



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

2nd Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 17

Wednesday March 2, 2005

Pages 982 – 1055

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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Minister Responsible for
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday March 2, 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. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please be seated. Good afternoon Premier, Ministers and the members. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Ms. Brown.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 061 – 2(2): Akausisarvik Transfer

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that the Department of Health and Social Services will envelope control of Akausarsivik Mental Health Facility as of April 1st, 2005 from the Pairijait Tigummivik Society. Cabinet has approved this choice of action.

The Pairijait Tigummivik Elders' Society agrees that the responsibility for the operations should be transferred to the department. The profiles and needs of the client group at Akausarsivik require the kind of support that is more readily available through the Department of Health and Social Services rather than a community-based organization.

The Elders' Society, Health and Social Services, and the Department of Human Resources have discussed the transition process and its effects on the staff. The Labour Relations Division of the Department of Human Resources has also been involved with the process.

Mr. Speaker, every effort will be made to retain the current staff to Akausarsivik with modified job descriptions and training available for current employees to fulfill future Government of Nunavut job duties.

We are committed to bringing care for persons with mental health issues who experience challenges in independent living arrangements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 062 – 2(2): Long Term Service Award Ceremonies

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the continued efforts and contributions of our employees who have served long periods of employment within the public service.

Long-term service award ceremonies recognizing employees with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 continuous years of service with the Government of Nunavut and the Government of the Northwest Territories, are being held this year in 18 communities in Nunavut for approximately 360 employees.

Mr. Speaker, for this year's awards, I would like to acknowledge the four 30-year recipients. Heather Anne Swinton from Iqaluit, who works with the Department of Health and Social Services, Doug Crossley from the Department of Community and Government Services in Cambridge Bay, and teachers Johnny Meeko from Sanikiluaq and Mary Hutchings from Cape Dorset.

Mr. Speaker, over 100 employees received 5 and 10 year awards at the ceremony here in Iqaluit. Ceremonies have also been held in Arctic Bay, Arviat, Baker Lake, Cambridge Bay, Cape Dorset, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Pangnirtung, Rankin Inlet, Repulse Bay and Taloyoak.

I would like to thank my colleagues who were able to participate in these awards. Upcoming long-term service award events are scheduled for Clyde River, Hall Beach, Igloolik and Pond Inlet.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to invite all Members of the Legislative Assembly to the long-term service ceremony for employees receiving 15, 20, 25 and 30 year awards in Iqaluit. It will be held this evening at the Frobisher Inn starting at 6:30 tonight. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in acknowledging the dedication of our employees, our most valued asset. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Ministers' statements. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 131 – 2(2): Arctic Bay Sewage Lagoon

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today regarding the Arctic Bay sewage lagoon. This is not the first time that I have raised this issue in the House. I am aware that water and waste water projects in several communities are benefiting from the federal Strategic Infrastructure Fund.

Mr. Speaker, the funding for sewage and sanitation in Arctic Bay has not been in the actual Capital Estimates since 2002-03. Since then, funding for the projects has been carried over the new budget years and funding has been added to projects on an emergency by emergency basis.

Correspondence from the Minister in July of 2004 indicated that emergency funding was being added to the project and that technical evaluation would be necessary.

Correspondence in January of this year indicated that funding would be moved out of the project because a lower than expected tender has been accepted and that there was a surplus.

Correspondence that I received in the past couple of weeks show a further decrease in funding for this project, stating once again that the lagoon will require additional technical evaluation this summer.

Mr. Speaker, members will recall that the Hamlet of Arctic Bay was notified in the summer of 2003 that the lagoon was not in compliance with federal regulations and that hamlet officials could face jail time or fines if the situation was not corrected.

I am confused about the priority that is being placed on this project. The 2005 – 2010 capital plans does not contain any additional funding for technical evaluation. Correspondence from the minister has done little to clarify the current status of the project.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the minister questions on this matter at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 132 – 2(2): New Members

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I want to talk about the new members that were elected in Gjoa Haven to the Kagiqluk Development Corporation, James Qitsualik, president, Inuk Pauloosie, vice-president, Joseph Aglukkaq, secretary treasurer and the board members are David Porter, Paula Eleehetoo, Wally Porter,

Danny Okpik and Andrew Porter. They are taking a proactive approach to develop a corporation which will help greatly with the opportunities the mining sector has to offer.

I was very pleased to hear about this new committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 133 – 2(2): Polar Bear Quota Increase in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I had asked this question to the Minister of Environment on the issue of polar bear management in the Hudson Bay area.

I was pleased to hear the Minister of Environment announce the increase to Nunavut's total allowable harvest of polar bears. However, my constituents in Sanikiluaq have expressed concern that no increase has been given to southern Hudson Bay.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that increase was not given to my community because further population studies need to be made for Sanikiluaq.

I would like to thank the minister for assisting Sanikiluarmit in organizing a conference call on this issue very recently. Sanikiluarmit strongly believe that the population of polar bears have indeed increased. I, myself recall back when I was in school around the 1960s, the polar bear population was not that great.

Mr. Speaker, according to the current Memorandum of Understanding for the management of the southern Hudson Bay polar bear population, the intention of the Department of Environment is to conduct population inventory studies every 15 years to determine the numbers, and rates of birth and death for the population. The intended date to begin the next population inventory is 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased that the Minister was committed to keeping me and my community informed and involved in this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 134 – 2(2): APTN Broadcast in English Only

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today after reading the Nunavut News North that was published on February 28, it stated that my constituency of Igloodik, especially the Isuma Productions, stated that APTN now has

new regulations that Inuktitut programming, everything will have to be dubbed into English if they are going to be aired through APTN.

When we are dealing with the official languages in Nunavut and when we try and strengthen our Inuktitut language, in Igloolik we feel that this is very important. APTN, with the new regulations that when all the programming is in Inuktitut because they will be dubbed into English. This is making it very awkward to the Inuktitut unilingual speaking people.

So therefore, I am requesting all of your support to help change the minds of APTN. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 135 – 2(2): Power Restored in Panniqtuuq

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to tell my constituents and for those that are watching that I wish them well. Today in the news, we heard that the power is now restored. They are able to use their telephones and watch television. It was approximately two days they were out of power and I would like to thank the Minister of Energy's staff for going up to Panniqtuuq to restore the power.

Mr. Speaker, I didn't know if there were any serious problems due to the power outage. I would like the people of Panniqtuuq to contact me if they did have any problems during that outage. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 136 – 2(2): Four Hunters in Cape Dorset Rescued

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The men who were lost in the flow edge are now back in the community. There were four hunters who got stranded out in the flow edge on Sunday.

I would like to thank the search and rescue operators. Everyone is home and doing well. I would like to congratulate the search and rescue parties in the community for saving these men. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 137 – 2(2): Funding for Illitiit Society

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to draw your attention to an issue that is urgent. It has long-term ramifications for the well-being of our communities. For several years now, a dedicated group of local volunteers has worked extremely hard to

provide a much-needed service in the community of Iqaluit, in fact, to many Nunavut residents who are not originally from Iqaluit.

The Illitiit Society has struggled long and hard to keep the Oqota Homeless Shelter open for those who desperately need it. The society has juggled funding from sources while waiting for funding from other sources to be approved, signed off, or delivered in a continuous effort to meet payroll costs, maintenance costs, and operational costs and so on.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that in the past the Illitiit Society has received block funding from the government. This funding covers about a third of the actual costs of operating the homeless shelter. Finding the other two-thirds is an ongoing and frequently frustrating task.

Mr. Speaker, the instability of funding and the tremendous effort that is needed to continue delivering much needed programs like the homeless shelter and the youth cottage are taking their toll on the Illitiit Society. It is in danger of collapsing.

Mr. Speaker, homelessness is only one face of poverty. Other programs such as the soup kitchen and counselling services are desperately needed. To provide these services, it might cost somewhere in the region of \$2 million but we have to ask ourselves what could be the cost if we do not ensure that these services are there.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that the government and the minister responsible will take these words to heart. I, for one, feel very strongly that every effort must be made to ensure that the Illitiit Society survives and continues doing the work it does so well.

We can't afford and this government can't afford, to let Nunavummiut fall deeper into the pit of poverty. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 138 – 2(2): Robbie Qamaniq Letter

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to read a comment from Robbie Qamaniq's letter to the editor dated February 25 of this year.

Inuit have a hard time in university (interpretation) the letter says, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I am glad that the Nunavut health department is trying to help Inuit pursue health professions. Currently, I am in upper year university and I want to apply to medical school. I will have the privilege to apply this summer. I am not so sure if I will be accepted because of my low marks.

The Government of Nunavut especially the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education, should review the education system of Nunavut. Inuit students like me really have a hard time at university and I think if steps were taken, it would be easier. Inuit students should really take advantage of this funding and stay in school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Members' statements. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 4. Item 5. Item 6. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 175 – 2(2): Steps for More Efficient Energy

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

Every night when I go back to my office, I go through my emails and every night there is one that I always look forward to receiving and that is the daily e-mail that's sent out by the government on the ministers' statements for the day.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday's e-mail contained a statement from the Minister of Energy on the Qulliq Energy Corporation. In there, it talks about ways to control our energy future and to develop ways to produce more efficient use of our energy, as well, to move towards a cleaner way of producing energy.

My question for the minister is: what steps are being taken by the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the government to produce more efficient uses of energy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is involved in a couple of very exciting projects right now. I hope I would be in a position later this week to do a statement in greater detail on those projects.

First of all, we are involved in two exciting projects; one in Rankin Inlet and one here in Iqaluit which the member would be familiar with, and that one is on re-heat. We were happy and successful last year with Minister Bob Nault of the federal government, to access and leverage funding from them to begin a process of re-heat at the new Iqaluit hospital. That would come on board in 2007, and that program alone will eliminate thousands of tons of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, which we actually had talked about on one of the earlier questions over the last few days here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, another project that the corporation is involved in is in the Minister of Finance's budget and that is the energy centre that we are putting into place. That will be dealing with an across-Nunavut program to deal with efficiencies, which are energy efficiencies. For example, using low wattage light bulbs, looking at timers for block heaters and so on. So, quite a few projects are underway with the corporation on energy reduction and energy efficiencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that. The minister indicated in his response that they are looking at ways of becoming more efficient users of energy, not only in the government. I know recently, the Minister of Community Government and Services announced a program that is going through their department to become more efficient.

Can the minister indicate if they can look at any programs like low energy bulbs and things that homeowners and people in staff housing can access, at ways to try and help reduce the consumption of energy in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut has been moving very proactively on looking at energy consumption and reduction. Yesterday, I announced the opening of the new Joamie school. That school has won awards for efficiency not only in the reduction of energy consumption and cost, but in the actual design processes for that. That is part of the government's on-going with all new capital expenditures; we are looking at energy efficiencies and so on.

On the residential side as the member is talking about, we are looking at efficiency through the energy resource centre that will be opened. There is \$100,000 in the budget to begin that process. That will be an awareness program. Again, a lot of the issues around energy that the member has pointed out are around energy awareness and I appreciate the member raising the issue around energy awareness.

Lots of times throughout Nunavut, we pass by houses with open windows for example, when it's thirty below zero. It's either an issue with their thermostat in the house the way the heating system is in place, whether the air exchange is working. These types of efficiencies will be monitored by the energy resource centre and in combination with that, the Minister of Department of Community and Government Services has talked about moving that forward as well as through the housing corporation.

So a combination of these, along with the energy corporation itself, is moving aggressively towards the reduction of the consumption of electrical energy across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is good to hear. In light of Monday's announcement of the certainty of the 15 percent increase and the uncertainty of the rider amounts, the consumers will be expected to pay more for their energy, an indication that the minister has said that they put aside money for the government to become efficient.

What specific plans do they have in place to put in resources available to homeowners and people that are going to be impacted by these increases so that they can make their homes more energy efficient? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a government-wide initiative. Again, when cabinet looked at the recommendations from the Utility Rates Review Council, we saw that there would be impact across government.

Again, 80 percent of the electrical revenue generated by the power corporation and indeed 80 percent of the usage is directly or indirectly from government or agencies that are funded directly by government. Therefore and thus, it behooves us to be able to look at those energy efficiencies.

So, it's a government-wide process; the minister for housing, community and government services, that department is looking at moving forward on different things through the Qulliq Energy Corporation. There are initiatives underway to actually cut down on the emissions and cut down on the consumption of certain products, for example diesel fuel, to become more energy efficient.

We have also announced in the Department of Finance, monies for the new energy resource centre and there is an opportunity there when we have that centre set up, to see if we can leverage funds, again from our federal partner.

I would hope and we don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves, but we have some exciting work that's happening right now with our federal partner that we would hope is in excess of \$1 million and that would be forthcoming to the government, if that is signed in the next couple of weeks. And I hope to be, again, to be able to announce something on that.

So, there is a lot of good news initiatives coming forward as the genesis of the General Rate Application program went forward. So, I think the good news for Nunavummiut is that there are awareness programs and reductions occurring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great news to hear that the government and the corporation are looking after the 80 percent consumption that they put out, but can the minister give an indication of when we can expect to see some funding resources and

dollars made available for the other 20 percent of the consumers, the homeowners who are in most cases, the ones that can afford the least to pay those additional costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there are initiatives in the budget. Once our budget is through the House and actually comes back, and then the rollout of different programs and services, like the energy resource centre, we'll begin to look at those equations.

Maybe there is an opportunity for example, to look at providing low light and low energy use bulbs for example in staff housing first, because the Government of Nunavut controls and owns those staff housing units. So, those are types of things that we would hope to be in a position to bring forward in the coming weeks. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 176 – 2(2): Status of Sewage and Sanitation Plans

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned during my member's statement, my line of questioning is to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Can the minister tell me what the current status of the Arctic Bay sewage and sanitation project is? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague mentioned that in the funding in the capital plan up to date... . After we solve the problems that we are encountering as I stated to the House the other day, for all the Nunavut communities in regard to sewage and sanitation projects along with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, we will be putting up a plan in the spring.

I can assure my colleague that once they visit the community then they will be able to specify and find out as to exactly what will happen on how that funding will be utilized after consultation. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas, this is your first supplementary.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for clarifying this for me. Can the minister tell me why there is no funding in the five-year capital plan for the necessary technical evaluation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can state in the House that for the water and sewage projects, there has been a big financial shortage on those programs and we only make them available on an emergency basis because the funding was not set aside for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll speak English. Is the minister currently working to secure federal funding for this project under the Strategic Infrastructure Fund? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Some programs were to start last year and some this year and as of today I believe, the last one will be in 2008. The funding that was there was already allocated to those programs. There was no funding made available for that particular project. That's why I said to the member that after the spring consultation, Arctic Bay residents will be considered too under this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, that is how it was. I would like to ask the minister why that \$90,000 was put aside for centralized communities, from non-centralized to centralized communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As he was making his statement earlier, they were able to work on this in a cheaper way. I can tell my colleague that what was to be allocated to them was subsequently removed because it was cheaper. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 177 – 2(2): URRC Funding from Qulliq Energy

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Energy and I would like to thank the Utility Rates Review Council especially Ray Mercer, with the way they were able to consult. It was not a very pleasant consultation because a lot of anger was expressed and they still had to deliver that message and they were able to make decisions and they have to give the amount. I would like to ask the minister: the \$22 million that will be used by Qulliq Energy by government, was this information given to you by the URRC?

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it was.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear the response. Could the minister respond, I had a fuzzy answer.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer was, yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): So, this information was given to them and they will have another \$22 million subsidy for the winter. It states that they will require only \$8 million but if you add that it comes to a total of \$35 million for the year. Consumers will pay the \$8 million and to my understanding, the \$27 million will come from the government. Is that true? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the URRC's final report to the minister that I tabled in House and is part of the public record, you will note in the first few pages of the URRC report which is again, before the public and all the members, there is a letter dated February 8, by me to Mr. Ray Mercer, explaining to him that there is a proposal to bring forward the \$22 million supplementary appropriation which outlines the impact of that \$22 million. And my question to Mr. Mercer was, and I think the member has made a good point on it... .

My letter to Mr. Mercer asked, with the extra \$22 million contribution, would that change his recommendations, either up or down, and how would he account for that? The member and the members of the public and members of the House will see the response from Mr. Mercer as tabled in the URRC document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the minister again in regard to the increase of prices of fuel within a \$1 million range, within 90 days... . But, the Minister of Finance stated yesterday that the \$22 million, and I quote, (interpretation ends) "covers the fuel and capital in lieu of a rider". (interpretation) If that will be the case, then why will they have to put in that fuel rider?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there is no mystery or secrecy here. I think it is pretty transparent. Again, in the URRRC document that I tabled in the House... . My letter for all the public to see, to Mr. Mercer outlined what the \$22 million request was for.

I will read it out for the record: \$8 million, again it's all part of the public record, was a contribution to the Qulliq Energy Corporation in lieu of the fuel rider and that was for 2004-05. Again, the new fiscal year with the rates starts April 1, 2005. The \$10 million as a contribution to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, corresponds to the impact of capital funding of 2004-05, and that is why URRRC talked about doing the capital rider for the next fiscal year starting on April 1, 2005.

The \$4 million was an extraordinary contribution to the Qulliq Energy Corporation for the declining equity ratios, and that is what the members reviewed this past spring when the Auditor General of Canada said that the equity amount of the corporation has fallen and the equity amount of the corporation has fallen and that we should replace the equity, equity being money that the owner, being the Government of Nunavut, would put back into the corporation.

So Mr. Speaker, the 8 and 10 is 18 and plus 4 is 22, and that's where the money comes from. Again, it's all part of the public record tabled in the URRRC report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's attempt to clarify but I'm not talking about the previous year. Well you know, we understand exactly what happened last year with respect to \$14 million, I believe in total, from last fall through the winter and summer.

The Minister of Finance, yesterday, indicated that this \$22 million is in lieu of a fuel rider. I would think that is probably what the minister meant. If that is the case, why then would the public be asked to pay for additional fuel, additional power increases that you are anticipating and which you have approved through the documents released a couple of days ago. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there has been so much happening on the file that it gets confusing. I'm confused at times. I'm sure the members are and the public, as I've heard on the radio the last couple of days. It's because of the timeframes involved.

I tabled in the House last week the annual report for the power corporation, as of March 31, 2004, ten months after the fiscal date. That's the issue with the power corporation, as

the Auditor General and the member knows, has said. They are too late in making their findings.

So when you find out the actual information ten months later, it's pretty hard to react to it. And that's what we've been doing. In the February 8 letter to Mr. Mercer, there was \$8 million and that's the amount that was there, \$8 million which was in lieu of the fuel rider for 2004-05. Because in 2003, when I froze the rates after consultations with the municipalities, with the mayors, with the Association of Municipalities, and Mr. Peterson was the chair, and the Chamber of Commerce, we only had one financial statement and we didn't know what the revenue return of the corporation was.

We said we would freeze the rates for one year, which is what we did. And we came forward with the GRA this past fall, in November 2004. The new rates are scheduled for April 1, 2005. We said in this House, the members have talked about it, the Minister of Finance, the Premier said we wouldn't ask the public to pay for any of the expenses or costs before the new rates were in place. So, everything we're talking about is before April 1, 2005.

So, that's where that debt comes from. That amount of money, the \$22 million that will be put onto the books for this fiscal year as of March 31, 2005, because that's the next fiscal year. And April 1, 2005, the new rates kick in and then we will be able to ascertain what the revenue requirement will be for what we call the test year.

So, I hope that helps explain to the member what the contribution is for and as outlined again, it's in the public, it's in the documents, anyone can read it and it's there. I hope that helps clarify. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 178 – 2(2): Items Deleted in the KPMG Report

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister of health. It concerns the KPMG report. Mr. Speaker, as everybody in the House knows, I've been trying to get a copy of this report since last May. It's entitled the *KPMG Medical Travel Review Profile Report*. The minister kindly tabled it the other day.

However when I started reading through it, I noticed that huge sections of the report have been deleted. The report makes very little sense now without those sections. I'm wondering if the minister can tell us if she is aware of the information that was deleted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am aware of that report. Some parts of it are deleted in relation to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

(interpretation) I'll respond to you in Inuktitut. Yes, I am aware of your question. Some of the portions of the report were deleted because we had to take the individuals names' out; wherever there were third parties mentioned, we had to delete them and we can't publicize them due to privacy issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's concern in that regard, for the Information and Privacy Act. Mr. Speaker, entire sections were deleted. The report makes no sense at all. We requested that report so it would help the members on this side of the House concerning the department's health budget, in particular the travel part of it.

So, I am going to ask the minister again if she will assist the members on this side of the House and table the deleted sections of the report this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do appreciate the member's questions on that report. We received it in 2002. Some portions of the report had to be deleted because of privacy issues. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the minister that the report is old; it's June 10, 2002. I am not sure what the purpose of the report was then but I know that since then, in two and a half years, the department has consistently overspent its annual budget and most of the spending has occurred in increased medical travel costs.

I found an interesting comment in the report. It makes reference to a separate final report of the project on page 46. I will read it. It says, "This profile document reflects the observations of the review team based on its work through early 2002. It has been used in forming and development of strategies and recommendations regarding medical travel, which were captured in the separate final report of this project."

Mr. Speaker, that implies that there's another report out there separate from this; this must have been a profile report. So, my question for the minister is, can the minister tell the House if a separate final report exists from this project, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into that to see if there's another addition to the report. I will check into that and let you know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response. I will take that as a commitment that she can look into that, and if it's available, she will table it.

I am curious, when she's gathering that information, if she can provide some information on what it costs the Government of Nunavut to prepare this profile report and if the separate report exists, how much that cost us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am very sensitive to his questions and I would like to thank him for them. I will look into that and we will find out the answer together. Thank you.

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

Question 179 – 2(2): Update on the Pimmaqsarvik Service Contract

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

Last week, I had asked a question in regard to the Pimmaqsarvik service contract, and she said that she was going to look into it. My question is: have you looked into the service contract yet? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have looked into that and I will not be able to talk about the service contract because they are at the negotiation stage. Therefore, I can't divulge the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Oral questions. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Question 180 – 2(2): Octane Additive in Gasoline Fuel

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. Yesterday, we heard that they will be putting an additional additive in the fuel, an octane addition to the

Kivalliq fuel supply. With this new initiative, a lot of people will be expecting a remedy. I, myself, don't really believe it will make any improvements.

What is the reason for the octane additive? Why do they have the octane additive in the Keewatin region fuel supply? Thank you.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason why they have to put in this additive is that last winter there were complaints from communities about their fuel. We did an investigation on the fuel to find out what was wrong with it and through the research we found out the problem. When they put in an octane additive, it was a lot cleaner for the spark plugs. They wanted to put the additive there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is the case. Doesn't it occur to you, we were not informed about the lack of an octane additive there, but about the fuel being dirty? I believe we don't need to put the octane additive there. I am not too sure if it is going to improve the fuel in our region.

It seems like we will be wasting money in dealing with that. And it seems we are just misleading the hunters. We want to be trusted and we want to make sure that octane additive is going to improve the fuel supply. I do want to ask the minister again, on the quality of fuel, why don't we look for additives aimed to clean the fuel?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague's comments are exactly the same as what we have been dealing with, with Shell Canada. One of the things that I could tell you they found during the research is that the spark plugs are a lot cleaner when the octane has been added to the fuel.

The improvement we are trying is that after we've added the octane additive, we found the spark plugs were a lot cleaner and the engines were running a lot smoother. There were fewer problems with the spark plugs.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is *kasuktautinnuat*?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to my colleague if he didn't understand that term. In our dialect, we say kasuktautinnuat for spark plugs. I don't know what you call spark plugs in your dialect. We use kasuktautinnuat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Just a moment, Mr. Alagalak. Please wait for me to acknowledge you to rise. Your last supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since we are the descendents of Ugjualuk, we call them *baataliiq*. I know that it will be obvious later. Perhaps, in the upcoming spring when the weather is warming up, the engines will start a lot faster without the octane. I don't believe the build up in the spark plugs is going to change, but I would like to tell you again that I am sure some of it will not change.

What about the soot build up? When can we expect to see some kind of cleaning solution for soot build-up in our spark plugs? When can we expect to see you consider that?
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to inform my colleague that the problem we are encountering now is not going to cost the government any further because Shell Canada is going to pay the transportation. I forgot to reply to my colleague that way.

The additive for the fuel tanks is to improve the quality of the fuel and also to improve the build-up in the spark plugs. After they completed the research, they were saying that the snow literally turned black before the octane additive was added. Once the octane additive had been put in there, there were no black marks on the snow from the muffler of the ski-doo's. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 181 – 2(2): Bad Fuel Concern

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for petroleum products. Listening to the comments that were made in regard to the bad gasoline, we now know that there have been some snowmobile or vehicle breakdowns.

This is a concern of the communities in the Baffin and the Kivalliq. Hunters rely on snowmobiles and outboard motors to go hunting, as they don't have dog teams anymore. What should we tell our constituents, that they will have to wait patiently for the government to find a solution, or can they possibly get compensation?

Speaker (interpretation): The minister responsible for petroleum products, Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, we are working with Shell Canada. I also made a comment earlier that we will be making an invitation to Shell Canada so that we can voice our concerns and also get some responses to our questions.

With that, we have not heard all the concerns from the communities. Once we get the whole picture, I will make an announcement and also inform the member about what the government is going to be doing.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have also been hearing that Shell Canada will be making an appearance in the House tomorrow. I would like to ask the minister whether any mechanical experts will make an appearance in the House so that they can answer some of our questions regarding the mechanical aspects of this problem.

My question is, is he going to be extending an invitation to some mechanical experts to make an appearance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will not be inviting snowmobile dealers, for example, but what we are going to do is find out exactly what the problem is with our gasoline supply. As I stated earlier, we are extending this invitation to this company so that we can get answers to some of the questions that we do have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Oral questions. Member for Uqqummiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 182 – 2(2): Additional Octane Additives for Other Communities

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made comments about the gas and now I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for petroleum products.

We've had the same problem in my riding. We're having snowmobile problems. There have been breakdowns. We've been using a lot of spark plugs because the gasoline is not good. Are they going to be putting in additional additives to the gas in the Baffin? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for petroleum products, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to assure the members especially the members from the Baffin, that Shell representatives are going to be coming here. I will be meeting with them in the morning while they're in town. I don't have anything set up at this point, but once we have a meeting with the Shell Canada representatives, once they make an appearance, we'll have a better idea of what the problem is. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. We started voicing our problems the first time that we got the gasoline. Why is it that we're not going to get additional additives put in our gas supply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll have to go with the results that came out of the research that was done.

We are currently putting additional additives in the communities' gas and we'll be doing that until about the end of March. We'll be able to give you further information once we have a meeting with the Shell representatives.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. I have four other names on my list. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 183 – 2(2): Obtaining Passport Photos in the Communities

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

For the past 25 or 30 years it has become a bit of a tradition for residents of Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Grise Fjord, to exchange visits with the community of Qanaaq in Greenland. I represent the people of Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord and they have landed residents in Grise Fiord.

(interpretation ends) Since the 9/11 bombing of the twin towers in New York City, security measures around North America have changed. Residents from these communities now need passports to travel to Greenland, and in order to get a passport they need specific photo identification. They cannot get these photographs taken in their home communities, so they cannot get a passport and thus cannot travel to Greenland.

Can the minister update this House on what efforts his department has made to provide assistance or support to make the necessary photographs available to individuals in remote communities who wish to obtain a passport?. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As minister for immigration, one of the issues that we have been dealing with in the past several months, and we've got a dozen active cases now underway with immigration, as well as passport issues through the office...

The facility for passport photos is one of a national concern. And indeed, one of the conversations that we've had with our federal partners concerns remote and rural parts of the country, including Nunavut. Here in Iqaluit, for example, there is a licensed photographer who can do passport photos. And indeed, many offices in government, for example, for driver's licences and other picture identifications have been facilitating those pictures.

However, when those pictures are taken, there are some concerns with the federal government as to the appropriateness of the pictures and photos. We have been dealing with our colleague, the Hon. Nancy Karetak, our MP in Ottawa, to deal with some of those issues.

The short and quick answer is that quite a bit of logistic and administrative work is going on with passport photos. If the member has constituents who have issues with passport photos, he should pass that information to me and then we will be able to help his constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though we are from different countries, we are related as Inuit, especially since Qillaqsuaq came from Canada and moved to Greenland.

(interpretation ends) People living in the High Arctic maintain Canadian sovereignty every single day of their lives, but they are one group of Canadians who having the most difficulty in getting Canadian passports. Will the minister commit to presenting their case to the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are always raising the issues on a regular basis, with the federal government, of the unique nature of Nunavut. Indeed, in the last several months, issues around sovereignty, especially with the island between Greenland and North Ellesmere Island.

Canadians have to cross the border and realize that post 9-11, it is a different world. Many of the members here have traveled internationally and laws and rules and regulations, even in our domestic airports, have changed. Those rules are Canadian in

nature and that is why we believe there has to be some type of recognition of the unique factors, when it comes to passport issues and photos, with our federal partners.

So, I agree with the member. I will be in communications with our federal friends to ensure that these issues are taken care of in the strongest possible way for Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he will be able to help individuals who are trying to obtain passports. What is the minister going to do for the High Arctic residents who are looking forward to this year's exchange trip?

I am representing Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and Pond Inlet. Would the minister commit to sending a photographer up to those communities so that residents applying for passports can have the appropriate photographs taken? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has raised an interesting topic and that's the one of passports. The issuance of passports for Nunavummiut has been a chronic problem because of the way our territory is structured.

For example, many of our residents were not born in Nunavut, they were actually born in Winnipeg, because mothers have to be flown out of the territory and have babies in Ottawa, in some cases. A lot of residents were born in Montreal because of that procedure, in Winnipeg, and Yellowknife.

So, they get birth certificates and so on for the passports, that's one issue. If all of the information is collated, meaning all of the information requested by the federal government is available, and the only issue is the photograph, that's something that we can help facilitate.

So, that's why I am suggesting to the member: if he would give me the names, then we can look at each individual and see what the issues are. Is it because they don't have identification, do they have the birth certificates, are all of the accompanying documents ready?

As well, if this exchange is going forward in three weeks' time and we haven't got that information, it's going to be very difficult to expedite, to speed up, the process to get them their passports, because that has to be cleared by federal officials; it's out of our hands as a Nunavut government.

If someone is doing international travel and they know the travel is happening in April, then they should be applying for their passport several months in advance because it is a long process and because all of the information has to be authenticated and looked over.

So, that's quickly on that issue. If the member would give me the names of the people who are seeking their passports, but also recognizing that time is of the essence here, then that's important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 184 – 2(2): Deferred Pay System – Implementation of P2K

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Just prior to the new year, all employees got a message indicating that they are going to be implementing a new pay system, the P2K system, and that the employees were going to be receiving, at the end of December, an advance equal to whatever their regular pay is.

I am just wondering if the minister could indicate whether that system has been implemented, if P2K is up and running or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Finance.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member is correct. There was a notice sent out to employees. It was not to all employees; it was only to the Nunavut Employees' Union employees. The teachers and the casual system are on a different pay system already.

In order to implement the P2K system, we needed to integrate how salaries are paid to employees, for all of the employees, teachers and casuals. So, after December, the deferred system was implemented and work is underway now to implement the P2K system with all employees on the one system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With that announcement and the switch to the system and the way that the advance was calculated, I have received a number concerns from employees who live in staff housing.

I recall when I used to live in staff housing, my rent would be deducted on the first and second pay of the period and the rare occasion when there was a third pay period of the month we would always look forward to it, because that cheque was much larger. It didn't have any rent deducted from it.

Was that taken into account when they were calculating what the loans were going to be, the advances or loans or whatever were given to the employees for that third pay period? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we implemented the deferred pay system, we had numerous meetings with the union as to how we would implement those changes to ensure that all those types of issues were addressed.

From what I understand, after consultations with the union, they were in agreement with the implementation method of the new system. There are still some concerns. A couple of e-mails have been distributed to me and the member himself and to one other individual that I do recall.

I don't know if it's an issue on how the rent is calculated on an annual basis, I would have to get back to the members on that. I don't have that level of detail of rent deductions for employees and what pay period and what happens on a third pay period in a month. I will have to get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recall that when I was in staff housing, that was the case. I guess in the event then, that when the minister looks into it, it appears that was something that was not taken into consideration when calculating people's advances or loans or whatever you want to call it, that live in staff housing, will arrangements be made to ensure that they get credited for that portion? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member states that when he was in staff housing, we were in a different system. We were under a different program. We didn't have the P2K system in place. We didn't have the deferred pay system in place.

The way I understand how rent deductions were done, because I was an administrator in the past, it was divided based on 26.088 pay periods in one year. What I said was, in terms of how they calculated the deductions of the pay under the new system, I would have to get back because the old method was based on dividing the pay by 26.088.

To answer the member's questions, I will have to get back to him on how they determined that, whether it's 26 pays or 25 pays or the same system. I will have to confirm that and get back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that if it is determined that was the case for people who live in staff housing throughout the territory, that the rent deduction wasn't taken into consideration in the loan or advance or whatever... My question was if that is the case, will the minister commit to reimbursing those employees for whatever that amount is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I gave my response previously to this and I will not respond to a hypothetical question on what may have happened or may not have happened.

What I committed to the member was I will look into how the calculations are made. But I refuse to answer a hypothetical question and to respond and commit to what he is suggesting at this point in time until I have had the opportunity to determine myself how our administrative staff actually determines the deduction methods under this new system.

Keep in mind the deferred system has been in place with teachers and casuals for a long time. The only individuals that were not under the deferred system were any NEU employees. So, there are teachers in staff housing units that have to get their rent deductions. So I imagine, my assumption would be that they would be in the same shoes. So whatever that method is, I can get back to the member and report back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Oral question period is now over.

Back to the orders of the day, Item 7, Written Questions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 025 – 2(2): Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Programs and Costs

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister of Health. It is concerning drug and rehabilitation programs and costs.

1. How many drug and alcohol treatment facilities are there in Nunavut?
2. How many Nunavut clients were sent to the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre in Hay River, NWT, in 2003-2004?
 - a) What was the cost per day for a Nunavut client at the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre in Hay River, NWT?
 - b) On average, what is the overall cost per Nunavut client to participate in and complete a treatment program at the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre in Hay River, NWT?

3. How many Nunavut clients were referred to other out-of-territory drug and/or alcohol treatment facilities in 2003-2004? Where are these facilities located?
4. How many Nunavut clients in 2003-2004 participated in and completed drug and/or alcohol treatment programs?
 - a) Of these clients, how many were under the age of 18?
 - b) Of these clients, how many were 18 years of age or older?
5. What is the average cost to have a client participate in an out-of-territory treatment program?
6. What were the overall costs for out-of-territory treatment programs in 2003-2004?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 14: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 078 – 2(2): Arctic Bay Reallocation of Capital Fund

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned during Member's statements, I indicated that I have received letters from the Minister Responsible for Community and Government Services during the last 8 months. At this time, I would like to table those documents that the Minister received. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please forward your tabled documents to the Clerk. Tabling of Documents, Mr. Arreak.

Tabled Document 079 – 2(2): Letter HTO Request for Fish Plant

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table documents from the Clyde River HTO requesting assistance to start a fishing plant. Thank you.

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

Tabled Document 080 – 2(2): Kivalliq Mayors' Support for Inuit Centre

Tabled Document 081 – 2(2): Letter from Minister Kilabuk on Bad Gasoline

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table two resolutions that were passed at the recent Kivalliq mayors' meeting, which was held in Chesterfield Inlet last month. I urged the government to give these resolutions every consideration.

Mr. Speaker, I am tabling a letter that was written to me by the Minister of Community and Government Services. This letter includes an analysis of the gasoline in Coral Harbour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 082 – 2(2): “Aaqqiagarniq” Executive Summary of the External Review of Nunavut Arctic – October 28, 2004

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had an opportunity to converse through the office of the president of the college with Mr. Bob Leonard, who concurred with the tabling of *Aaqqiagarniq*, Executive Summary of the external review of Nunavut Arctic College, October 28, 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Pass the documents to the Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Simailak.

Tabled Document 083 – 2(2): Nunavut Development Corporation 2005/06 Business Plans

Tabled Document 084 – 2(2): Nunavut Development Corporation Investment Guidelines

Tabled Document 085 – 2(2): Agricultural Products Marketing Act Annual Report 1999-2004

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table three documents, (interpretation ends) The Nunavut Development Corporation 2005/06 Business Plan, the Nunavut Development Corporation Investment Guidelines and thirdly, the Agricultural Products Marketing Act Annual Reports for 1999-2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 086 – 2(2): Payment of Member Indemnity, Allowances and Expenses for Members of the 1st Assembly Year Ending March 31st, 2005

Pursuant to Section 36 of Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the report on the payment of member indemnity, allowances and expenses for Members of the First Assembly for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2005.

Tabling of Documents, Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 087 – 2(2): Response to Petition 001 – 2(2) Rankin Inlet Elders Care Facility

Tabled Document 088 – 2(2): Response to Petition 002 – 2(2) Construction of a Mini Mall in Clyde River

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the responses to Petitions 001 – 2(2), and 002 – 2(2) that were filed with the Clerk's Office. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Motions. Mr. Curley.

Item 17: Motions

Motion 011 – 2(2): Mid Term Leadership Review of the Executive Council of Nunavut

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the Executive Council of Nunavut to account openly to the Legislative Assembly and Nunavummiut for its performance in developing, implementing and managing the policies, decisions and expenditures of the Government;

AND WHEREAS, the Second Legislative Assembly adopted, without opposition, Motion 8-2(1), *Working Together for a Stronger Nunavut*;

AND WHEREAS, this Motion stated in part that “the values of consensus, co-operation, accountability and respect must guide us in our deliberations”;

AND WHEREAS, this principle was acknowledged in the 2005 Budget Address, which stated that there are “responsibilities that flow from the public service to Cabinet, to you, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, and ultimately to Nunavummiut”;

AND WHEREAS, the Members of the Executive Council were sworn into office in March of 2004;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that a Mid-Term Leadership Review of the Executive Council of Nunavut be held in the fall of 2006.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Any questions to the motion? I will allow to the mover to speak 20 minutes to the motion. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make a brief comment to the motion because all Nunavummiut have expectations. They view the Ministers and the Members of the Legislative Assembly are paying close attention to all the Members whether you are a Cabinet or Member.

And also, I would like to state that the Regular Members on this side work very hard and diligently to represent their communities and their constituencies in order to have an accountable government. And to make sure the funding is adequate enough and to make sure where the programs and services that are provided by the government are adequate for the people, and also to make sure that the consumers are being taken care of, not just to take care of the fuel providers.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to state that the Cabinet Members, we are different from the federal government's parliamentary system. Their parliamentary system which have the Queen as their representative when they have a separate entity, it's totally up to them to oust them or not. But the Premier cannot fire a Minister. But it has to be the Legislative Assembly as a Whole.

I believe in the fall of 2006 that we want to do a mid-term review and the Executive Members of Nunavut so that we would like to give more opportunity to the Regular Members to make sure they can go to the Cabinet whether you are Inuk, French, whether you are a teacher or young person. We want to show Nunavummiut that the Ministers or the Executive Members that they are doing their jobs so that is why I am requesting support from all the Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I will allow the seconder, Mr. Tootoo, to make his comments to the motion.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to have to speak in support of this motion today. As a returning member yourself, you recall that the Assembly that the mid-term review was held in the fall of 2001 was a very successful event. It afforded members of the House the opportunity to concentrate in a much focussed way on the progresses that had been achieved at that point in time.

I would like to state for the record that in developing the wording of this motion that both the mover and I deliberated at some length on it's tone and focus. I believe that the motion before genuinely draws on the strengths of our system and focuses on the positive.

A degree of reflection and scrutiny is healthy for any system. What sets our system apart from many others is the way in which we have the opportunity to provide a formal, public means of doing so.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard the argument advanced that such initiatives as the one under consideration today, are unnecessary and redundant as the Assembly has the ability to remove any Minister from office at any time, as was demonstrated just a few years ago. However, I believe that this exercise will provide for an important mile stone in the Second Assembly to measure progress and plan for the future.

We have set an ambitious agenda for ourselves. Our Arviat Caucus Retreat set the foundation, the Throne Speech and the subsequent releases of the government's strategic plan.

Mr. Speaker, when I say that the Ministers, whom we selected to disparage their responsibilities, should be looking forward to the opportunity to account at length and in detail on their success. I am being quite serious. Indeed, I am quite confident that any ambitious Minister will relish the opportunity to shine in the spot light and to help advance, articulate, and amplify the ambitious agenda of action that we have set together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Barnabas, you have 20 minutes.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to speak briefly in support of this motion today.

I agree that what has been said by the mover and seconder of this motion, I see that this motion is being very positive as it will help to demonstrate to our public that we are serious about accountable government.

On a final note Mr. Speaker, I greatly look forward to my good friend's, the member for Iqaluit East, wording in support of this motion. I am certain that he will recall the perfect clarity that the energy that he put into mid-term reviews during the past when both sat together at the same side of the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased that my colleagues moved and seconded this motion. I am in full support of this motion. I believe that this motion continues to build on the commitment that we've all made as politicians when we took our oaths to an open and accountable and transparent government and that the motion should be supported by all Members of the Legislative Assembly and Ministers.

I feel that this process gives our public a chance to talk through us with ministers about their performance. I know that that's particularly so in the Kitikmeot where we only have one Minister to represent us.

Mr. Speaker, in most organizations, performance appraisal is viewed as a positive and constructive process. I firmly believe that this process that we're proposing by this motion will be very good for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Comments to the motion. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the motion just briefly, this motion doesn't hurt anyone in reading the motion and hearing the motion. I believe that it's a positive move because we have to work closely together and we need to awaken. It seems like this motion is to awaken us, it doesn't state that we need to change the Cabinet Members of Nunavut. It doesn't state that.

Our constituencies in Nunavut are very proud of all of the Members of the Legislature and it shows the constituents that we are very vibrant and that we are very attentive to the public needs because we represent them. We have to be good examples and good role models and this will show the positive side, and I am sure that we will have to pass through until our term is up.

This motion is very positive. The public eyes are all upon us. I believe this is very good and look into that using Inuit Qaujimagatujangit, and then look back and make it, that way we can move forward.

For that reason, I am in support of this motion because it doesn't hurt anyone. I don't believe this motion will hurt anyone. I don't believe that we will need to ask any Cabinet Members, but this is a very good learning stage during the Second Legislature of Nunavut. I believe there's a great opportunity for learning.

We have very good healthy debates and we have very open working relationships. I believe that this motion will show positiveness to the public out there and I expect all the members to support it. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Comments to the motion. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too, am in support of the motion, the mover of the motion and the seconder of the motion. I believe that Members of the Legislature have to look around to make sure that we represent our constituencies instead of moving forward without looking at our constituents. We have to pay close attention and reflect the ideas and the needs of our constituents.

I am in support of this motion because we, at times, have to pay close attention to our constituents because they voted us to represent them. We want to represent our constituents adequately and build the trust from there. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I have no other names on my list, any other comments from the mover? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the members who made their comments and I would like to ask you, Mr. Speaker that we would like to have a recorded vote. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We will have a recorded vote as was requested by the mover. Those in favour will stand up. All in favour?

When I say your names please be seated, Mr. Curley, Mr. Arreak, Mr. Kilabuk, Mr. Tapardjuk, Mr. Akasuk, Ms. Aglukkaq, Mr. Okalik, Ms. Brown, Mr. Picco, Mr. Simailak, Mr. Netser, Mr. Mapsalak, Mr. Alagalak, Mr. Peterson, Mr. Kattuk, Mr. Tootoo, Mr. Evyagotailak, and Mr. Barnabas.

The motion is carried. Thank you. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Item 18: First Reading of Bills

Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Wills Act – First Reading

Bill 14 – Miscellaneous Statute Amendment Act – First Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baker Lake that Bill 13, an *Act to Amend the Wills Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Those in favor.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 13 has had First Reading. First Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, again Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for Nattilik that Bill 14, a *Miscellaneous Statute Amendment Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All in favor.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 14 has had first reading. Moving on. Item 19, Second Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Item 19: Second Reading of Bills

Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Wills Act – Second Reading**Bill 14 – Miscellaneous Statute Amendment Act– Second Reading**

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this assembly to waive the one day rule notice requirement to allow the Second Reading of Bill 13, an *Act to Amend the Wills Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik would like consent to waive Bill 6-2 (1) for the second reading of Bill 13, any nays. There are no nays. There was one nay. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for Pangnirtung that Bill 13, an *Act to Amend the Wills Act*, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Wills Act to ease the formal requirements for making a will and to allow court to accept a will that expresses a testator's intention even if that will does not comply with the formal requirements. The bill also changes references to the Northwest Territories so that the act will refer to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favor.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Opposed. Abstentions. Bill 13 has had second reading and can now be referred to the Committee. Second reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to wave the one day requirement to allow the second reading of Bill 14 of the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act*.

Speaker (interpretation): The member would like to waive Rule 6-2(1) for the second reading of Bill 14. Any nays? I hear no nays. Go ahead Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet South/Whale Cove that Bill 14, *Miscellaneous Statutes Act*, be read for the second time.

This Bill corrects any consistencies and errors in the Acts of Nunavut and it also re-names the three public bodies whose names have not been previously changed, so that they refer to Nunavut. Finally this Bill updates 10 Acts to change references that relate to Northwest Territories to refer instead to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Comments. Question is being called. Bill 14 is in order. To the motion. Opposed. Abstentions.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is carried. Bill 14 has had second reading and will be referred to the Committee. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration of Committee of the Whole and Other Matters: Tabled Document 52-2(2); Return to Oral Question 84-2(2); Bill 8, Appropriation and Operations and Maintenance Act 2005-2006.

Mr. Evyagotailak will be in the Chair. We will take a 20 minute break.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:28 and resumed at 16:00*

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

Chairman: I would like to call the Committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Tabled Document 52-2(2) and Bill 8.

What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 8 to continue with the Department of Education commence with the Student Loan Funds on G-13 of the Main Estimates book.

I also would like to thank the Minister of Education for his full and fairness of his commitment, for tabling the Executive Summary of the external review of Nunavut Arctic College.

Members look forward to returning to the adult learning and post-secondary services budget item at the appropriate time, with the minister in the witness chair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Are we in agreement?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to ask Minister Picco to go to the witness table.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

For the record Minister Picco, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me on my immediate right is Ms. Pam Hine, the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education. On my immediate left is Janice Hobbes, who is the Director of Finance, acting Comptroller for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. We go on to G-13 in your Main Estimates book. Student Loan Funds. Any questions? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if it's on the line item, the question that I tried to pose, so I am seeking clarification that the students who are outside of Nunavut, at times when they are in debt. I was wondering if the department provides any additional support. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The way the Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students or FANS works is, there are different components of the program. Each individual student applies and that is assessed based on the application process. That's how the money is allocated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they have reached the maximum with FANS, even when they are in debt, you don't give them additional supporting funds? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When students attend post-secondary institutions it depends on if they are taking post-secondary through FANS, whether it's in the south, or whether it's in Nunavut, and the different conditions applies with the programs that are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague, Mr. Netser, what he had tabled, the Nunavut students are facing challenges because I know that they are going into debt. Would your department consider how to remedy this situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the last changes to the program were made in 2002, and the department would be prepared to review the financial assistance for Nunavut students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further questions.

Chairman: Thank you. Are there any other questions? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm sure the Minister will recall last year there were a number of concerns raised by non-beneficiary students that they were not getting adequate or the same type of funding as beneficiary students.

I'm just wondering, in light of those concerns that were raised, what has the Minister or his department done to address some of those concerns? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member recalls, I joined that debate in the House last year, the premier strongly pointed out at that time that the whole process for financial assistance for Nunavut students is to provide a benefit so that our students can attend post-secondary institutions.

Under the land claims, we do give extra incentive or access to Nunavut beneficiaries. The last increases to those amounts as I said was in the year 2002. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering, in light of when that whole issue that was raised, is there any thought at looking at raising the other assistance that other students get? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That will be part of the review that we do on Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students that we just talked about earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know he alluded to that review. When exactly does he plan on finishing that review and having that Final Report from that review to look at any recommendations and implementations from that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the last review was done on the program in 2002. At that time, there were some changes that were made based on the review that had occurred. The department is also, as the member is aware, moving on several different fronts, several different areas. I would hope that we would be in a position before next budget cycle to have a review completed on some of the issues that have been raised by FANS for the internal process of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the next budget cycle for us is this time next year. That would be too late for a lot of students that are going to school in the fall.

Is there any chance that the Minister could find a way to have anything done and ready for this coming fall so that the students attending post-secondary school would be able to see the impact of these changes for their coming school year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is something that we can look at. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will all the ministers going to look at it, or will he look at it closely and get back to the members through correspondence as soon as possible? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I commit to the member that we will look at the issues around it closely and try to expedite that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Any questions to G-13? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister if he could update us on the recent federal government's \$5 billion contribution for Early Childhood and Daycares.

Since the federal government had made that announcement perhaps the minister attended the meeting. Can you tell us how much we can benefit from that announcement? It was in the Throne Speech of the federal government, if you can update us. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Similar to our process, the federal minister raised his budget last week. The budget hasn't been passed yet by the House of Commons. So those processes have to go forward and the money has not been allocated.

I anticipate that this Friday at 3:30, I will have a teleconference with Mr. Ken Dryden, the Minister responsible, to bring forward our feeling that the amount that will be allocated to

Nunavut is not acceptable. We have been working with the Minister responsible, Mr. Dryden, with some of the other jurisdictions.

The allocation of \$5 billion is a little bit less because there have been some monies cut off the top over the five year period for First Nations. When I extrapolate the number for the Government of Nunavut, it brings us to about a \$1 million a year, a little bit less. We are not very happy with that amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if the amount is a bit too small, can the minister tell us as a Nunavut minister, what amount would be adequate for Nunavut? Did you make an application to the federal government as to the amount? Who and when are you going to use this funding in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I promised my colleagues that I would try to keep my answers short today so I am working on it.

Mr. Chairman, the amount of money that the federal government has allocated for this National Childcare Program is well welcomed across the country. We have worked with the smaller jurisdictions; the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Nunavut as well as Prince Edward Island, to lobby the federal government to have a base or funding floor put in place, because the per capital funding amount as I just explained, out of a billion we get a million, doesn't quite suit our situation.

We asked for a floor of \$5 million and then on top of that we would get the extra \$1 million. That is the discussion that we had with Mr. Dryden, the discussions that I had with him at our meeting two weeks ago. He will be following that up with a teleconference with me. I think it is Friday afternoon as I said, that I think it is 3:30, we have scheduled that now. Again, I will be raising the issue that we need some type of funding floor there to accommodate the all-encompassing National Childcare Program that the federal government would like to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Questions to G-13. Go to G-14. Career and Early Childhood Service. G-14, G-15, G-16. Any questions? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know under the Grants and Contributions, under the Early Childhood Programs or Daycare Contribution for Healthy Children's Initiatives, I was wondering the same.

I know the Minister has indicated in the past that there is an ever growing demand for requirements for daycare and daycare spaces within Nunavut. I know if something that one may say is a critical state in Iqaluit where there are more people in the waiting list to get into a daycare than there are daycare spaces available.

I guess my question to the Minister is you know with that in mind and I am sure if that is the case here in Iqaluit that it is the same situation in many of the communities in Nunavut. What is the department doing and why are they not seeing an increase in these areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last couple of years Government of Nunavut along with the Aboriginal Head Start Program with the federal government have increased a number of daycare spaces working with member daycares. I believe there are over a 1,000 daycare spaces available in Nunavut itself.

As I said earlier 10 months ago, when I became Mr. Minister as at that time I suggested when new schools are being planned they would include in them dedicated space for a daycare centre to elevate some of the O&M cost that we see right now for daycares across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have worked on this with specific initiatives, new initiatives that the department to address aside from looking at future spaces when the opportunity existed in new government facilities come on.

What else have they looked at to address the ever increasing need for daycare spaces in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first thing for the creation with daycare space, you've got to have space to have a daycare to have a licensed daycare. The initiatives that we have taken with our new facilities, infrastructure building that built by the government is a good direction.

That is part of the on-going discussion and debate that we are having with the federal partner. What they are calling the National Childcare Program which is important for us to get an increase in the base, not just basing the allocation based by per capita. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't ask to speak for all over the place, but specifically here in Iqaluit. Has the department received any requests from organizations or groups for assistance or funding to establish facilities here in Iqaluit and other communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any organization that puts together a business plan and brings forward as a group to open a license daycare, then they are eligible for funding through the Department of Education with O&M support. We also the government, is in a position to license the facility. We have staff that actually visit the facility and make sure it is up to code and make sure necessary procedures work with the Board. So, we have provided a lot of logistic support to member daycares that have that set up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's nice that they and I'm sure that the groups very much appreciate the logistical and administrative support are getting set up but I think if you ask anyone of them, they need money to get a facility opened.

I was wondering if the department has come forth with any funding to help these organizations specifically. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are daycares in 23 out of 25 communities in Nunavut. I think that's part of the good news story. No one has even been turned away from the government because there was no money to help support them. What happens is, there is again a funding formula in place that helps support them on the operations and maintenance costs.

It is very expensive to operate daycares not just in Nunavut but across the country and that's why you see fundraisers and a lot of things happening at daycares. It's not a profit making program in many respects or regards and that's why most operations are not for profit.

So if there's a group that wants to bring forward a plan to open up a daycare, then we help provide subsidies, we help provide costs, we help with them working on the logistics as I said earlier, and the administrative needs of that member daycare. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister alluded to a formula that is used in the allocation of those dollars. I think that as Minister of Education, and his comments on the formula used for funding our schools, there are probably some concerns with regards to formula use for funding daycares in the O&M.

I know over the last few years, there have been increases in insurance, in power, in fuel. All these things have a direct impact on these facilities. Has there been any increase in

the formula? Any kind of indexing built on or is it the same formula that's been applied for ever. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the funding arrangement that is in place to fund child care spaces is based on the number of licensed spaces in the daycare. That is factored in with the actual attendance of the students and then again it is based on the age of the students.

There is also a basic grant that is available on the primary side of the daycare. We have not increased those amounts to my knowledge in the past year, or year and a half or so. Before that, I'm not actually aware if there were actual increases in that. So I've asked the staff again to just review allocations.

The amounts again that are available, again if a daycare is set up, we have monies available to help fund them and there are also subsidies that have kicked in to help parents. For example, in this region, Kakivak has a program in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe if the Minister is not aware, if he could look into it and inform members when the last time there was any increases made to the formula. If it has been a number of years, we've all seen what happens when things don't change for a long time with rates, like the Power Corporation.

It has been a considerable amount of time, would the Minister consider looking at increasing the formula on how those funds are distributed as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Yes, part of that would be handled or facilitated through the federal program that we've just talked about earlier, through the national childcare program that the federal government has announced. Part of that is the reason why we have asked for funding to flow into it to help us access those types of funds.

We will review the total allocations especially on the operations and maintenance side, and to see if there's any, when the last time changes were made, and make that information available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that and maybe I can get a commitment from the minister if our part, because things haven't changed a lot over a

great length of time. If he could commit to bring forward some amendments or change as to the point of the increase, that's our share of the funding to the daycare facilities across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we are trying to do a measured response by review, and we are doing a lot of reviews under the costs of it, and the programs and service under the department including, as we have talked about before, the K-12 School Funding Formula, issues around the College, and other things within the department.

They have introduced some new programs like the Young Parents' Initiative. It attempts to alleviate where a parent who is under the age of 18, who before wasn't eligible for any type of program, to help them with daycare fees.

So we have actually brought that forward as a new program in the budget. I know it has been well welcomed by the members.

So I would commit to the members that we will review again to find out when the last increases were, and then to see what the need is, as were with our member daycares across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know about member daycares across Nunavut. I know, specifically here in Iqaluit, that much like the Homeless Shelter that I talked about earlier today, and a lot like the Power Corporation that was talked about for some time now, that are struggling to pay their bills, and then find funding to just meet their basic operational requirements.

I am looking for a commitment because it hasn't been changed in some time. Will he bring forward some changes to increase that funding to the member daycares? Is he in support of that, because I believe there have been some major changes in operations and maintenance costs and that, to these organizations?

I am not getting any kind of an indication of a commitment of whether or not the minister would be willing to bring forward some changes. I know if the needs are there, I think that the minister knows that the need is there, so is he willing to address that need and bring forward the changes for increased funding for the daycares? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Yes we are, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes. So when those needs are assessed and determined by the department, then the answer would be yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear. Does the minister have an idea of when that will be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a process that is well known by the member for accessing funds in the programs and services in the department. We need to be able to look at it, as the member said, doing assessments on what the needs are, what the program is, and when the last increases were.

I would hope to be in a position in the next Session in May, to come forward with that information and then look at it at that time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has any of that work started yet or is it something that's going to start now that it has been raised? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. As soon as the budget cycle is complete, in this Session when the budget is complete, then we would be able to move on to that and other issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister indicating that nothing can happen with the Department of Education without the budget being approved? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure staff would say that something that happens all the time, not just in the budget cycle. What I am saying is that we are focused right now in trying to budget through the House. If the budget goes through the House, than there are a lot of new initiatives within the budget that we need to be able to do.

I would suggest to the member that when we return in the spring Session in May, I'll have the information that the member has asked for and we have asked the staff to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So is the Minister stating that this is a new initiative? No work has been done to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. As I said earlier we have brought in a new program under this category under daycare, and that parents staying in school initiative, we got to look at the needs out there and determined there were a lot of students that drop out of school that the member talked about yesterday. Because there was no program in place where they could actually be able to attend school, where they couldn't be able to afford daycare and so on.

What we have done is introduced in this budget and under this category, under daycare and childcare, a new initiative. So the work has been done in the department and this category in the department itself.

What I am suggesting to the member is that once the business cycle is finished, the budget cycle is finished within the next couple of weeks. One of the things that we have to do now, as the member has asked for, and you concurred and agreed with, is do a review on those budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the Minister or the department staff in that Division ever received any concerns about the adequacy of the funding, for the formula for member daycares across the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From time to time we have field workers that go to the communities to facilitate with member daycares and at times around O&M funding and so on, have been raised. I am aware of those. That is why we concur with the member that we will review again, the issues around the funding that the member is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Any question to G-14, G-15 and G-16? Questions to G-14, G-15, G-16. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for appearing before us today. Yesterday, I had questions on Income Support. The minister referred me to Childhood services and now here we are. I am curious that when recipients receive their money, there must be some sort of process or other processes that the

department implements to make sure that money that they receive are used for the purposes intended. Can the Minister comment on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the department itself and under that section, there is a Compliance Officer that works with the Income Support Workers to make sure that there is compliance under the *Income Support Act*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've heard about incidences where they've received money and through some process, they convert the money to VCR's and not into food. Then they turn the VCR's into something else and it still, it is not food.

I am wondering if the minister could comment on that, please.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very hard for the minister to comment on hearsay, what people said something happened here and something happened there.

When a person receives Income Support, they are assessed, they receive their cheque, and they are given the cheque. Then you would expect that based on adult circumstances, then they would use the income support money that has been granted or given for what it was meant to be.

There are some follow-up cases and in cases that we are aware of, issues where income support hasn't been used as it was allocated for, then those were dealt with using the proper mechanisms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister comment on how it works when you have a household with 13 people in it and there are four adults, there is a mother and father and some other relatives and they have 6 or 7 kids, who is actually entitled to income support money? Is that the head of the household, for his wife and children? When you have a couple of other relatives there, do they apply and receive money themselves? Can you comment on that, Mr. Minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Ms. Teiman explained yesterday, any Nunavut resident over the age of 18 is eligible to apply for Income Support. Once that person over the age of 18 applies, and then a case assessment is done, which takes into

account the financial needs and the other needs of the client that is applying, including the domestic situation, then the client is referred either within the program or without the program. That would mean that they are accepted into program or they are not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what happens in those rare cases where there are investigations for compliance? If the recipients are in non-compliance, what are the penalties? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it would depend on the severity of the issue around the receiving of the Income Support Program, what information has been acknowledged and made known to the Income Support Worker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister tell us what would happen if the person were in non-compliance, was penalized severely but yet they still required some funding for food. How would they be dealt with by the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the issue. Hamlets determine what is being paid out in Income Support. For example, does it go out in a cheque or a voucher or paid out in another way? Each case would be judged on its own merits.

If I went to the Income Support and they do an assessment on me and they say, "Mr. Picco, you are eligible for \$500," and they give me the \$500, and I use the \$500 for something other than food or clothes. That money has been given to me, it is up to me, I have an individual choice to make use of the money that was given to me. We are not playing Big Brother here.

If there have been issues of fraud, where I actually go into an Income Support Worker and suggest to them that I am living in a certain situation on the case study and then it turns out, I think that is what the member is saying, if the information that I give them is completely wrong, I received money that I am not entitled to, then that is a different case.

As I said earlier, there are mechanisms and procedures in place to deal with that.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. For the record, please introduce your staff.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am joined at the table by Ms. Taiwan, who is the Director of Income Support Programs with the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Ms. Teiman, welcome to the Witness Table. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, could the Minister comment on what his department is doing to install an Electronic Information System and do you have an estimate on what it would cost? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the member talking about an electronic file data system where we would be tracking cheques and so on and so forth? Is that what the member is asking about? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am referring to an electronic system where the client's case history would be there year after year. It would also track payments easily. Instead of having a drawer full of files, you would have an electronic system that would make it easier for Income Support Workers to deal with clients in particular, when there is a high turn over in Income Support Workers. They could easily retrieve information on the clients that they are meeting with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In a lot of areas in Nunavut, we're trying to get up to speed with the rest of the country when it comes to issues like that. Electronic filing is one.

I know for example, school student records, there is a good example. With health records are another example, and the member pointed out another example which is with Income Support clients. We're exploring options right now with the Government of the Northwest Territories on a system that they have in place to see if we can access that type of program here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer to page G-16, Northern Student Education Initiative. It's for students who attend post-secondary institutions and training programs in the Edmonton area. We also have students in Nova Scotia and other provinces.

Is this just for the Edmonton area or can it also be used for the other provinces also?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This program was originally started under the Government of the Northwest Territories and it provides assistance to students who are studying in Edmonton from Nunavut.

Some of those students for example, a majority of students are actually at NATE, which is the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton. The program is about \$15,000, as the member pointed out. They help students with housing, campus and city orientation. That service is free to all Nunavut students who are studying in the Edmonton region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that mean then that this lady from Coral Harbour that is attending University in Nova Scotia is not eligible to receive support from this pot of funds? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Right now, when we look at the three cities, we call them gateway cities for Nunavut, which includes Edmonton, Winnipeg and Ottawa; we only have this part-time position in Edmonton.

We would hope to be in a position where we would have something similar, some type of similar services in Winnipeg and Ottawa because we're seeing post-secondary student enrolments happening. The person is on the ground in Edmonton, so they wouldn't be able to help for example, on orientations on some of the issues in Nova Scotia because we don't have any one in place in that province. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): That's all.

Chairman: Questions to G-14, G-15, G-16. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In reference to the Early Childhood Programs for Healthy Children's Initiative, can the minister elaborate on what specific programs that that funding is for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Healthy Children's Initiative was also inherited from the Northwest Territories and is a partnership program with the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that information. The program that was inherited, has the department looked at specifically what it does? Is it achieving what it's supposed to be achieving? Is it receiving adequate funding? Do they need more funding? Maybe the minister can elaborate a little bit more on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program was intended to support children across Nunavut and it works on the early childhood family centered programs and services that are being delivered.

So far, the funding has been adequate. It's a good program. There has been a strong uptake on the program. There's also support of services which funds additional programs and services for children that are from ages below one to six that require extra support to reach their full potential.

The Healthy Children Initiative is also administered through the regional education offices in Nunavut and proposal calls on a regular basis would go out to community organizations and newspapers, on the program.

The proposals are submitted by community through Early Childhood Education organizations, the District Education Authorities, and as I said earlier, hamlet offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the minister and I had an exchange the other day in dealing with starting upstream and something that I have, as an issue, raised in the past is the concept to look at, is the idea of having a preschool program available to anybody who wants to take it because I know, particularly, of cases here in talking to some of the kindergarten teachers, that there is a very wide range of students that enter into the kindergarten program. Some are ready to be there, some are more than ready to be there, and some aren't ready to be there.

I think if there was a universal Early Childhood Program that would help prepare these kids to be ready to enter the system and take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available to them once they hit kindergarten and Grade 1.

Is that something that the minister could commit to looking into? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the concept of a junior kindergarten program in Nunavut has been widely discussed over the past couple of years, it's something that this minister certainly endorses. It's something that I think, that we would like to bring forward and facilitate at some point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify for the minister, and I know it's not just a junior kindergarten program that I am talking about, I know in other countries and other jurisdictions, I think France was a good example, where they have an Early Childhood Program that starts at age three that's available to parents to take their kids to, junior kindergarten in 4 and then 5 when they go to the kindergarten program.

I am wondering if the Minister and I know that is not something that we can look at implementing right away, but take a look at it and see what would be required. I know that there would be infrastructure needs and staffing needs. I think also, to move to type of program would elevate a lot of the problems in the daycare centres with lack of space, by moving the older kids to pre-school programs and freeing up spaces for the younger ones.

I know that there have been cases in the past where people have had to resign their employment because they don't have childcare available for those infants and those spaces are very limited throughout Nunavut.

Is that something that the Minister can look into and report back to the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question deals with something that my colleague was asking and that is the Northern Student Education Initiative.

I am wondering if the Minister can specifically outline and clarify how that program works and what it's specifically used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I said earlier this program was something that we carried over from the Government of the Northwest Territories. It is \$15,000 that helps to fund the position in Edmonton.

This program endorses and sponsors different agencies and other organizations. The partnership of 9 groups, including Education of Government of Nunavut, Government of the Northwest Territories includes a lot of employers in the Northwest Territories, DeBeers, Diavik, BHP Billiton, and so on. And again, programs assists Nunavut students who are studying in Edmonton and helps them with housing, campus and city orientation, banking, bus to schools, all those types of logistics when you are traveling to a city like Edmonton. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Picco, thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the Minister feel it is a good use, successful program and a good allocation of funding for those students that take advantage of that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is mostly accessed by our trades' apprentices because they attend NAIT the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. It is welcomed by those who have gone there.

It is something in an earlier question like, we like to see in Winnipeg and in Ottawa where some of our other students as our post-secondary, have increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For \$15,000 it seems like we get a good bang for our buck there. I think it would be a good idea if it is working good and it is not costing us very much money, to look at trying to start programs like that in the other centres that we have a majority of our students, whether it be Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa or so on.

The Minister has indicated that he would like to see that going, but is the department doing anything specifically to try and get that going in those areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Plans are that at the end of the academic year, that we actually look at what is financially and logistically available to implement the program to other communities, that the Member talks about, Ottawa and in Winnipeg because that's where the majority of where our students are actually attending in post-secondary institutions.

Again, the \$15,000 is a small amount and I think we are getting good value for that as the member has indicated but that's because there are nine different groups helping to support those positions; BHP Billiton, Diavik Diamond Mine, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and so on. That's the type of partnerships we would want to look at if we fund the same positions in Ottawa and/or Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Education Branch Summary. Career and Early Childhood Service. G-14, G-15, G-16, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question under G-15. For Early Childhood Program daycare contribution, it states, there are two programs under these. There is \$1,585,000 line item, it's a daycare contribution and for family day homes. What are family day homes and who can get contributions from this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Family day homes are licensed daycares in a private residence. So, in this case if you wanted to set up a daycare in your home, the Government of Nunavut would go in and inspect the home, make sure it was user friendly for the children that would be staying there. They would allocate the number of children you would be able to hold in that licensed day home, and these are monies that would be available to that day home operator, to be able to facilitate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am also aware that in my community, mostly the majority of the babysitters are the grandparents when their children are at work.

I wonder why we can't provide any form of support. Of course, do they need to be educated in English? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, I mean, if you want to open a licensed daycare program in your home, then if you're going to be licensed, you have to do that under the regulations and so on. You can be unilingual. That's not an issue. The issue here would be if it's licensed. If it's licensed, then there is extra support that we can give that person. At the same time, the member is correct, when elders and so on are staying

home and babysitting, and then there are subsidies that are available to the client base that a parent can apply for, that we have actually talked about.

For the first time in this budget, we've actually allowed and the member was, said earlier, was well welcomed when we put the money in for younger parents that we would actually be able to now cover off the costs that they have for daycares. So that, they can pay daycare whether at the licensed daycare, home daycare or indeed having friends, neighbours, relatives or grandparents taking care of their children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I don't think there are many people in the public out there who know about this program. I think most of them; family day homes are geared towards just a small amount of day homes. Why isn't the public aware of this family day home program? I'm sure that the elders, when they end up babysitting and the children and their grandchildren end up going to eat at the elder's home. Perhaps the Minister or his officials can send out information criteria or whatever and publicize this program. We don't want the government to just be a cash flow for those daycares that have licenses and I'm sure that there are few licensed daycares.

I want to hear from the Minister if he can provide the information to the communities out there and when would you start the dissemination of the information to the communities? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think the member is correct that if there's not a good public awareness, that there are monies to provide a licensed daycare space in a private home, I think that's something that the department should be advertising. So that's something that we will expedite as the member has asked. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, thank you. Yes, I agree that it's a good idea, Mr. Minister. So you will commit to providing more information, if so, by what means do you try and synchronize that information so that people who honestly can provide a good home, good families, whether they be unilingual, can also be given their license so that the child or whatever is cared for in a good home and reliable homes. There are many of them, and I would ask the minister to actually commit and if so, how and when? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education has regional offices in every region of Nunavut, and we do have a person who is in charge of the daycare section.

I would be open to suggestions from the member and the members on how they would like or how they feel the best penetration of this type of news could happen across Nunavut. Is it radio ads, is it the newspaper ads, is it advertisement on the local radio, and I would be willing to take that information forward.

This is not a new program. Licensing daycare space in the private home is something that has been ongoing since Nunavut began. So if the people are not well aware of it, then this is a good opportunity to bring that forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps if I first ask a question under page G-14, it states (interpretation ends) fees and payments of \$25,370,000. I am just wondering Minister Picco, what this is used for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the member could just point me out which \$370,000. Is it on page G-14, the current early childhood services, or you could tell me where I could find the \$370,000 and then I will be able to answer the question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Alagalak had asked a question to fees and payments of \$25,370,000.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$25,370,000 under fees and payments consists of the income support or social assistance payments throughout Nunavut. That's the actual monies that are paid out in income support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page G-15 (interpretation ends) the title of it is community capacity building. I know we have gone into this, giving the community some more empowerment in their own community.

But you have \$1,500,000, a budget of \$1,500,000. How many communities are involved in this, to deliver income support in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the contribution agreements, for the delivery of income support to hamlets or the CTI, the Community Transfer Initiative, in 2005/06, we anticipate having about 13 contribution agreements in place with hamlets across Nunavut.

Hall Beach and Whale Cove are returning their contracts back to the government on April 1st, 2005, the Funding Formula for the Contributions Agreements based on case load in the particular community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't understand this clearly, the income support section on G-10, \$989,000, it wasn't stated there. Those are my questions. Thank you for answering my questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Any further questions to G-14, G-15, G-16? Career and Early Childhood Service. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Community Capacity Building, the Minister had indicated that there were some communities that were turning back their agreements. One would assume that the agreements have been in place for a little while now.

I'm just wondering why this is the first time we're seeing this funding in the budget. Was it taken out of somewhere else or moved from a different area in the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's always been in the budget as far as we know, since Nunavut began on April 1, 1999. It might have been in a different cost category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I anticipated that it was always in the budget but under that item, community capacity building, I see that it is the first time that it shows up in the Main Estimates since 2003/04. For sure there was nothing in there prior to that in that area, so this is a new line item in the budget.

I'm just wondering if the Minister or his officials could indicate on where that funding came from. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Previously it was in Contract Services. That's where it was located in the budget but then because of the way the budget rolls itself out, we've put it into the area that the member has acknowledged. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for clarifying that. The other thing I want to go back to, on the fees and payments of \$25,370,000, I believe the Minister indicated that was what was paid out in total for what's budgeted to be paid out in total for income support for that year.

I just want to clarify that \$25,370,000 that that's what all of that funding is budgeted for is for Income Support payments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is inclusive. The total amount there, the \$25 million 370 is inclusive of all income support programs which includes the social assistance payments, as I said earlier. It also includes the Daycare User Subsidy as well as for example, the Senior Fossil Subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, can the Minister indicate how much of, for example last year, the revised Main Estimates show \$23,000,621?

How much of that was specifically paid out in income support payments for social assistance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. We won't have that figure until March 31st because that will be the year end cycle for that program. So, when we do the accounting we'll have it after that date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then also in the mains, it shows that 2003/04 actual expenditures of \$21,925,000. Does the Minister have available how much of that was paid out in the Income Support Social Assistance payments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be able to have that information. Ms. Teiman, right now is reviewing that information in the data index, and we should be able to provide that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure as the Minister knows, that the Income Support and Social Assistance is a driven program and much like a file that he is all too familiar with for the Health and Social Services, he cannot really budget what that amount is going to be. For what they have budgeted in the past is, that amount for Income Support payments. Had they had to increase funding in those areas in the past? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For 2003, the approximately \$21 million is the figure that Mr. Tootoo was looking for earlier. On average or given year, we have allocated amount within the Main Estimates have been sufficient for the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I don't have any names written down. Education Branch Summary. Career and Early Childhood Service. Total Operation and Maintenance \$36,464,000. Does the Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. G-17 Education Branch Summary. Curriculum and School Services. Total Operations and Maintenance \$9,901,000. Does the Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. G-19. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On this curriculum development area in School Services, can the Minister indicate where the curriculum for the department, where they are based out of and where do they do they work from, for the record? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the member mean community specific? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Yes.

Chairman: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is one in Arviat, Pond Inlet, Kugluktuk, and in our community of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Minister Picco, can you introduce your staff?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have with me now, the Deputy Minister, Ms. Pam Hine.

Chairman: Welcome back, Ms. Hine. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand for this Division there are 33 PY's. I am just wondering if the minister could indicate whether those positions are off held, or how many of them are vacant and why they are vacant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are just trying to get the information right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are waiting for that information I know that in curriculum development, if you look at the organizational chart, there is a whole Division with 33 employees dedicated to it for curriculum development.

Could the minister indicate whether any other curriculum development has taken place, has been done directly through this Division or have they contracted out for some of that work to be done? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the offices, there are 21 employees that are Inuit. We have 21 employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister answered my previous question. Now to the last question, if he could answer to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From time to time, some contract work is carried out. For example just recently, we have been working with the NTEP and the students to create some materials for us.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Has the Division or the department, or the minister, have they contracted any of the work to groups outside of Nunavut to develop a curriculum for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, if we have teachers who are working in Nunavut who know curriculum resources and have created material, they may now be living in some other jurisdiction; they may have contributed some materials for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister be willing to provide members of this House, a contract amounts to people outside of Nunavut that have done the curriculum work, individuals or organizations outside of the territory? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope to have that information in the next several days. We have to go back to the department to see how the contract is done. So we should be able to provide that information to the member in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this area, also one of the things in there is student support. I am just wondering if the minister can indicate what kind of student support specifically is offered through this Division. If there are positions that are allocated, what directly, specifically for that, what they are, and what kind of support they provide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a range of students' supports that are available to students across Nunavut. First and foremost, some students' support that is available is school counsellors in place in the schools itself. In this budget, I am very pleased that we are looking at, there is a PY identified for Child Psychologist position. First time in Nunavut, we have a dedicated Child Psychologist available to provide student support to our students. I think it is again, very important.

Some of the consultative means that I've had across Nunavut and here in Iqaluit we talk about, we are lacking a lot of these professional services. So this budget, for the first time identifies a PY for Child Physiologist position as part of the student support that the member has talked about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Minister indicated this is where the new school counsellors are. How many school counsellors are there in Nunavut?

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a good question because the way the school counsellors, because historically the Divisional Boards of Education funded them, in the Baffin for example, all the schools have a dedicated school counsellor position.

When you have looked at what's occurred in the Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot, these positions weren't funded and indeed there are very few positions located in those two regions.

When we look at the total number of positions available for school counsellor in 2004-2005, we have budgeted for 16. Again, a good news story for Nunavummiut, there is another 15 positions that is allocated in this budget where we are going to hire another 15 positions. So the number of counsellors will go over up to 30 in the budget.

It is one indication of the new positions that we've talked about in the budget. A fundamental shift in the way we fund education. I appreciate the question from the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, how many schools are there in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are approximately 42 schools in Nunavut. Again, the summaries are the increase in extra PY's. This budget will be doing, and the member asked earlier about the support assistance, we are looking at an increase of 92 positions across Nunavut for support services. We are looking at the increases of support teachers; an increase in language specialists. I already gave the number of school counsellors. We are also looking at other positions like custodians and field workers.

In the past the DEA, in most cases, would pay for the workers and the Government of Nunavut will be the employer of choice for those positions. So we will bring some stability to some of the other also, like Classroom Assistants. These people are laid off and go on unemployment. It was hard on them. Our proposal in the budget is to have them employed with the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister jumping ahead in the Main Estimates. He is alluding to questions I have with School Operations. He must be anticipating it.

I think that is a good news story that there is an extra 15 counsellors in there. The minister indicated there are 42 schools. Does the minister have plans to have every school have a school counsellor within the school? That is something that we can plan on, in seeing for the department, to move towards over the next year or two? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct again. This is something that we looked into when I became the Minister of Education, doing a base for positions for each school. Some of the other smaller schools have only 50 students. Maybe, you have a part time, a .5 position for a counsellor, in that type of incidence.

I would hope that in most schools across Nunavut and most communities, we would actually have community school councillors in place, which isn't the case today. This budget is putting us in that direction where we're actually increased for the first time; base funding these types of positions. I would hope to continue that over the next couple of years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward supporting those positions as they come out in the future. I think some of the challenges that our young people are facing, if you look at some of the drop out rate, the truancy rate, the suicide levels and all these different things that are going on out there, that there is a tremendous need for these counselling services to be available in the school system.

I know that here at the High School in Iqaluit, the Middle School is another area where, I don't know about other communities, but here there is a tremendous need. They could probably use about five councillors up there.

I certainly look forward to supporting these extra positions whether they come up in a supplementary or in next year's Main Estimates or in the future.

Mr. Chairman, another area that is identified in here is the District Education Authority did development. Can the Minister give an idea of what exactly that means? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the member's acknowledgement and support for the new positions. Again, as we roll out this new Funding Formula for schools that I've talked about, then we would be in a position to support more positions. We can only put positions that we have in place in the budget right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't quite catch that. Could I get the Minister to repeat that please? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the member's question, I was in concurrence with him and I also went on to say that I appreciate his support for the funding mechanisms that we're trying to put in place under the new School Funding Formula, to address some of the issues that the member has raised not only today, but over the past several months in the House during this term and in the previous term. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's pretty much what I heard. My question is that, it also talks about the District Education Authority development in there under this area.

Can the Minister elaborate on exactly what that is and what it means and what they do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different types of fundamental work that has been carried on and continues to be done with District Education Authorities. This could be Board Governance workshops as well as administrative book keeping supports and so on. We actually had a District Education Authority meeting where I met all the Chairs of different District Education Authorities from the different regions. During that time, this past fall for example, the District Education Authority Chairs would then come together and they do workshops around financial issues, around administrative issues of District Education Authority's funding, Board of Governance issues.

So, it's almost like professional development for District Education Authorities. There is also other work that goes on for the District Education Authorities. For example, work with the processes for book keeping with staff of District Education Authorities and so on. So it's a pretty encompassing program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the minister, have any District Education Authorities approached the department or the appropriate staff within the department looking to take on more authority and responsibility and powers as outlined in the Act, that they have available to them?

Has the Minister received any requests from any of the District Education Authorities to look at any of these empowerment issues, and then would that flow through this area here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are usually two processes for District Education Authority empowerment issues. One is to come directly through, from the District Education Authority Chair, to the Department of Education and up through to the minister.

The second process that I am aware of that has occurred in the past, is where it actually came in through the local Member of the Legislative Assembly, and then from that, through the minister.

I haven't been accessed or contacted by any District Education Authority to have enhancements of the legislative authority or indeed empowerment under the current Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's more disempowerment. I will just mention that now, and promise the minister that I will touch base with it when we get to School Operations.

Aside from professional development, are there any other supports that are made available as far as resources to the District Education Authorities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Again, Mr. Chairman, there are profession development resources that are made available for bookkeeping and so on, accounting procedures, then there are also the monetary resources that are made to the District Education Authorities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know one thing that was a concern in the past with the District Education Authorities was the dissolution of the Divisional Boards of Education. The District Education Authorities pretty much lost their liaison.

That was their resource when they had concerns or questions about anything, and I believe it was a couple of years ago there was a movement to try and establish some type of a District Education Authority, territorial organization so that they could support and help each other out with some areas. Some District Education Authorities have been more successful than others in certain areas, to be able to check with each other on, and be there for each other.

Would the minister be willing to entertain us in looking into something like this in the very near future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Through the decentralization process, after the integration and the amalgamation of the Education Boards in the regional RSOs, we have set up District Education Authority support offices, who would work with the local District Education Authorities.

At time to time, the Regional Superintendents for the Department of Education in these offices contacted the District Education Authorities either with somebody through conference calls. Then any request that the District Education Authority has is facilitated through those regional offices.

When I met with the District Education Authority Chairs for Qikiqtani, for example this past fall, there were no concerns raised that there weren't any supports coming from the Regional Office. Indeed, they were quite complimentary on some of the supports that they were receiving from the Department of Education and from the Regional Offices. By due course, many of the things that the member has asked for, does occur at the present time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am trying to get ahead or think ahead to what's going to be happening over the next few years with the development of the *Education Act*. I know that since this was a departmental-driven project, in some cases the District Education Authorities didn't feel comfortable in going in and questioning the departmental staff on it. I was told the first ramifications for departmental staff were told not to not to say anything about the Act and its development.

So I guess maybe just in that light, can the minister commit to having some type of resources available, whether it is just through the Education Act development that the department is going to undertake to allow the DEAs to network? If they feel that they need it, seek outside support in dealing with any of the changes identified in legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. We can commit to doing that, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be asking a question. First of all, I would like to say that I am not opposed with the Qallunaat, as of course, we work very well together.

I do have a concern about why the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit head, in Pond Inlet is a Qallunaaq. How does it work when the head of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit system is a Qallunaaq? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry, I don't get it. The employees in Pond Inlet are Inuit. Who are we referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. I am not going to say the name, but why is the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Coordinator, or the curriculum development person for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit is Qallunaaq?

Chairman: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): I still don't understand it. The Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Coordinator is here working in Iqaluit and this individual is an Inuk. The Qikiqtani

School Operations is in Pond Inlet and we have no problems with that individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How does it work when we have a Qallunaaq in the school curriculum development? How does it help? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for clarification purposes, when we look at the curriculum development for Nunavut, we are looking at a public school service system across Nunavut, which is K-12, which is inclusive of English, French, and mostly in Inuktitut

Under the Department of Education we have dedicated staffs, who work on Inuktitut curriculum. We have Qallunaaq staff that might be doing work on other types of curriculum. We also have elders, especially for example in Arviat office, who actually come in and work very tirelessly on incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit within the processes there, that the member had seen when we were in Arviat.

The head of curriculum services right now is not an Inuk, but I don't think it would belittle the opportunity that that person has. Indeed, that person has had many years in education in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I still don't understand, Mr. Chairman. They work with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, dealing with Inuit knowledge. How does she converse with the elders and how does she communicate with the elders?

She is the senior manager for Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, although her subordinates are Inuit, how does she try and get information from the elders when she's working on the curriculum? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco (interpretation): It appears to make no sense, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, in the Department of Education is an Inuk. Ann Mullin is originally from the High Arctic. Yes, the curriculum development services, yes, we do have a non-Inuk, but she has been here for many, many years.

(Interpretation ends) The work that has been done by the curriculum development services in Arviat, I think that we've done some very, very good work there. Maybe the member from Arviat can speak about some of the good work that goes on with the Inuit

Qaujimajatuqangit and the elders that come in there on a regular basis. I think we've done some good stuff there.

I don't think that's impeded by having the director of curriculum services, being a non-Inuk, in this case. I would suggest to you that curriculum services across Nunavut, K-12 have to incorporate English, Inuktitut and French. In this case, the director of curriculum services is a long time northern Nunavut educator, and has done a very good job on curriculum development services.

I don't think we should be knocking her because she's not Inuk. She does have many Inuit with her, and we have Inuit elders who have committed and done a fantastic job for us from Arviat, at the curriculum development process and actually go in on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this area here too, she is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of student achievement.

I'm just wondering if the minister could give an outline of exactly what that means, and what's done in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Mr. Chairman, part of the program under the Department of Education is to decentralize into Panniqtuuq. We've identified several positions in Panniqtuuq that will be decentralized. That includes a student assessment coordinator, program evaluation officers, student records register, and student records clerk, as an example.

The position of the student assessments coordinator is looking at student assessments across Nunavut within the curriculum development services itself. That could be from the development and implementation, some of the criteria in testing that we've talked about and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the question that begs to be asked is in this area of monitoring evaluation, student achievement, would one, just in the title of it, think that this area would be looking at standards, require standards and whether students are meeting those standards at different levels throughout the system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is part of what we've been talking about.

At the present time across the board in Nunavut, we don't have the type of criteria and standard programming or testing that I believe should be in place. I've talked to the member about this before and the members. I believe that we should implement the criteria and standard testing program at grade 3, grade 6, and grade 9.

So, when you get to grade 3, criteria and tests would be delivered. Can you add, subtract, multiply and divide? Can you identify a whole number? Can you write a whole sentence with a subject, a predicate with a verb and an adjective, a capital letter and period? Those types of criterion standards are in place. Grades 3, 6, and 9 would help us address some of the issues that we heard over the last couple of days during the education debate.

We have tasked the NTEP students to work with us and we are in the process right now to develop that criterion standard test that I have talked about for Grade 3. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a great relief that the minister supports this idea. I know in the past he didn't seem to support. I am glad he supports this initiative now. I think, as he has indicated, that it will go a long way to identifying discrepancies if you want to call it that or loop holes in the system. I think that is something the minister and the staff should really look at when they are developing this.

These types of standards, assessment, and testing that he is talking about. When they are not testing the students they are not testing the teachers. They are testing the system, trying to identify areas in the system that may not be as strong in other areas. Therefore and thus, give us the opportunity to identify those areas and try to find ways to improve, identify, and fix and the system for the benefit of all our students. The thinking, I guess the Minister and his staff have in mind in their approach to this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I've always believed in criterion standard testing. What I haven't agreed with was standardized testing. Standardized testing is completely different and the criterion standards for standards that are in place for grades.

Standardized testing that the member is talking to is to try to test students in standardized testing, against the same cohort of students whether it be in Alberta or other jurisdiction. I don't see the benefit of standardized testing. I do see the merit and benefit of criterion standard. That criterion standard would also be available in Grade 3 in Inuktitut, again in Grade 6 and 9. I think that is the process to move towards.

So I would agree with the member is the other comments that he is saying. Again, that is the direction that the department is doing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think a good point was made by my colleague from Coral Harbour earlier today, in his Member's Statement, talking about someone who was having a tougher time, having gone through the system here and when they try and attend a post-secondary education, they had a tougher time. He said, he isn't sure if he is going to be accepted because of his grades and course availability and things like that.

The Minister said he doesn't believe in a standard test. I think and believe that our students in Nunavut deserve the quality and the level of education is the same if not better, in any other jurisdiction in Canada.

I really urge the Minister, not to develop some type of dummed-down criterion testing that would maybe make the numbers look good here, but really don't mean anything. I've seen in a number of areas in the past where courses seem to be watered down, there are different levels and it goes down.

I think in our education system, one cannot afford a lower standard and I think that needs to be taken into consideration in any development of any type of testing, it doesn't matter whether you are a student here or in Alberta. It should be the same. We should have the same skills.

I would really urge the minister to take that into account, and I look forward to hearing about the development on that in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to have an opportunity at some point, to debate the member on the issue around criterion standard testing, criterion standardized tests because that's not what I am saying at all. The criterion tests checks the criteria. It checks to see what the basics skills have been learned.

Let's use the hockey analogy for Mr. Tootoo. If the Stanley Cup champions are the standard, you wouldn't compare that standard and have players playing in the league in Iqaluit to be compared to them and do the same kind of standard tests that it should have for a professional NHL champions. However, on a criterion test, you would be able to compare them. On the criterion test you would say: "Can you shoot the puck?" Is that the criteria? "Have you mastered that skill?" "Can you stick handle?" "Can you do a wrist shot?" "Can you skate backwards?" That's criterion testing.

The standardized testing is where you take a standard and you test against another standard. By comparing the Iqaluit players to the Stanley Cup champions on a standard, would not make any sense because you are comparing apples and oranges.

If you took a standard mean or an average on a test for students in Alberta and tried to compare them against 15 schools in Northern Labrador, it wouldn't make any sense. However, if, in Grade 3, you did a criterion standard; can you add, subtract, multiply, and divide? Can you write a full sentence with a subject and predicate?

That's the kind, and if you don't have those skills, then that's where you test it and say what has occurred between kindergarten and Grade 3, but you don't know your multiplication facts, that you can't write a full thought sentence in Inuktitut with proper syllabics, and using the 'qaaralaaq' and using finals. That's the criterion standard. That's a criterion test.

So I endorse that and I think most of the educators and most of the teachers across Nunavut endorse criterion testing. Most of the educators and most of the parents, and I believe when you look at education across Nunavut, have problems and issues with standardization and standardized testing.

By the way, Mr. Chairman, when I was at the last Minister of Education meeting, it came up where all of the jurisdictions were talking about it, and most jurisdictions are moving away from those types of standardized testing and trying to test to see if students in P.E.I. match the standard in Alberta.

They to do their criterion standards to make sure the basic skills and knowledge are in place. That's what we have been talking about doing, because the member is right. That isn't occurring right now. So how do you know what skills have been learned in Grade 2, Grade 3 and Grade 4?

So by balancing it out and doing the testing in Grade 3, Grade 6, and Grade 9, will give you that cohort of knowledge and knowledge base because that's the difference between standardized testing and the criterion skills testing that I have endorsed, and I believe that the majority of teachers in Nunavut, think is the best way to go. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the Minister for clarifying that. I think one of the things that has come up since this whole debate over the last few years on assessment testing of whatever type, is the fact that there isn't really anything to assess it to out there. I think that has been identified as a concern throughout the territory.

Are there any plans in place, or is it the department to start doing anything, other than looking at this criterion testing, to see if there is something out there that they can use across the territory in Nunavut in our schools at different levels of certain standards of things that should be met, whether you are going to school in Grise Fiord, Arviat, Kugluktuk or Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has said early in one of his statements that he would like to see the government recognize when there are issues, recognize when there are problems, and act on them and not try to hide from them.

That's why we're decentralizing the school services division into Panniqtuuq and we've actually identified these positions. The manager of school services, administration officers, the student assessment coordinator, the school program coordinator, so we can actually address, exactly what the member is saying because as I've just said, some of these issues, the criteria and standard testing for example, are not in place and we need to be able to do those types of assessments especially at the lower grades so you can succeed at the higher grades. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated these are new positions and as he is saying that this type of work wasn't being done in the past, and as a result of concerns that have been raised over the last few years; it's been identified as something that is required and positions have been created and identified to deal specifically with these issues. In particular, school programs review positions.

Is that something that is new that wasn't being addressed before? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a new position.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a new position. Is the Minister saying that this is an area that hadn't been addressed in the past through the whole last *Education Act* process, and what's followed since then, that that has been identified as something that they should be looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's safe to say that in the past, it had been done maybe, on an ad hoc basis. So, we feel having a position in place will help to alleviate and have consistency. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other position I see here that is new is a teacher certification position. Isn't there a certain type of certificate that a teacher is required to have to be a teacher.

I'm just wondering what this teacher's certification position is going to be doing. Are they looking at changing their requirements to be a teacher or what? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new qualified position is a position within the government but they would also be working closely with the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, to ensure the requirements under the current *Education Act*, as well as the collective agreements and regulations are adhered to under the salary option. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the department looking at changing any of the criteria for certification for teachers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. Again, teachers have to be regularly certified. Part of that was held when we did the FNT conference here and that's part of the certification program. So, we haven't looked at changing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. G-17, Education Branch Summary. Curriculum and School Services. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we report progress.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Those opposed. Motion is carried. I will rise to report progress. Thank you, Minister and his staff.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Item 21. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Committee has been considering Bill 8 and the Main Estimates and would like to report progress. Also, I move that this report of this Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion. Who is the seconder? Mr. Kattuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Opposed. Abstained.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is carried. Item 22. Item 23. Orders of the Day for tomorrow, Mr. Clerk.

Item 23: Orders of the Day

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Announcement for tomorrow's meeting of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* at 9 am in the morning and a meeting of the Regular Member's Caucus at 11 in the morning. Thank you.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, March 3rd.

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 Thursday, March 03, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*

