. Mr. Curley.

Item 4: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 102 – 2(2): Child Protection in Nunavut

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Children in Nunavut deserve the love and care of the family, guidance and security that our schools can't provide.

Our children, in particular the foster children, need protection from the government's policy to send them out of Nunavut, once they have failed to find relatives that would care, feed, and provide a home within their peers and friends in their own community.

CBC Radio reported a couple of days ago that the Department of Health and Social Services has adopted a policy to send foster children without consulting with elders in a place like Rankin Inlet. This is not acceptable. It's not acceptable for Inuit elders. In particular, the elders do not condone this practice.

I urge the Government of Nunavut to look within our homes and communities, and consult with elders immediately to address the issue of foster children and parents in

Nunavut, and come to an arrangement that includes a permanent policy that involves continuing advice from elders before Nunavut children are sent outside of Nunavut where culture, customs and language may be barriers to communicate with the children.

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, please proceed.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister responsible must act on this serious issue and report back to the people of Nunavut and this Assembly to see if there is a better solution.

I urge the minister to take back the current policy as soon as possible if they are going to be sending children out without consulting the people. So, I urge the minister to report back to this Assembly. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 103 – 2(2): No Plans for New Airport in Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to the Minister of Finance for your second budget address to this Second Assembly.

I rise today regarding the public meeting that was held in Arctic Bay at the beginning of this month to discuss issues relating to the Nanisivik mine site.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Premier, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, and the Minister of Community and Government Services, for taking time to visit Arctic Bay.

During the meeting, these Cabinet ministers made a lot of promises to my constituents regarding infrastructure needs, including new airstrip for the community by 2007, and a new 5-Year Capital Plan.

Promises regarding Nanisivik mine site reclamation and new infrastructure are not new to the residents of Arctic Bay.

It is not clear, however, how these promises will be fulfilled. In 2002-2003, the Arctic Bay new airport development project was clearly listed in the five-year capital plan, with funding for a project starting in 2004-2005 and a total of 1.7 million planned for the project for the final three years of the plan.

In 2003-2004, the Legislative Assembly approved 250 thousand dollars for the project. There is no future funding in the five-year capital plan. Mr. Speaker, more than half of that funding was transferred to other projects. 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 five-year capital plan do not contain any funding for airport development in Arctic Bay.

I can only hope that agreements are in the works for funding under one of our federal infrastructure programs. A further review of the 2005-2010 five-year capital plan reveals that there is no infrastructure project for Arctic Bay, beyond the replacement of the health centre. There aren't even any projects to start in five years from now on in 2010.

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

Speaker (interpretation): The Member is asking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, my colleagues, to conclude my statement.

(interpretation ends) My colleagues made a lot of promises in Arctic Bay, and I will be asking questions in the House to hold them to their commitments to my constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 104 – 2(2): Lupin Gold Mine Closing

Mr. Peterson: Koana Uqaqti. I rise today to inform Members about an initiative that I first informed the House about last year. As reported in the media, Kinross Gold has stopped mining at the Lupin gold mine.

There has been care and maintenance in two previous occasions before reopening, this time the mine is closing for good. Kinross is submitting an abandonment and reclamation plan for the mine site within a few weeks. Mr. Speaker, mineral exploration and mining will be a key sector in Nunavut's economy for the next decade. The mining exploration companies require a homegrown workforce that is trained in skills.

In fact, the Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement that we have already negotiated and signed for the mining companies, provide exciting opportunities for our young people and other residents. To that end, a focus on the Kitikmeot has shifted slightly to acquire some of the physical assets of the Lupine Gold mine.

Instead of a trade and technical school, we want to establish Nunavut's first ever mining training school. During the Kitikmeot trade show last week, I took part in a meeting between representatives of Kinross Gold, Kitikmeot Corporation and Diavik Diamond Mine where we discussed the potential of the mining training school in the Kitikmeot. I have to say that it is refreshing to see mining companies coming together in Nunavut in a

spirit of partnership and commitment to find joint solutions to our chronic unemployment and training issues.

To show their commitment to establishing a mine training school in the Kitikmeot, officials of the Kitikmeot Corporation and Kinross Gold signed a memorandum of understanding last week.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to update the House as this exciting initiative moves forward in 2005. I urge the Government of Nunavut to support the mine training school concept so that Nunavut does not lose its valuable asset located at the Lupine Gold mine site. Koanna Uqaqti.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Member's Statements. Mr. Kilabuk.

Member's Statement 105 – 2(2): Election Results in Pangnirtung

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We go through different things when we are campaigning. In 2004, the people who ran for MLA and first of all, our newly elected Mayor Jack Maniapik. Levi Evic, Sheila Kilabuk, Rita Mike, Joanasie Qaapik, Sakiasie Sowdluapik, Naimee Akpalialuk, Manasie Evic and Pia Qaqqasiq were newly elected to the Hamlet Council.

For Housing Authority, the new chair person is Joanasie Maniapik, councilor Jayco Ishulutak who has been our Sergeant-of-Arms, Maggie Ishulutak, Mosesie Nakasuk, Charlie Qumuartuq, David Kooneeliusie, Seemee Angmalik, and Jimmy Angmalik, who has been the fuel truckdriver, Moshie Arnakak and Geeva Maniapik who is the home owners' representative.

For District Education Authority, the new chairperson Timiusi Evic, my neighbor and if he is watching, he is smiling. The members are Andrew Dialla, Meeka Arnakak, Taina Angmalik. Taina has been the DEA Member for a long time, she is doing a great job. People keep re-electing her. Also, Manasie Maniapik, Sarah Tautuarjuk, and Alan Rumbolt.

For HTO, the chair person Mosesie Qaapik, directors Daisy Keenainak, she is the wife of my cousin Simionie Keenainak who is well known for his singing career, Billy Evic, Leopa Akpalialuk, Laimie Nakashuk, Mosesie Nakasuk, Manasie Maniapik, and Mosesie Nuvaqqiq. I congratulate them and wish them the best. I am please that I will be able to work with them. I would like to welcome them again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 106 – 2(2): Congratulate the Music Society

Mr. Tootoo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I go into my Member's Statements, I beg the members indulgence, I have a presentation to make to our Premier.

(Speaking French) and it says "spit happens". On Monday or Tuesday, the Premier announced the new daughter that he has and these are for her, for Beatrice, his new daughter, (Speaking French) not, for Mr. Picco, don't let him try and take them from you, so with that I would like to pass this on to Mr. Premier and congratulate him.

The issue of power was raised in this House almost everyday for the last year. I rise today with respect to yet another electrifying issue. Mr. Speaker, that's Grease Lightning. I am proud to be congratulating the Iqaluit Music Society and Inuksuk High School for an excellent presentation on the musical 'Grease'.

Over the musical's three night run, more than one thousand people attended. People were even turned away at the door. This was despite, Mr. Speaker, despite the worse odds as the original Sunday matinee was canceled due to a storm and re-scheduled for the next evening. The cast of 24 students was supported by a further 36 students working behind the scenes; all of the props and the sets were made by students and for the first time, two Inuksuk High School students played in the pit band. Also, many volunteers from the community worked behind the scenes to make the musical a huge success.

Mr. Speaker, no production of this calibre is possible without community sponsorship. I would like to thank the City of Iqaluit and all the local businesses and organizations that made it possible. We are truly fortunate to be able to stage and attend a quality production of popular theatre. Our own hometown John Travolta's and Olivia Newton-John's have made us proud once again, and I ask all of my colleagues here in the House to join me in congratulating them on their success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 107 – 2(2): Training Programs Needed in the Mining Sector

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to say hello to the mayor and councilors in Arviat.

I rise today to express my concern, I raised this a couple of days ago during question period, and the minister stated that he is currently working on it.

But, I have a great concern, I get phone calls just about every day from residents in regards to mining, and it will be starting shortly. I feel it's very close. Before the storm, when we met, this was also raised by a Kitikmeot member. This is exciting to see.

(interpretation ends) As you know, the Kivalliq has a long history of mining and our region is looking at different sectors to help power our economy. In the coming years, one example of this is the Cumberland Resource Meadowbank project. (interpretation) They are looking at to start ...

(interpretation ends) On January 26 of this year, the Minister of Economic Development issued a news release in which he states that ensuring that businesses and workers have the training to meet the needs of mining companies is one of his top three priorities to strengthen the mining sector.

(interpretation) This is very true, I agree with the minister, he said he would start and I believed him. (interpretation ends) I agree with the minister on this.

However, my constituents are still waiting for the training programs that they need. (interpretation) I would like to state again in Inuktitut that my constituents are waiting because there are a lot of people who are unemployed in my community, in my constituency.

They are impatiently waiting, as if though they are waiting through a seal hole to see which opportunity will arise.

I ask unanimous consent to conclude my Members' Statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Kivalliq want to work, as my colleague said in the House, we want to reduce the need for dependency on government handouts.

I asked the Minister of Economic Development yesterday or a couple of days ago: what is being done about training? He told the House that the Minister of Education is spearheading this issue.

I hope that we don't get slowed down by bureaucratic shuffling. We are still waiting for the government's Mining Strategy to be tabled, and it's important that we move forward in this Assembly on mining training.

One of the major commitments we made at our caucus retreat in Arviat was to open a Nunavut trades school by the end of the Second Legislative Assembly.

We are going to be held accountable by our constituents for this promise, and I will have questions for the Minister of Education on this matter at a later time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 108 – 2(2): Water Supply in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister on her budget address. She is willing to work with the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I rise today to address the issue of water in Kugluktuk. (interpretation ends) The water supply for Kugluktuk comes from the Coppermine River. It flows through the water plant where it is filtered and chlorinated, and then placed in holding tanks, then loaded into water trucks for delivery to residents.

Members who have visited my community in the spring will have noticed sediments in the water due to spring breakup. Those of you who have visited Kugluktuk will have heard in the news about our water troubles.

With the colour of the water that comes out of our taps even after it has been filtered, it doesn't take a lot of effort to imagine that the holding tanks must contain some sediments.

When tested, the water meets drinking standards for safety. The water may meet standards for health, but I have heard residents say that it's like drinking mud.

I recognize that there is funding in the Five-Year Capital Plan for the water treatment investigation in Kugluktuk beginning in 2006-07. I would like to ask the minister to accelerate the timeline in the project given and the importance of our quality of water to quality of life.

I will ask the minister questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 109 – 2(2): Thank Individuals

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to say good morning to the residents of Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. Qamukanuaq, if you are listening in Gjoa Haven, I smile at you and I will see you again once the session is over.

(interpretation ends) Today, I just wanted to acknowledge my friends Christine and Dennis Lyall and their family for their gift to me, the Kamiit that I am wearing today.

I also wanted to thank my good friend, the very talented Nicole Camphaug for making me this pullover last night during the blizzard for me to wear today.

(interpretation) I thank them very much, Christine, Dennis and all of them, and Nicole. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' Statements. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 5. Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there is someone sitting in here that would like to be able to recognize someone and can't, and that's our Deputy Clerk, one of our fine table officers sitting up there, Ms. Tupik. I would like to recognize her sister and my aunt sitting in the Gallery over there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am proud to say that right now there are two Simailaks in the House. She just got recognized a little earlier, Becky Iyago from Baker Lake is a Simailak. She is the co-principal of the Rachel Angnamaktiq School in Baker Lake. Also with her is her older sister Winnie Tapatai, also a teacher in Baker Lake.

So between the four of us, Becky, Winnie, the Deputy Clerk and myself, we are all grandchildren of Rachel Arnangmaktuk, whom the school is named after. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Back to orders of the day. Item 7. Oral questions. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netsar.

Item 7: Oral Questions

Question 142 – 2(2): Status of Pimmarsarvik Service Contract

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The minister has spoken many times about the Care Closer to Home Strategy. The Pimmarsarvik Corporation in Chesterfield Inlet is a prime example of a community based organization where trained community members provide homecare services through the operation of the residential care facility.

This service was formerly provided by the St. Teresa group home. Can the minister tell the House what the status of the service agreement contract with the Pimmarsarvik Corporation is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Pimmarsarvik question, they recently moved to the new building. This new building is now being utilized, although we moved in a little late because items such as beds and furniture arrived late. In the interim, they are borrowing donated furniture and materials. They are expecting to receive the new furniture shortly, but I am very glad they are using the new building. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry, I don't know if the minister understood my question. It is my understanding that the service providers still have not received a copy of the contract agreement which spells out the terms and conditions of their operation. I've been informed that this contract has not yet been signed and I wanted to ask the minister about the status of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Ms. Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if I didn't understand you. I will look into that, so that I can give you an accurate response and respond to you later. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): The minister is taking the question as notice. Thank you, Ms. Brown. Oral questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak

Question 143 – 2(2): Plans for Training in the Mining Sector

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. My question is in English.

(interpretation ends) What specific plan is his department working on, up to now, with respect to mining-related training for the residents of the Kivalliq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In early 2003, the Government of Nunavut, in co-operation with Nunavut Arctic College, set up a strategy group. I have had an opportunity, in March of last year, to attend one of those meetings in Cambridge Bay. Mr. Speaker, the mine training strategy group, which includes industry as well the Government of Nunavut and NTI, has submitted a proposal to the Government of Canada.

My understanding that the HRDC has stated that our proposal from Nunavut to them, is probably one of the best that they have received. We are still waiting on the word from the federal government on how much money will be coming to Nunavut to deliver the mine training, specifically from across Nunavut, which would include the Kivalliq region. At the same time, over nine pre-trade training programs have been delivered last year and this year. Some are continuing, which links with mine training.

In short, the proposal has gone out, and at the same time there is pre-trades training which encompasses mine training strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) What is the status of the Nunavut trade school that we agreed to open by the end of the Second Legislative Assembly of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member is aware, in September when we were in Arviat, the member's wonderful community, we had an opportunity to discuss the pre-trades school for Nunavut. Right now, it is not acceptable that the students from Nunavut have to go to NAIT, the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. Or, they have to go to Fort Smith's Thebacha Campus or other jurisdictions to do a lot of the apprentice trades.

Mr. Speaker, the caucus, in Arviat, asked the Minister of Education, the Department of Education, and the Government of Nunavut to bring forward a strategy to have a pre-vocational institute in Nunavut. We are moving forward on that. In the education budget that is before us, you'll see reference in the next few days about the pre-vocational training school. Mr. Speaker, the first step is to do a request for proposals, an idea to see what is the need and then to look at it.

Mr. Speaker, we are looking at some options that we have to deliver this program, and we will be looking at a decentralized community and so on. So, those kinds of questions need to be answered. There is an opportunity within the Northern Strategy that has been

announced by the federal government to take a combination of that and move forward for the pre-vocational training school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question. Yes, we expect to receive that funding for the mining strategy in Nunavut, particularly in my constituency; we are anxiously awaiting this event. When can we expect to hear from the federal government whether this application has been approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the dollar amount was \$34 million over five years. As I said earlier, HRSD has received that money and received that application and we hope to hear from them very soon.

At the same time, we are not just waiting for the federal government to step up to the plate. We have increased, under the adult learning strategy that we tabled here in the House, to continue with pre-employment trades programming, as well as upgrading programs for Nunavumiut. In the past year, we have done over 17 of these types of programs throughout Nunavut.

So, the application process with the federal government is, in part, a combination of an adult learning strategy which includes the mine training strategy. It is moving in a parallel course. I would hope to hear from our federal partner in the coming weeks on what the status is on our application. At the same time, we continue with the pre-employment trades delivery programs that we have been doing under the adult learning strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 144 – 2(2): Funding for Arctic Bay Airport

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I had indicated in my member's statement, I would like to ask a question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Can the minister inform me of how much funding has been allocated to the development of the Arctic Bay airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, the study determined that the airport would cost \$16 million to build.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister inform the House as to the exact source of funding for the Arctic Bay airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are still looking for funding sources to be used for the Arctic Bay airport. I believe that we will be able to find the funding, but I can't tell you as yet exactly where we will be able to find the sources for funding.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Why is there no funding for the proposed airport in the 2005-2010 capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, yes, that's how it is, we have considered where we could find alternate funding to construct the Arctic Bay airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister assure me that the hamlet in Arctic Bay will be consulted on the location for the new airport? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hamlet of Arctic Bay and the residents of Arctic Bay will be consulted and informed on the future location of the airport. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 145 – 2(2): Investigation on Water Quality and Treatment in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I raise a question, I would like to say that we had a meeting in Kugluktuk and a question was raised in terms

of the water quality. In the springtime and prior to the summer, the water at the river gets very muddy. Sometimes the mud in the water tanks piles up.

So, in that regard, I would like to direct my question (interpretation ends) to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Will the minister consider accelerating the timeline for the Kugluktuk water treatment investigation?

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could tell the member that there will be a complete review done in 2004-05 fiscal year.

We are going to be looking at different options for how we can get better quality water for the long term. We will probably be looking at constructing a new water tank at moving existing facilities elsewhere.

Following the results of the review, the employees for our department and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities will be looking at the funding that will be required for the Kugluktuk water treatment. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just before I ask my other question here, I just want to let the minister know that during spring and summer, there's always a lot of mud in the bottom of the tanks.

So, members from my community wanted to know if it would be possible to get the water tanks cleaned up in the summertime while the river is clear. Can the minister tell me if this project has received funding under the Government of Canada's Strategic Infrastructure Funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have stated earlier, we are going to be conducting a study on the Kugluktuk water system, and we will be doing a review of all aspects of the water system. Thank you.

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

Question 146 – 2(2): Organizational Charts Increase in PYs

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. It kind of ties in to some stuff in her budget address which I would like to congratulate her on.

According to the government's own figures, the vacancy rate across the entire public service has consistently been between 15 and 20 percent for every single year since the creation of Nunavut.

However, the departments, and again this is something that I have raised every year, have been budgeting the departmental budgets as though 100 percent of those positions were filled. In fact, the 2005-06 main estimates show a jump of almost seven percent in the number of PYs since last year.

Given, as the minister outlined in her area on Finance, and the role that the Financial Management Board plays government-wide, can the minister tell us, from her perspective as the chair of the Financial Management Board, why departments are allowed to increase the number of positions on their organizational charts when they can't even fill the ones that they have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process that's used to budget departments, the exercise of allocating operations and maintenance funding, is based on approved organizational charts for each department's budget. The salaries are based on those numbers.

The exercise is to put forth the departmental operations and maintenance requirements or capital together, but when we determine the salaries for every department, it's based on approved organizational charts.

There have been some increases, of course, to some departmental positions with some changes to structures, but at the same time, the issue of having every single position at one given day filled in Nunavut is next to impossible. There will always be some vacancy issues across the board throughout Nunavut, different regions and whatnot.

So, there are always efforts in place to fill those vacancies. At a given day, we never know what exact amounts are, in terms of percentage. So last year, I don't know what the vacancy rates were, but those are always going to be an issue for us.

I mentioned in my budget speech that by September 2005 we are looking at trying to fill 100 nursing positions for Nunavut. So, those are vacant positions now as well, but financially we have allocated funding for those positions. So, on an ongoing basis we will continue to try and address filling those positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I raised this issue over the years a number of times, and I know that if you are budgeting for 100 percent, 100 percent of those dollars are going to be there, even though you are not going to use it all.

Those dollars may be better used at that time because you are not going to fill them, be put into programs and services that affect Nunavumiut. Front line people, an example I will use, Mr. Speaker, middle management, since 2000, has increased by over 75 percent.

In the last quarter of last year, it jumped from 380 to 410. This minister has indicated that in doing their organizational charts something that is determined how their money is allocated. When those charts are brought to the Financial Management Board for approval, it is looking at where those positions are.

Since day one we need more teachers, we need more nurses, we need more social workers... . That those positions be targeted to be increased before an increase in middle management. So what are they using in determining, or do they go with numbers that the department provides to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to clarify on the comment that he made. Organizational charts are approved by cabinet. Organizational charts are approved by each minister based on their requirements for operating their department, whether it be, front line workers or middle management.

When departments go forward with their O and M requirements, we don't go to the level of details with viewing charts through the Financial Management Board. That process is done by each minister and put forward to cabinet for approval, whatever those changes are.

Whether they are front line people or not, it is not something that I deal with at the Financial Management Board level but rather at a departmental level. It is up to each minister to identify positions whether they be, front line or head office, and they are the ones that bring forward their requests for salaries and O and M dollars based on the approved organizational structure.

Normally, the practice of the Financial Management Board is we don't go beyond those dollars, the dollars assigned to positions, which is why we have the process of working and going through Human Resources and each department looking at organizational changes and the impact it will have on approved O and M structures.

Having said that, the information we go forward with to Financial Management Board is already on the basis that there have been approved structures before allocating the dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for clarifying that. In her budget address, she talks about the Department of Finance, through the Financial Management Board, continuing to coordinate their efforts to strengthen

financial management across government. I would like that accurate. Budgeting would be a part of that.

It would surprise me; I would ask questions and I have, when you see an increase in PY dollars, or even PYs at such a level that cost you money, do you really need that? And is any of that analysis being done at the Financial Management Board or cabinet on those positions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The analysis is done at all levels before Finance allocates the dollars. At the same time, we continue to review departmental submissions for any dollars.

There is an increase in PYs, yes. We need more nurses, we need more teachers with the increases in enrollment. That is outlined in my budget address on an ongoing basis. I will state this again: every minister is responsible to put forward their needs based on programs and services activities and that's reviewed at the departmental level, at the cabinet level, and before any finance is allocated there's another review conducted, on that basis, overall. But if you are looking at the increase in PYs, there's an increase in PYs. It's particularly around health and education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given, as I have stated in my first question, that the budgeted amounts for PYs for the departments are at 100 percent, and like I said there are 15 to 20 percent that we know pretty much from the past that will not be spent.

So, basically what that allows each minister of each department to do is to be able to take that money that has been approved for that and move it around within their department to use for other areas.

Prior to that being done, I would just like to ask the Minister of Finance if the departments are required to bring forward a request or rationale as to why they want to move PY dollars that are not being spent to other areas; whether it would be in their operations and maintenance budget or not or to their capital budget?

Is there a process that gives, other than the minister or the departmental staff, the ability to be able to just move that money around? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, a follow-up to my response in the original question: when we put forth our operations and maintenance requirements, the position is based on a number of approved positions by every department.

There are always going to be vacancies in some departments at whatever given time. There will be some slippage in dollars related to salaries, but departments can't take the salary dollars and decide they are going to allocate it to different areas without the approval of Financial Management Board. Financial Management Board must approve any changes from salary dollars that are directed, perhaps, to capital or whatnot.

So, whether there would be vacancies or not in a department, there's always that aim to fill every single position in the department. We know there are vacancies at some given time.

So I can reassure the member that departments cannot just take the salary dollars and start allocating them to whatever they feel like. This whole process of approving operations and maintenance and capital and contracting is done in this House.

So, to make any revisions to that, as chair of Financial Management Board, I have to present that to cabinet for approval before there are any changes made. At the same time, when there are vacancies and we have to provide essential services, we have to look at other means to fill that gap.

One example I will share is that of the hiring of agency nurses when there are vacancies in the communities. To provide the essential service, we have to fill that job. So we go to outside the salary dollars and go into contract to try and fill that out.

So, there are some issues around that, but overall I can reassure the member that no salary dollar is allocated from salary or capital or whatnot without going through Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 147 – 2(2): Consultation of Elders for Child Protection

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services, what we heard on the media in regards to the elders is that they should have been consulted first before they decide to send children to foster homes outside of Nunavut, if they can't find foster homes locally.

I would like to ask the minister if she agrees with the elders that they should not send children outside of Nunavut until they have exhausted all resources. Does the minister agree with the elders?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm aware that this is an ongoing concern, and Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit should be included. The government's policy is quite stringent, but it has never been amended. We will have to

revisit this policy. What the member states is understandable and we definitely need to make some changes to that policy.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker. After consulting with the elders, it's clear that they want to assist the government. They are willing to help the minister and the social workers. Perhaps the social workers can better consult with the elders, listen to those elders, and consult with the uncles and aunts. Maybe they can be alternate foster parents.

The policy is good because the children need to be looked after, but I think the social workers should better consult with the people, because a lot of social workers are not Inuit; they go directly to the policy instead of consulting with the people.

I wonder if there could be changes on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleague because his comments are very clear and this is not new. I have also been told this by parents and grandparents, or uncles or aunts. Using my authority, I will seriously look into this and meet with the management at Social Services so this can be spread to the employees.

Since the creation of Nunavut in 1999 there are a lot of policies and guidelines that we have had to review, and this is no exception. So, we definitely have to revisit that policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. That is what people want to hear and they will applaud her for her comments.

I would further like to ask the minister: there are a quite a number of Inuit who are elders, grandparents and uncles, where if the child's parents pass away then they are being looked after by their relatives, but the relatives cannot be paid as foster parents. They were told that even though they take their grandchildren who are under 10 years old they cannot be paid as foster parents; they say their old age pension is adequate. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can look into this. There haven't been any changes to foster payments. I can inform my colleague that I will look into this; so, the grandparents and uncles will be advised.

I know that this is a concern and I would like to apologize that I didn't start on this earlier. Social Services have a lot to do and they have a heavy workload, but I will be meeting with them; thanks for reminding me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 148 – 2(2): Status of West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan

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

The Nunavut Planning Commission held a public hearing in Cambridge Bay on January 18 to review the draft of the West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan. The minister sent a letter to the Nunavut Planning Commission dated January 14, 2005.

In that letter, the minister mentioned an important issue: Article 11-4-1(a) of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement had not been addressed to the government's satisfaction. The planning commission has been working on the land use plan for many years and would like to finalize it this year.

So, my question for the minister: from the minister's perspective, what is the current status of the West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, before I respond, to my constituents of Cape Dorset and Kimmirut, I am thinking of you.

I have written a letter to the chairperson in order to start discussions and have invited them if they wish, to meet with me. If they can, next month they will try to come over and meet with me. Up to this time, we have looked for other alternatives through correspondence. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We talked already this week about red tape and bureaucracy. So, I am going to lead into this.

I have talked to the Nunavut Planning Commission officials over the last couple of weeks, and they have told me that they have been trying for two years to involve the Government of Nunavut in its discussions related to the implementation of Article 11-4-1(a).

One of the stumbling blocks has been a high turnover. There has been four staff in the government who have dealt with the file and, consequently, they don't have a designated person to oversee the land use file. As recently as January 18 at the public hearing,

Government of Nunavut representatives couldn't identify the current contact within the Government of Nunavut.

So, my question for the minister is: who is the current Article 11-4-1(a) contact person for the government who will work under the Nunavut Planning Commission on the Kitikmeot Land Use Plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I am not sure at this time, who that person is. But I will check into the Nunavut government staff working for the Nunavut Planning Commission in Cambridge Bay. There was a presentation on January 18 and 19 in regard to the West Kitikmeot Resource and Land Use plan and our present government has a concern in regard to 11-4-1(a) under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

We will be working on this, and I will have to tell you who the contact person is. I can advise Mr. Peterson on who the contact person is. As Minister of Environment, I have invited them to work closely with us. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also met with the mining officials at the Kitikmeot trade show last week and with four or five of the major companies there. They expressed some concerns over the mixed messages that the government is sending to the industry in their dealings with the Nunavut Planning Commission.

They voiced their concerns that the land use planning process appears to be rampant with red tape bureaucracy, and this is mining companies telling me this. I think they thought that I was with the government or something. To correct them, I told them that I am with the Assembly.

My question for the minister: will the minister commit his department officials to work cooperatively with the planning commissioner to complete the West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan in 2005? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The purpose of inviting the Nunavut Planning Commission over to Iqaluit to meet with me is to make sure that I have a close working relationship in the future with them.

Also the Government of Nunavut is prepared to make sure that we recognize and make sure that we work together in the West Kitikmeot Resource and Land Use Plan. So, the purpose of me inviting the Nunavut Planning Commission is to have a better working relationship in the future. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response that he is inviting the Nunavut Planning Commission over to meet with them. I would like to hear a commitment from the minister that he is going to establish clear protocols that his department can work with the Nunavut Planning Commission so that they can finalize the West Kitikmeot Land Use Plan in 2005; a clear commitment for him today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I commit to working closely with the Nunavut Planning Commission. I will make sure that my colleagues also know about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Oral questions. There are still three people on my list: Mr. Netser, Mr. Barnabas, and Mr. Tootoo. The Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Question 149 – 2(2): Language of Instruction in the Schools

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. I was very pleased that the Minister for Education had a chance to meet with my constituency and to discuss, among other important issues, the language-of-instruction option that has been brought forward by his department.

In my community of Coral Harbour four options were discussed; actually three, but we made it four. Four options were discussed and it has been decided to hold a form of plebiscite on this issue in mid-March. I strongly support this decision to allow the community of Coral Harbour to democratically express its views on how children should be educated. Thank you for the opportunity to hold this plebiscite.

Can the minister tell this House how this plebiscite will be organized and how the outcome will be used by the department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We tabled the bilingual education strategy, which is inclusive of the language-of-instruction, in November 2004. And the member is correct; when I was in the member's constituency's communities of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, there were concerns raised that the three languages of instruction that we had proposed may not actually fit with the community needs, in particular in Coral Harbour. Therefore and thus we looked at the opportunity to bring forward a hybrid model which would combine one of the options of the language-of-instruction.

In our discussions with the local DEA, our proposition to the DEA was that an opportunity would exist where we would have an opportunity to pull in community members in the community to see what exactly what model they were looking at or leaning toward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I also would like to thank the minister. In Chesterfield Inlet the DEA was asking in regard to the bilingual curriculum. Will the community of Chesterfield Inlet be given an opportunity to vote on the plebiscite too? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if plebiscite is the proper word because that has a different connotation. What we were proposing is to have the two communities look at what option to bring forward.

Any community in Nunavut and every community in Nunavut has an opportunity through the local education authority, to examine the models that have been brought forward by the language-of-instruction and then choose the option that they would like to bring forward.

I think the beauty of the language-of-instruction model is that it gives the communities an opportunity to program the resources as well as the subjects to be covered in their own school at the local level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your second supplementary, Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the education authority has three options to choose from. The three options were given to the local education authority by the department, and the local DEA wanted to come up with a fourth option, which was not in the options given to them.

The Chesterfield Inlet District Education Authority would like to get the same options. They were given three options to choose from, and they also want to be part of Nunavut. Coral Harbor and Chesterfield Inlet want to be part of Nunavut and they would like to see the fourth option amongst the options that were given to the community of Chesterfield Inlet. Can the community of Chesterfield Inlet and the other community be included with the fourth option? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco

Hon. Ed Picco. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the role of the Minister of Education is the opportunity to be able to go out into communities and hear what communities have to

say. I have been trying to meet with as many DEAs as possible, and indeed I have met with almost every chair of the DEAs throughout Nunavut in the past ten months.

Part of the program being brought forward by the Chesterfield Inlet DEA and Coral Harbor's DEA, I thought, were good suggestions. They were talking about a hybrid model of the language-of-instruction, of the three options that were presented.

I believe that there is some opportunity there, so what I will do, with the member's concurrence, in the House today is ask our (inaudible) regional director to finally be able to facilitate with the Chesterfield Inlet DEA as well as the Coral Harbor DEA and make sure that this has moved forward as per our discussion in both communities. Because Bobby was also there, as well as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, to make sure that the requests of the communities are followed through.

It may be an option for other communities to look at too, as the process for language of instruction evolved and become more known throughout Nunavut, Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 150 – 2(2): Planning Stages for Multi-use Facility

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services. When the minister visited the community, residents of the older part of the community walked to the meeting, and the community hall was short of capacity right away, there were even other members of the community who wanted to attend the meeting.

Mr. Speaker, Arctic Bay residents have been very vocal in their need for the multi-use facility. There are currently five different communities with community halls or arenas in the five-year capital plan. When is Arctic Bay scheduled to begin the planning stages for a multi-use facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the upcoming six months, yes, we will be dealing with the community halls or multi-use facilities. I could point out to you that in the next six months we will be able to review that with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What other new infrastructure is currently being considered for Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot elaborate, in detail, what is being considered for new infrastructure. As I have announced before to Nunavumiut, we will be working with Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and this spring we will be reviewing the entire infrastructure that is needed in all the communities of Nunavut so that we can work along the lines of community needs. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabus.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What steps are being taken to secure funding from your department for infrastructure projects in Arctic Bay? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform my colleagues that at this time we are expecting some funding from the federal government to assist us. It is the first time that we have had an opportunity to work on community halls, arenas, and swimming pools.

Currently, we want to consult with all the communities to find out what their requirements are and what their priorities are. After consulting with the communities we will be making a five-year plan and a ten-year plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 151 – 2(2): How Funds from the Federal Government will be Incorporated

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my question is for the Minister of Finance and it deals with her budget address. In the revenue section she talked about TFF, the territorial formula financing transfer agreement that we have with the federal government. Also in there, she talks about the new formula arrangement that was made. Also in there, she indicated that there is \$40 million over the next four years that will be coming and not incorporated into our fiscal framework that she announced.

I would like to ask the minister if she can clarify how and when these funds will be incorporated into our framework? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal budget that was announced on Wednesday confirms the funding that will be channeled down to the territories under the new Northern Strategy. That commitment was made in the fall. The federal budget yesterday confirms that commitment to the territories; once the legislation has been

passed by the federal government then the money will be channeled down to each jurisdiction. At the same time, the territories will be working and consulting with Nunavutmiut on how to better allocate that funding which I outlined in my budget address.

The actual dollars have not been forecasted into this amount because at this point in time we need to wait for the legislation to pass at the federal level to allocate the funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess what I am looking for, and I am sure that all members are... . We could have lots of uses and ways to spend that money.

The minister has indicated that the money has to flow from federal government to our government. Is that correct that it will be built into, once it does flow and when the legislation does pass, it will flow into a general revenue pot of our territorial government where all members of this Assembly have a say on how it is done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any new funding that is approved or allocated by the federal government goes from one level of government to the next level of government. Some of that funding is channeled through us through formula and some of it is channeled through contribution agreements and whatnot.

What I am saying here is that the \$40 million has not been added into my budget address as an amount that is already included in our general revenues. Once the legislation is passed, it will come down to us. The federal government has made the commitment I identified in their budget speech on Wednesday, so we are expecting that.

Having said that, I also said in my budget address that we will be consulting Nunavutmiut on how that funding will be allocated, and members of this House are Nunavutmiut, so we will consult with the members as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is very good. I would like to thank the minister for her response. That is good to hear.

Mr. Speaker, on dealing with the formula financing agreement that we have in place, the minister also stated that there is an expert panel that has been announced by the federal government. I know that one thing we heard here, even just on Monday of last week, is the criticism of people saying that people from somewhere else are telling us what to do and what we need and how to do things.

As the Minister of Finance, the Department of Finance has played a lead role in negotiations in dealing with the formula. Do they have any members that are on this panel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The finance ministers of Canada met recently in Ottawa to talk about recommending names to the federal finance minister as to who will sit on this panel. The three territories have collectively put some names forward, but that has not yet been finalized. We are putting those names forward to the federal finance minister.

We will have a say in terms of what we discussed. The expert panel is expected to review the concerns and challenges faced by any jurisdiction when it comes to getting funding from the federal government. We are looking at trying to come with ways to have funding that is adequate, first of all, plus, at the same time, predictable from year to year and so on.

Whatever improvement that is necessary to the formula or the bill or equalization, that committee will be looking at gathering all that information and presenting a report to the federal government, as well as each jurisdiction's finance minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear the minister indicate that the three northern territories jointly put forward some names on that. That would mean that the three territorial finance ministers understand that our needs and circumstances are unique.

I would like to ask the minister if she could indicate whether territorial finance ministers, and maybe along with the three territorial premiers, can find a way to insist and ensure that there is Northern representation on this expert panel, because we always say that the circumstances and challenges that we face in Nunavut and the other two northern territories are unique from the rest of Canada, and it is something that usually these experts from somewhere else have no clue about.

So, we need to make sure that we have someone who knows what we are going through there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The three territories recognized that our needs are very unique to the rest of Canada. We work under our territorial formula

financing arrangement, which is a need-based system. It is very different from the equalization program.

So, the individuals that we recommend for the panel must have that understanding in terms of how the funding is allocated. Not only that, but they also have to have a good understanding that we don't have province-like powers in benefiting from the resource development in the North.

So, as for individuals that we are putting forward, definitely it is in our interest to put forward names that have that background and understanding of how the formula works and the challenges we face.

Yes, the Northern premiers and the Northern finance ministers have been aware of that from the get-go and have presented those to the Prime Minister as well as to Minister Ralph Goodale. So, to respond, yes, we are putting forward names of individuals who have that knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 152 – 2(2): Liquor Warehouse for the Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for the Liquor Board, the Liquor Act.

In her news release last month, the Minister of Finance announced the opening of the Nunavut Liquor Management operations in Rankin Inlet that has the responsibility of purchasing, storing, and distributing liquor in Nunavut. The announcement also said that liquor can be purchased in Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit without the use of import permits.

As the minister knows, the Kitikmeot does not have a liquor warehouse, and the freight and administrative costs act as a deterrent to ordering liquor from Rankin Inlet or Iqaluit.

My question for the minister: what specific plans does the government have to open a liquor warehouse in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Liquor Licensing Board, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue, again, was raised during our meetings with the hamlet of Cambridge Bay just last week. I recognized that the citizens and residents of Kitikmeot are still required to request a permit to purchase their liquor from Yellowknife, it being the closest point, with the option to purchase outside or within Nunavut; having said that, to date we have not considered opening a liquor warehouse in the Kitikmeot.

We have opened the one in Rankin Inlet and I announced that, but for our part, we have not considered it or looked into it or the cost associated with it at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's considerable red tape, hoops, and hurdles, and administrative hassles that our Kitikmeot residents must go through to obtain an import permit. In many cases, bootleggers profit because of people's aversion to complicated paperwork. This undermines the government's plans to develop their corporate knowledge base, which the minister announced in her news release.

My question for the minister: what specific plans does the government have to streamline an import permit process for Kitikmeot residents, to put them on the same level footing as the residents in the Kivalliq and Baffin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that many of the residents in the Kitikmeot have to purchase their permits from outside the communities.

One of the things that we are looking at in the next little while is that there have been some contracts awarded to a number of agencies in the region to issue permits. One example is citizens of Cambridge Bay or Taloyoak go to Kugluktuk to request their permits.

That process is being reviewed with our administration now being handled in Nunavut. We are looking at trying to use agencies in the community that can issue permits on our behalf, by communities where there is no restriction. Within the next few months, we will be looking into that and how we can address that.

One of the things that we have also done in the past around issuing permits, is we have contacted agencies or hamlets. One example is the hamlet of Cambridge Bay, whether they would be interested in issuing permits on our behalf. At that time, Cambridge Bay refused to take on that responsibility.

This time around when we are looking at improving that service, we looked also to outside, perhaps small business, to issue those permits in place of hamlets or any other agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the news release, the minister mentioned that there would be increased annual revenues to Nunavut from the repatriation of the liquor operations to Nunavut from the Northwest Territories.

I am wondering if the minister could tell me what the net revenues would be to Nunavut from the repatriation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two areas. First of all, the management of the Liquor Warehouse was managed through the Northwest Territories until we transferred that responsibility to Rankin Inlet a few weeks ago.

Revenues that is associated to O&M and salary dollars was spent in the Northwest Territories. With the transfer and opening of the Rankin warehouse with that money will be spent in Nunavut and people will be in positions and the leasing will be with organizations.

In terms of the kind of revenues that are associated with sales, we've only started the operation in Rankin Inlet last few months, so at the end of this fiscal year we have to have better ideas on how much sales actually took place in Nunavut.

I don't know what the exact numbers until one fiscal year has passed and we are able to review the sales this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's response. In the same news release last month the Minister announced the Rankin Inlet operations. The Minister of Health was directly quoted as saying, "In the past Nunavut has experienced negative social repercussions of alcohol without receiving the revenues to educate and make alcohol awareness a priority. In future years that are generated by this transfer will address these issues."

Mr. Speaker, this statement clearly implies the extra money generated from liquor sales will go directly to treatment programs. However the Minister of Finance later back tracks these comments during an interview that I heard.

My question to the Minister is why did the Minister of Health suggest that the revenues go to treatment if the government had no intention in doing this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the sales of liquor are in a revolving fund. We purchase the items and we sell the items. That affects zero. Where there are dollars is in the issues in the permits.

The idea of taking funds from sales and putting it towards initiatives to me, the approach that I would like to take in the whole thing is that we have a better idea by having the

responsibility of liquor in Nunavut, on how much is spent on the liquor compared to the branch and services that maybe offered by other agencies of government around education, around preventive issues. There is a whole number of issues.

As a government any sales or any tax collected if you have tobacco income tax. We don't have that tobacco tax and put it towards tobacco education initiatives. It goes basically to general revenue and as a government we set those priorities.

By having the responsibility within Nunavut we'll have a better idea on how much money is spent on liquor as compared to what we do for health around alcohol treatment programs, around policing, around committees that is established in each committee to manage liquor, the liquor board. So the overall is it will be under Nunavut.

It is important to keep in mind that we don't collect revenues and gear it towards where we collect from. It goes to a general revenue and then we allocate that funding accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Item 7. Question Period is now over. Before we go to Item 8, we will take a lunch break for 40 minutes.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*Committee recessed at 12:24 and resumed at 13:11*

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Petitions. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 12: Petitions

Petition 004 – 2(2): Co-op Refunds and Income Support

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like to table a petition from the constituency community of Pond Inlet. It's in regards to co-op refunds and income support.

(interpretation ends): Mr. Speaker, 161 residents of Pond Inlet are petitioning the Government of Nunavut to amend the Social Assistance regulations so that Social Assistance benefits are not reduced by the amount refunded to the co-operative members also on Income Support clients.

This issue is very important for people living in the remote communities of the High Arctic including my communities of Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, and Grise Fiord where the cost of living is extremely high.

I was pleased to note from the budget speech that was issued, has been considered by the Government. I know that the response to this petition will be favorable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Hopefully that will go ahead. Petitions. Item. 13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Netser.

Item 13: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 003 – 2(2): Appointment of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As co-Chair of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*, I am pleased to report to the House on the appointment of the Languages Commissioner for Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has undertaken another selection process for this important position.

All five members of the Committee had conducted interviews and selection process for the Languages Commissioner. Mr. Speaker, we conducted in-person interviews with five of the strongest candidates, including reviewing some written submissions from each candidate detailing the candidate's vision for languages in the Territory and role of the office.

After careful consideration and assessment of the applicants, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*, unanimously recommended the appointment of Mr. Johnny Pujjuut Kusugak of Rankin Inlet.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, the Languages Commissioner must be a strong, committed voice for the promotion and preservation of Nunavut's official languages and dialects. At the same time, he or she must have the diplomacy to mediate solution, have sensitivity to the aspiration of different language groups and possess the integrity and administrative competence to deal with matters in a fair and timely manner.

Above all, he or she must be a leader in the Inuit tradition able to hold the respect and confidence of all Inuit elders and youth, as well as French and English-speaking residents of Nunavut.

We believe, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Kusugak does possess these qualities and is the most suitable candidate for the position.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kusugak was born on August 13, 1959 in Repulse Bay, Northwest Territories. He began a career in education in 1989 as the Head Supervisor at the Kivalliq

Hall in Rankin Inlet. He later attended the Eastern Arctic Teacher Education Program graduating with a teacher's certificate from Nunavut Arctic College and McGill University in 1993.

In 1996, Mr. Kusugak was given his first opportunity to work as a senior manager. He took on the position of Special Advisor at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

In 1998, he returned to the field of education as President of Nunavut Arctic College. Mr. Kusugak then served as the Executive Director of the Kivalliq Inuit Association in Rankin Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Standing Committee be received and adopted by the House. Later today I will move the appropriate motion to recommend his appointment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Do members agree that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 14. Report of Committee on the Review of Bills. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, March 1, 2005 that I will move...I am sorry.

Speaker (interpretation): I think you are moving ahead of us. You will have to wait until we go down to Item 16. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 15. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Peterson.

Item 15: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 065 – 2(2): Letter to the Information and Privacy Commissioner and her Response

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In November, I posed several written questions in this House. I was concerned by the level of transparency in some responses. I wrote a letter to our Information and Privacy Commissioner to clarify the detailed information that can be expected with respect to Government of Nunavut contracts. I would like to table my written letter to the commissioner and her response. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 066 – 2(2): List of Capital Needs for the Hamlet of Grise Fiord

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of this House have constantly supported hamlet consultations for the purpose of buildings for Five Year Capital Plans for our government.

The list of capital plans' needs that I am tabling was generated by Hamlet of Grise Fiord. I urge my colleagues and the Cabinet to consider this list carefully when determining capital priorities in the communities.

Tabled Document 067 – 2(2): Future of the Nanisivik Mine Site

Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a visit that I received from the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation this summer regarding the future of the Nanisivik mine site. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Please hand them over to our Mr. Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 068 – 2(2): Return to Oral Question 005 – 2(2) DNA Testing

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am tabling a Return to Oral Questions 5-2(2) that was filed at the Clerk's Office. Thank you.

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

Tabled Document 069 – 2(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Third Annual Report for the Year Ended March 31, 2004

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document; the Qulliq Energy Corporation's third annual report for the year ending March 31, 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Please pass the documents to our Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kilabuk.

Tabled Document 070 – 2(2): Government of Nunavut Petroleum Products Specifications

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document; Government of Nunavut Petroleum Products Specifications. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 071 – 2(2): Letter to Tagak Curley in Regards to Bad Gasoline in Rankin Inlet

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document which I received on February 14, 2005 from Simon Kowmuk in regards to the bad gas. His outboard motor broke down and he will not be able to operate it this year. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Please forward them to the Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Item 16. Notices of Motions. Mr. Netser.

Item 16: Notices of Motions**Motion 009 – 2(2): Appointment of the Languages Commissioner – Notice**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It stated Item 14 after this ... (interpretation ends) ... I give notice that on Tuesday, March 1, 2005 I will move the following motions: I moved, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kugluktuk, that Mr. Johnny Pujjuut Kusugak be appointed as the Languages Commissioner for Nunavut for a term of four years.

At the appropriate time, I will seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Notices of Motions. Item 17. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Motions. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am getting tired of getting up and down. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent from the Assembly to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Members: Agreed

Speaker (interpretation): Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Netser.

Item 18: Motions**Motion 009 – 2(2): Appointment of Languages Commissioner of Nunavut**

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Whereas section 18 (1) of the Official Languages Act provides for an appointment of a Languages Commissioner by the Commissioner of Nunavut on the recommendation by the Legislative Assembly by way of resolution;

And whereas the Office of the Languages Commissioner is vacant; and whereas the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that the appointment of the Languages Commissioner should now be made;

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member of Kugluktuk, that Johnny Pujjuut Kusugak be appointed by the Commissioner of Nunavut as the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut for a term of four years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any comments? Question has been called. I am going ahead of myself. The motion is in order. Question has been called. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion and I would like to thank the Standing Committee for appointing Johnny Pujjuut Kusugak. He is present here with his wife and they are from Rankin Inlet and I am in full support of this appointment.

And I asked him if he would consider applying, and first of all, I like to say thank you to him and his wife that they used to baby sit our son, and they are very good babysitters. They were taught in Inuktitut and people were very happy to have Johnny Kusugak because he is capable of teaching Inuktitut. I am very proud of them. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Comments. Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion has been carried.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome, Mr. Kusugak. Mr. Pujjuut Kusugak welcome. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 007 – 2(2): Tabled Document 053 – 2(2) Referred to Committee of the Whole

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Tabled Document 053 – 2(2) be referred to Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments to the motion? Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the motion, I would like to elaborate why that motion should not go ahead. When we are going to discuss that matter I would like to elaborate why I am requesting my position for this.

The reason why I am opposing this motion is that in the news release they deal with one individual person for a previous employee who was employed by Government of

Nunavut. When we are going to deal with this issue about an individual, I believe that we won't be able to respond because we are dealing with one fired person.

Also, I would like to state that we are still deliberating on it at the Government of Nunavut and the individual who was working for the Government of Nunavut are still working together. We still haven't come to conclusion yet, but we are still working on the conclusion.

I believe that there is going to be some kind of negative impact on the negotiations and the discussions from the Government of Nunavut and that individual. If there was a question to be posed in regards to Human Resources of Government. If there happens to be any questions we can respond to those questions.

We will also be discussing this further, this motion to move 52-2(2) tabled document, we will have the same report in the House and our Human Resources report and how we deal with disciplinary actions and we start to deal with during the Committee of the Whole, when we are being asked questions.

Yes, the Nunavut government's public servants have *Public Service Act* to abide by. Also we have to abide by that, Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement because they supercede the Act. We have to abide by the Nunavut Land Claims Agreements and we also have a human rights policy and we have to abide by that Act.

Also if there were any concerns or if they wanted to get information they can go through *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. If there is going to be any questions in regards to an individual there is that *Human Rights Act* and also the Union and the Government have an agreement, the Public Service Agreement, and we have to abide by that agreement.

For that reason the Department of Human Resources try to give support to various departments of the Government. Also as the Human Resources department, we don't work alone, we work with all the other departments and we make decisions along with assistance and the support of the department when we are doing hiring.

Also the Public Service of the Nunavut Government or the casual (if there are casual employees) if they work by the hour or if they work for an hour or if there were any problems occurring and if they happen to be discharged from their job they can also appeal that to through the *Public Service Act*.

Also through Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, it states that there should be a number of Inuit Beneficiaries working in the Government services. Because this was an agreement for that reason, I will be opposing the motion that's on the floor right now. I urge all Members not to support that because there will be another report on it that will be coming in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Comments to the motion. The mover will have final comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems very funny that some people automatically assume that something is about something that it isn't. I want to assure all Members of this House that I know perfectly well the guidelines and privacy issues in regards to certain individual cases.

This motion moving the document to the Committee of the Whole, I ask the minister a general policy question and he could not answer it. When I get a written response, my questioning on this will be in regard to policy in general and not about any specific case whatsoever. I know that that's something that the government is dealing with right now, possibly before the courts or whatever; I know that that's something that can't be asked about.

But I urge all Members to support this motion because I have some important questions that I would like to get clarified on general government policy, hiring policy and practices that I think everyone in Nunavut has a right to know and we need to make sure that it's clear in the eyes of ourselves and Nunavutmiut.

I again urge all Members to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. The mover of the motion has had his last reply. Would you like to vote on the motion now? The question is being called. All those in favour, please raise your hands. Thank you. All those opposed to the motion, please raise your hands. Thank you.

I don't believe I should make a comment as to whether I should be supporting or not supporting, but I will elaborate on it, and I believe that this is being dealt with through the courts. So therefore, I will be in support of the members who oppose this motion. So I am in support of opposing this. There was a tie, and there was a tie between the Members. All those members who abstained?

Item 18. Motions. Item 19. First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 19: First Reading of Bills

Bill 8 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act 2005-2006 – First Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 8. Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act 2005-06 be read for the first time, and attached to this Bill are the Main Estimates and Business Plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hands. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had its first reading.

Item 19. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I have the opportunity while the teachers are in here I would like to go to Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 6, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is unanimous consent to go back to Item 6, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also my colleagues for allowing me to go back to Item 6. I am very proud to recognize even though they come from a very small community of Grise Fiord. First, I would like to acknowledge (interpretation ends) Mr. Brian Manning, Principal of Qammaqtalik school, (interpretation): and also Tracy McNiven, principal in training.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I recognized my wife the other day, I'd like to recognize her again and also my granddaughter who is adopted. She wanted to come here and see what goes on in the House. I would like to recognize Darla Rose Evyagotailak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't vote to recognize people in the Gallery. I raised my hand for a Point of Order.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. There was unanimous consent to go back to Item 6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There was a Point of Order. Mr. Tootoo.

Point of Order

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Point of Order is I believe the Minister responsible for Human Resources did a couple of things against the rules. He assumed I was going to ask questions on a certain individual case and another question. That is not

the case. As I indicated and I believe he misled the House by telling everyone in here that including yourself, Mr. Speaker, saying that this is an issue for the courts. He doesn't know what my questions are in government policies. The government policies are not before the courts. That is what my questioning was on that particular document.

So I believe the Minister from his guidance from his fellow Cabinet colleagues has misled the House with that information; that statement he made to the Motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, (interpretation ends) we have moved onto other business at this time so the Point of Order is out of order. So I would like to get a ruling on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): We have House Rules. I don't see a Point of Order. I apologize, I am sorry. Mr. Curley.

Point of Order

Mr. Curley: I also have a Point of Order. I believe that the member and the minister imputed some allegations that might come out of the tabled document.

We are dealing with something that is a secret, we are dealing with a document that is being tabled, Mr. Speaker, and I believe you have the responsibility to ensure that what is reputed by the minister is not something that we are planning to deal with; the allegation is something about court cases and what not that's not put in. So I believe that your ruling is challenging and it should be referred to the legal advisor. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): I will look into this further before I go back to Mr. Curley's point of order.

Going back to the Orders of the Day. We were on Item 18. Item 19. First Reading of Bills. Item 20. Second Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 20: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 8 – Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act, 2005-06 – Second Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, that Bill 8. Appropriations, Operations and Maintenance Act 2005-06 be read for the second time.

This Bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make operations and maintenance expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Motion is in order. To the principle of the Bill. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Bill 8 has had second reading and accordingly the Bill stands referred to Committee of the Whole.

Speaker (interpretation): The Bill has been read for the second time. Bill 8 has had second reading. Second Reading of Bills. Item 21. Consideration of Committee of the Whole and Other Matters. Tabled Document 52-2 (2). Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 010 – 2(2): Adjournment for the Day

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 46, seconded by the Member of Cambridge Bay, I move that the House adjourn early for the day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor and the item is non-debatable. There is a motion on the floor to adjourn the meeting. Comments. Question has been called. All those in favour? Opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 24. Mr. Clerk.

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the Day for Monday, February 28th.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers Statements
3. Members Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion

16. Notice of Motion for First Reading of Bills

17. Motions

18. First Reading of Bills

19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 52-2(2)
- Bill 8

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We will reconvene on Monday, February 28, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 13:53*

