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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday February 28, 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, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, 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 afternoon. I would like to ask Mr. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Good afternoon Mr. Premier, members. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 050 – 2(2): New Electricity Rates for Nunavut**

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I am pleased to inform the members that I will shortly be tabling the final report of the Utility Rates Review Council, along with the initial report, my correspondence with the council and my resulting instructions to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, under the *Utility Rates Review Council Act*.

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Utility Rates Review Council members for their hard work and dedication during the public hearing process, the generation of rate recommendations and for the advice that they provided. I would also like to thank the many Nunavutmiut for their presentations and advocacy, in particular members of the business community who took part in this process.

The members of the Utility Rates Review Council have provided a comprehensive discussion and analysis of the General Rate Application in front of them. The items that I am about to highlight form a small part of the total report provided.

The Utility Rates Review Council says that Qulliq Energy Corporation needs \$69.6 million to operate effectively in 2004-05. However, the Utility Rates Review Council recognizes that changing rates to accommodate that level of increased revenue could cause a jolt to the Nunavut economy. The Utility Rates Review Council takes the position

that by recommending a 15 percent revenue increase to \$64.5 million for Qulliq Energy Corporation in 2005-06, this change can be integrated into our economic system.

The increase falls short of what the Utility Rates Review Council recommends. Qulliq Energy Corporation requires it to be financially independent in the short term, but it is the recommendation that I am prepared to accept, as I accept the supporting logic of the Utility Rates Review Council.

In order to achieve the 15 percent increase in revenue, all Nunavut residential and commercial rates will increase. The fixed cost or service charges for residential customers and the base charge for commercial customers will remain unchanged. These modest increases will be the first rate changes in eight years for Nunavutmiut.

As the cost to residential customer is dictated by both rates and subsidies, Minister Aglukkaq will explain to you the combined impacts of these changes on residential customers.

Mr. Speaker, commercial customers will experience an increase of up to 16.5 percent on their monthly power bills.

Electricity costs for residential customers in social housing units will remain at 6 cents per kWh for the next year.

The new rates are effective April 1, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone is aware, the price of crude oil has increased and remained high for some time. Qulliq Energy uses diesel fuel to generate power. Its rates did not reflect the new costs on the world oil market. The Utility Rates Review Council has taken this into consideration and has recommended a fuel rate rider which could be used in the event of future changes to fuel costs.

The Qulliq Energy Corporation will need to invest in new power plants, equipment and renovations. It is one thing to spread the cost of these projects over a larger population base, such as we have in Iqaluit. It is quite another to do so in a smaller community.

Consequently, the Utility Rates Review Council has asked the Qulliq Energy Corporation to develop and return with an equalization rider proposal to address the longer-term capital cost disparities between Nunavut communities. I have asked the Qulliq Energy Corporation Board to do this and return their proposal to me within 90 days.

The Utility Rates Review Council provides an extensive series of possible reports and analysis which could lead to further rate reviews. I appreciate the desire to have this additional information, but I also know the costs of such extensive reviews. I have asked the Qulliq Energy Corporation board to solicit an independent costing of these reports.

While I can see significant changes and improvements in these last months at the Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Utility Rates Review Council is critical of the corporation and the information it provided during the process. I acknowledge these weaknesses in the materials, but I can see the strength and capacity of Qulliq Energy Corporation growing through this process.

Mr. Speaker, this process has moved Qulliq Energy Corporation to strengthen its financial structures and enhance the corporation's ability to maintain a reliable power generation system at the lowest possible price. The Government of Nunavut's response demonstrates our commitment to manage Nunavut's energy needs today and into the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 051 - 2(2): Field Officer Trainee Program

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce a new training initiative in my department that will directly support increased Inuit employment. We have just established three full-time wildlife officer trainee positions, one in each region.

(interpretation ends) It is often a challenge finding qualified candidates for positions. So, in addition to supporting secondary and post-secondary education, we are establishing these on-the-job training positions to further encourage young Inuit to enter the wildlife management field.

Through a combination of on-the-job training, formal courses and working with other experienced staff, these trainees will acquire the land and technical skills to fulfill the jobs of a wildlife officer.

At the completion of a three year program, they will be fully qualified for the full time permanent positions. These positions are being staffed immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 052 – 2(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Enhances Accountability

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about some of the Qulliq Energy Corporation's enhancements to accountability. I am pleased to inform the

members that Qulliq Energy Corporation is taking several proactive steps to strengthen management structures and public accountability.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce in the House the appointment of chartered accountant Mr. Philip Clark to the board of directors. Mr. Clark was a managing partner of McKay Landau Chartered Accountants here in Iqaluit for the past twelve years, and he has worked with businesses and municipalities across Nunavut.

The board has a number of Nunavutmiut with strong experience in business and management. I have no doubt that Mr. Clark's appointment will compliment the board's experience with his accounting background.

In addition, Mr. Clark will chair the board's audit committee, further define financial controls and procedures, and advise with the planning and performing of audits.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate Qulliq Energy Corporation board of directors on the appointment of Cecilia White as manager of internal audits at Qulliq Energy Corporation. Ms. White brings the experience as manager of an Iqaluit Chartered Bank and has been hired to work with the audit committee on quality enhancement within the corporation.

Qulliq Energy Corporation is making it easier for consumers to review their power bills. A re-designed, bilingual monthly bill will be introduced in April 2005. In addition to English and Inuktitut text on the front, there will be French and Innuinaqtun guides on the reverse.

The end result, Mr. Speaker, will be a standard bill that is consumer friendly, easier to read and does not include technical jargon.

As a government, we will remain committed to building an energy corporation that can manage our energy needs in a transparent and financially sustainable manner. The government's standing committee made some observations regarding the timing of the transfer of the government's petroleum products division to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, with a transfer date of April 2005. Mr. Speaker, we've taken into account the standing committee's recommendation, the need to ensure that Qulliq Energy Corporation is financially viable and the resources being allocated to the current GRA process.

I have concluded that any structural changes involving employees and assets must have the corporation's complete attention and must be based on a solid record of effective management. As a result of these recommendations and the review, the transfer of PPD has been deferred until April 2006.

Finally, with much anticipation, today, February 28th, the Utility Rates Review Council's final report on the corporation's GRA will be released and tabled in the legislature, along with the announcement of the new electricity rates which we just proceeded to do.

Mr. Speaker, we are confident that these changes demonstrate the government's commitment to strengthening the financial structure, as well as the corporation's ability to maintain a reliable power generation system that manages Nunavut's energy needs today and in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 053 – 2(2): 2004 Nunavut Literacy Prize

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, it is my pleasure to announce the release of *Taimanit*, a book featuring the two winning entries from the 2004 Nunavut Literacy Prize.

The Nunavut Literacy Prize is an initiative to encourage the writing and publishing of new literature for adults in Inuktitut. In 2004, Morty Alooooloo of Arctic Bay won the first place for her essay on changes to our way of life. Paul Issakiark of Arviat won second prize for a story about a hunting trip out on the land. Both authors submitted beautiful and moving pieces of writing.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has worked with the Nunavut Literacy Council to produce an illustrated book with the two winning pieces.

Mr. Speaker, as for the 2005 Nunavut Literacy Prize, a panel of judges selected the top three best stories, but no winners have yet been announced. These stories will be published in the newspapers in March, without the authors' names, and Nunavutmiut will be invited to participate in choosing the two winning entries for this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Minister's Statement 054 – 2(2): Electricity Subsidy Changes

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to join my colleague, the Minister of Energy to provide members with information about electricity subsidy changes.

In my budget address last Friday, I made a commitment to provide members with details about the effects of the report of the Utility Rates Review Council will have on the government, including subsidies to the consumer under the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program, and that is what I am now doing.

The Department of Finance oversees an electricity subsidy program which subsidizes electrical energy consumption costs for residential customers who pay their own electricity bills. The subsidy program also covers small commercial customers. It does not apply to residential customers in social housing who pay six cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity.

The Government of Nunavut has made changes to the subsidy program that will come into effect April 1, 2005, the same time as the new electricity rate structures come into effect.

The name of the program has been changed to the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program or NESP. The basic monthly charge of \$18 per household will be fully subsidized through the NESP. The subsidized rate will be 18.4 cents per kilowatt-hour, 3.18 cents per kilowatt-hour increase from the current subsidized rate.

The new subsidized rate equals 50 percent of the new Iqaluit electricity rate for residential customers. The current subsidized rate of 15.22 cents per kilowatt-hour was based upon the Yellowknife electricity rates from residential customers at the time of division. The Yellowknife rate was changed to 18.19 cents per kilowatt-hour in 2003.

The amount of electrical energy subsidized each month for basic household needs during the April to September billing cycles will be 700 kilowatt-hours. The amount of electrical energy subsidized each month from October to March billing cycles will be increased from 700 kilowatt-hours to 1000 kilowatt-hours to address the higher electricity consumption in the winter months.

>> *Applause*

Based on December 2004 consumption data, this change would benefit almost 40 percent of the total residential customers in the territory who qualify under the subsidy program. This will be particularly beneficial to customers in the communities with the highest electrical rates.

Cost for electricity consumption of each kilowatt-hour between 700 and 1000 kilowatt-hours during the winter months will decrease from 13.18 cents in Iqaluit to 55.09 cents each kilowatt-hour in Kimmirut. The actual savings will vary, depending on the community electricity rate.

Commercial businesses with annual revenues of \$2,000,000 or less can also receive a subsidy under the program. Qualified businesses can receive a rebate from the program, based on subsidizing in the first 1000 kilowatt of electrical consumption per month.

The budget for the Nunavut Electricity Subsidy Program will likely have to be increased by \$1,400,000 annually starting in fiscal year 2005-06 to cover the costs of enhancements to the program and the impact of the electricity rate increases.

This request would have to be brought forward for consideration of the Nunavut Legislative Assembly, through the supplementary appropriation process.

A \$22,000,000 request for an extra appropriation to deal with the financial requirements of the Qulliq Energy Corporation up to March 31, 2005 will be brought forward for consideration by the Legislative Assembly later in this session.

Any need for additional financial assistance by the corporation this year will be determined by the Government of Nunavut, after detailed analysis of the revenue base and revenue requirements of the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

There is a \$15 million contingency in the fiscal framework for the 2005/2006 for the cost to government of rate and subsidy changes, or any further financial support from government that QEC may require. The Government of Nunavut must make sure that we have a secure Qulliq Energy Corporation that generates electricity at the lowest possible rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Going to orders of the day, Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 110 – 2(2): Gasoline Supply in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would also like to say that I am pleased to be back in the house. I am sorry I am a little bit behind in the business of the house but this time around I would like to express my concerns of my community with respect to the gasoline supply in Sanikiluaq.

Mr. Speaker, a number of residents have approached me this winter about the frequent problems that they had experienced with the snowmobiles. Mr. Speaker, what I am hearing sounds like the concerns that had been raised by the members in our communities.

Spark plugs are failing much more than usual and many owners are having other difficulties. Mr. Speaker, Sanikiluaq is a traditional community and my constituents are dependent on a reliable supply of gasoline and I'm sure that my community is not the only community that is experiencing those kinds of problems that I'm talking about.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that this re-supply has problems and we need to take action. I will be posing questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk, and welcome back to the house. Members' Statements. Mr. Alagalak.

Member's Statement 111 – 2(2): Gasoline Problems in Arviat

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to convey to the government the concerns of my constituents in Arviat with respect to this year's gasoline supply in my community.

(interpretation) People throughout the Kivalliq have been vocal in identifying problems associated with the gasoline supply in our communities, especially so in the last three months through the winter periods.

In Arviat, many hunters and trappers felt unable this winter to harvest as extensively as usual because of fears of the gasoline supply. Usually, the ones affected are the hunters who are unemployed. Meanwhile, the caribou migratory route has been very far from our community. Mr. Speaker, many people told me that they simply could not risk their snow machines breaking down and getting stranded out on the land, especially in the winter, during the trapping season. That is the only source of income that the people of Arviat depend on. A little bit of seal hunting out on the sea.

Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): You have another 20 seconds to go if you want, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have no choice but to rely on the government when it comes to such things as the gasoline supply. We trust the government to ensure that the supply is adequate, safe and appropriate for use in our harsh environment. We have absolutely no other choice but to be totally reliant on the government, especially it seems so on the hunters and the trappers.

Speaker (interpretation): You have run out of time. You have used up your two and a half minutes.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I had already asked to receive unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): So you can just proceed.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I would like to receive unanimous consent to conclude my statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): A member is given two and a half minutes and you have to receive unanimous consent to get an extension. Do you want unanimous consent to conclude your statement? The members agreed. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Mr. Alagalak, go ahead.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was saying earlier, we have to trust the government to make sure that we have a safe supply of gasoline to go hunting and trapping.

Mr. Speaker, I noticed here in Iqaluit that there are many cars, trucks and large SUV's. In the smaller communities, residents rely more on snow machines and ATV's, which have much smaller engines than the large and luxurious vehicles that people here drive around in.

In previous years, there was the issue of bad gasoline in some of the regions and a lot of the revenues that were generated were just put back into the costs of maintaining their vehicles, especially for the hunters and the trappers. We know who these people are and I would also like to ask the government to possibly think about subsidizing their costs.

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

Member's Statement 112 – 2(2): Birthday Wish

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to wish a happy birthday to one of my constituents. She is now 75 years old and one of our interpreters Naimee's mother, my very Aitainnaq Mary Kilabuk to wish her a happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 113 – 2(2): Hamlet of Kugluktuk Efforts

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize the work that has been done by the Hamlet of Kugluktuk to reduce the municipal deficit. Members will recall that Paul Way was appointed to, as municipal supervisor for the hamlet in July 2004.

In the seven months since his appointment, the hamlet has reduced its deficit by at least \$400,000. This means one-third of the deficit has been eliminated. It must be done that the hamlet's debt situation is received in part because of the completion of the community's arena floor.

It is important to recognize that hamlets across the territories is just one project. Just one major setback can have a huge, negative impact on all the hamlets' operations. The hamlet's goal is to eliminate the debt by the end of March 2006.

The citizens of Kugluktuk will need to be patient with reduced service and pull together to see the debt erased.

I would like my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the efforts being made by many people of Kugluktuk to ensure the financial health of the hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 114 – 2(2): Social Worker

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My constituents up to date don't have a social worker and I still have yet to see a job competition for the social worker position. Those people who require assistance of social workers need help face-to-face and not over the phone.

So I would like to state, at this time, that the communities that I represent require a social worker. Even though the communities in my riding are small, their needs are the same as the bigger communities, and they are also Inuit. They also encounter the same problems as in bigger centers. So, they need person-to-person assistance, not by telephone.

Later on today, I will be posing questions to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 115 – 2(2): Power Rate Increases

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at what the Ministers of Energy and Finance, it sounds like we don't have anything to worry about because it will be 3.8 cents for residents and businesses, but they failed to mention, which I would like to state that we still have to pay for the increase in fuel as well as power bills.

It will be way over three cents for residences as the minister mentioned. It doesn't sound like much but they're delaying and there was mention that they have to give it back 90 days after. We utilize the power and that's where the money is going to come from.

This sounds very promising for Inuit, but it looks very appealing towards the end of the school year, I believe the price will be much higher and the Minister should be prepared.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 116 – 2(2): Globe and Mail Article

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In an article in the Globe and Mail on January 6, 2004, titled Pipe Down Danny Boy, Ms. Margaret Wenteen was very disparaging to Newfoundland and to residents north of 60.

Many commentators, citizens and politicians have waited on Ms. Wenteen's column and focused on her Newfoundland comments. Mr. Speaker, in the same article, Ms. Wenteen, and I quote, "Rural Newfoundland, along with our great land north of 60, is probably the most vast and scenic welfare ghetto in the world," end quote.

Ms. Wenteen believes that we are a welfare ghetto. She bases this on the transfers from the Federal Government to the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and up here in Nunavut. Maybe she hasn't heard of millions and millions of royalty dollars being paid out by the Northwest Territories diamond mines, or in the new future the diamond mines here in Nunavut.

Maybe she doesn't know that when monies are transferred north of 60, they invariably go to the south. We support an ever growing southern economy, especially in the gateway cities of Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg and Edmonton.

>> *Applause*

Vehicles, food products, airline companies, cloths, fuel, expediting companies, shipping companies, hotels, Mr. Speaker, the list goes on. This economic stimulus from Ms. Wenteen's supposed ghetto is well welcomed by the thousands of people employed in the south because of these transfers, because of the people here north of 60.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut holds tremendous natural resources that in time will be developed. That is why Premier Okalik has so forcefully pushed the idea of devolution, another word that Ms. Wenteen hasn't heard of for Nunavut. Ms. Wenteen's ghetto analogy is shameful, hurtful and completely wrong. It is unfounded and disparages all residents and people north of 60.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what I say. Mr. Speaker, I say pipe down Margaret Wenteen and take a pill, give your head a shake and maybe visit us here north of 60. The only ghetto here is in Margaret Wenteen's head. And, Mr. Speaker, that's a big hole to fill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 117 – 2(2): Alcohol and Drug Treatment in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to report to the house on the alcohol and drug treatment pilot project that started last week in Cambridge Bay. It is no secret that alcohol is a major contributor to the social ills of Nunavut. Alcohol abuse is often involved in the incidence of domestic violence, aggravated assault, child apprehension cases, family breakups and murders.

Bootleggers in Nunavut will sell alcohol 1.1 liters of alcohol at up to \$300 per bottle by preying on people with alcohol problems.

The Wellness Centre at the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay has started a 28-day live-in alcohol and drug treatment program in our community. Last week, twelve women from around the Kitikmeot will be staying in residence within the community during the program. Family members responsible will be brought in to support and sponsor relatives to deal with their alcohol and drug problems.

The mayor and council, as well as staff, believe that this treatment at home model will be more beneficial to people with alcohol problems than sending them out of territory for treatment. Sending people out of territory for treatment is very expensive and the outcomes are doubtful.

The Government of Nunavut is contributing resources to the pilot project; there is a loan of old hostel, a large financial contribution. When the pilot project is complete, the Wellness Centre will assess the project. If it is deemed successful, they are willing to share the model with other communities within Nunavut.

A vital component of this pilot project is a suitable facility to host the program. The facility that the Wellness Centre is using will soon be renovated and become the patient boarding home for the Kitikmeot Health Facility. It is unlikely that the Wellness Centre will be able to deliver the program again in Cambridge Bay, once the hostel is renovated.

Mr. Speaker, this is an excellent example of a hamlet that is doing more for less to address social problems that harm their residents. I applaud their initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 118 – 2(2): Thank Individuals

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of all Nunavutmiut, I would like to extend a very warm thank you to Mr. Ray Mercer, and members of the Utility Rates Review Council, for the fine work that they have done into finally shedding some light on what is going on at the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

If I might make a suggestion to the Minister responsible, maybe the individual that the Utility Rates Review Council hired, their expert might do some contract work and help the Minister get the rest of the shop in line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 119 – 2(2): Airport Safety During a Power Outage

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Kattuk, we are happy that you are back. (interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise the issue of safety at airports across Nunavut. As our primary means of transportation, it is important to all of us that air travel is safe.

In January the Hamlet of Coral Harbour experienced a two day power outage due to a blizzard. While the blizzard was developing, a medivac was needed in the community. As the flight was arriving the power fluctuated and the Rangers were called on to man snowmobiles along both sides of the runway, to assist the aircraft in landing.

Mr. Speaker, it is too easy to imagine what might have happened if the plane was forced to execute a crash landing. The Rangers put themselves in a dangerous situation because the airport's standby generator only has the capacity to run the air terminal and not the runway.

One of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities' 2004 resolution was to secure funding for back up emergency airport power generators. I support the NAM in this resolution and urge the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation to address these safety concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Rangers for their efforts to assist in the landing of the medivac. I would further like to congratulate the community as a whole in their efforts to minimize property damage during the outage by rotating portable generators. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 120 – 2(2): Birthday Wish to Daughter

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on my daughter's birthday. Maani, if you are watching, hi and happy birthday and I hope all your friends are thinking of you. Happy Birthday, Maani. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 121 – 2(2): Long Service Awards

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to say hello to my constituents in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, last week, long-term services awards were handed out in both Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak. I would like to congratulate the following individuals for having received an award for five years of service to the Government of Nunavut.

In Gjoa Haven, Edith Carlson, Owen Hewitt, Simeonie Samok, Debbie Sarson and Juliette Uyarai. In Taloyoak Elaine Panigayak and Bruce Takolik.

I would also like to congratulate Debby Eeleeheetook from Gjoa Haven and Annie Akoak from Taloyoak for having received awards for ten years of service.

I also want to congratulate John Humiktuq and Ian Crichley on having completed 15 years of service with the Government of Nunavut. They are very deserving of this award, in collaboration for exemplifying such dedication.

Finally, a very special congratulations to Mary Umingmak on having completed 25 years of service. This type of dedication needs to be highlighted and celebrated by this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Members' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Okalik.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise to recognize a very good constituent who is always very active in our community, Mr. Mike Gardner, welcome to the Gallery. He is here with his long lost fourth cousin from Ottawa, Mr. Don Reid, welcome to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize people from Sanikiluaq. The Page here from Sanikiluaq, Daniel Qavvik, Minnie and Jessie Fraser, Bill Fraser's son. You know Bill, so that's his daughter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the Gallery first and foremost that is sitting behind Mr. Levi Barnabas is the intrepid and always available, excellent editor and I don't think he would have made the comments, Ms. McGuinty had made in the Globe and Mail and I hope that Jim won't take an editorial stand on part of McGuinty's comments. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the editor of the Nunatsiaq News, Mr. Jim Bell to the Gallery.

Also, I did want to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Don Reid who is with Mr. Mike Gardner, Mike's cousin. Mr. Reid is a former teacher. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome him to the Nunavut and to the Gallery.

Mr. Gardner, I have to apologize, Mr. Speaker, as I said to him earlier when he came in that I didn't make it to church yesterday morning. I thought it was a blizzard. So I went outside and said; well, the church is going to be cancelled. Mike just told me that they actually went down.

So I apologize to Mike and I will see him there next Sunday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I envy all of the members who have the opportunity to recognize anyone. I have known Jim Bell for quite a while and I have known him since 1999 and he is always very receptive. So therefore I would like to recognize him. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 153 – 2(2): Plans for a New Office Building

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation, who, I note, is glowing with happiness after his minister's statement a little while ago.

My question is very simple. Will the minister confirm whether or not the Qulliq Energy Corporation or any of its subsidiaries have proposed spending any amount of dollars on a new office building here in Iqaluit, yes or no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Responsible for Qulliq Energy Corporation. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of any plans by the Qulliq Energy Corporation to build an office building in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure the minister will be finding out soon; I guess he doesn't know... . Some light will get shed on this topic, I guess.

My question is... . I know the minister had indicated last year, and his predecessor, that any discretionary capital would be stopped at that power corporation. Is this a directive that is still in place for Qulliq Energy Corporation and its subsidiaries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the member is aware of information that means that the power corporation would be spending his money and everyone else's in Nunavut's, tax payers' money, on a brand new building then he should make us aware of that.

Mr. Speaker, the discretionary spending limits by the power corporation are indeed still in place. Myself and the Premier, the cabinet, we're not aware of any plans by the Power Corporation to build a brand new building.

What has occurred is actually there is extra space in the Parnaivik building, where they are renting, and they've actually just made that space available to, I believe, the Department of Finance. That is the only information that I'm aware of, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess by asking my question, I am letting people know... . I'm sure that the minister will find out and some light will be shed on it.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Utility Rates Review Council Act, the minister's permission is required for the corporation to pursue any capital projects worth more than \$5 million. I would like to ask the minister who scrutinizes capital spending under this amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The process has been and still is in place that we have a board of directors of the corporation, which the member is very aware of, and they review the budgets of the corporation.

Last week the board of directors were actually here in Iqaluit meeting with, by teleconference, the Auditor General and went through the budget, and that's how the process is handled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if and when the minister will be tabling the detailed five-year capital plan or any capital plan that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has so that all nineteen members of this Assembly can review it and hopefully make sure that we're not paying for it with our tax dollars, things like garages built onto the sides of houses that we've paid for in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no problem in complying with the member's request. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 154 – 2(2): Airport Safety

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister for transportation.

In reference to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities' 2004 resolution regarding backup generators for airports, can the minister tell me what the Government of Nunavut's response was to that resolution? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've never seen the resolution that he's talking about, but I could say that according to federal government policy on airport lights and generators, we don't have any policy on those ourselves. We're just following federal government policy, because it's going to be very expensive if we put in extra generators at the airports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Coral Harbour the airport is quite far from the community, and after the blizzard, for two days, there was no power at

the airport and the new terminal which was recently constructed; I understand some of the plumbing burst because of freeze up.

Before construction, plans were that a back up generator was to be installed, but was subsequently removed. The municipality of Coral Harbour is in need of such assistance or support. If the government follows government statutes, can the Government of Nunavut rectify those problems in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They will be putting in another backup power system at the new airport terminal in Coral Harbour, because the airport is quite far from the community and it is manned 24 hours a day. For that reason, they are going to be putting in a backup generator.

Also, the federal government has sole jurisdiction over airports in the meantime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is really good to hear. The backup generator that is going to Coral Harbour, will they be able to use it to its fullest? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The generator will be used just for the airport terminal. Thank you.

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

Question 155 – 2(2): Social Worker

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a member's statement in regard to this. When will my constituency in the High Arctic be receiving a social worker? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you for that question. I'm very pleased to respond to you because they are now interviewing candidates for that position, and our department will be filling it shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These positions have been vacant for approximately a year. What kind of support has my constituency been receiving? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that in some communities, when there are no social workers, social workers from another community travel come in. For example, if you had no social worker, a social worker from Iqaluit would go to that community.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we do receive a social worker in the High Arctic, the social worker is usually seconded to government headquarters. Why does this happen? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were in a shortage of social workers; I will look into why this was the case in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 156 – 2(2): Fuel Rate Rider Public Consultations

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy in regard to his ministers' statement. It states that the cost of fuel worldwide is increasing. We have heard that it's approximately \$50 a barrel for fuel, and I am sure that the cost will go up.

He stated that the Utility Rates Review Council made a recommendation to have a fuel rate rider. When can we expect to see the fuel rate rider request? Will the Utility Rates Review Council be holding public hearings in regards to that?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fuel stabilization rider in the Utility Rates Review Council report, which I will be tabling later today... . The URRC has agreed to the power corporation's request for a fuel stabilization rider, and the trigger in the fuel stabilization rider will be plus or minus \$1 million.

Within 90 days, they would come back to me and say, "This is what we think we will need." That may not be until later on this summer, or if they see that the price of diesel is increasing, then they can make that request to the minister so that they can actually cover it off and have the trigger in place. So, the trigger mechanism for a fuel stabilization rider, again, is plus or minus \$1 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way I understand it is that the minister has to respond not only in 90 days, but the rule, I think, is quite clear that you must respond within 90 days of receiving a report from the URRC.

Within 30 days, if the minister does not approve of the recommendation, then the Utility Rates Review Council, from the way I understand it, must go back to the drawing board and hold additional public hearings. When is that going to happen, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know when it's going to happen because it would be hypothetical; it hasn't happened.

So, what will happen is the power corporation, the members, the House, the Department of Finance, Qulliq Energy Corporation, they will review what is happening with the world oil prices and so on, and at that time, they will be able to ascertain plus or minus the trigger.

For example, they already have the fuel bought from last year. If the price of fuel went... Last year when we were buying the fuel, as members in the House remember, fuel went to over \$50 a barrel. If the fuel cost were \$44 a barrel, then the trigger of plus or minus \$1 million may not occur.

The Utility Rates Review Council is set up to review rates. A rider is not a rate. A rider is an add-on so that you don't have to keep going back through the public process, and the cost of going through that, to put a rider on.

So, a stabilization rider is a mechanism which allows the corporation to respond quickly and expediently to increases. The URRC, in the report, has recommended that a fuel stabilization rider be put in place when a trigger mechanism of plus or minus \$1 million is activated.

So, that's how it would occur; it won't be through public hearings. The rate is put in place under that mechanism as I just explained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It wasn't clear as the minister would like us to believe that the fuel rate rider, which is subject to the Utility Rates Review Council review, but it was not all that clear. The minister says that it was recommended, but he did not say that the minister had accepted that recommendation. So, he must be quite clear on what amount he has accepted and that it is not subject to further review after that.

My second point is that the URRC also recommended that there be an equalization rider. Exactly when is that going to happen? Will that be subject to a public review process, through the Utility Rates Review Council? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Utility Rates Review Council, had rejected many of the rider proposals that the Qulliq Energy Corporation had put forward; however, the Utility Rates Review Council acknowledges that there are sudden spikes in the cost of diesel.

The biggest cost to the power corporation, Mr. Speaker, is to buy diesel to generate power. So, in that case, in the fuel stabilization fund, which is a fund that would be set up under the process for a rate increase, in this case on a rider, then the rider would be applied. So, in that case, the trigger is a plus or minus \$1 million.

The other rider that the member talked about is a capitalization rider. That's what I said, that the Utility Rates Review Council has recommended to the Qulliq Energy Corporation that they come back within 90 days with a recommendation on how they would structure a capitalization rider to subsidize capital costs for the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand quite well exactly what the minister is rehashing here, because it's quite clear here on page 3 of his statement.

My question is, when will that capitalization or equalization rider be subject to the public review process, through the Utility Rates Review Council? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this case, the Power Corporation has two mechanisms to raise revenue: one is a rate, to charge more, to charge less; a rate increase, and that's what the GRA is called, a General Rate Application.

The second mechanism that the power corporation, like every other utility in Canada, has is what's called a rider. In this case, the Utility Rates Review Council recommendation is that the corporation have two riders, one being a fuel stabilization rider, when the fuel

costs go up or down. That's not subject to a General Rate Application and therefore not subject to a public approval process.

It's the same with the capital stabilization rider. They will make a proposal within 90 days and that's what we said, they could come forward with their rider proposal and say, "We want a rider proposal of three cents or five cents," or whatever that amount may be. Then we analyze their request to see if it's acceptable; is it equitable, and so on.

At that time, I may, in consultation with the cabinet, say they're asking for too much money, so I would like to put it out to a public process and you can do that. But the asking of a stabilization rider, the capital stabilization ride, doesn't automatically trigger the GRA process. That's the General Rate Application process when you're trying to increase your rate.

So, it gives the corporation some flexibility like other utilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 157 – 2(2): Update on Gasoline Problems

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Following up on the member's statement that I made earlier, I would like to ask some questions to the minister for petroleum products.

In January, I told the minister that there were some concerns about the gasoline supply in Sanikiluaq. I would like to ask the minister if he could give us an update. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to assure the people of Sanikiluaq, as I have with others who also have been similarly affected in Nunavut, that studies in Rankin Inlet have shown that a particular additive has made a marked improvement in performance.

The communities that were to be shipped fuel with the additive included, to make it work better. We'll do the same in Sanikiluaq. Shell Canada is to ship the improved fuel to affected communities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response. I would like to ask the minister where this bad gasoline was bought, whether it is from the same stock that they are getting from in the Keewatin or in the Baffin. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I recall correctly, the Sanikiluaq supply is the same supply that Baffin communities receive. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In January, there were quite a number of breakdowns in gasoline engines. Is the government going to consider giving compensation to the hunters whose snowmobiles or outboard motors broke down? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the House, I had given an explanation of what the government is doing about the supply of gasoline, and we have not made any announcement on whether there is going to be any compensation.

We will have to identify what the problem is before we consider any type of action for the individuals who have had breakdowns. We would like to identify the problem. Of course, we do need good gasoline in Nunavut.

I think that on March 3, we will be getting additional information on this ongoing concern and pass it on to members in the House. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, is the government saying that they are going to have to identify the problem before they look at any solutions or compensation for affected hunters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had stated last week that the study will be done shortly. We are now waiting for the results. Once we find out the problem, then we will come up with what we have to do, as a government, and see if there is going to be any compensation to hunters who have had engine breakdowns. We will be making an announcement in the House once we find the results. Thank you.

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

Question 158 – 2(2): Update on the Workers' Compensation Board

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board.

I understand that the minister hosted his counterpart, from the Northwest Territories, in Iqaluit a few weeks ago. My question for the minister is: since the minister has not made any statements recently on his Workers' Compensation Board responsibilities, could he update the House today on what he and his counterpart discussed, and inform us about what they decided. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My NWT counterpart was here in Iqaluit recently, and I would like to thank him for making the trip here. I would also like to thank the member for posing that question.

We started Phase 1 before I become the minister responsible and we are now working on Phase 2. We are talking about issues that affect the governor council and what types of programs, or better programs we might set up for workers in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We understand that the Government of Nunavut and the government of the Northwest Territories are moving forward with amendments to the Workers' Compensation Board Act.

Could the minister tell us what the Government of Nunavut's specific priorities are with respect to amending the Act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are in a very unique situation with the Northwest Territories and the Nunavut joint Worker's Compensation Board. We try to meet our needs from our side and they try to meet their needs from their side. To make this work, we try to compare which way would be best because I think we're the only jurisdictions in Canada that have a joint board. I think that it's going to take more consultation between the NWT minister responsible and I to make sure that we go into the Committee of the Whole with the same message. We want to leave with members of the Legislative Assembly in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories the same message.

So, there is still some work to be done on the amended legislation, and I believe that we'll make sure we do our very best with respect to both sides of the territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that separation of the boards is probably a forward step in the evolution of the territory. As with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities when we separated municipal insurance programs, it appears to be quite

successful nowadays. So, I'm wondering if the minister can tell the House if they are any future plans in the works to separate the combined operations of the Worker's Compensation Board and establish a separate board for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't even discussed separating from the NWT, because there would be too much impact to our territory, to our workers in Nunavut. I believe there would be increases in insurance costs to make sure we could meet the same levels of service in Nunavut.

The board needs to run as a board, and that costs money. As a government, we don't put any money into the board. The board is all paid for by the employers of Nunavut.

I think that if we were to look into trying to separate the boards, I think it would take a while for us to decide whether it's good or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's situation with separating. I'm hoping those kinds of discussions with continue and he'll update the House with the pros and cons as we move forward in the years ahead.

My final question: can the minister tell me if the Workers' Compensation Board has any plans to open an office somewhere in the Kitikmeot, given the impending increase in businesses, in particular, mining in the region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not discussed that yet. I think it's important that we work closely with the governance council in terms of how much it would cost to run a Workers' Compensation office in different areas. As it is now, we have one here and one in Rankin Inlet.

I think it's important that we look into it. I will work closely with Mr. Peterson, along with the Kitikmeot members of the Legislative Assembly, to look into what possibilities there are in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 159 – 2(2): Plans for a New School

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education.

Qikiqtarjuaq School has been in the capital plan for five years. Will it be included in the next five-year plan? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The House, just before Christmas, passed the capital budget for 2004-05 and with projects starting in number five. I believe that the Qikiqtarjuaq School was in the supplemental capital plan. That's something that we'll have to ascertain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 160 – 2(2): Attendance and Grievances in Government of Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the minister responsible for the Department of Human Resources. In Friday's budget address, it stated, and I'll quote it, it says, "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."

According to the 2002-03 and 2003-04 public service report, there were a total of 96 grievances as of March 31, 2003 and 116 as of March 31, 2004. According to the information contained in the department's return to written question 14-2 (2), the absenteeism rate across the Government of Nunavut doubled between 2002-03 and 2003-04, and it has doubled again in the first six months of the fiscal year 2004-05.

My question is this: what is the Government of Nunavut doing to create a workplace environment that fosters fewer grievances and less absenteeism? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Regarding employees who don't go to work, we have requested that number. Maybe it will be thought that it is calculated as a number of people that showed up to work late or missed work altogether. It has to be understood that it could be one person who gets to work late or who doesn't show up at all. So, that's why that number seems to be getting higher.

So, for that reason, in response to the question he raised, we are continually looking at Government of Nunavut employees and the departments. We are working closely with them to try to decrease the number of grievances within the departments and to come up with solutions, for example at cases where people resign because they are unhappy at work.

We are trying to look at the different reasons, and once we have clarified or clearly understood what they are, then we will be ready to put out a report or give an answer. But at this time, I can only state that those are the problems that the Government of Nunavut employees face. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it's a relief that they are looking at it. One of the things that dictates a relationship between an employer and employee, is the negotiations around collective agreements. I know in the past it has not always been a nice thing to go through.

My first supplementary to the minister is: what's the status of the Government of Nunavut's negotiations with the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, whose collective agreement expires at the end of June this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Up to date, there have been meetings and training sessions within the workplace to deal with the problems there. Human Resources continue to conduct workshops as to how they can have a better working relationship.

However, the union, the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, we all know that their agreement will expire at the end of June, and we are in the process of preparing for it. We have to name people that we will appoint to be negotiators, and those names will have to be approved by the cabinet. Up to date, we have not been given names to consider.

The Federation of Nunavut Teachers has to formally request us for negotiators, and we will have to deal with that when that time comes along and get approval from the cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of what the Minister of Finance stated in her budget address, I would like to ask the minister how often he meets with the presidents with the Nunavut Employees' Union and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers to discuss matters of concern with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Up to date, I have not met with those people but the Deputy Minister of Human Resources usually handles them. I can state that I have met with the union president, though I have not met with the people that he named subsequently. If there are any meetings or any activities going on, they always inform me about them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of this government's wish to foster a closer working relationships with its employees, would the minister commit to starting things off by inviting those elected officials from the unions that represent the employees, under the government departments, crowns, and agencies, to actually sit down face to face, elected official with elected official, non-elected officials with deputy minister or anyone else, to discuss the issues that they may have, just broadly to try and find ways in which they can make things work a lot better for everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that we have been approached yet, but we will be quite receptive if they wish to meet with us. The Government of Nunavut tries to work very closely with all its employees, even boards and agencies, like Qulliq employees. They will have to come up with an agreement, whichever department it might be, such as education, and we do want to work with them closely. We want to know what is going on. They also want to know what we want to do. So, we are quite open to welcome those employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 161 – 2(2): Arctic Bay and Nanisivik Access Road Funding

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services. The hamlets have had meetings on issues dealing with community empowerment, specifically that they are not given adequate funding.

To go back to my written question on November 19, 2004, it indicates that the Arctic Bay to Nanisivik road system will be re-classified as a community access road. The length of road is one of the factors used to calculate funding under the Municipal Operating Assistance Policy.

Can the minister assure me that funding for Arctic Bay under the Municipal Operating Assistance Policy will not decrease as a result of the re-classification of the road to Nanisivik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our finance minister announced the good news that community government will receive an extra \$4 million. We recognize those needs from consultations, and they kept us informed of their financial

difficulties. I am happy to say that the Municipal Operating Assistance Program will be increased. We will be discussing this further.

The road from Nanisivik to Arctic Bay, from the airport to Arctic Bay... . When we were up there, we further discussed this and we were made to better understand what benefits it offers, even though the mine is closed. Those comments, what we would talked about are, still being discussed today. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was previously handled by the airport division. But this fall, after the clean up of Nanisivik, that airport division will no longer function, and the new airport will not be built until 2007. If this is taken over by the hamlet, will they be given funding regularly? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the hamlet wishes to take on the responsibility of operations and maintenance, our staff is always available and we can talk about this phase. We will be quite open if they wish to make a proposal or to come up with a plan how it should be used. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is quite costly and it is 30- to 35 km long, the road. It's the only highway in the Baffin region.

It seems that we will be constantly using the airport, once they make improvements to the road. Will they be funded adequately in order to operate that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to apologize, I'm not too clear what his question is. Can he please repeat his question.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas, can you clarify your question please. Thank you.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the funding be adequate for the hamlet, that the hamlet will not go into deficit to maintain this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand his question correctly, he is asking whether they will get into a deficit, or will these be funded on top of what they usually maintain.

If it's mainly for the road, then we will have to look at different things by the hamlet and our staff to make sure that they don't have a deficit. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Last supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier in my question, this will be re-classified as a community access road. This road is 35 kilometres long. The hamlet boundary is very close, but it's over the hamlet boundary; it will definitely cost more to maintain the road outside the boundary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't state whether it's going to be within the boundary or outside of the boundary. So, this will have to be closely reviewed by the municipality of Arctic Bay. If the municipality wants to continue to deal with and be responsible for that, yes, we will be able to review this with the municipality. I will keep the member abreast. Thank you.

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

Question 162 – 2(2): Policy on Co-Pilot Requirement

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for transportation.

Although I can drive outboard motors and vehicles, I am not a pilot; I can't pilot a plane. I was wondering, if you have to travel long distances by airplane, do you need a co-pilot? What's the current policy? Do they need only one pilot if they are going to travel long distances?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government is responsible for all of the policies of the airlines. I have never really looked into what kind of policies or statutes they have on whether they require a co-pilot for long distance traveling. So, once I get the answer, I will respond to my colleague. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to receive that information personally. I have heard that you can't have just one pilot when they are traveling; there's a danger of something going wrong with the pilot.

I want the minister to respond to me publicly, because some Inuit people are scared to fly, and they have nowhere else to get away to when they are scared of flying. So I am requesting the minister to inform us, in the House, whether a co-pilot is required. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood my colleague correctly, I will inform the House. Thank you.

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

Question 163 – 2(2): Bad Fuel Issue

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister of Community and Government Services in regard to the fuel issue that we have been dealing with.

I think it was on Friday that I tabled a document with the correspondence received from Rankin Inlet. They were asking about this individual who has two outboard motors, they are four-stroke and 225 horsepower. He used these outboard motors to take tourists out. Is the government going to compensate that business owner, because he depends on those outboard motors to make his money? How would you respond to this; when you asked the question to Shell Canada, what did they say about it? You have to ask questions for the public too. Perhaps you can ask Mr. Simon Qaummaq how you can assist him with his dilemma. Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the correspondence that was tabled by the member, I will work with that individual and relay to him the results of the finding either by way of telephone or correspondence. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley, your supplementary.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This isn't covered by insurance because of the condition of the fuel, the fuel that was delivered. The damage occurred after the delivery of the fuel; that is what happened to his engines. Yet, the Government of Nunavut says that it is part Inuit and that they respect Inuit and for that reason they are working very hard to try and correct this issue.

The majority of the public out there would like to see Shell Canada appear before Committee of the Whole, because the public wanted them to come. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, according to my knowledge, we've tried to respond to all the complaints on fuel that is not up to standard. We've tried to respond to all the questions. I would be more than pleased to welcome any interested party to participate on this issue and I will ensure the floor is open. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response and for being open.

If the Shell people cannot pay for their plane ticket up here, perhaps he can look into that matter; if we can invite more than one individual for this... . Perhaps the minister can respond to me on whether the government is willing to assist with the airfare for the Shell people to come up to Iqaluit.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know where they would come from; the individuals coming from Shell Canada are arriving by their own aircraft. They only have a very limited amount of time to stay here. Since we've invited them, we have to come to a decision, because they will be appearing before the members of the Committee of the Whole. If there were any concerns, yes, we will look into that and make sure that they are responded to.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curly, your last supplementary.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. If you hear from them, I will be glad. Yes, we will need to make a motion. We'll have to do this by way of motion. During Committee of the Whole, if we want to invite Shell Canada over, would you be in support? If we can invite the HTO members, would you be in support of that, if I amend the motion that way? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's evident that if it were included in the motion, I'm sure I would have to take part in the motion. But, I will inform the member, since these officials are coming in next week. I was just wondering if we will have enough time to do that. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Question period is now over. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to return to Item 5 in the “Orders of the Day”: “Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.” Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5. Any nays? There are no nays; please proceed Mr. Peterson.

Return to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two very special visitors to the gallery today. Sitting behind me here is Dawn Wilson; she is the principal of the Kullik Ilihakvik Elementary School in Cambridge Bay. She’s been a teacher-principal for 32 years and she is retiring this summer, in June, I believe. She’s going to keep her cabin in Cambridge Bay and come up there every summer, she tells me.

Sitting next to her is Brenda Ilaszewicz; she is the vice-principal of the Kiilnik High School that the government so generously built for us a couple years ago for the future education of kids in Cambridge Bay.

I would like to welcome them both to the House today.

>>*Applause*

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to be the first one to recognize visitors in the gallery this past week, and I think it was on Friday that I named names from Panniqtuuq and one of them was Tim Evic. I would like to recognize and welcome him to the gallery.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would also like to rise to recognize an individual from my community and from my riding, John Ayaruak. His name is very well known in our community. He’s an independent interpreter-translator; he also does volunteer work, and he’s a very social man. His father, I believe John Ayaruak, was the one who published a book, and I would like John to be welcomed to the gallery.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize an individual I had forgotten earlier. Jim Bell the Nunatsiaq News editor, because of course, he's in my riding. I am very pleased to see that he is able to watch the proceedings. Again, my cousin Tim Evic. I don't recognize very many relatives in the House; I think this is the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will never get a chance to do this before Dawn retires. So, I want to say, "Welcome to the gallery," and I wish her the very best after this summer's retirement. She has worked very hard with the teachers' conferences last week, and I had a chance to sit down with her this weekend. But, I want to wish her the best on our behalf, for her contribution to the education system in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize John Ayaruak. We were childhood friends and he used to stay at our house. I knew his parents very well and his sisters who I grew up with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we can recognize somebody here. At this time, I would like to recognize the carving that is on the right hand side of the Speaker. This carving was carved by a very well known individual, Simon Qammaniq. He is from Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I have no other names on my list. Under Item 5. Item 6. Oral Questions was completed. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 14: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 072 – 2(2): Utility Rates Review Council Report 2004

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table documents on the Utility Rates Review Council Report. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Brown.

Tabled Document 073 – 2(2): KPMG Report – Medical Travel Review, Strategy and Recommendations

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, KPMG Report, Medical Travel Review, Strategies and Recommendations.

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

Tabled Document 074 – 2(2): Utility Rates Review Council Final Report

Tabled Document 075 – 2(2): Ministers Report to Utility Rates Review Council Feb. 8, 2005

Tabled Document 076 – 2(2): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2003-2004

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, it gives me great pleasure of the table to the Honourable Edward Picco, the Utility Rates Review Council Final Report. As well, I would like to table the response to the Utility Rates Review Council to the Qulliq Energy Corporation Report, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, February 8, 2005. And also Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to table the Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2003 - 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Going back to the orders of the day, Item 15. Notices of Motions. Mr. Curley.

Item 15: Notices of Motions

Motion 011 – 2(2): Mid-term Review of the Executive Council of Nunavut - Notice

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 2, 2005 I will move the following motion;

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that a midterm leadership review of the Executive Council of Nunavut be held in the fall of 2006.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 16: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Wills Act – Notice**Bill 14 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act – Notice**

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 2, 2005, that Bill 13, an Act to amend the *Wills Act* be read for the first time. Secondly, I give notice that on Wednesday, March 2, 2005, that Bill 14, *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Document 52 – 2(2) and Bill 8, Appropriation Act.

With Mr. Netser in the Chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:33 and resumed at 16:00*

Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman: Thank you, I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In the Committee of the Whole we have the following documents to deal with: Tabled Document 52 - 2 (2) Return to Oral Question 84 - 2(2) and Bill 8. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today the Minister of Health and Social Services tabled a report of the Nunavut Medical Travel Review of KPMG Consultant that I've been asking for some time.

As I and other regular members need to review this report, I request that Committee of the Whole defer the review of the main estimates for Health and Social Services and commence a review of the main estimates of the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Do members agree to defer Health and Social Services and commence with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would now like to ask Minister Picco for the Department of Education to make his opening remarks.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to discuss the Department of Education's 2005/06 main estimates. Mr. Chairman, our plan for the upcoming year represents a fundamental shift in the government's approach to Education. This

fundamental shift begins with the creation and partial implementation of a new school funding formula. That is a formula that enhances and responds expediently to the needs of our students and our staff.

This fundamental shift goes beyond the K-12 system, and encompasses the work of creating a made in Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy. It continues with the creation of a Nunavut Folk School and the developmental plans for our own Vocational trade school.

This fundamental shift includes the delivery of our bilingual education strategy and the beginning of work on our own Nunavut Education Act. Mr. Chairman, this fundamental shift in the way we fund, organize, administer and work in partnership with parents, teachers, District Education Authorities, students, and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc, will be challenging and encompassing.

Mr. Chairman, our responsibilities are vast. We oversee the K-12 school system, adult learning, including Nunavut Arctic College, income support, early learning and child care and matters related to homelessness.

Mr. Chairman, we have worked hard with our partners throughout Nunavut to identify Education priorities that deal life-long learning outside lifestyle and within a formal learning education stream. This may be accomplished through a standard K-12 advanced education program through the Nunavut Arctic College or other post secondary setting.

We are proposing ongoing enhancements in our schools, additional resources provided to daycare, much needed help for those on Income Support and a development of an adult learning strategy in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc and others. As you may see, Mr. Chairman, through this budget, our government is firmly committed to seeing improvements in the quality and quantity of programs and services made available to our Department.

To help us begin our shift, Mr. Chairman, we have put forward a budget of 2005 - 2006 that represents a \$16.6 million increase over 2004 - 2005.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight several of these initiatives before the committee:

- Funding for student support assistants will give a much needed boost across Nunavut. Increased funding to all of our schools as a result of the partial implementation with changes to the school funding formula and forced growth which amounts to \$3.2 million dollars.
- Increases to the Nunavut Food Scale and exemptions for Co-op refunds in the amount of approximately \$1.6 million for persons on Income Support. The five percent increase in the food allowance when added to the 2004 - 2005 increase will mean a 15 percent increase in food allowances for those in need within the past year by this government. I think this is very good news for our constituents.

- Initiated the Young Parents Stay Learning Program to assist parents under the age of 18 get help with childcare expenses so they will not quit school and will continue with their studies.
- Mr. Chairman, we will establish a Homeless Secretariat that will serve to provide an organized forum in which all levels of government can work together in developing an integrated reproach in the delivery of public services and act as a catalyst in promoting new partnerships between government and non-government agencies to assist people to break the cycle of homelessness.

Mr. Chairman, the department recognized that reform of the education system is required in order for our children to reach their full potential. The major instrument in this proposed reform will be the new Education/Schools Act.

A new Act must address issues within schools and bring the education system into line with directions advocated by parents, District Education Authorities, educators, and other groups. Extensive consultation and communication plans will ensure that the views of all groups are considered in drafting the propose legislation.

We have been pleased with the progress made over the last year and with the financial support being given to important and essential work. On the school side, student enrolments are up; the number of Grade 12 graduates continues to increase while vital curriculum and language of instruction work is moving forward. As well, we have provided for the establishment of the Commission Scolaire du Francophone, as well as adopted policies to assure young parents, who are students, have access to daycare facilities in newly constructed high schools.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education works closely with Nunavut Arctic College and had contributed \$15.707 million to the base funding. The department also provides another \$1.879 million for the community teacher education program. The department will continue to work closely with the college and our other partners including schools, parents, District Education Authorities, and local, regional, territorial, and national bodies as we work toward a more seamless education system, and set up programs and services for all Nunavut residents.

Mr. Chairman, this fundamental shift in the funding, delivery, and indeed legislative processes that government, the department will continue into the coming months. As we begin this long awaited process, it is an exciting and challenging time for the department, the staff, our students, and most importantly for Nunavummiut.

I would be pleased to respond to questions that the committee has. With that, Mr. Chairman is my opening comments for the Committee of the Whole on the main estimate and business plan for the Department of Education on the budget for 2005 - 2006. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I have some of the witnesses that are available to be with me in the Committee of the Whole. We would be prepared to take questions from the members on the Department of Education 2005 - 2006 main estimates, business plans, and budget process in the Committee of the Whole at your convenience, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. (interpretation ends): Does the Committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Picco, could you please introduce your witness?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on my immediate right is Ms. Pam Hine, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Welcome Ms. Hine. Does the chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I have to rise?

Chairman: No.

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

(interpretation end): As the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health and Education I am pleased to make some opening remarks as we begin deliberation on the budget for the Department of Education.

The Department of Education's proposed operations and maintenance budget for 2005/06 of \$174,224,000 has been increased by almost \$12 million dollars from the revised operations and maintenance budget for 2004 - 2005.

The committee has noted that the number of position under the department is projected to increase. While some of these positions may be filled by employees that were formerly employed by the District Education Authorities, members question what overall impact the division of government positions will have.

Until the new education act is brought forward, the department must ensure the District Education Authorities are supported in carrying out their current rules and responsibilities and that budget allocations are clearly explained.

The committee members further recommend that once the new school funding formula is formalized, the department clearly and completely explain all aspects of its implementation to this House, District Education Authorities, communities, parents and the public at large.

District Education Authorities have an important role to play in ensuring the availability of programming for all its school aged children in their communities. In previous budgets for example, specific funding was allocated for District Education Authorities to provide special needs programming. A number of District Education Authorities have expressed the need to provide cultural inclusion programs for school-aged children who are at risk of dropping out of the school system.

The members of the committee look forward to regular updates on projects and initiatives that relate to educational reform. There is a wide range of views on the issues of language of instruction, K-12 curriculum, standards and certification each will need discussion and careful consideration at the community level as well as with our territorial stake-holders. Committee members are hopeful that the end result will help us move forward on our Arviat Full Caucus Retreat's commitment to focus on graduating bilingual youth who are equipped with the skills and knowledge to succeed in post secondary studies.

Upgrading opportunities in post-secondary education are very important for our residents to develop the necessary skills to enter Nunavut's labor force and gain meaningful employment. Members of the Standing Committee look forward to reviewing the results of the department's external review of Nunavut Arctic College including any evaluation of the effectiveness of its various programs. Nunavut Arctic College received nearly \$16 million in direct funding from the department each year and it is important that the lines of accountability are clear in that Nunavut residents have access to the programs they need.

Trades training and apprenticeship are also important investments in our future. Until the department has completed its feasibility study, and establishes a Nunavut Trades school, the committee encourages the Minister to provide as many opportunities for pre-trades training if possible across all of Nunavut communities. Members recall that one of our core commitments from the Arviat Full Caucus Retreat was to open a trades school in Nunavut by the end of the Second Assembly.

The committee is pleased that the Minister and his department have responded to concerns raised about the Income Support program. Members have spoken on the need address the high costs of living in Nunavut and support the projected 5 percent increase in food allowance rates. The Committee applauds the department's willingness to re-evaluate the income status of co-op dividends, an issue that a number of Members have previously raised. Committee Members were also pleased to see that the department has

acted on concerns that were raised and will be providing daycare support to enable young parents to stay in school. Members look forward to an update on the Minister's recent meeting in Vancouver with his federal and provincial counterparts to discuss the issue of early learning and childcare.

Members of the Committee recognize that the delivery mechanisms for providing Social Assistance benefits vary from community to community. In some cases, clients themselves do not make the best use of their benefits while in other cases specific needs are not being met, such as additional support needed by disabled persons.

Members encourage the Minister to continue working with his staff to improve the administration of Income Support programs. In particular, Members recommend that the Minister work with his colleague in the Department of Community and Government Services to access the new broadband technology to establish a Nunavut-wide electronic case management system. The government's recent announcements of success regarding the Telehealth network have shown that investments in technology can lead to a more effective delivery of services across our vast territory.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee have noted with interest that the department's projected budget includes a new allocation to address the issue of homelessness in Nunavut. This is the first time this specific item has appeared in the Main Estimates. While the Committee recognizes that responsibility for this issue rests with this Minister. Members expect the resources and expertise of such entities as the Nunavut Housing Corporation will be drawn upon. Members look forward to information on the results of the recent RFP for management of the Iqaluit Homeless Shelter.

That concludes my opening remarks. Individual Members may also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Before we start, I believe that you know Rule 77, that you will have ten minutes each for general comments. General comments. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for this opportunity to make some opening comments of the Department of Education's proposed budget.

First of all I would like to thank the Minister for responding to an issue that I brought forward last April. As the Minister is aware, young mothers, who are still going to school, often do not have enough money to pay for daycare for their child. At the same time, they are often too young to be able to receive daycare subsidies through Income Support.

I am sure that my colleagues will agree that it is important for our youth have the opportunity to complete their high school education. It is equally important that the

children of students in schools are adequately cared for while their parents work towards completing their education.

(interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I am happy to hear the budget for the young mothers and that the department will try and make a better use or to encourage the young mothers to stay in school and to utilize the daycares in the high schools. I would like to thank the minister and his staff for initiating this to accommodate the youth who are in schools.

(interpretation ends) Income Support programs that supports important safety net for many Nunavummiut. Last July, the department introduced increase in food allowance rates and senior citizens' benefits.

It's good to hear that the new budget proposed for 2005 - 2006 once again proposes an increase in food allowance rates. However, it doesn't appear that the department is proposing any further increases to senior citizens' benefits.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. (interpretation ends): My apologies to the minister. Could you, for the record, please introduce the lady to your immediate left? Thank you.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been joined at the table on my immediate left is Ms. Janice Hobbes, the Comptroller as well as Acting Director of Corporate Services for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome Hobbes. There is another person on my list. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to make a general comment to the Department of Education.

(interpretation ends) First of all, I would like to thank the minister for addressing the issue of Co-op patronage refunds being considered as income.

As members know, last week 161 residents of Pond Inlet petitioned the Government of Nunavut to amend the social assistance regulation so that social assistance benefits will not be reduced by the amount refunded to the Co-operative members who are also income support clients.

During the Arviat Full Caucus Retreat, one of our collective goals was to develop Nunavut's economy, private sector and job markets. The Co-operative movement in the Nunavut places an important role in fostering the economic growth of the communities and the residents.

Community individuals who are Co-operative members receive a form of patronage rebate, which is a refund based on the money that they already spent at the Co-op.

In the remote High Arctic communities such as Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, and Pond Inlet, community residents face extremely high cost of living. I believe that every effort to meet these high costs should be supported and not penalized.

The government's previous policy of considering Co-op refunds to be an earned income and therefore reducing the amount of social assistance provided to income support clients put the same people who are trying to make good spending decisions at an unfair disadvantage.

I would like to thank the minister for reconsidering the government's policy on this issue and listening to the members such as myself. I am very pleased that Co-op dividends will no longer be considered as an earned income for income support clients.

While I am on the same issue, I am pleased that this year's proposed budget proposes a further increase to food allowance rates across Nunavut. This will certainly help a lot of families with low income. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have no more names on my list for general comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for coming down here on short notice. It's always a pleasure to have them here.

I think the Minister knows very well that I've been a strong advocate for education in Nunavut over the last five years. I still think that our education system is going to be the key to our success of our territory in the future and that we have to find ways to improve the level and quality of education throughout Nunavut so that our students, our children are given the tools that they need to do the jobs that we're going to need them to do in the future; whether that be to go to a trade school; whether that be to go to Nunavut Arctic College; whether that be a choice for them to pursue post-secondary education at a university or college in the south.

I think that our education system should be at the same standard and level as anywhere else in the country. I know we're not there right now. We need to move in that direction and I think that one of the things that we need to do and as a Government and the Department of Education is admit that things aren't perfect and try to work with everyone involved, the teachers, the parents, the District Education Authorities, the communities to find solutions.

Don't be afraid to say well this isn't working right. It's been referred to in the past as ostrich mentality when you stick your head in the sand and pretend that nothing is wrong. I know that this minister doesn't like to stick his head in the sand so hopefully we're not going to have that problem this time around.

There are a number of things that I think are very important. Delivery of education at the community level and I know that the Minister himself knows, and will recall that when this First Assembly dissolved the Divisional Boards of Education, the District Education Authorities were told by the department of the day that this would enable more control and power and authority to be devolved down to the community level.

I think that this is something that we need to make sure and hopefully this time around it is adequately incorporated into the drafting of the new *Education Act*, not in the way that the department develops their budgets, not that it is not someone that sits in an office building, that you have to get on airplane to go to one or two time zones away, or whatever that knows what a community needs. In a lot of cases the community knows what the community needs.

Now, granted there must be certain standards and criteria that are in place for everything, but in areas of say the Minister mentioned special needs programs and things like that, the community knows what those needs are in their community. I think that we've seen too many times where, one example that the Minister is very familiar with, is like a postage stamp type rate for power. It doesn't fit everywhere.

So, the same things with special needs programming and what may need addressing here in Iqaluit may be different than what the community needs in Cambridge Bay, Kugluktuk, Arctic Bay or Arviat or anywhere. It's different. I think that there needs to be a way to allow a community to have some input into that.

The whole idea of re-doing the funding formula for schools, as I said earlier, is a good step in the right direction, the technology that was a problem. We need to try and address it. I acknowledge the Minister and the department for taking steps in doing that.

One of the things that during the review of the public hearings on Bill 1 in the First Assembly, there were a number of recommendations made at the public hearings, and the Standing Committee of the day, on things that are pertaining to the formula; things like taking the principles of the formula; different things like that I think urged the Minister and his staff to go back and review and make sure that they haven't forgotten what people had to say back then because I know that the Standing Committee did some quite extensive consultations and that was something that a lot of people had something to say about, so, hopefully, that is something that the Minister will ensure that his staff do in developing this new formula.

On that one of the things that I look forward to getting a very clear and precise response from the Minister on during the appropriate sections in the estimates is exactly what has been done to date. It says they are reviewing it and changing it and they will be implementing over the next few years.

It also states that Phase 1 is done. It has been implemented. I think that a lot of people are very curious to hear exactly what those changes are and why they were made. What does

it mean to the schools? What does it mean to the teachers in the classroom? What does it mean to the principals for the schools or the DEA for the community?

I look forward to getting a pretty precise response from the Minister on that, which I am sure that he will be more than prepared and happy to do.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my general comments for there. I am sure that other members may have some comments that they would like to make as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister. Since this department is very important and all the public out there, especially with children, are very proud of that department. I am sure that I would like to thank the officials too and welcome them.

Mr. Chairman, thank you too for acknowledging me. I would like to make a short, brief general comment. The Minister's opening comments, I liked them and I thank him.

I don't believe that the Arctic College President should be sitting in the Gallery; he should be allowed to sit on the witness table, because I do have questions for Arctic College.

The younger people are now getting enrolled into Arctic College and we are very proud to see young people trying to enroll to Arctic College of whom we are very proud of. I want every one of you to know that it is very beneficial.

The issues that I wanted to raise under comments are, that Minister I know that you have a lot of responsibilities and I know that you toured the communities and consulted with them. I am sure that you visited many communities, but I still can tell you that you still require assistance and support from the public out there, especially for Trades Schools. They call it Trades School. We talk about Trades Schools and that it is very appealing.

If I say it in English (interpretation ends): Where is the beef? Where are your plan and your scope and your objective? I don't believe that we cannot just say that it is good because there are Trades Schools in Nova Scotia, Red Deer, Alberta.

I sometimes ask the individuals from the communities, I ask them how big was the Trades School? They could take 12 students. I think there is a trades school in Rankin Inlet which can enrol 12 students. Perhaps the Minister, instead of just making it appealing, I know that you're planning for trades schools, why don't we actually start getting the trades school next year and start implementing it.

At least start it small so that our young people won't have to travel outside of Nunavut to attend post-secondary education. They have children of their own. When they leave

Nunavut to further their education, they start worrying about their children and they end up going home even before they complete the trade program that they're taking.

Perhaps the Minister instead of saying that they're working very hard, perhaps should start talking about the plans and perhaps get a permanent committee for that to start the actual implementation.

I would prefer it to go that way Mr. Chairman. I hear about consultation in regards to school curriculum, the use of Inuktitut and English language because the larger communities are not as informed as the smaller communities especially the District Education Authority board and the majority of them are non-Inuit and so that's why sometimes we miss the information.

Perhaps, if you could publicize the information and notify us ahead of time that these officials are coming in because we can hear, we know how new communication technology in Rankin Inlet. Yes, you can air them out through the local radio station. With all this new technology, you can consult now.

I would like to tell the Minister in regards to the use of language, the language of instruction is very important. Is it up to the communities how many communities want Inuktitut curriculum or English curriculum?

Who would be responsible for the decision if there were two that want to get into Inuktitut or English curriculum, which would be responsible for the decision? I heard the Minister say it would be up to the District Education Authority. If all the District Education Authorities won't be able to agree, perhaps at what age that they can go into the classroom.

I can speak Inuktitut and I believe I can fully speak Inuktitut and it's in your department, if they speak Inuktitut but they are not being used according to what I see. They're not making more money and it seems like the public out there aren't too proud of it.

I don't know what that really means that are we using Inuktitut culture? I believe that we're not incorporating Inuktitut culture within the government although I live in my everyday life because it's my identity.

I want to get further information when we get onto the curriculum part. I would like to thank the Minister for educating the teenage parents. I know that this is going to be very beneficial for them.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to state that Nunavut Arctic College in the Keewatin Region, we want the programs such as management studies, aside management studies, Inuktitut translators/interpreters, there is a high interest for Inuktitut translators and you could use it as a private business if you can include that in that programming.

Perhaps you can say that interpreter/translator could start this year or the next fiscal year because that kind of training program in Cambridge Bay or Kugluktuk. And I'll be asking questions in regards to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for coming here today, as my colleague said, on short notice. I was prepared, but I don't think you were. I saw Ms. Hine huffing and puffing when she ran into the building. So I appreciate you guys coming on a very short notice.

Mr. Chairman, education is very important to all of us and it will be to Nunavut. I don't think anyone here would disagree that we talked about our economy, the Minister of Finance talked about mining and our economy over the next four to five years. We have talked about devolution, and talked about a number of exciting things that are on the horizon, but none of it will be exciting unless we have skilled and educated workforce. I mean not just in the matriculation like the scientists and the doctors, but also in the trades and the technical areas.

I have talked to a lot of people out there, business people. There's a great gap in the number of people out there that have trades training; the shortage of electricians, plumbers, and those kinds of folks in Nunavut.

So we have to do a lot of more work in our regard. I am very encouraged by the minister's comments of establishing a Nunavut trades school within four years. It's going to be a very challenging initiative. I think it's necessary.

If we have kids going into school, and kids are pretty smart. You know we think they don't see their future, they have a rough idea. Some want to go to university and some want to go onto the technical and trades schools, but we have to give them those opportunities. Not everybody wants to go to the south, but then again, there are a lot that do want to go south.

So we have to prepare our kids when they graduate from Grade 12 and hopefully they will make it to Grade 12. It's very sad to see when you start Kindergarten every year when you go to see the kids when they start school, they started all happy. There are 30 or 40 in Kindergarten, if you track their passage through a school and get to Grade 12 there are only two or three of them left. That means a lot of them have dropped out for a number of reasons.

So we have to find ways to encourage them to stay in school and see the value of a good education. I have always said that you can take anything you own away from us, but you can't take away good education, and as adults we continue to learn.

I am very encouraged by the minister's opening comments. He is asking for more money, he's putting money into a lot of different areas that I think will help kids in school.

One of the things I have talked about with the minister over the last year, I think it was one of his first trips was out to Cambridge Bay, out to my riding, I talked about the need for a high school counselor in our high school. We have a very nice facility there and it's going to be nice to see a lot of kids graduating out of that high school every year, not three, four, and five, but 12, 15, and 20 eventually.

I have talked to kids and they would like someone in the school to help them make decisions about their future. Sometimes it's hard for them to talk to their parents and sometimes the parents have a hard time talking to their kids, but a school counselor is a person that can help with that discussion.

We also have special needs kids in our schools, I have talked to the minister about the special needs kids suffering from FAS or FASD and you have to develop these individual education programs and individual action plans and that require resources. We can't forget those kids. They do need the education and the best we can provide to them. We have to provide the resources to the teachers to help them out.

On the income support last year, I tabled a document and I have discussed this over the years with various ministers even before I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly that maybe take some of that income support funding and use it for remote worksite assistance travel to get to places where there are jobs.

I know there are a lot of people that probably want to work but they can't afford the ticket to get to another community. A point of hire, for example, there's an Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement, where they could get there and two weeks in, two weeks out employment. It probably would require a change in policy I'm sure. I believe that to some degree, it's probably a very small number of people that are affected by this but it becomes a disincentive to work if you can go every two to four weeks and get money and not really have to look for work.

I'd be concerned about that. I have employers in Cambridge Bay tell me that some people don't want to work because they can get on the income support program. So, we have to look at that. Again, one of my all time favorite subjects is Nunavut Arctic College, in the past they've tended to put on training courses that didn't always help people find a job, a productive career.

I think that's changed in the last couple of years with the new Board of Directors, the new President, some of the directors in the various regions. That's very encouraging. The Nunavut Arctic College can play a key role in helping the private sector and ourselves to train people for the opportunities that are going to be out there in very short order.

I know that in our region, with the mining and I keep talking about mining because that's something that's there. It's real. We have the Tahera project, the mine that's opening next year in 2006 and the Miramar won't be very far behind and the Diavik and Ekati Mines.

So, we need a trained and skilled work force from our region that can take advantage of the opportunities not only just to work at the mines but also to maybe start up businesses that can provide services to mines. You can set up businesses in a community and then you hire other people to work, people that don't really want to necessarily work at a mine but we need those people.

Nunavut Arctic College has a very important role to play. They'll have to continue to do their consultations with the communities, with ourselves to find out what the communities and what the people want in terms of training to prepare their residents for the opportunities that are coming over the next few years. Those are my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. And thank you very much for your eloquence.

(interpretation end): I have no more members on the list for general comments. We will now proceed with a page by page review of the departmental estimates, starting with page G-5.

Before we proceed with the page by page approval of the 2005 - 2006 main estimates for the Department of Education, I would like to take this moment to remind the members that we are considering two separate documents, the main estimates and the departmental business plan.

From time to time, members may wish to pose questions that relate to information in one document or the other. Please be specific as to which document and page number you are referring to when posing questions or referring to specific questions. Thank you.

(interpretation): We'll then begin with page G-5 in the main estimates. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I'm taking the advantage of looking at the item directorate, because I believe that there's a main policy and what not, including, I would say Nunavut Arctic College. I can do firstly, a particular area but I want to ask the Minister exactly, what are their long term plans for the development of the trades school and whether or not we're going to see something other than just a good idea, the government supports this?

We have to start offering something to our young people, the younger generation and I certainly support my colleague from Cambridge Bay because we do have an opportunity to build an economy.

It's most promising that we will have some number of mines developed within the decade for this facility if you're up for some of that. I would like to ask the Minister if he would reassure us a bit, that these kinds of areas are in good standing, as far as work safe terms. I know that the Minister understands this fully and you have made a number of remarks on it.

Could you again say something that would inspire us a little bit for the next few years?
Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the question and the opportunity to elaborate on the PVT. Before the caucus in Arviat, when I first became the Minister of Education last March, I had approached the President of the College and met with the Board of Governors in Arviat, and discussed with them what I thought were some of the needs of education in Nunavut, especially on post-secondary.

The overly resounding feeling from the Board of Governors at that time was that we needed a dedicated facility, as a pre-vocational training school itself. Bringing that forward, as the Minister, we had some discussions with the President and so on and then out of coming out of the Arviat caucus where the members recommended a pre-vocational training school being set up.

So that is where we bring us to today, right now in the budget where we looked at where we actually have money allocated to do a RFP. What form or shape should the pre-vocational training school take?

There are some models out there. Mr. Chairman, there are different types of models that we could look at. Right now we have a systematic system in place that includes different campuses of Nunavut Arctic College, which includes three major campuses in Rankin Inlet, Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay, as well satellite Community Learning Centres in most communities across Nunavut.

So we have that type of infrastructure in place. Right now when training is done, is done, as the member is saying, at an ad hoc basis. We might deliver carpentry training in Iqaluit, and then we might do heavy equipment in Hall Beach two months from now, and so on and so forth. As an ad hoc kind of when the money is available, let us do it.

I believe the direction that I would like to bring us in as the Minister responsible, I believe the members and the public at large has echoed this, is to look at an opportunity to a stand alone pre-vocational training school where you would do the majority of your pre-vocational training. Whether that be mines training, trades training, electrical, carpentry, plumbing, heavy equipment and so on, and have that based on one central area. That would be the optimum and that would be a physical building where we would be able to do that.

Right now, Mr. Chairman, I think it is important to point out, if you are going to on to the Red Seal, or the inter-provincial apprenticeship journeyman certificate, in many cases we have to send that student to NAIT, or Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, or to the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, NAIT or SAIT, to Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith, or any other place.

What we would like to do is house all these types of principal trades under one building. However, we are cognizant at the same time that there is a need to provide an economic stimulus.

So, there is an opportunity, Mr. Chairman. We are actually devised the three major training groups within the three areas of Nunavut with your campuses. So you have a stand alone facility in Rankin Inlet that would do electrical, carpentry and plumbing. Maybe Cambridge Bay, because it is close, we would do all mines training. We would also look at heavy equipment operator training. Maybe Iqaluit would do all the academic studies programs and some of the other programs that are currently delivered.

That is how you would have it. So if someone wanted to take a carpentry program they could still go to the pre-employment carpentry, for example, in Igloolik, or Whale Cove, and then when they are ready to do the other features of the program, they would go to Rankin Inlet and they would be doing it there.

So the reason for the proposal calls is to look at as a basis, what do we want and need in Nunavut? Pull those different ideas and thought processes together, and they come forward with a program in the fall where we say this is what we want to advance, again being politically cognizant of some of the other issues about de-centralized and non de-centralized communities and opportunities, and so on.

So, I think if that helps answer the member's question, that is where we are right now under the planning process. At the end of this budget cycle, when this budget, if approved in the House, then we will go forward with the RFP, bring that information and go back to the Standing Committee and explain it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I thank the Minister for that. I am even encouraged that he is explaining it in some respect, a little more optimism, as far as I am concerned about that. We are serious about opportunities in getting our children, our young people in trades opportunities.

But my question is still is that, we certainly don't want to rely on the consultants only to consult the recommendations. We have to narrow this straight down a bit exactly, what is feasible and what isn't and surely we would have some idea.

We know for a fact that funds are not unlimited. They are limited and therefore, we don't have a cash till somewhere where we can draw funds to build these facilities in all the three regions.

So I appreciate the explanation that it's going to take a number of options to get it going. Could you at least explain to me on what that particular item is because, surely, I think

the minister is going to have to be told exactly what he is asking the consultants. If we issue the RFP too broad, it will die on some shelf somewhere and not get acted on.

So I would like the minister, maybe he could show me what amount he is talking about, so we can go to the appropriate page later. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of points and I appreciate, again, the clarification by the member.

Right now, we are actually underway. Under the labour markets development agreement, the LMDA that we have with the federal government, we are looking at opportunities for training and see and try to identify the positions that will be available.

For example, under a principal trades, but also as a college of trades and technology, what would be available in Nunavut in the next five to ten years, we have already talked about for example, we know mining is coming forward. Are there principal trades or other types of trades in the high tech sector, for example, under IT, working with computers, the internet, and so on and so forth?

So, we need to be able to look at what are the positions that are available, that are becoming available, and they have developed those programs and services to be able to deliver those types of programs. That's part of the work that we are doing right now.

The information that the member is requesting would be found under G-21 in the detail of work performed on behalf of third parties. You would find it under the labour market development agreement. Within that amount, we have budgeted about \$50,000 for that next step RFP on the actual physical infrastructure and so on.

I would hope to be in a position as the minister to bring forward something in the House, as the member has said and stated, early and probably in September, after we complete that RFP process.

We know it's in March and we get this budget finished by April 1, complete the RFP process, do the analysis, bring it back in the fall to the direction we are going for and look at the capital dollar availability, because as all of the members know, there is nothing in the capital plan right now for any type of physical facility.

Maybe there is an opportunity, under some of the labour market agreements we actually have in place over federal contributions, or some of the special funding that may come available. So that's what we have to look at.

Maybe the members in October, when we come back and say here is what we want to do, the members endorse it, a motion is passed in the House to actually access the money for the capital plan because that will be the next capital planning cycle for us.

It will be this coming fall when we look at the new capital budgets and that could be a new item put on to the budget with the acquiescence and approval of the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Curley, any more?

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to allude to an article that I read not long ago. I think it was one of these newspapers locally. With respect to the Nunavut research in general, the minister made a statement that people would like to see Nunavut become first-class, have the ability to deal with a large-scale or major research in Nunavut and that kind of stuff.

But my question really was: are we raising expectations with something that we can't actually deliver? I think we need to be practical about what we say, what we can achieve and what we can propose.

I am wondering if the minister could explain to the House because, for the first time I read that Nunavut is going to become an expert on climate change. We really don't have that technology or the ability. Surely, if we are going to do something, we should back it up with a certain amount of allocation of funds and so on because, surely, we are dependent on the knowledge somewhere of our counterparts and all over the arctic regions as well as many of the institutions down south.

So, could you maybe clarify for us this directorate item? Thank you.

Chairman: I'm sorry. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the article that the member is talking about from Nunatsiaq News talked about the issue around climate change.

We have the Nunavut Research Institute, the NRI right now, under the auspices of the Nunavut Arctic College. Basically we're left in a position where we actually just permit, allow different scientist, and so on and so forth, to come forward, we give them a permit and let them do studies in Nunavut and then we tell them to report back to us.

A lot of the studies that are going on right now, for example, one last spring in Sylvia Grinnel in the glaciers thing, to see how far glaciers have retreated and so on as well as on the Pentium Barnes Ice Cap, deal with global warming and climate change.

Under the Federal Government, there is a strategy in place on climate change, and so on. What I'm suggesting is, why don't we start doing some of that work here in Nunavut and house the work in Nunavut itself.

Why should the Federal Government be sponsoring some person to come up out of the University of Ottawa, University of Lethbridge and come on the ground for two or three

weeks or six months and then leave. If the coordination of the work right now under the permit and we do that under the land claims and some of the other legislation that are in place, why can't we have that kind of centre of excellence in Nunavut.

I think at the federal level, this has actually been heard favorably by the federal Minister and indeed since that article; I've been contacted by the Federal Government and the Minister asking for a meeting in Ottawa, to talk about some of these issues.

Climate change, the Kyoto Accord, is really raising some issues across not only Nunavut but across Canada and internationally. If climate change and we believe in climate change and global warming, we have seen some of the reports that the Minister of Environment as one who has also signed a letter with me to the Federal Environmental Minister to deal with some of these issues, is real and is happening mostly in the Arctic and in Nunavut. Therefore and thus, I would expect that we would be on the forefront of that and be able to have that type of institution and have our federal friends bring it forward.

So that was the interview that I did in Nunatsiaq News and we're talking about hopefully under the climate change initiatives, the Federal Government would see the merit, that if you're going to study something, why don't you study it where you are and that's in Nunavut and then have that information available to Nunavummiut for Canada.

Let's act on our government policies to the federal programs on issues around global warming and sovereignty and those things with the jurisdiction. Nunavut and this Minister, we were really the first jurisdiction in Canada to sign the Kyoto Accord. We did it right here at Minister Anderson's a year ago.

We were the first jurisdiction to sign on and later on this week, Mr. Chairman I would be making announcement measures by the Qulliq Energy Corporation where we're going to be eliminating thousands and thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions in Nunavut. That would coincide with some of the work that the member has asked about.

Hopefully that helps explain some of the issues that came up out of the climate change article in Nunatsiaq News. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: I think these are some things that we need to discuss in Nunavut, not just in this forum but throughout, even with our elders and our local leaders in our communities.

The reason I'm asking the question to that is because I'm not sure, with respect to the research, the knowledge requirements of our institutions, whether they be government education or Inuit. In my opinion, there is no agreement amongst each one of us.

If you talk about wildlife, the Minister will most of the time, probably side with the scientists, that the biology that have no relationship whatsoever with my kind of people,

people I grew up with who has research and knowledge. If it's Inuit knowledge, it's questionable, always. It's never part of government policy.

So, what I'm afraid of is that its knowledge based institutions, if it doesn't incorporate the expertise, there were certain Inuit that specialized in areas. Normally, the press would just say, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit knowledge, it's questionable. There's no factual base. It's just like my father walking in, if he was alive, he would probably be called a dummy because, what does he have? He has no credentials but he certainly knows about wildlife, the hardship, and the movement of the seas and the weather.

To me, the climate change is not something that changes so rapidly that we can't live with it. To me, it's an evolution of change that has been occurring since the time we were born and so on.

I am amazed that the minister is now moving so fast on Kyoto Accord because our emission is probably less than one percent of the total consumption of the emissions of Canada. So, it's both dead and it's in the Arctic. So it sounds great, but will it actually be getting different?

I would urge the minister and his colleagues to incorporate the importance of including Inuit knowledge and not isolate it and footnote IK. It's traditional knowledge, it's somewhere out there.

It should be a part of government, to government policy, and would the minister respond that they have got to do better than just commenting on Inuit traditional knowledge when referring to the importance of research in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Any response to that, Mr. Minister?

Hon. Ed Picco: Well, it's a strange day, but Mr. Curley and I are on the same page.

I would agree 100 percent with him, but I want to point out some issues that sometimes, for example, this government in the past two weeks has taken it on the chin and Minister Akesuk took it on the chin when he actually agreed with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, Inuit knowledge, when you look at the population quotas for polar bears. That was incorporated in the decision made by the government and the minister. So, we are actually doing what the member is saying.

On the second part, on the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, under IK, Inuit knowledge, we are left outside the mainstream of Canada when it comes to global warming and global research in Nunavut, when we have no control over that center or science. Right now, we are only in a position where we permit things.

If, for example, you had a scientist who lived in Nunavut and they were based at the NRI, at the Nunavut Research Institute, and they are dealing with people and see the climate

change we see on a regular basis, they have a better perspective on that, than just coming up for three months when it's warm in the summertime.

That's how we get Inuit knowledge and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit integrated throughout, not only what the Government of Nunavut does, but what other governments do. Our portion of the Kyoto Accord may only be one-tenth of one percent of the total gas emissions dropped or contributed by Canada as a whole.

However, Nunavut should be at the forefront and should be leading the way. We live in the Arctic. Ozone depletion is at its highest over the Arctic and the southern poles, caused by what we hear, by greenhouse gas emissions. Global warming and climate change supposedly are caused by this industrial waste in the atmosphere. It behoves, as a government and as a people to make a small stab at it.

I think in the next couple of days when I do the announcement in the House, you will see that we are actually doing it and I agree with Mr. Curley. It's only a small amount, but at least we can put our money where our mouth is and say we are actually trying to make a difference and I think that will echo well with our compatriots across the country.

Margaret Wenteen might think that we are in some kind of ghetto, but I would suggest to you that a lot of the cutting edge and leading edge things that are occurring, not only in Canada, were actually occurring right here in Nunavut itself and I believe that's where the opportunity lies.

Myself and Minister Akesuk wrote the Honourable Steffan Dion and some of the other ministers and talked about the opportunities that present themselves under the climate change initiative, that we can squeeze a few dollars from that proverbial, I mean you can't get a lot out of a turnip, but we can squeeze a few bucks from our federal friends to actually accentuate and enhance some of the things that we are doing on the ground.

I think we should do that, and I think Mr. Curley's points are right on because that's what we are trying to accomplish, and we will have a better opportunity for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and IK when you are actually having the facility on the ground here and we can stroke and massage, and make aware, these scientists aware of what's occurring here when they live here, if they are actually based here and are not coming up here for several weeks during the summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Do you have anything else, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: My last comment. I actually appreciate the Minister on that, because my concern is with respect to the reducing emissions policy within the department. That may be fine but I think the government needs to be very careful. They first should make public what in fact their actions would likely have on the private sector, eventually. If they were eventually to have to comply with the same kinds of standards that the Government of Nunavut would be practising, because in the long run if you allow the mining company

who may or could only develop a mining development, with the technology that we have today, that they may not be the exact same standards as the ministry is proposing.

So, what I'm saying is I don't think you can move that quickly without taking into consideration what impact that they may have with the supplies and what not, of that kind of stuff. There are economic impacts with any major government initiative.

The reason is this; we lived in a global market. We depend on the technology that we have to buy from the south and bring up here. So, it will be interesting whether or not the Minister is unilaterally announcing policy without consultation with the business sector or suppliers, and what not. So, that was my point.

My second point is that I'm worried about, I hope that the Minister is too, with respect to northern research because scientists only believe the only fact that we should trust, are the ones that are certified by people with a PhD. or what not from down south, even when they impact on our traditional economy. The wildlife, the conditions of the environment, the sea and the weather and so on, so because when I hear federal biology that says when you see more animals or more, it may not be more. My question is this, when the scientist say that the numbers may be decreasing, I say I don't think that's a fact.

So, I think there are two sides to the question. Their research is something that they say may be available but we don't get to see that. So, the Minister has to continue to rely on that whatever the scientists, biologists they're proposing or believing, that he should also compare it with what we have, what we own and our people owned. That is the Inuit experience and not just the traditional knowledge.

If the Minister would agree to that, we'll be on the same page. Thank you. That was my last comment.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Everybody is on the same page. We're on G-5, Education Branch Summary. Did you want to respond to that Mr. Minister? Please.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're on the same page but we're in a different time zone. On the page to page where Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Research Institute and I guess G-12, I think we're on G-5. I would like to respond just very quickly if I can Mr. Chairman, to some of the comments that Mr. Curley has made.

I agree in most cases with what he had said. I think it's safe to say that the largest contributors of greenhouse gasses in Nunavut are our power plants, spewing it right up into our atmosphere.

The announcement that I will make in a couple of days doesn't affect industry in Nunavut. It doesn't affect any of these other issues. It's something that the Federal Government helps up fund. The Federal Government stepped to the plate last year when I was Minister of Energy with Mr. Robert Nault, and gave us a contribution to be able to work on this, what we call a Kyoto strategy.

Like I said, in a couple of days I will be doing that announcement here in the House. It doesn't impact on any of the other jurisdictions or companies or corporations. So I would be pleased to speak to it when we get back to G-12, where the college budget is located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on page G-5, Education Branch Summary. Directorate. Total operations and maintenance, \$1,022,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the record I would like to ask the Minister a couple of things that I mentioned in my opening comments. Is the development of the new *Education Act*, and the new school funding formula, is that done through this area in through the Directorate division within the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy is under tab G-7 in the book. And the K-12, which is the school system. That is where the formula would be, it would be under G-19. So I can answer questions now in this section, or we can wait until we get to those particular pages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: You can answer that one when we get to that particular page. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I noticed under the summary for the Directorate, it talks about development of legislation and policy. And then when you go over to the other page, it is communications and legislation. That could be either/or, so I just wanted to make sure that that was clarified so we don't ask about it at a later point.

My question on this page deals with the grants and contributions. It goes into something that I know that the member notes as well that, as I mentioned earlier, with the dissolution of the Divisional Boards of Education there was supposed to be more power and authority and control devolved through the local communities, the DEAs.

I see here under the grants and contributions that there was \$100,000 last year allocated to the DEAs for special needs funding and this year there is none. So maybe if I could just ask the Minister if he could explain why that is the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. Last year there was \$100,000 put into special needs, specifically for special needs funding. This year in the

extra money that we talked about within the budget of the Department of Education, there is actually considerably more money for special needs and the actual hiring of new positions, which is very good news for schools and DEAs across Nunavut.

That is a little bit later on when we get into the budget. So the member is correct, there was \$100,000 last year. It is not there for this year because we have actually increased by a couple of million dollars, the monies for special needs. Therefore and thus, it is not in the main estimates or the contributions, like it was last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated that they are hiring people to take care of that. Is it the Department of Education that is going to be hiring and looking after the special needs' stuff now? Is that why that money is no longer needed there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$100,000 was used in a special circumstance last year for special needs. \$100,000 divided by 42 schools in 37 or 38 DEAs, isn't much money. The amount of the money right now when we go into special needs when we get to the point in the budget, is considerably more. Those positions, then there will be positions hired by the Government of Nunavut new PYs. As well, there will be an allocation where the different DEAs may want to pick up extra on top of that.

So I am suggesting to you, and I don't want to get into big detail at this stage, but let us say that if there was five special needs positions at a given school last year, then those positions are funded and then the DEA might want to pick up a couple more themselves. So you are actually adding to it. Those positions would be core funded now through the Government of Nunavut, not asking the DEA to pick up those costs. So there would be actually extra money for extra positions. Where there were three last year, now maybe there would be five positions.

Again, it would depend on the District Education Authority and it would depend on each school because as the member said in his opening comments, each school is different and should be treated different. Every community and District Education Authority is different.

So, you can't have a cookie cutter approach as to how many positions are going to be hired because some communities may have different issues on FAS/FAE or special needs that other communities don't have. Some communities for example, might have a group home with special needs and that community will have greater needs in the community that doesn't have a group home where there are a lot of children with special needs and would be integrated into the school system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Minister if this is all the money last year, 100 thousand. Was that all the money that the District Education Authorities used to get for special needs, or was there other pots of money that they were given towards this as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there was more money in the budget last year, considerably more money for special needs. This 100 thousand dollars for special pilot projects at some point through the year like last year, some District Education Authorities had come forward and said look, we have a special circumstance or whatever and then we were able to come up with the extra money to fund those District Education Authorities for those extra pilot projects in their community.

That was 100 thousand dollars that we had budgeted there for that last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess that just begs to ask the question that if the District Education Authorities are supposed to be given more control or more authority in an area of a situation and here you have a situation where money is allocated to them to use and decide on how it's used in their communities is being taken away and done by the department if that's my understanding of this.

Is the Minister and his department still committed to looking at devolving control and authority? Is that still a priority of this Minister that the District Education Authorities should be able to take on additional responsibilities and authorities? Not that they end up being the scapegoat for the department just responsible for absenteeism and truancy.

Each District Education Authority in each community is elected by the community and I know that there was one major issue I had with the last draft of bill 1 that it took away all the authority of the District Education Authorities.

Is this Minister still committed and his staff still committed to ensuring that those additional responsibilities and authority and powers will be forthcoming and to the District Education Authorities if they request it and decide that they are ready? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, that process is part of the development of the new education act, what the legislative and what the executive powers are. What are the regulations and responsibilities of the District Education Authorities and that will come through that public process that will begin as soon as the

budget is complete and the legislative coordinator begins holding community hearings and consultations, and I think that the member is correct in the feeling that the members of this house and this Minister and the department and staff really believe in trying to enhance not only the accountability mechanisms but also fostering a better understanding and control at the local level through the locally elected District Education Authority.

I think you'll see that as the process for the new education act moves forward. Under the \$100,000 on the original question under the Directorate last year for 2003-04, there was no actual expenditure under grants and contributions there. It was only last year that it actually popped up into the budget we see. I guess the decrease there is actually found throughout the budget.

There's a huge increase in special needs for all of our communities in Nunavut and I think that's really good news for schools. I know there are a lot of principals last week when I was at the FNT Conference, wanted to know some of the details of this extra money going into the department and I think as we go out through this process, we will be able to devolve and talk about more of that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything else, Mr. Tootoo?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It leads to more questions I guess under policy and planning.

The other thing that we see here and I know that the Education Minister is also the Homeless Minister. There's \$100,000 set aside for Homeless Secretariat contributions. I am just wondering if the minister could explain exactly how those funds will be spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Premier Paul Okalik, about four years ago, was the first jurisdiction in the country other than the federal government to appoint a minister responsible for the issue of homelessness when he appointed me.

At that time, and since then up until today, there has been no budget dollars associated with that position. We had to do most of the logistics as well as the administrative work from the minister's office itself and rely on different staff from the Housing Corporation and so on and so forth.

Last year, we were able to share half a PY from the position. The money in the budget for the secretariat is to use as probably grant and contribution money, to help homeless groups and societies get started.

Right now, over the last several weeks, we have been working on an exciting initiative with Cape Dorset and it has gone through several different phases. Cape Dorset is working on an issue of homelessness.

So I hope to be in position at some point to be able to support other communities in Nunavut with that.

Right now, the only actual homeless shelter in Nunavut is funded by such as here in Iqaluit. However, other communities have come forward to look at opportunities under the homelessness initiatives that the federal government has already announced to start looking at dealing with people who are homeless, whether they are absolute or relative.

So that's the reason why the money is there and the money would be used as grants and contributions under the same policies and procedures that would be in place for all the monies issued by the government.

It's here in this budget, in the education budget because I am the Minister of Education and the money follows me. So in this case, it's the first time there was any money following me, not like in health where all of the money would leave me. In education, there's some money following me. So that's why the \$100,000 was set up under this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister can tell us what this money here, now he has got money following him around and growing and so the issue of homelessness.

I know that it's an ongoing issue here in Iqaluit. I am just wondering if you could say, like what's the secretariat? Is it going to be just who's office? Who's going to be administering these funds? Who does someone apply to, to be able to access that funding? Does it go to the Deputy Minister of Education or who in the Department of Education or the minister's office do letters or applications or request for information on applications go to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, as I said earlier, in the past four years, this is the first time there's ever been any allocation of any specific fund for homelessness.

In the past, what I have been working at is working with our federal friends, the Honorable Brian Shaw who came here twice I believe and met with me. We were able to access skippy funds under the Federal Homelessness Initiative. We were able to actually fund the youth cottage program that is actually going forward now.

It had to be done by NGO's. I had no specific allocation of funds under the Government of Nunavut to provide matching contributions for example, or to access third party funds where possible and so on. So there were some issues there.

The same policies and procedures for grants and contributions for any other program under the government would apply for this 100 thousand dollars. The request would be made through the Minister's office and those requests would be then dispersed based on what the contingencies are at that point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister raises another interesting point. He talks about the youth cottage and the non-government organizations that run it.

I understand that it's also, or my understanding is that it's the same non-government organization that's running the homeless shelter here in Iqaluit. My question for the minister, given the February 4 ad that was in Nunatsiaq News, or in the news paper for a homeless shelter, a request, an expression of interest to run the homeless shelter in Iqaluit, is that now indicating that the government's going to be taking over that responsibility from which ever non-government organization is running those programs right now and respond to that as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. The Illitiit Society operates the youth cottage and operates the homeless shelter on behalf and for government.

The Illitiit Society, the genesis of the Illitiit Society was formed at the community wellness conference in Iqaluit and basically the fact though I've been running the coda homeless shelter. The new project that they're running is the youth cottage, and that comes from what we just talked about earlier, the Skippy Fund.

It has been accessed by the City of Iqaluit because it can't come through the Government of Nunavut. That's where they received the bulk of their funding for the youth cottage program.

The request for interest and it wasn't a request for proposal, just as the member said; it's an expression of interest to see if there is interest out there to run the shelter. What happens from time to time with government, the government looks at proposal calls for different agencies that run contracts.

There is no necessarily thing that says you're going to run the program for the rest of what ever the government does. Five years have passed. The Illitiit Society has been running the homeless shelter program. We decided to go out and to see if there is any other interest in any other group to run the program.

The Illitiit Society could apply and say no, we'd like to be able to run the program again. So, we haven't gone to an RFP or tender or anything like that. All we did in the paper

was to see if there was any other group out there interested in running the homeless shelter.

I met with Mr. Bill Riddell, the chair of the homeless shelter group in December before the ad was placed, and told him that I was looking at bringing this forward. Again, it's just a way, in due course, of doing business. If you just continue to roll over a contract to one group because you like the way they're doing it, or you just roll over because they've been doing it anyway, so, we just did an expression of interest. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Anything else, Mr. Tootoo?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the minister if he could indicate if, he already said that there was no money following him around before.

This the first time that there is money following him around, now, he says they had a contract with this group to run the home. Where did the money come from? Maybe, he could clarify if it wasn't under the homeless portfolio, where the money comes from for running the homeless shelter here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Go ahead, Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The homeless shelter here in Iqaluit receives its funding from different sources, different pots from the Government of Nunavut, for example, a contribution of \$25,000 from the Housing Association.

The bulk of the money that goes to the homeless shelter comes from the Department of Health and Social Services. It's a little over \$100,000 and they have to sign a contribution agreement for that and they use that to run the program.

The \$100,000 that I'm talking about here is actually now logistical and administrative money set up under the Homeless Secretariat, so if you were in Cambridge Bay and you said you needed \$15,000 to do up a study, or a project or a proposal to get homeless money from the federal government, then there would be actually money now to be able to do that, like the work that we're doing right now with Cape Dorset.

We're providing logistic and administrative and letters of support to them. They have not come forward for example, the Cape Dorset group asking for financial contributions. If they did, I have no money to give them because there is no program, and there is no budget set up for that.

The money that runs the homeless shelter right now, it just comes straight out of the Department of Health and Social Services because it was there prior to division, it's been there since division and that's where that money comes from. So I hope that helps clarify the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. You had your hand up, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that's the case then I guess I'm wondering why the Minister of Education is putting out an expression of interest for a contract that is put out by the Department of Health and Social Services.

It seems odd that the Minister just indicated that all the majority of the funding comes through a contribution agreement with the Department of Health and Social Services that it's not the Department of Health and Social Services that is looking for an expression of interest, then not the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a pretty simple answer to that. And it is that the Minister for Homelessness was the Minister for Health and it just happened when the Minister, Premier Okalik appointed me as Minister of Homelessness, that all the funding at that time for homelessness, for example, to run that shelter, there was only one shelter, came from one department.

Now, the case has changed. Now, the Minister of Health has become the Minister of Education and I'm still the Minister for Homelessness. The contribution agreement with health is still in place. The Illitit Society still has to bring its financial records up to date and so on. There are some logistic issues there. Then they would get an agreement from the Department of Health.

As the Minister responsible for Homelessness, it is my position, and opportunity to issue the requests for an expression of interest in looking at running the homeless shelter, so that's what we've done.

So, maybe the confusion comes from the previous portfolio that I held. But right now, those monies to operate the shelter are still in the Department of Health's budget. The extra here, the \$100,000 is the first time there has actually been any money allocated for homelessness itself through other groups, agencies, Cambridge Bay, Whale Cove, could actually come to the Minister and say this is what we're trying to do.

I would hope that we would be able to leverage some of those dollars. Before that wasn't the case. So, I hope that helps answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Tootoo, go ahead.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated that the funding for the shelter in town here comes from a number of different sources. It's my understanding that the federal dollars and the dollars from other areas that they receive funding from Uqsuq gave them \$10,000 not very long ago.

I know that there's always been ongoing support for the shelter. There was a time when they painted the building. There were a lot of volunteers from the community that wanted to help out a local non-profit organization in running that program. They applied for funding from different levels of government and different areas within each level of government.

I'm wondering is if the Minister has put out this expression of interest, has he received or discussed and received consent or the okay from the organization that's running the centre right now because the department or the government is not running that shelter. It's the Illitiit that's running the shelter. The government is just one spoke, if you want to call it that of source of funding for that organization.

So, I'm just wondering if the Minister sought and got the approval of the Board of Directors for Illitiit that run the shelter for putting this expression of interest out there. Does he even think that it's necessary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the expression of interest, as I said earlier, there is no hard and fast rule. If there is anyone who is running a program for the government continues to run it.

There are obligations whether they are administrative or financial that has to be met. It could be dealing with financial contributions, agreements, signed papers and so on. In this case, Mr. Chairman, since 1999 and before the Illitiit Society were running the homeless shelter. we thought, me as Minister though there is an opportunity to look at an expression of interest to see if there is any other group on the ground that would look at running the homeless shelter for the government. The building that they occupy is a government asset. The core funding that they receive came from the government and they are providing a service to the government. If the facility closed down tomorrow, and everyone was on the street, they would come right to the government and say why.

So there is that responsibility and issue on behalf of the Government of Nunavut. We've put out an expression of interest, not an RFP, it's not a tender call, to see if there are other groups actually on the ground. There have been other groups on the ground in the past that've come forward, Inuit organizations and so on who have said that they were interested in running the shelter.

So, we did the request for interest. I will see where it goes from there. I met with Mr. Riddell in December after bringing forward all the groups in the community in November. We had a meeting. I discussed with Mr. Riddell at that time and we've moved forward. The Illitiit Society continue to run the shelter and they may well do that next year but the government has an opportunity to put out an interest to see if there are any other groups interested.

So, that's what we've done. We've exercised that option. We haven't broken any rules or what have you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one thing then, if the Illitiit Society decided they didn't want to do it anymore and walked away from it, is it something that the government would then take over to ensure it's operations and make sure that the door stayed open so that, unfortunately, that over-crowded homeless shelter would stay open for those people that don't have a place to go?

Is the Minister saying then that based on this and it's his responsibility that, if that was the case, if that did happen, no matter what, if there was no other non-profit organization out there willing to try and go all over the different pots of federal and territorial governments to try and find money to just keep the doors open, that this government would have that responsibility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is similar to other things that have occurred in the community. I will just use Iqaluit as an example because the member is familiar with it.

Akausiqsarvik was the mental health institution that was set up. We had an agreement and a tender call and an invite proposal and so on and the Elder's Society of Iqaluit won that. They were operating the facility and they decided they didn't want to run it any more. The government actually had to take that over.

Since the early 1990s, the Baffin Regional Agvik Society has run the women's shelter here in the community. They run it as an independent non-profit society. If they decided tomorrow that they didn't want to run it or if there was issues around financial contributions or other issues that the government had to step in, then we would still provide that service. That's what I'm saying.

In the case of the shelter, it's run by a non-profit organization or society. All we've suggested was if there are some issues there is there an opportunity. We looked at doing a request for interest to see if there are other groups who would like to run that shelter. We've done the expression of interest. I informed Mr. Riddell in December that we would be doing that and so we're moving forward from that point.

The Illitiit Society has run this program for X number of years as a volunteer board and agency and have done the yeoman service in doing that. We've just done a request for interest. It's not a tender. We haven't awarded a contract. It's not a request for a proposal. It was just an expression of interest. That's all that was done.

We'll go on from that point, where we are right now. I don't think there is any mystery or anything there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We will turn to Mr. Peterson until when he's done you can go back then. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, this discussion on homelessness in Nunavut is very interesting. I'm wondering if the Minister can provide us with a definition of what a homeless person is in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are two definitions of homelessness found not just in Nunavut but throughout the world. One is absolute and the other relative. Absolute homelessness is what we see for example in urban Canada where someone would be on the street with a little tin cup. That is absolute homelessness. And that's the terminology used by social scientists and so on, who talk about the issue of homelessness.

The second type of homelessness is the type of homelessness we see more commonly in Nunavut and that is relative homelessness. Relative being when you have 15 people living in a three bedroom house. That is the type of homelessness we see in Nunavut and that's the two definitions that I use as the Minister of Homelessness for Nunavut but so do other jurisdictions; absolute and relative. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for that answer. Does the Minister for Homelessness collect statistics on homeless in Nunavut? Are there some numbers out there that are available for us to review? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister responsible for the issue of homelessness doesn't take numbers and everything. That is done through the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

The housing corporation along with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has done the yeoman service of putting together a package to our federal partner which illustrates and documents some of the issues around relative homelessness in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering then, if the Minister responsible for the issue of homelessness is not really responsible for the homeless, then why isn't the Secretariat under the Nunavut Housing Corporation if we have relative homelessness in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister for Homelessness is not the Minister for Housing. If the Minister for the Homeless was the Minister for Housing then it would have been in that budget.

The Minister for Homeless is now the Minister of Education, among other portfolios and therefore and thus, that \$100,000 in the budget for education because that's where I'm the key minister for.

It wouldn't be acceptable if the money for the grants and contributions that we talked about, if I were still the Minister for Economic Development, I was the Minister of Health, it wouldn't be acceptable where I would phone up the deputy minister from Health and say give me \$40,000, there's \$30,000 on an application with this issue where I'm not the minister.

It's very difficult for a minister to share a deputy minister. So, if you've got two ministers sharing a deputy minister, there could be some issues there and we didn't want to get into that type of issue.

For clarification purposes and for transparency, the 100 thousand that has been proposed in the budget for the first time ever to facilitate a homeless secretariat, has been lodged within the Department of Education because the minister responsible for Homelessness is also responsible for that portfolio.

We saw that as probably the clearest, transparent way of bringing forth that process. I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if I am sure of what you said. I like the concept of a homeless secretariat because I was reading your presentation earlier to provide an organized forum in which all levels of government and I take it the three levels of government, the federal, territorial and municipal are all involved. That's good. I like partnerships like that.

They should all be involved because homelessness is an issue that affects the whole community. I hear a lot about homelessness in Iqaluit. You said absolute homelessness is something that goes on down south. I've seen it in Toronto and Vancouver, those are two cities that really have a lot of absolute homelessness, but I see people in Iqaluit who seem to be on the verge of that absolute homelessness, as opposed to Cambridge Bay where we

have relative homelessness where people will take in relatives because there is a housing shortage. They're not really homeless, but it's because they don't have their own house or apartment.

I wonder if we're comparing apples and oranges, Iqaluit and Cambridge Bay for example. I'm not sure what Hunter said, but is it really a big issue in Nunavut. Is it a bigger issue in Iqaluit, the homelessness issue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, Mr. Peterson just hit the nail on the head because this is the issue that I have to deal with when I'm the Minister of Homelessness and everyone in this house deals with it.

When we talk to our federal partner, they look at it differently. They say there is no urban homelessness there. If you had absolute homelessness in Nunavut, if you didn't have a place to go, you would freeze to death. So, that's the reason why we don't have people hanging around with tin cups and hanging around the Northern Store or Co-op somewhere, because you couldn't sleep outside, because most of our people would freeze to death.

That's why we say our issue is absolute but in terminology terms, it would be relative because we actually put them up places. There are a lot of people in Nunavut, for example, you see it here Iqaluit, let's say someone is at the BCC, they don't want to go home because of what ever issue, so they hang around Iqaluit.

Then they want to stay at their neighbour's house or their friend's house and so on. In some cases, they end up at the homeless shelter because no one wants to put them up. That's homelessness. They can't hang around Arctic Ventures because they would freeze. So, you see more of it in Iqaluit because there are more people here. The population of Iqaluit right now is getting closer to 7 thousand people.

The numbers itself will show that. In Rankin Inlet and some of the other communities, including Cambridge Bay, we've heard cases now of people in similar situations, where there is actually absolute homelessness, except you can't just hang around Cambridge because you would freeze, so you stay in someone's house.

Some people sleep in cold porches and so on. Sometimes you don't have any place to stay and people have actually paid the person to get out of the community to go to Yellowknife or they go to Winnipeg. We've seen cases of that. So, the issue of homelessness is real in Nunavut, not just in Iqaluit.

That's why I can tell you right now, and I said it earlier, that Cape Dorset is really putting together a good plan there with some people that we've been working on and it deals with the issue of homelessness. So, it's not just in Iqaluit, it's across Nunavut. But, the reality is that when you're dealing with 12 to 13 people in one house, people are homeless.

When you're sleeping in shifts in cold porches, that's not acceptable, so for the first time, the member is correct, we have a very small budget of \$100,000 where I would hope to be able to bridge and finance and facilitate issues around homeless with Cambridge Bay, with Cape Dorset and other communities. Prior to this, all we had was the names and the Minister would try to access some federal Skippy Funds and so on, which we have been successful in doing.

We certainly haven't gotten to where we want to be on the issue of homeless, itself. I think it's a good news story that we've actually identified and allocated now the \$100,000. Let's build it from this point. And it is, as the member pointed out across Nunavut. It is not just an Iqaluit issue, it is a Nunavut issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson, anything else?

Mr. Peterson: I have no more questions, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a two part question. One deals with the development, legislation and policy on Page G-4 of the business plan. The department mentioned that it is developing a language of instruction policy for Nunavut schools. It provides the resources required for the effective implementation.

Could the Minister or his staff explain to us exactly what the status of that policy is and how it would work if it were to be implemented and adopted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Language of Instruction policy, the LOI, falls in line with the bilingual education strategy of the Government of Nunavut.

The Language of Instruction model and we just had good discussions by the way in your home town of Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, and you were with me, the language of instruction gives three models. Those three models are based on what the situation of the language, the predominant language, for example, in Coral Harbour it is Inuktitut, what the predominant language in community is and then those three models are able to facilitate what the strategy should be to bring a bilingual system in place from K-12.

For example, if Inuktitut is very strong in the community, then maybe the emphasis will be more on an English stream that the District Education Authority would chose to be able to look at.

When we were in Coral Harbour, the Coral District Education Authority as well as Chesterfield Inlet, and the member and the chair asked me earlier or last week, is there an

opportunity to look at other models within the three and I said yes, maybe there is a chance to have a hybrid model

That's what we're looking at under the policy. We know we want the language of instruction model. That's been tabled and everyone is aware of it. We've held consultations with District Education Authorities.

I met with the District Education Authority, as the member has said over this past summer with all the chairs across Nunavut to talk about the bilingual education strategy and the language of instruction, the LOI, and we're looking at right now developing some of the procedures under the LOI and for the introduction.

We would hope to be in the position in the new coming year in the August or September, depending on when the new school year starts to be able to be in a position to introduce that language of instruction at the beginning phases. So, I hope that helps to answer the member's question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the Minister explain to us or his Deputy exactly what the difference is between the two? Sure, the language of instruction if adopted, we'll probably have to consider the long term impact in the progress of the student and what not into the greater society.

What exactly will it achieve in the ultimate goal as in the example and so on? What is the difference really between the language subjects? For instance, French, Inuktitut, English. If one prominent language is used, will they have the option then to take on as a subject any other language? Has that been considered, does that work in Nunavut, because I think we're going down a direction where we are on uncharted waters really.

For instance, I consider myself to be pretty proficient in Inuktitut, what benefit did I get at the end of the road. No recognition, no diploma, nothing.

If we're going to be getting our kids to go on stream, how are they going to eventually meet at the end of the tunnel somewhere there and when they have to go to high school or something to that effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like the way Mr. Curley has actually sized up the language of instruction, the LOI and the bilingual education strategy. Right now, for example, in Iqaluit, you can chose to put your children in an English stream where they will do English predominantly, probably 80 percent of the time and their second language is in Inuktitut and they will only get a class of Inuktitut maybe three or four times during the week.

If you are in Coral, or you are in some of the other communities in Nunavut, you don't have that option because number 1, you don't have the option of doing the streaming because you probably don't have the educators to do it and number 2, you don't have the classroom space and number 3, the system hasn't been set up for it and number 4, the District Education Authority hasn't acknowledge it.

What the language of instruction says is this, that from K-12, we should be turning out bilingual students fluent in English and in Inuktitut and so, when you look at the three different models that are available, or the high-bred model that we have talked about, you would be able to look at when you get to grade 7, we should have an Inuktitut speaking teacher who is able to teach the core geography subject or the science subject in Inuktitut.

And you should be able to do your core subjects throughout the process from K-12 in Inuktitut and English, like they do in other places. For example, in Kativik in Northern Quebec, they're actually turning out trilingual students. They use the language of instruction model based primarily on the K-6 side.

The reason for that, of course, is because they have more people who are fluent in Inuktitut in the K-6 than the grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 models. Our problem right here with the language of instruction model is that we don't have any trained Inuktitut speaking teachers for grade 9 through 12.

So, it's not fair to say that in four years, we would be able to have a person, if they wanted to do half their studies completely in Inuktitut, to be able to do that. The other issue on the recognition of the language, there is no official recognition that you speak English, other than if you graduated from school with a diploma and you took a PH.d in the English language or English literature. The recognition comes if you are able to go onto higher education.

What we want to be able to bring forward for my children, as a parent in the school system who have done K-3 and K-4 in Inuktitut and are now doing English, is that at the end of the day, when they graduate from grade 12 from Inukshuk High School in Iqaluit, that they'll have an opportunity to go to either University of Winnipeg, they could go to Nunavut Arctic College, or make that choice themselves.

And that's what we're trying to do with the language of instruction is, to give proficiency and a strong base in Inuktitut and English. For example, here in Iqaluit, we have the francophone school and some parents like what they're doing right now is taking French and Inuktitut, not English.

That option is there too. So, that's what the language of instruction talks about and that would be the impact from K-12. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response. I believe sometimes that we're going ahead very quickly without really actually thinking about how one weakens the other in terms of achieving, because I'm sure I can be proficient, my kids can be proficient, but really in this society, in terms of surviving in the job market, I don't see any benefit in having the Inuktitut language as a credit when applying for government jobs.

It doesn't work. Until that is proven, what are we doing with our language? So, could you not achieve that by instructing it as a subject, Inuit language, rather than compromising some? I say that not with the attempt to try and degrade my language, my culture, because I believe I'm much more proficient compared to many of my colleagues here, but what I'm saying here, have you done all the necessary studies in Greenland or what not?

I know in Greenland it is part of their society. They have been at it for over three hundred years. They have their language and what not established in any written, or academic integrated into their society, ours isn't. There is a dichotomy between English, French or Inuktitut. We are not sure yet.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for instance is looked at if that predominantly Inuk and non-Inuit has nothing to do with it because it is not part of a policy in the government. If a non-Inuk possesses Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, then I would believe you. But right now, once you hear about Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in your Division that is for them, that is not us.

That is how it is. Get back to them and say exactly what is going on? So I really believe the government needs to do better presentation and state exactly that for instance if you look at a biology report, they look at Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit for them versus ours. The Minister I hope understands that, any Minister, them versus ours. Our scientific knowledge is presented incorporates Inuktitut stuff.

So they keep Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit as something else. In their traditions, in the old days that the English will not stoop down to savage practices, that was their policy.

So we really haven't got out of that 100 percent yet. What I am trying to say is unless it is fully integrated, that the Inuit language and knowledge and proficiency in Inuktitut are credited then I would believe that the department is heading in the right direction.

I am a little bit leery. I know that there are many others too. For instance, you probably take it for granted that my boy at Kindergarten where they had instruction at school in language in Rankin Inlet in Inuktitut. Before he finished Kindergarten, we moved to Iqaluit. We couldn't continue with the Inuktitut language as much as we wanted to. Do you know why? Because the dialect was completely different, he was lost. Ever since then, he has been one Grade behind because he was born in October.

So I am not fully sure whether or not where you are heading is the best practice. It looks good. It looks great. It sounds great, but will it really develop our people?

So that is my last point. I want the Minister to reassure me and this House that we are heading in the best professional standards that we will develop our people. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all in the process for the language of instruction, there has been a lot of thought put into this. It is not something that I have come up with in the last few months, the language of instruction's first endorsement at Cabinet in 2002. In the process, it has evolved since then. Moving forward quickly, resources and development, the procedures of other language of instruction the outlining what those three areas are.

As I said earlier to you, looking at if there is an opportunity for a hybrid model. Inuktitut right now, as Mr. Curley has said, Inuktitut right now is taught as a subject in school. When my son is in Grade 10, he will have three hours of Inuktitut a week because that is what his parents have chosen for him to take as a subject. However, he has no opportunity in Grade 10 to have any Inuk come in and teach Grade 10 geography, Grade 10 science, Grade 10 math in Inuktitut. That is what the language of instruction is trying to do is to bring that forward.

We can do that right now in K – Grade 6, because we actually have the teachers and instructors. Our biggest issue in the language of instruction will be in the next coming years because so many of our people are retiring and leaving the teaching profession. I believe that some numbers in the next five years, 30 percent of current teachers, our Inuit instructors and teachers will be retired.

So we need to get more Inuit involved in teaching, especially at the Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 levels if we are really going to implement the language of instruction because we need to have people qualified to be able to teach at that higher level. So I think that's important. What we're trying to do, to assure the member is ensure that Inuktitut as a curriculum, more than a subject is available from K-6.

So that's our starting point. So, when you're doing math in Grade 5, you're doing it in Inuktitut. When you're doing geography in Grade 4, you're doing it in Inuktitut. You're not just taking Inuktitut three hours a day or four hours a day. I think that's where we'll have a building of a proficiency in the language and so on.

In Greenland, Kalaallisut, they actually do bilingual instruction where you do Kalaallisut and then you do Danish and that's why you see so many fluently bilingual people in Greenland.

So, I hope that helps assure the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will now recognize the clock and report progress. Thank you, Minister and staff.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day, Item 21, Report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Netser.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Secunder for the motion? Mr. Curly. The motion is in order. All those in favor of the motion?

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Item 22, Third Reading of Bills. Item 23, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A meeting of the regular members' caucus tomorrow at 11:00 in the Nanuq Board Room.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday, March 1st.

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 to Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We will reconvene on Tuesday, March 01, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:14*

