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**DAY 21**

**Tuesday March 8, 2005**

**Pages 1292 – 1383**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tununiq)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Akulliq)

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

**David Alagalak**  
(Arviat)

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

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

**Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)

**Peter Kattuk**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

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

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

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**  
(Kugluktuk)

**Patterk Netser**  
(Nanulik)

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

**Tagak Curley**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

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

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

**James Arreak**  
(Uqqurmiut)

**Levi Barnabas**  
(Quttiktuq)

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Hansard Production  
Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut  
Tuesday March 8, 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, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers and Members. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Minister' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements****Minister's Statement 073 – 2(2): Absence of Minister Tapardjuk**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the House that Minister Tapardjuk will be absent from the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Minister's Statement 074 – 2(2): Municipal Government Certificate Program**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the House on excellent results to date with the Municipal Government Certificate Program. As members may know, this program is designed to train the entire management team in every municipality. Other residents in each community also participate. At this time, five management courses will be delivered in every community, as well 35 municipal specialty courses in the three regional centres.

(interpretation ends) Between September and November 2004, every community in Nunavut completed their first management course. In December, the first round of specialty courses were delivered. Over 300 citizens participated and over 90 percent of participants were Inuit.

With that, I wanted to thank all the people and organizations who have worked so well together to achieve these initial results, especially the municipalities whose commitment to their staff and their communities is demonstrated so clearly by their participation.

Most of all, I wanted to personally congratulate the participants for their commitment and professional development and encourage them as they work to complete their certification. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's statements. Ms. Brown.

### **Minister's Statement 075 – 2(2): International Women's Day**

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today as the minister responsible for the Status of Women, in commemoration of International Women's Day. March 8<sup>th</sup> was declared by the United Nations in 1975. The Charter of the United Nations proclaims gender equality as a fundamental human right.

To this end, the Government of Nunavut established the Qulliiit Nunavut Status of Women Council April 1, 1999. The purpose of the Council is to advance the goal of equal participation of women in society and promote changes in social, legal and economic structures to that end.

(interpretation ends) As the minister responsible, I am fortunate to receive information and advice from Qulliiit Status of Women's Council. The women on the council represent all regions of the territory. The hard work of the council is one source of information that the government relies on in the formulating of policy and legislation.

The Government of Nunavut continues to work to address one of the most complex barriers to attaining gender equality, *violence against women*, through the Nunavut working group on violence against women. This group is co-chaired by the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Justice.

The Government of Nunavut has dedicated a full time staff position to women's initiatives. This individual provides support to the Qulliiit Council, administers grants and contributions programs, and provides support to women's shelters and safe houses.

International Women's Day is a time to reflect on women's place in our society and their journey to achieve equality, justice, peace and development. We have come a long way, but there is still a way to go.

Women are our grandmothers, mothers, partners, wives, daughters and sisters. Achieving equality for all in our society will ensure strong, healthy families and healthy communities for all of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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



**Minister's Statement 076 – 2(2): Nunavut Arctic College Receives Research Grant**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. One of the objectives of this government, as outlined in Pinasuaqtavut, is to ensure that our history and accomplishments have been preserved and recognized in our books, art and museums, and that we are a source of pride to all Canadians. I would like to recognize today the work of the students and staff in the Language and Cultural Program at Nunavut Arctic College for their contribution in this area.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada announced recently that researchers in the Language and Culture Program at Nunavut Arctic College, along with their partners at Laval University, will receive a three year grant, totaling \$249,452, to collect and document the life stories of 5 Inuit leaders who have played and/or continue to play an active and decisive role in the construction in Nunavut. These life stories will be published by Nunavut Arctic College in a new five volume collection entitled *Inuit Voices in the Making of Nunavut*.

Mr. Speaker, you may be interested in knowing that one of these leaders is here with us today, our member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Tagak Curley. He is here with us. Thank you, Mr. Curley.

>>*Applause*

These publications will add to the growing list of books published by the Language and Culture Program; books that record the wisdom and knowledge of our elders, Inuit scholars and leaders. This program, under the leadership of Susan Sammons, has made a tremendous contribution to the preservation and recognition of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit.

Research projects like this one also provide the opportunity for Nunavut Arctic College students registered in the Language and Culture Program to develop skills as researchers. The ultimate goal of this project is that these Inuit students will work towards more specialized training, skills and degrees and become researchers in their own right, able to conduct research from the Inuit perspective.

We look forward to the publication of these books and to the continued success of the students and staff of the Language and Culture Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Item 3: Members' Statements****Member's Statement 162 – 2(2): Larga Boarding Home Visit**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update my colleagues and my constituents in Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord regarding my recent visit to the Larga boarding home down in Ottawa. I accompanied Minister Brown, the Minister of Health and Social Services, Premier Okalik and my colleague, from Uqurmiut, Mr. James Arreak on this trip.

I would like to thank the Minister of Health and Social Services for the opportunity to see first hand some of the needs and challenges that arise when providing services for patients traveling to Ottawa for medical treatment.

Despite the fact that there appears to be fewer Inuit on the staff on the Larga Boarding Home since 2002, the current staff are working very hard to provide the best service they can. The lack of Inuit staff and related services leads to some difficulty. In some cases, escorts, who are often family members, have to interpret for their loved ones and tell them some difficult news about their medical condition.

In other cases, escorts have to stay down south a very long time and that puts some additional stress on them and their families. In cases where escorts are not provided, we have heard more than once of unilingual elders being stranded at the Ottawa Airport late at night.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that it is important that a central communication service be available for clients and family members who are traveling long distance from home in an unfamiliar place.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, but I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.  
(interpretation ends) Keeping lines of communication open between patients and their home communities is very important.

As one small example, I think it would be an important first step if the department could provide assistance to Larga boarding home staff in reestablishing their link to CBC radio's northern feature so that patients can listen to the news from home.

Mr. Speaker, the centre of transportation office could do a lot to improve situations for patients traveling with or without escorts. I look forward to any updates that the minister may provide regard this central medical office that is supposed to be established by her department.

I would like to acknowledge the individuals who took time to meet with us during our visits. They worked very hard to ensure that the services that Larga boarding home meet the needs of Baffin clients.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Enook is the chairperson of Larga services, and Trudy McLeod is the manager of the Larga boarding home. At the appropriate time, I shall be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 163 – 2(2): Larga Boarding Home**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am also pleased to rise today to provide some comments on our trip to Ottawa to visit the Larga boarding home with the Minister of Health and Social Services, Premier Okalik, and my colleague from High Arctic, Mr. Levi Barnabas.

Mr. Speaker, this visit was a good opportunity to see the services that are available to Nunavutmiut traveling to Ottawa for medical treatment. (interpretation ends) I would also like to thank the chairperson from Larga services, Mr. Joe Enook, and the manager of Larga boarding home, Ms. Trudy McLeod, for taking the time to meet with us. Their contribution efforts are greatly appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, many of the problems that I noted and were brought to my attention by clients at the boarding home relate to its physical layout and surroundings. For example, the dining room in this facility is too small for the number of patients staying there. It is so small that some patients have to eat their meals alone in their rooms. There's also a lack of shower facilities. The boarding home does not have any hospital beds, which would be more appropriate for those individuals who are recovering from major surgery.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of patient security was also brought to my attention. I was concerned to learn that some individuals face some very aggressive behaviour in areas where the boarding home is located.

I understand that the contract for Larga boarding home will come up for renewal in just over two years. If discussions and planning begin now, Mr. Speaker, this could be a good opportunity to address some of the concerns I speak of.

(Interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. (interpretation ends) I encourage the Minister of Health and Social Services to discuss these issues, and those raised on my colleagues and Larga services contractor as soon as possible. I encourage the government and the contractor to look at opportunities to relocate the Larga boarding home to a better location and, in addition, to a more adequate space. At an appropriate time, I shall be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 164 – 2(2): Turbot Fishermen Incident**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to share my joy with my colleagues with the relatives of the turbot fishermen who recently had a bad experience. David Kullualik, Jonah Kullualik, and Joshua Nakulak. I praise these individuals for being able to handle themselves when the ice was breaking up on the way home to Panniqtuuq.

These five individuals had to go back and forth in order to avoid the ice breakage. They were in that condition for a number of hours. Because of the condition of the ice, there were waves cresting over the ice that they were traveling on. They had to leave all their equipment and hunting tools in order to save themselves. It took them approximately 4 to 5 hours in order to reach land.

They were able to save themselves, even though they had a very hard time when they were going through that incident. Once the people of Panniqtuuq found out what was happening, some individuals came over to meet them and deliver gas.

I would particularly like to say thank you to David Evic, who was able to lead the men out of that condition. He was able to take them to safety and now they are back in Panniqtuuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 165 – 2(2): Anglican Women's Group Parish Service**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the local Anglican church parish for their invitation on Sunday to attend a service for the members. After the service, the parish served a hot lunch for the congregation and the members.

Mr. Doug Lem provided the meal free of charge, and then donated many bags of food to the congregation at the Parish Hall after the meal. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Mr.

Lem for his kind donation to the people of Iqaluit, and to reverend Methuselah Kunuk and to Captain Ron McLean for their kind invitation to the members to join the service. I also thank the Anglican women's group for their support in setting up the hall and serving the food. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 166 – 2(2): Congratulate Philip Kadlun from Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise briefly today, I wish to congratulate Mr. Philip Kadlun on the raising successful polar bear hunt in Kugluktuk. Phil caught a good size bear just 20 miles outside of Kugluktuk. I know that all the residents of Kugluktuk are very proud of him. Mr. Speaker, I will have more to say tomorrow on the subject of the good work that the local Hunters and Trappers Organization does for Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 167 – 2(2): Elders of Cambridge Bay – Firearms Ammunition**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to alert the members of this house about a serious issue that affects the elders of Cambridge Bay.

Mr. Speaker, the elders have told me that the new rules requiring them to hold a Firearms Acquisition Certificate is causing them hardship. The Firearms Acquisition Certificate is necessary so that they can purchase ammunition to go hunting for food to feed themselves and the relatives.

The process of acquiring a Firearms Acquisition Certificate is difficult in and of itself because of the red tape involved. I'm certain that all members will agree with me when I say that it's completely ridiculous to force life long hunters to jump through bureaucratic hoops and hurdles to get a certificate from a fire arms safety course that they themselves could likely teach perfectly well.

The applications are in another language and to get any help, they have to call someone down south. At meetings with the elders, they have asked me to communicate to the territorial and federal government that something must be done to help the elders.

I am aware that the Government of Nunavut has cooperated with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc in challenging the Firearms Act Legislation in court. Mr. Speaker, many elders have told me that they rely on family members to supply them with ammunition. However, many

elders take pride in being independent and do not like being forced to impose on their relatives like this.

Also, Mr. Speaker, many relatives have told me that it is often too expensive to go hunting nowadays because of the cost of snowmobiles, gasoline, ammunition and other supplies. These elders need to have a supply of country food in their diet because it is a healthy eating option.

The premier met with the elders last month, where they raised their concerns directly with him. They asked him to help them and other elders in Nunavut to deal with the Firearms Acquisition Certificate issue and to also help to find ways to help provide a supply of country food for those elders who do not have the resources or relatives to assist them.

Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged by the Premier's assurances to the elders that he will look into their concerns. It is very important that we help the elderly in our communities so that they can enjoy a good standard life in their declining years. Mr. Speaker, I urge all government departments to help our elders with quality programs and services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 168 – 2(2): Tribute to the Roles of Women**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like the minister responsible for the Status of Women, I'm very pleased to rise today on International Women's Day to pay tribute to the role of women in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we have a tradition of respecting strong women in Nunavut and across the north. I believe that this has its roots in traditional culture where the contributions of women to the survival of our people are well recognized. We have no shortage of good female role models in the north today.

Leaders such as Helen Maksagak and Nellie Courneyea and internationally recognized artists such as Jessie Oonark and Susan Aglukark are just a few examples. Mr. Speaker, we must also pay tribute to the unsung heroes who serve as examples for our daughters, the nurses who care for us, the teachers who inspire us and our own mothers, partners and daughters.

On a related note, the Scott Tournament of Hearts that just wrapped up in Manitoba, and the Manitoba's women's team won the championships. One of my constituents, Mr. Jutani Davidee who is a plumber for the Housing Authority just won a trip sponsored by News North to the Briar.

Mr. Speaker, although we all know that Jutani is one of those deluded souls who supports the Montreal Canadians, we wish him a good trip and, also, I think he's setting a fine example showing that those fans are giving up on their hockey team and taking up cheering for curling instead.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Ms. Brown.

### **Member's Statement 169 – 2(2): Tribute to Women**

**Ms. Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to take this opportunity to send well wishes to Rankin Inlet and Tikiraarjuaq. I would also like to say happy birthday to Rosie Uluyuk from Rankin Inlet, I don't know who is more of a Kaunak; either you or John Kaunak from Repulse Bay because they like stealing that name.

I will think of all of the women in Nunavut, and especially Leona, Bella, Sarah, and all of the women here, and the women on the second and third floor also, and especially the elders, Emma, and my relatives, Ms. Sharp, if you are watching the proceedings, Mrs. Nuqittuq, Sam Curley.

I would like to wish you a good day on International Women's Day. I have also heard that there's going to be an arts and crafts show at the Parish Hall at 7:00 this evening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 170 – 2(2): Recognition of Women**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the women, especially the women in Sanikiluaq. I am very proud of them.

When I was a child, some women didn't have enough breast milk to feed their children. So, I was brought up being breast fed by a woman other than my mother. I smile at her, and I would also like to thank her for bringing me up.

I would also like to acknowledge Mina Inuktaluk, who is a very prominent leader in our community. She also teaches Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit and traditional skills. I am very proud of Mina Inuktaluk, and I recognize all of the women of Sanikiluaq on International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 171 – 2(2): Happy International Women's Day**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to take this opportunity to wish the women in my constituency a happy International Women's Day. (interpretation) Today is International Women's Day, I would like to say hi to my mother, my sisters, and to all of my constituents in Taloyoak and Gjoa Haven, all of the ladies there, I say hello and wish you all a great day.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

#### **Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions**

##### **Return to Oral Question 195 – 2(2): RFP Award**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the Member from High Arctic's question regarding the work by the Housing Corporation of a request for proposals for the relocation of residential housing units in Nanisivik, I would like to report to the House that the Request For Proposal in question was awarded to Ferguson Simek Clark Group on October 11, 2002.

This Request For Proposal was for qualified proponents to conduct a feasibility to assess the viability of moving residential housing units from Nanisivik to Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

#### **Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since I was two years old, I was adopted and moved to Arctic Bay.

Since I am an adult now, I have been seeing my relatives and I have a little brother, Richard Ben Kunuk and I would like to recognize him. He is sitting behind me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I would like to stand today as well to recognize my niece, Della Napayuk, who is in the gallery today and to say that she is a constituent of Ms. Brown.

>>Applause

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

**Ms. Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not forgotten her. I would like to recognize Della Napayuk and Sarah and to recognizes Nancy Qujuq and also all the women in this gallery, seeing that it's International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going back to Orders of the day, Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

### **Item 6: Oral Questions**

#### **Question 217 – 2(2): Funding Arrangements for the Youth Cottage**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, I did a member's statement talking about some of the challenges that are facing the Iilitiit Society which runs the homeless shelter and the youth cottage.

My question today is for the minister responsible for justice. I understand the Iilitiit Society is running a youth cottage for some of the young people that go through the justice system, under the community justice division of the department. My question for the minister: I know that there's been an agreement in place for funding for the youth that are staying there, to the Iilitiit Society, and that they're in the process of coming up with a new arrangement. I'm just wondering if the minister could update the House as to where they're at and when they can expect to have that new agreement finalized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the information readily available at this time. I'll take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Member for Quttituuq, Mr. Barnabas.

**Question 218 – 2(2): Larga Baffin House**

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

My question is in regard to my member's statement. I was very pleased that the minister and her deputy minister had the opportunity to visit the Larga boarding home last week. She was able to see for herself the challenges facing staff and patients. Can the minister tell this House what she sees as the top three priority areas for the improvements of services provided at the Larga boarding home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Ms. Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems like there has to be some priorities made for the improvement of services here in Iqaluit. We have to do some consultations here in the Baffin region because we already did the Kitikmeot region and Kivalliq region.

There is the Lena Pedersen boarding home in Yellowknife where we have heard that there is not enough space for patients. They would like to be able to eat traditional food over there, but they have not been able to do that. When we visited that boarding home in Yellowknife, we talked about that.

We visited the Winnipeg boarding home, and it is very nice and they have very good staff, but they also share an unmet demand for country food as well. They could not get some from individuals, but we would like to provide them with country food from hunters and trappers and from other providers. Also, I have seen a lot of boarding homes, and I know that there is not enough space; the rooms could occupy 56 patients. I saw the boarding home in Ottawa which didn't have enough room, and I would like to make improvements to that as well.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister update this House on what steps she has taken to ensure that unilingual patients are provided with the support that they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I forgot to mention about the ones that came with me to see the patient boarding homes in the south, I appreciate their assistance and their presence.

In regard to those people who are unilingual and have to go down south for medical treatment because we can't control what happens with our health, as Minister of Health and Social Services, I will be providing more services to those individuals to make sure that they have interpreters, especially the elders. Looking at the policy, it is going to have to be made stronger and it is being reviewed right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Oral questions. The Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

### **Question 219 – 2(2): Air Ambulance Services**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister of health and it concerns air ambulances. Air ambulances can mean all the difference between life and death in our remote and Arctic communities.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me how a medical professional arrives at a decision to authorize an air ambulance in a community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to give my appreciation for the member's question. I feel that the question is very, very important in regard to having nurses in the air ambulance. I will do some research on it and respond to the member. I will take the question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister has taken the question as notice. Oral questions. The member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

### **Question 220 – 2(2): Wildlife Act and Regulations**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment. This has been ongoing for quite some time. In regard to the Wildlife Act, it's been too long since we've heard anything about where it's at, and I would like to ask the minister if he could give us an update on what its status is right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working, at the moment, on assisting Nunavutmiut and working with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. in regard to the wildlife regulations.

We are in the midst of working on it at this time; we want to be able to agree with the other parties before we start consultations. Perhaps, this month we will be doing some community consultations so we can hear from the public out there. We would especially like to hear from the hunters and trappers in the communities, and from the regional hunters and trappers organizations.

At this time we're in the drafting stage on the wildlife regulations and we are working closely with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the foundation for that policy is difference from the old system and will have a great impact on hunters and trappers within Nunavut.

As the minister is working with those other organizations, although we get an update from time to time on the wildlife policy, perhaps there also were some wildlife officers that were here in Iqaluit for a meeting. I know that they were present in the discussion of improvements to that policy.

I know that there have been some differences between the Northwest Territories days and the present Government of Nunavut policy. The minister said that the regional hunters and trappers organizations have to be involved before it's put into policy. As it stands right now, there must be some progress on the policy's evolution. Can the minister give us an update on what the status is on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Yes, if I understood the question on the policy and the regulations of Bill 35, the regional hunters and trappers' organizations will be given an update from time to time on the status of what we are doing.

I will keep the public informed as well. July 9 is the coming into force date planned for the Wildlife Act and regulations. Before July 9, we will hold public consultations to inform the public, the people in Nunavut, because there have been a lot of people who misunderstood the draft regulations that we're doing right now. I will be keeping the people of Nunavut informed on what our department is doing and provide them with press releases from time to time, before it is put in to effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak**: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You have not really responded to my question. Perhaps you could inform the members of this House from time to time on some of the policies that are in the draft and inform us of the changes that you are making. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we want to show this draft to all the communities. As soon as it's translated, it will be sent to all HTOs and RWOs.

Perhaps the members can work closely with their HTOs or the wildlife officers; they certainly would appreciate your assistance. Whichever community that you are representing, you can keep in contact with the HTOs and wildlife officers, that would be a positive progression there. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He seems to fail to understand what I am asking, and it makes me wonder if the minister will be able to work well with the local HTOs. It is very difficult when you do not have the documentation, and I was trying to ask if you can provide us with a copy of what has happened with the issues surrounding the Wildlife Act to all members of the House.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Yes, Thank you. I can talk to NTI and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board to see how we can proceed and if that draft can be made available. I can make that request and look into this further.

Once the consultation starts, I will be communicating with our partners and let them know beforehand what will be happening. I will also be meeting with the regular members, NTI, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, and the Government of Nunavut. I can inform the member as to what they have discussed. So, I will check into this further and update the member for Arviat at a later time.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

### **Question 221 – 2(2): Larga Service Contract Update**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Our visit to the Larga boarding home last week was very informative. I am sure that the Minister of Health and Social Services also found that visit useful. (interpretation ends) Can the minister update this House on the current status of the Larga services contract, and what is the timeline for renegotiating a new contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Health and Social Services

**Hon. Levinia Brown**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you, James, and my colleagues for coming down with us.

In regard to the contract, I will be checking into this. I have been advised that it will expire very soon. I am not sure of that date, but I will get that information and get back to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister is taking the question as notice. Oral questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

**Question 222 – 2(2): Polar Bear Survey Update**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members of the Legislative Assembly we have responsibilities, and I have brought up before the question of polar bears with the Minister of Environment. The substance of the memorandum of understanding is very good and comments on the need for good nutrition for families.

I would like to ask minister, with the last question I had, to update us on the research that they are doing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Regarding the question you asked last week, we are currently looking into the timing of the scheduled research. The member's constituents have been waiting patiently, and I ask the member, 'What else we can do?' The government alone can't proceed further on any work because we have to work with the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. But at this time, we are working on this. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister advise me whether the Hudson Bay polar bear survey can be done earlier than planned? It states that it will be done in 2008, according to the statements in the agreement. We are concerned that the families have to have the meat to live on. There is precious little large game for my constituents, such as caribou, and for that reason I wonder if that survey can be done before that designated time. If at all possible, can he bring the date closer than it states? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. As I had stated before, I can't work on this alone; we have to work with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. I will check to see whether we can do it sooner, because it's quite costly to conduct wildlife studies, especially on polar bears.

At this time, I can't give him a definite answer about whether we can complete the study sooner. But I will do everything in my power to see if this will be possible before 2008. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. I still have two names on my list. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 223 – 2(2): Illitiit Society Funding Update**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the homelessness minister. Mr. Speaker, I was very relieved to hear on the radio this morning... I would like to applaud the minister on his indication that he would work with Illitiit Society to help find a stable source of funding to run the homeless shelter here in Iqaluit, and I would assist him in that.

My question for the minister is, if he could just update the members of this House on where things are at right now with that assistance that has so kindly been offered by him and his department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for homelessness, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The history of the homeless shelter in Iqaluit is a long process. There is a long history on the file itself. It goes back to the restructuring of the Oqota Shelter back in 1997-98 and the moving of the homeless into the new shelter, which is what we're using right now, the Oqota Shelter.

Mr. Speaker, there are several issues around the Illitiit Society with regard to the funding they receive. They run two very good programs for the people of Nunavut, one being the youth cottage, which is a 24-hour, 7-day a week program. At the same time, they run the homeless shelter. There is a cross-pollination between the funding that's received by the Illitiit Society, and they're working right now on a process to ascertain the amount of funds that they need.

Through the homeless secretariat, for me as the minister, I have had an opportunity to meet with the Illitiit Society, especially with Mr. Riddell, several times. Mr. Riddell is an old friend of mine; I've known him for many years.

We've been trying to be proactive on their financial situation. They were short for cash and they've had cash flow problems several times in the last several months. We were able to advance them their March payment for the fiscal month March 1 to March 31 of this year. That has helped out in the short term.

In the long term, I've asked the Illitiit Society to put together a cash flow statement and to look at an income statement and a balance sheet to try to ascertain what they need to run and to try to diverge both programs, because the youth funding is received from a different pot of funds than the homeless shelter funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the minister is probably doing more than they're asking them, where he indicated they put together a cash flow statement and a balance sheet to determine what they need.

But my question was, what is the minister or his staff doing in the interim, he had indicated there are some serious cash flow problems, to try and help the Illitiit Society find other sources of income to be able to assist them in maintaining those two programs here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The youth cottage side of things is funded through the Continuum of Care program, which is administered through the city of Iqaluit. The Illitiit Society has put together a business plan and has asked for in excess of, I believe, \$200,000. That would help them out on the youth cottage side.

On the homeless shelter side, the Illitiit Society receives a little over \$100,000 from the Government of Nunavut. On top of that, they receive about \$25,000 from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. And then on top of that, they also receive money under income support, where clients who are on income support receive a per diem amount that is payable to the homeless shelter.

Those types of funds are the current funds that are in place. The opportunity for the Illitiit Society to access more funds under the homeless initiative is marginal at best. One of the things that we had in this budget, as members know, that we just passed through the education budget, was actually extra funds of \$100,000 that would, hopefully, be able to alleviate some of the issues that the homeless shelter has.

Those are more than just structural, those are also logistic and administrative issues with the Illitiit Society. We are trying to work on that.

Before Christmas, I was able to intercede, on behalf the Illitiit Society, to get an audit on their books for 2003 through internal audits and through the auspices of the Department of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I have also approached the Illitiit Society again to do the same thing for 2004 so that they are compliant with the regulations and the contracts that they have signed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, I acknowledge and appreciate, and I am sure that Mr. Riddell and the rest of the members of the Illitiit Society as well as the clients of the shelters, appreciate the efforts that the minister has made in the past and is currently making.

I am just wondering, is there someone, if we approve the money for a homeless secretariat, if the minister is committed to assisting them in finding alternative sources of funding to help alleviate the problem that they have... . You know the current funding sources are inadequate for them to run their programs, but does he have any specific position in mind or any areas in which to go and try and assist them in doing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Illitiit Society is a volunteer organization; the committee, the members are all volunteers. Mr. Riddell has been the chairperson for many years and has done yeoman service on behalf and for homelessness and other issues in the community of Iqaluit and Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the issue here is more than just of the homeless shelter. As I said earlier, it has to do with the way the funding arrangements have been under the youth cottage and the homeless shelter. When the draw down of funds is not sufficient for the youth centre, then they have to tap into some of the other revenue streams that they have, which is the homeless shelter.

In the past, there really hasn't been a tremendous uptake on issues around financing under the homeless shelter; however, when the youth centre came on stream, then there was a bigger demand. Again, as I said earlier, that's a 24-7 operation.

I have had some discussions with Mr. Riddell. The Illitiit Society is meeting on Thursday; they are going to review some of the options that they have, and I would expect, very shortly after their Thursday meeting, that I would meet with Mr. Riddell again to see what options the Illitiit Society would like to bring forward, and then I can review that with them proactively. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that and I understand that the Illitiit Society's board, for the Thursday meeting, invited the minister to attend. And I would urge him, if at all possible, if he would be able to attend that meeting to hear first-hand and deal with the issues not only from Mr. Riddell, but from the rest of the board members.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has raised the issue of the youth cottage and the homeless shelter and one is drawing funds away from the other one because the resources are not available. My question is: as I alluded earlier to the Minister of Justice, and I am sure the minister of homelessness is aware, they are seeking to finalize a new funding arrangement for the provision of those services for the Community Justice Division of the Department of Justice. Will he assist them and meet with his colleague, the Minister of Justice, to try and help alleviate some of those problems and expedite the process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All through this process with the Illitiit Society, it has been going on for several months, moving forward in trying to review what the issues are and so on. I can tell you that the homeless shelter is located in the Minister of

Justice's constituency and he takes a keen interest in the activities at that homeless shelter, and indeed, I have had an opportunity to brief the minister and the Premier and the Member for Iqaluit West on a regular basis on the issues around the homeless shelters. He is copied on much of the correspondence that goes between myself and the Illitiit Society.

We really want to work proactively with Mr. Riddell and his group. As I said earlier, there are some issues on how the operation of one has been bleeding the other operation. That cross-pollenization, as I said earlier, is the fundamental issue with the funding that is available.

If the funding comes through under the Continuum of Care Program that the Illitiit Society has asked for, and there is a proposition right now before corrections services to look at some of those extra cost contingencies, then Mr. Riddell and his group feel that the youth out there will be well taken care of.

The options that they discussed on Thursday night, and I have told Mr. Riddell that the House is sitting and, depending on what the issue is and how we finish the House, then I would try to make the meeting. Again, that's tentative.

In any regard, I just spoke to Mr. Riddell yesterday afternoon; he was in my office here late last week, and I sent him an e-mail again this morning and spoke to him. I am in contact with him quite a bit and I would hope that after the Thursday meeting, then we could ascertain what the next steps are to make sure that indeed the homeless shelter continues to operate and that the good service that Illitiit has been providing continues. What form that takes? It would depend on the society, it would depend on the meeting on Thursday evening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 224 – 2(2): Passport Photo Address To the Federal Government**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we first started the session, I rose to make my member's statement in regards to the passport issue. I was asking the minister about that, and today we still need to make those improvements.

I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for passports. We still are experiencing problems today in Nunavut with regard to obtaining passports. My question to the minister is: (interpretation ends) will he commit to addressing this issue over photos with the federal minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister responsible for immigration, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the member raised the issue of the problems with passports, I went on to explain that there are a lot of issues, including

residents who are actually born outside the territory because of the issue with our healthcare. Then, there are issues of trying to get those birth certificates. The second issue that the member has raised was the issue around the photographs themselves. We have heard, for example, there has been serious concern since 9/11 across the country, nationally and internationally.

Indeed, when you are traveling, you need to have some type of photo ID; in many places now they actually request a passport. I will be addressing this issue in a formal letter to the federal minister, and I would hopefully be in the position then to update the members in the House after that correspondence is taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are all aware that federal government legislation has an impact on Nunavut. (interpretation ends) My second question is, will the minister ask the federal minister to contact a local certified photographer to travel to the communities that I represent, Arctic Bay, Resolute Bay, Grise Fiord, and your community, Mr. Speaker, Pond Inlet, to take the photos? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, in the conversation that I will have with the federal minister, and I have met the federal minister a few times, I can safely say that we are on a first name basis, I will address the issue around is there an opportunity to contract a local photographer. I know, for example, Mr. Lowe, here in Iqaluit, is certified and does passport photos. Is there an opportunity to contract someone like that and actually facilitate the photographs? Maybe that is an option that we could look at in this case. I would raise that with the federal minister.

However, I can't make any commitment on what the answer would be from our federal friends. Passports are the responsibility of the federal government, however in this case, because of the issue being around northern, rural, and remote areas of Canada, maybe the opportunity here is that the federal government should intercede, probably in a more progressive, other than a passive, way. I would broach the minister with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is under the jurisdiction of the federal government, and I believe they are responsible for funding this kind of program. I believe the Government of Nunavut's resources are limited. My question is, when will the minister meet with the federal minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was supposed to be in Ottawa this week with the federal ministers of education meeting, but the House was ongoing and we weren't able to participate because of the budget debate.

I would hope that some time in early April, when the House and the budget is complete, I would be able to arrange a meeting with the federal minister responsible and follow up on the issue around passports and the passport photos. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. Prior to you meeting with the federal minister, perhaps you could inform the regular members to make sure that you get their input and also that you have a regular MLA attend the meeting with you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually when you are meeting with federal ministers, you do that one on one, as as a minister. However, as the minister of homelessness, as an example, I did actually have some members come with me to a federal meeting with the federal minister in Ottawa a couple of years ago and we used that precedent.

In this case, if the member is requesting that he attend the meeting with me with our federal counterpart, if we can arrange a meeting in early April and the member would be paying his own way, through his constituency budget, then I would try to facilitate the member being with me to meet with the federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 225 – 2(2): Status of Bad Gasoline**

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

We met with the officials from Shell Canada and they stated that there was a buildup on the spark plugs. Those aren't the only problems that we're encountering. The outboard motors are breaking, not just the snowmobiles; it's not just the spark plugs that are the reason. The government knows that the quality of fuel is not good, even though the communities have been requesting the government and their officials to tour the communities and consult with the community. I would like to ask the minister, what is that status of this now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The commitment that I made is to consult with the communities to see how and what kind of impact it has had in the communities this year. Just yesterday, with my officials, we looked into this. Our office in Rankin Inlet was closed due to the blizzard, so due to closure of the offices, we were unable to get more information, but to date they have listed all the questions.

Perhaps, later on today or tomorrow, they will be able to distribute this information to the communities. We do want to find out what the root of the problem is, here in the legislature, and have been updated in and outside of the House that they are experiencing problems not just with the spark plugs. We will be able to distribute the questionnaires to the communities now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation) Thank you, and I would like to thank the minister for his response. Is it possible for your staff to go to the communities to look into the problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If everything works well, the questionnaires for the documents will be made available at hamlet offices. We are reviewing the problem and we have not finalized whether the staff is going to be going to the communities. But, the questionnaires will be made available at the hamlet offices and we will give an update to the members once things develop. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Nunavut is very new, we used to obtain petroleum products from Churchill, and after that was changed to Montreal we were told that it would be cheaper to get fuel in the Keewatin area. Now that we have changed where we get our supply from, is it cheaper for us to buy gasoline and other goods? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we were implementing that change to get a lower price for the gasoline that we buy, since then, the transportation of fuel and goods to the communities has allowed us to reduce the costs that we used to incur in the past. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Your last supplementary, Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser:** So, is it cheaper then for us? It was a lot cheaper when we brought them out of Churchill than from Montreal, so I do not see where we are saving costs.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'm trying to say is, compared to what it used to cost in transporting fuel products into the Kivalliq in the past, what it costs us now is significantly lower. It has resulted in the government spending much less than before, and that is what I was trying to say.

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

**Question 226 – 2(2): Shell Canada \$5,000 Donation**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister of petroleum products. During Shell's appearance in the House they stated that the contributions they make to the communities, for example to the hockey arena in Rankin Inlet, are donations and not related at all to the general negative image of Shell. If so, we would like to thank the Shell representatives for their contribution. Is it possible for the minister to talk to Shell about making further contributions to the Nunavut communities and to the hockey teams?

We would like to trust Shell, but on the \$5,000 that was given, I want to ask the minister, why is it that your staff participated when the \$5,000 was being presented to the mayor of Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to that \$5,000 donation that was made by Shell, the contribution was made prior to the concerns over the gasoline. That contribution was made to Rankin Inlet, but I don't know how involved my staff were in this contribution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. We don't want to keep referring to this and its connection to bad gasoline, but when you look at the newspapers, there is a picture here of Todd McKay, an employee of PPD, making this presentation of the \$5,000 cheque to the mayor. Do you have a policy or a regulation not to conduct in this kind of manner?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know of any policy or regulation, and I don't want to make any guesses. But I can tell the member that my staff is not instructed to just be robotic and passive, and I often encourage them to be

volunteers in any way that they can. That is probably the capacity in which this took place. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister, but why is it that the \$5,000 had to go through your department when this contribution is only for one community?

I think that you should change your policy where your staff, if they are going to be involved in any contribution workings, do so on a volunteer basis. Would you be willing to change the policy so that your staff will be doing it as volunteer work if they are going to be participating in such matters like with Shell?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Petroleum Products Division policy, I will look into whether we have such a policy, but I would like to tell the member and the House that if my staff want to do volunteer work, they can continue to do so. If there's a concern, we could look into the policy and see what's in there. Thank you.

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

### **Question 227 – 2(2): Access Housing Causing Hardship**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and it concerns Access housing.

Just a little bit of background: probably about 10- to 15 years ago, the government of the Northwest Territories had a program called the Access Program, and there was condition in there that you repaid your loan over 15 years. It was a good idea at the time, but it's causing hardship for people now because they can't cover their operating expenses for their houses.

I am wondering, can the minister tell us what assistance the housing corporation provides to people who can't afford to pay their operating expenses on their Access homes today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, there's no program set for Access home owners who can't repay their mortgage. We do, however, exchange information on existing programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Cambridge Bay, we have many elders who are retired, we have one lady, a widow, who are owners of these houses. They're telling me that now that they are retired or widowed and they receive much less monthly income to cover their operating expenses than they did when they were younger or working.

My question for the minister is, does the Nunavut Housing Corporation permit elders who can't afford to maintain their houses or pay for repairs to sell them without penalty? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I certainly hope and know that the homeowners have the option of selling their unit after a certain period of time.

Mr. Speaker, I regret to inform my colleague that I do not have in front of me the specific case, and also the number of years required to have been in the mortgage to have the option of selling their units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand, it's a 15-year forgivable loan and it made sense at the time when people were working, but it's not making sense now for some of the elders who have these houses.

So, I'm wondering if the minister can tell me if an elder sells us their home because they can't afford the upkeep, would the elder be disqualified in applying for social or public housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that this has been an issue and also a problem that people have run into. I regret to take the question as notice. But because I do not have the necessary information in front of me to be able to respond to his specific question, I'll have to take his question as notice, which I really didn't want to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The question is taken as notice. Oral questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

**Question 228 – 2(2): Inform Nunavutmiut on Protection Against Ozone**



**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure which minister I should be directing my question to, whether it's the Minister of Environment or Health and Social Services.

We didn't have this concern before, but the burning of our skin from the sun is a concern now. We used to worry about getting snow blind, but with the hole in the ozone layer, in the atmosphere, we now have to worry about the protection of our skin, especially our faces. I just want the people of Nunavut be informed about what kind of protection we should use, especially with spring nearly upon us.

There should be some information given out to Nunavutmiut in regard to what kinds of protection they can apply to their skin for protection from sun burns. Can the minister inform us of what kinds of protection exist for the people of Nunavut.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for his very good question. I know that this information has to be given out to the public in Nunavut. I had not even thought about it, and a light just popped in my head hearing the member mention it, so I would like to thank the member for bringing up that danger.

The ozone layer is depleting and the public out there should be given some information on how to protect their skin. The sun is getting a lot stronger. What they have to do is have good sunglasses to protect their eyes from ultraviolet rays. You can buy those sunglasses that have ultraviolet protection. If they are going to be in the sun for a long time, they should be able to have some sun block on their face and any exposed skin.

At a later date we can provide the people of Nunavut with some information on the protection of their skin from strong sunlight.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us whether the nursing stations in the communities could provide the public with information on what kinds of skin creams and protection for the skin they could purchase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very sensitive issue, the protection of the people from the sun. The nurses are aware of that, but we will make a little more information available to the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

**Question 229 – 2(2): National Childcare Initiative**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, who I am sure, is very happy that his budget has been passed and that he is no longer sitting in the hot seat in the Committee of the Whole and can devote his entire attention to answering member's questions during question period.

I think it was in the last couple of weeks, that I heard through the media, and the minister talked about it a little bit in the House in relation to the National Child Care Initiative, that they were meeting with his counterparts in Ottawa on that.

I had heard a report that Minister Dent, the minister responsible for child care in the Northwest Territories, had indicated that he would not likely sign on to this initiative the way that it is proposed right now, as a per capita, or per space, funding formula.

I am just wondering if the minister could concur that he would join in with his colleague in the Northwest Territories and lobby his colleague in the Yukon to oppose any type of per capita or per space allocations of those new federal dollars for child care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In principle, I think that most jurisdictions across the country believe that the National Child Care Initiative by the federal government is a good one. The federal government committed \$5 billion over approximately five years for this initiative. At the same time, off the top, they have cut about \$400 million and dedicated that to First Nations.

This past Friday I had an opportunity to speak with Minister Dryden about the concerns of Nunavut. I raised with him at that time, Mr. Ken Dryden, the issue around the fact that the money was being aboriginal specific and was exclusive of Inuit. Mr. Speaker, in this case we don't have reserves and we are not First Nations on or off reserves. So, we fall through the cracks with that type of announcement. We weren't very pleased with that.

The second part was that myself, along Mr. Jenkins in the Yukon, Mr. Dent in the Northwest Territories, and the minister from Prince Edward Island, had an opportunity to work together in the last meeting about three weeks ago in Vancouver, where we asked for a base or floor for the small jurisdictions.

Right now, when I extrapolate the number for Nunavut, for every \$1 billion that the federal government puts into the program, per capital dollars gives Nunavut \$1 million. I made that point to Mr. Dryden, and he understood where we were coming from. The Premier has interceded on our behalf, also with the first ministers, and it's something that they have raised with Mr. Handley and the premier in the Yukon, Dennis Fentie. With Premier Fentie and they've raised that issue also.

So, the quick answer to the member's question is that we have raised the concern around per capita, the exclusion of Inuit under the First Nations on or off reserves, and, again, wanting a floor in that initiative. We think it's a good initiative, but there are some issues for us also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know and appreciate what the minister is saying, that it is a good initiative, and I think most Canadians would say it's long overdue.

In the event that there is no change to the per capita funding or the per space allocations of that funding, and the minister has already indicated that they're working very hard in trying to obtain some other base or floor or other way of distributing those funds... . In the event that there is no change to it, will the minister join in with Mr. Dent and lobby the other leaders not sign on to it, if it's something that isn't really going to do us a whole heck of a lot of good. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand what the member is saying and I appreciate the support the member is giving myself and the Government of Nunavut.

When I spoke to Mr. Dryden last week, and we had, I think, a good conversation, Mr. Dryden acknowledged the concerns raised by myself and the other smaller jurisdictions. However, he wasn't in a position at that time to make a commitment on the base that may be available for the smaller jurisdictions.

So right now, it would be hypothetical to say would we sign on or not sign on. I want to give Mr. Dryden an opportunity, and I told him that on the phone on Friday, to work with his cabinet colleagues, to see if there could be an arrangement for the smaller jurisdictions, and at the same time review the issue around funding for First Nations on or off reserves, because, again, 80 percent of our population is made up of Inuit.

We've been left behind again when it comes to this type of federal programming, so that's our sticking point right there. However, we do think it's a good initiative. But we want to be players; we want a level playing field. We just want to get on the field and play. Right now we're sitting up in the stands. We want to come down and get in the game. So, that's where we are right now with the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear the minister say that he doesn't want to be a pawn in this whole thing and that he's working with his counterparts in some of the jurisdictions, as well as our premier and his counterparts in the other smaller jurisdictions, to achieve something more fair and equitable for our jurisdiction.

My concern is, we've seen it in the past with the health care formula where everyone was on side for it except for the federal government in Ottawa, and it didn't come in until a stand was taken. The same thing, we've heard, "We're starting up this new Inuit secretariat" and the federal government is saying that they are recognizing Inuit as distinct and separate from First Nations. Yet, we see a funding thing come out that, again, leaves Inuit out.

I'm glad that he's optimistic, but you can see from the track record that I'm a little concerned. So, I guess my question, then, for the minister is, I wish him all the best of luck and will he continue to update the members of this House as any new developments come up on these negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was with Premier Paul a couple of years ago at the first ministers' meeting when we walked out on the Prime Minister. We held a conference. Mr. Kakfwi was there and Mr. Fentie had just become the premier for the Yukon. It was not pleasant, but we got the point across. It was only when Mr. Martin came in as the new Prime Minister that I think we actually see things moving in a better direction. The excise tax, for example, which allocates not just based on per capita, the health funding agreement that the Premier was able to negotiate, indicate a different type of willingness on behalf of this federal government. So, I am optimistic that Mr. Martin will have an opportunity to review our situation again, and we will see where we will go with it.

At the end of the day, again, the federal government makes these allocations and we have to work with our member of parliament, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, to bring forward initiatives from Nunavut. I would be prepared, in answer to the member's question, to update the House once we have further information from our federal friends. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 027 – 2(2): Elders Center Floor Renovations**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question today is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, my question is in regard to the elders' center in Iqaluit which is in need of floor renovations.

My question, first of all, is, when will there be renovations done to the elders' facility? How much money does the department have for the renovations of the elders' facility here in Iqaluit? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please pass the written question to the Clerk's desk. Thank you. Written questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Written Question 028 – 2(2): Performance Bonuses, Settlements and Termination Pay for 2003-2004**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the minister responsible for the Senior and Personnel Secretariat, concerning performance bonuses, settlements, and termination pays, 2003 and 2004.

1. With respect to the 2003-2004 fiscal year, broken down by department and Crown agency, but not including names of specific individuals, how much was paid in performance bonuses to members of the Public Service of Nunavut and employees of Government of Nunavut Crown agencies
2. With respect to the 2003-2004 fiscal year, broken down by employing entity, but not including names of specific individuals, how many persons were eligible to be considered for performance bonuses to be paid by the Government of Nunavut?
3. With respect to the 2003-2004 fiscal year, broken down by employing entity, but not including names of specific individuals, how many persons were actually paid performance bonuses by the Government of Nunavut?
4. With respect to the 2003-2004 fiscal year, broken down by department and Crown agency, but not including names of specific individuals, how much was paid in termination pay, negotiated settlements, lump-sum payments or any other form of monetary payment or compensation to executive-level members of the Public Service of Nunavut who departed the Public Service?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Written questions. Going back to orders of the day. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10, Petitions. Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akasuk.

**Item 13: Tabled Documents**

**Tabled Document 096 – 2(2): 2004 Environmental Rights Act Annual Report**

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish table the following document. The 2005 Environmental Rights Act Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 097 – 2(2): MTO Progress Report April 2004 to December 2004**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document. The MTO Progress Report, April 2004-December 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills****Bill 11 – Loans Authorization Act 2005/2006 – Notice**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 10, that Bill 11, the Loans Authorization Act 2005/06 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Bill 12 – Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2004/2005 – Notice**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 10, 2005, that Bill 12, Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2004/05 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 12, Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2004/05. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive 62(1) to allow the first reading of Bill 12. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Bill 12 – Write Off of Assets and Debts Act 2004/2005 – First Reading**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for Iqaluit East that Bill 12, the Write Off and Debt Act 2004/05, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 12 has been read for the first time. First Reading of Bills. I haven't recognized you yet. Sorry. Did you raise your hand, Ms. Aglukkaq?

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent of this Assembly to waive the 2 day notice requirement to allow for the first reading of Bill 11. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 62 – 2(2) to read the Bill for first reading. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Ms. Aglukkaq.

### **Bill 11 – Loan Authorization Act 2005/2006 – First Reading**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Baffin South that Bill 11, the Loan Authorization Act, 2005-2006 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Abstentions. The motion is carried. The Bill has been read for the first time. First reading of Bills. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters: Tabled Document 52-2(2); Return to Oral Question 84 and Bill 8, Appropriations.

With Mr. Netser in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 3-2(2) the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:27 and resumed at 16:00*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Netser): Thank you, for coming back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order.

In the 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 our review of Bill 8 and the Main Estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services, followed by Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, if time permits, we would commence the review the Main Estimates for the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Kilabuk, do you have any witnesses.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Yes I do Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. You can take your officials to the Witness Table. For the record, Mr. Minister, could you please introduce your witnesses?

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although we've been here with them, to my left Mr. Tom Rich who is my Deputy Minister and to my right Mr. Mike Rafter, the Director of Policy and Planning. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Welcome. We left off with J-6 and Mr. Alagalak was the next person to speak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In viewing the Main Estimates for Community and Government Services. My first question is that in my community it's becoming a concern not just in our community but we have been hearing from the surrounding communities that they are running out of granite or gravel. They are running out of gravel. We use gravel that has not been screened. They are used for big foundations and it is usually put down at the doorway. We are running out of gravel.

Though we have some gravel left over the airstrip, I was wondering if your department has considered this issue or will you be providing funding for granular work. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to my colleague. I don't have any information on Capital Estimates but his concerns from his community, I'm sure we can work with the community and revisit it outside of this. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are very close now and if you have any small plans within your department perhaps you can consult with the municipalities.

Do you have any plans to consult with the municipalities in regards to this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.



**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will look into this with the Municipality of Arviat sometime this week. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you. Also, while I'm asking questions, one issue that I've wanted to ask, again we were very pleased that the municipalities have been allocated increased funds. They have increased their funding by \$4 million for 2005/2006. The larger municipalities and smaller municipalities, how much funding should they expect to see as an increase? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The allocation of the funds; they will increase the funding to be allocated that is usually distributed to the communities. We will use the same method to allocate funding for the communities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do understand that you will be allocating by per capita, using the per capita system. The communities have to find outside funds to run the municipal services.

I do understand that the larger communities will be receiving larger sums than the smaller communities. Is that the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding is going to support the municipalities' operations. They will also include the length of the roads and the cost of fuel and energy that are under the municipalities' responsibilities. We include those when we look at how much funding the municipality will be allocated. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do you have any further questions, Mr. Alagalak?

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on this line item I do have another question. I don't see any line item for Community Support under page J-6, J-7, J-8.

Our municipality for a long time have wanted to see a long-term Capital Estimates and their offices in the municipality, according to our knowledge; it is not insulated well enough. The wind goes right through the building and the Council Chamber is usually used for all sorts of meetings when outsiders come in. We are running out of space in the

Council Chamber. I don't see any funding to support the municipal offices. What is the status of it now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Please proceed, Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue that I have been raising that this coming spring, when we start visiting the communities with the municipal officials, when we consult with the communities, they will identify what their priorities are and what their needs are.

That time would be appropriate to identify what capital needs are in the other communities. Also the Municipality of Arviat will have that opportunity to voice their concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that they are coming to the community and I want to tell you that our community is growing in population the Department of Education and the Nunavut Housing Corporation has been decentralized there.

They get very nice offices and the officials that are coming from down south work in beautiful offices. I don't want to see them coming to our community and work in mediocre offices. It is kind of embarrassing when you get your staff to come in and work in a mediocre building. Within your plan to visit the communities, you didn't tell me when you would be visiting the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know the issue about the municipal office since we visited the community, and I understand what situation that they are facing. They are running out of space within the municipal office. That municipal office is deteriorating because of age and for planning stages. Once we set our times and dates I will let my colleague know when we will be visiting Arviat. Thank you

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): We want to be notified ahead of time because I want to go to that community. When you visit the community I would like officials in my community to be informed ahead of time. So that concludes my general comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question in dealing with the communities support the recall last year talking to the Minister and the department in the House, there

was a commitment on their behalf to work with the City of Iqaluit to try and refine and re-jig the way in which the City is funded through the equalization amounts that the department gives the City.

In light of some of the increasing costs that everyone is facing, I am just wondering if the Minister could update us that if any advancements could have been made in that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Iqaluit they will receive additional support and funding is going to increase. If you don't mind Mr. Chairman I would like my Deputy Minister to elaborate further about the cities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rich

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister said the City of Iqaluit will benefit in the same way other communities are. The budget shows the overall increase. What we will be doing is we work through the formula and we apply that to the formula. A segment of that will impact to be directed to the City of Iqaluit and they will benefit to the general sense and roughly to the same proportion as other communities benefit from the amount increase.

So that in the future years that will be directly reflected in the contributions that we do make which is the alternative contribution that we make to the City of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Rich

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Municipal Operating Assistance Program in my recollection in reading it is to assist the hamlets in meeting their operational costs. In that, strictly dealing with the hamlet is my understanding and there is a J-7 equalization amount to assisting tax base authorities in Provision and Municipal Services.

If you look at the MOAP, when it has gone up to around \$4 million, the water and sewer service block funding has gone up \$348,000. Those are for the Hamlet, yet the equalization amount for the tax base community which is the only one there is if Iqaluit has been stable. There has not been any increase in there. Can I just get an explanation as to why that is the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is also another part of money that is geared for the cities. I am sure that the member is well aware that

there is an increase of \$100,000. There is a pot of money here that is for the cities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where about is that in here? Is that under the communities support section of the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Please give him the information.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the member. It is in J-7. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Anything else?

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, looking at the equalization amounts and that's been the same right from as far as it shows on here.

We've seen over the last little bit and this year that the funding for the same thing for the hamlets has increased but there's been nothing for the City, as far as its operating costs. I know that there is a tremendous challenge that the city faces in providing municipal services.

There were some concerns raised last year dealing with certain things that were entitled to be included in the formula and certain things that weren't. There are two programs that the City has scrapped over the last budget because they didn't have the money to operate it, was the Recycling Program and the Public Transit Program.

I'm just wondering, as there was a commitment made last year to sit down and work with the City to try and identify things like that weren't considered in the old formula that we inherited from the Northwest Territories, that could be included into a new revised formula for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the increases under MOAP, the City of Iqaluit is also does benefit like the other hamlets.

The member is right. In the purpose that we have here today under J-7, the equalization amounts have remained the same. However, there are some adjustments to be made under that program but as of yet, we do not have the precise figures and as result are not reflected this time. Like the other municipalities, Iqaluit too, will benefit from the MOAP increase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the Mayor and the council and the administration will be happy to hear that. We looked forward to finding out how much more they're going to have to work with.

My question is, last year the Minister and his staff had committed to working with the City to try and identify areas that weren't in the formula that the City may have felt that should be in the formula, like the Recycling Program and Provision of Garbage Services. That was one thing that I don't believe was considered to be funded through that formula.

I'm just wondering if the Minister could inform us of how many meetings they had to go over this with the City, if any? What things were raised or identified or not identified as things that could be re-jigged into a revised formula to be more suitable for our current situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, to some of the factors that are used in determining the payments and how much the municipalities will get from the MOAP increase, the priority setting is done at either the hamlet or the City level.

The City will have the option of reviewing the programs and what they may want to assist with. The discussions with the City are happening today too. So, with that Mr. Chairman, for the benefit of my colleague, I'll get my Deputy Minister to give a brief update on those thoughts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We meet approximately monthly, some times more often with the City. Up to this date, the discussions have been of a general nature with City about their needs and pressures. Issues such as the Recycling Program, issues such operations and maintenance costs with regard to water and sewage systems of the City have been particular pressures that have been identified by the City.

The transportation issues have been identified. The difficulty that they had in maintaining the transit system in the City, have been identified. Because of the particular capital program issues that we have had with the City a lot of our discussions have actually focused around the immediate issues on the Capital Program. Because we did not know until fairly recently that we would in fact be having additional funding, we delayed the specific discussions until now.

Now that we know the specific amount of the funding we are starting a process of meeting with the municipalities, including the City, to look at the overall formula. In addition to that we have been gathering data and information through the Municipal Indicator's Program to look at all of the pressures that are found on the City.

Over the next two month period of time we will finalize the Funding Formula. That will include only the Funding Formula for the non-tax based committees but also the Funding Formula for Iqaluit. In doing that we will consult additionally with the City of Iqaluit to make sure their major pressure points will be dealt with when we do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rich. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to meeting with our Council and hearing positive things in that area. The other question that I have here is in the Grants in Lieu of Taxes, I am sure that in the last couple of years that the value of government assets has increased considerably here in Iqaluit. This is a very small amount, I think it is a \$2,000 increase from the 2003-2004 actual estimates.

I am just wondering why with the increased value of assets in the community that that amount isn't growing more? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The overly determining factor has been the purchase of the Sivuniksavut Building. That is the difference that you see in the figures as a result of the purchase. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So looking at this then I assume that they pay \$2,000 in taxes for that building there. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman. The increase in the Grants in Lieu of Taxes has increased by \$100,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that then the Grant difference in that is how much of a Grant that the government is giving in lieu of taxes for that one building that he is talking about? In that case when are we going to see any increases for the projects that are ongoing right now? We have a new Justice Centre, the new Hospital, Health Facility. For those projects when are we going to see any Grants in Lieu of Taxes for those coming on line? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those will not be reflected until the buildings have been completed and not until the facilities are operational. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo, are you done? Mr. Evygotailak.

**Mr. Evygotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, Mr. Minister and your officials. I have a question in regards to page J-7. This reflects to the Nunavut municipalities. In regards to the Land Claims; Article 23, which reflects the budget for the hamlet staff, for example, the Recreation Coordinators. How does that work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The monies are for the MTO and the hamlet employees. The training is given through the MTO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Evygotailak.

**Mr. Evygotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well this was a question from the local hamlet, from my constituency. They have stated that Article 23 of the Land Claims has to be used. I'm happy to hear that this has been worked on. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Evygotailak. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question in regards to the Consumer Affairs. I don't think that we're concentrating enough on consumer affairs. Especially, Inuit are not given enough information. Usually what they do is request personal information. I don't think that there is enough information out there for the consumers. It's hard to get that information at the community level now.

Do you have enough resources working in the consumer affairs? The information that we do get at the community level in regards to the safety issues, hazardous products and even the stuff that are recalled in the southern provinces, is not known up here or the information doesn't make it to the people.

Consumers have to be aware of all these issues. Is your Consumers Affairs Division properly set up and developed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our staff in Protection and Development and lots of business licensing, I work on those and we also work with Industry Canada under the federal government to make sure that the information that is

brought up here is translated into Inuktitut. Those are the majority of the tasks that they work on.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the Deputy Minister himself, because he runs the whole department, whether or not we have a division that deals with consumer issues, consumer affairs that are really able, qualified.

Do we have enough strength then, to keep up with consumer matters and so on? Is there enough personnel in that division to make sure that the safety requirements, even some times recall products that are not safe sometimes.

In general, is there a program or division in that office, if it exists, that is able to respond properly to Nunavutmiut and to inform them of issues that they need to know? I would like him to explain a bit about whether or not there is such a division that is really able to deal with those issues that are concerns to Nunavutmiut. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I will get Mr. Rich to elaborate on that because we have a staff in Baker Lake who deals with this.

**Chairman:** I'm sorry Mr. Curley. Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have a Consumer Affairs section which is located in Baker Lake. We have two professional staff who are located there who now have a substantial amount of experience working with Consumer Affairs related issues.

We identified as part of the department reconfiguration process a year ago when we were joined into a new larger department that we wanted to increase the focus on Consumer Affairs. So we actually moved the reporting structure so that it reported more closely to headquarters.

The Consumer Affairs section now reports more directly to the policy section in the department. One of the reasons for doing that was so we could increase the emphasis on consumer information. We've started a major project this year in two types of information.

The minister mentioned one which is the translation of a lot of Consumer Affairs information that we've been able to obtain from Industry Canada, who has the federal responsibility for Consumer Affairs. A second major project that we're working on with the Department of Education is the consumer information package for students that will educate them and get them to be better aware consumers in the market place. We're working on that now.



One of the major challenges is to adapt the materials into a northern context and make sure that they're relevant to students and to communities here and also available in the appropriate languages for here. In addition to that, we've forged closer links with the Department of Justice, which has the legislative and regulator responsibility for that. We work regularly with one of the lawyers there to provide advice and guidance on Consumer Affairs related issues.

Over the next period of time, we hope to see further developments in Consumer Affairs. We would certainly agree that it's a very important area. You did mention the issue of product recall. It's not necessarily something that falls under Consumer Affairs. It depends on what the issue is. For instance, there was a recent notice on recall on a certain type of fluorescent light bulb.

We actually provided the information on that through the Electrical Inspector's Office and he works as necessary with Consumer Affairs to make sure the information is there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Yes, Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly appreciate the outline of what the role of the Consumer Affairs Division is.

It is important that we do get that information and out to the public as well in general. There are in my view, the department must take a lead role in providing information with products that are recalled from time to time. If you don't do it, who else is going to do it? That's the kind of thing that I'm saying. I appreciate the Deputy Minister responding to that.

I have another item that I want to raise. One is with regard to administering the lottery program. It seems to me that there are so many charitable groups in the communities, practically other than the hamlets, groups in the communities they're all probably have a charitable license and able to qualify for such licenses to raise money.

Don't you think that the minister, or his deputy, think that it's time now to really actually review the whole criteria that is normally used for giving such licenses because what I'm leading up to is that these lottery licenses or for all that matter, the bingo licenses, if they're available, that you have created a tremendous gambling addiction. There is no way, even some of the Child Tax Credit, once they're cashed in, they're normally spent on gambling.

It sounds good to me that you're administering a lottery program but is there any attempt to have a major review and maybe bring back some concerns to the committee or to the public at all? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I totally agree with the member, that this needs a review; this is a matter that has been raised with me a number of times, and also the types of licensing for the different organizations.

So I agree this is something that my department should undertake to complete a thorough review of the way the different organizations are licensed through our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for saying that they would be reviewing that Lottery Licensing Program. But there's been a lot of gambling addictions, just like people are addicted to alcohol. Some people just want to wait for the day for when they're going to have a bingo.

I would appreciate the minister saying that and support the minister saying that going to be reviewing that, because the criteria could probably be changed, especially in a bigger community like Rankin Inlet. Every week there's gambling going on, like through lottery licensed establishments. Like sometimes we don't even have time to visit any more.

And another question that I have in regards to insurance. Are those licenses run by the Justice Department, or do they go through, there not just a motor vehicle insurance but I feel that the consumers insurance have to do with consumers.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry but if I could get some clarification from the member, the insurance, under the Department of Transportation, they deal with insurance, but I'm not really quite sure exactly which one, which his talking about, what types of insurance.

**Chairman:** Perhaps if Mr. Curley can give us a clarification.

**Mr. Curley:** (interpretation): Insurance in general such as regulations and guidelines of insurance, I don't think, I'm not really sure who deals with them, such as there are a lot of insurance policies or regulations that we have to deal with, or have to follow. Like if somebody wants to get a business license because there liability insurance is pretty huge. Consumer Affairs are not dealing with those types of situations are they?

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I'm not mistaken, our department has nothing to do with insurance; it's been dealt with by the Department of Justice.

**Mr. Curley:** (interpretation): Yes, I understand, and I will deal with the appropriate department, because there are a lot of insurance sales people in Nunavut. I will ask the Department of Justice. That's it from me for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Curley. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under G-6 it states that for programs and services. Just last summer, the Cambridge Bay office they are now dealing with its regional office, with my constituents now dealing with the Cambridge Bay office. My constituents want to voice their concerns to the minister and his office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were concerns from the member's constituents that I have written them a letter now informing them of the correct procedure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wonder why Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord, how come they are transferred to Cambridge Bay office now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was relocated to Cambridge Bay, the services provided to those two constituencies, Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. They are now using Regional Offices over in Cambridge Bay because we wanted to serve them better.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are in that line item if the minister could let me know whether Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay are getting petroleum products from the western Kitikmeot region?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not quite in that section yet. They received the same as the Baffin region communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I know that we will be dealing with the Petroleum Products Division but I just wanted to get some first hand information. The people of Pond Inlet are a de-centralized community and there is also a department dealing with some of the communities.

There are five people that are working for the Petroleum Products Division over there. I will be speaking in English. (interpretation ends): Are these five positions responsible for Petroleum Products Division's function for the Baffin region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Barnabas, could you tell us which page you are on?

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Maybe I am ahead of myself, Mr. Chairman. I will get back to it when we get to that item. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): That is it, Mr. Barnabas?

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for coming again today. I just wanted to get back to what I was on yesterday with the list of committees with Recovery Business Plans in place. I think the minister indicated that there were currently six communities.

I wonder if the minister could, for the record, tell us what those six communities are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The six communities in question in the Deficit Recovery Plans are as follows:

- Clyde River;
- Hall Beach;
- Taloyoak;
- Kugaaruk;
- Kugluktuk and;
- Qikiqtarjuaq

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Anything else, Mr. Peterson?

**Mr. Peterson:** I thank the minister for that information. Could the minister give us an indication of how serious their financial difficulties are in terms of their deficits and receivables, that sort of stuff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must apologize to my colleague; I don't have those figures with us here today, but I will commit to reviewing it with my colleague. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister tell us how long his officials estimate that those six communities will be in the deficit recovery situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I must apologize again; I know they vary in the period that have been set for them, and also with the additional challenge of some hamlets having found it more difficult to stick with the plan in means of recovery time.

If you would allow me, Mr. Chairman, I can get my Deputy Minister to speak more on this matter with the question. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Please proceed, Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Communities such as Clyde River, Hall Beach, Taloyoak, and Kugaaruk have actually fully implemented the Recovery Plan and are well on the way to recovery.

In Kugluktuk, we have been working with the supervisor that was appointed in that community. The last financial information that we had from the community was that they were already making substantial progress in that. They have a fairly substantial deficit, but they are working quite readily on it.

Probably one of communities with the largest challenge and one of the largest deficits was Qikiqtarjuaq. They have made substantial progress now in the second half of their first year in the Recovery Plan, and are now starting to turn things around quite substantially. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Rich. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rich for that information. Could you tell us what type of measures the hamlets have to put in place to have a Recovery Plan and start to provide benefits to them? Is it layoffs to personnel or cutbacks from programs and services? Are there any drastic measures that have to be implemented to get them to turn around in a specified recovery period of time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the biggest determining factor is in consultation with the Council and which programs and services they review to help them with their deficit recovery.

So, again, it will defer from one year's budget to the next, but it is in close consultation with the council that those things are looked at and determined. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was trying to get at the fact that there's some hard difficult decisions that have to be made. I wondered when the minister probably gets into financial difficulties, I think depending on how serious they are, there are layoffs that affects everybody. One job in a small community is probably \$40,000 in economic value. The multiplier effect is two to three times. It's quite serious, then, if their reserves are depleted.

It seems to be a recurring problem every year. I mentioned this yesterday. Some years there's a dozen, some years more, some years is less, but it just seems to be a constant problem.

I am wondering if the department could comment on how they can reassure the House and the general public and the Mayors and Councilors who are, to the most part, volunteers. They have their regular day jobs. It's very difficult to run a municipality, particularly when you are limited, you don't have the benefit if we are not there raising taxes and that sort of stuff. It's not easy these days.

So I am wondering if the department has considered the problems over the last five years with the hamlets running into deficits and putting in some sort of mechanisms and plans that municipalities can use to identify the problems that they are having before they become big problems? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the biggest tool that we are becoming more dependent on is the monitoring and evaluation process for the situation that each municipality may be in. I am just going back to one of his earlier comments; yes there are some very difficult decisions being made through this process.

As my colleague mentioned, there are lay-offs, or cutting of hours for certain employees. Receivables are also a large issue and cutting expenses. This is work that happens with the municipalities but there definitely are some tough decisions being made through this process at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister for that comment. One of my former SAOs when I was Mayor used to tell me that when I was asking for financial information, he would always tell me that the buck stops at him, at the SAO. I used to debate that and say no the buck stops with the Mayor and Council. I think there is some confusion there between the roles of the SAO and financial administration officials and councils.

One of the things I learned when I was a Mayor was the municipal accounting package was a very complicated beast and would generate 30 or 40 page financial statements every two week when we met. As we all know, to be a politician in charge of a \$1 billion government, or almost a \$1 billion financial accountability and an ability to read financial statements is important, the same as it is at the hamlet level. Easy to read and easy to interpret financial information I think is essential to everybody.

I'm wondering if your department has given any consideration to simplifying the financial accounting software that the hamlets use so that it's easier to interpret and get a quick snapshot from looking at two to three pages instead of having to sit through 40 pages every 2 weeks.

Could the Minister comment on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well the indicators from MTO that have been developed are also very important and usable tools for the Councils.

At the same time, Mr. Chairman, we are supplying simple templates for financial reporting to Councils. With the tools we now have in place, like I said, I'm pretty confident we do now have more mechanisms in place to detect early before the municipalities get too far into trouble with debts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister. I'd like to go to page J-7, there is a comment up there on equalization. It says municipal taxing authorities, right in your business plan, page J-16, priorities for 2005/2006; develop the framework for the transition of hamlets to municipal taxing authorities. Three or four years ago, I read an RFP in one of the newspapers where they were seeking a consultant to help them develop the framework for a municipal taxing authority.

They were going to look to Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay at the time. I remember contacting one of your Assistant Deputy Ministers at the time to discuss and he was going to get back to me. It seems to have dropped off the face of the earth until I read this in your Business Plan. Perhaps you could give us some clarification on what the department is planning in terms of municipal taxing authorities for Nunavut to have hamlets already. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This has risen a number of times over the last couple of years. When we have been discussing with some of the municipalities, the discussions have been more fact finding discussions.

I'm going to ask Mr. Rich to go over some of the issues surrounding the transition process to become a tax based City or municipality. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Please proceed, Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister said this is a fairly complex issue and as the member has stated that there have been several discussions over the past. We have also taken into account that meetings that we have previously had with Standing Committees, where there has been support, but also cautions that have been expressed to the department about the move and how its done.

One of the things that were strongly expressed at the previous meeting, for instance, was the need to ensure that the community has strong public support if they are going to move in this direction.

In light of that we have worked fairly carefully on this file. We have identified a number of key factors that need to be taken into consideration as the hamlet is looking at transferring from a non-tax based to a tax-based status.

Those include factors such as right of collections; the composition of the tax-base in the community; the establishment of the mill rates and how that would be done, and what that would mean; the population base; one of the things that we are looking at and I have been talking with our colleagues in the Northwest Territories, who have a little more experience directly with this recently, is what population base recommendations we should make; the knowledge base in terms of the training that the community staff should have, because it increases the training requirements for staff quite a bit, and finally; the mechanisms for public consultations to ensure, as I mentioned, that there is broad public support for it.

The latest thing that we have done is have some direct consultations with the Northwest Territories that have been developing their process over the last two or three years, as they have more aggressively moved in this direction. We want to see both the successes that they have had, and the challenges that they have had and then work with one or two communities to establish a process here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rich. I take it though that no municipality will have the MTA forced on them. It will be at their request as they are



ready, as you mentioned in your Business Plan. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page J-7. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities, I see that their budget has remained stable at \$135,000. Have there been any requests for an increase to their budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, there have been no requests for increases under this funding for the Association of Municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I anticipate that there is going to be a lot more work for Nunavut Association of Municipalities, for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities President, in particular if he is going to go with you to Ottawa and participate on the Advisory Committee. Would your department be covering his costs to participate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was just led to believe that we will be covering those expenses and I am sure that they will be expenses that they will be able to cover during the process, but we will be assisting them with the consultation process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned this yesterday that Nunavut Association of Municipalities had a number of resolutions from the last AGM. I actually tabled them in the House last May.

Has the department or the Government of Nunavut formally responded to any of those resolutions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been led to believe no, not at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Government of Nunavut plan to formally respond before Nunavut Association of Municipalities' next AGM? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will definitely be responding to them before their next AGM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over on page G-8, the Water and Sewage Services Block Funding. The minister mentioned in his opening comments yesterday that they will be making changes for the increased flexibility and expenditure loss within the program to maximize communities' abilities to measure individual programs.

I actually had a Written Question in the last sitting in December. I asked the minister what the status was. The response was that you said you would be bringing forward recommendations in on how to improve the subsidy program. In response I asked him when there would be tabling in the House, he said will be available for winter session of the Legislature. Can you tell the House when you will be tabling the results of your review of the Water and Sewage Subsidy Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague is right that I would have liked to have tabled the recommendations during the session. However, because the work is ongoing, I am hoping that the group will finalize its recommendations in April of 2005. So, Mr. Chairman, I was not able to get the final for tabling into the House at this time. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Mr. Minister. On page J-16 of your business plan on your priorities for 2005-06 you mentioned implement a more simplified and improved Water and Sewage Subsidy Program. A pilot project in three communities had led me to think that you had completed your review. Your recommendations had come forward.

Could you comment on which of the three communities that you mentioned will take part in this final project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify, Mr. Chairman but the Business Plan is for 2005-06. The review of the Water and Sewer subsidy is taking three places. Where one is taking place in Pangnirtung because of the facility, and also for Arviat and Gjoa Haven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How do the pilot projects differ from the current practices? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Mr. Chairman. I would like my Deputy to take that question from this. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Proceed, Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Actually at this point in time because the group is still actively working on it we have a group of three senior administrative officials from the communities and representatives from the Housing Corporation in CGS who are actively developing that plan and they have not presented the details to me. So I am not a hundred percent certain how it is going to differ from the existing one.

What I can say though is that I know what discussions I have had with the individual who is leading up the work is we are particularly concerned about some of the additional O&M costs that have come up over the years, and what the factors are that influence the operating and maintenance costs of the systems. Also to make sure that we have a system that works in different environments. We have now in one case we Mechanical Treatment Plants, for instance, for sewage in another community we now have a Mechanical Treatment Plant for water.

What we need to look at is what the influence of that is on the costs. Our preliminary issues in dealing with both of those two communities are that it will increase the O&M costs, so the formula needs to properly reflect that.

In addition to that, we have looked at some of the historic practices with water and sewage delivery in communities and we are factoring that into it and making sure that the practices represent good current practices in delivery of water and pickup of waste water. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Rich. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Minister and Mr. Rich's comments at the complicated area. I did not have it figured out in four years when I was Mayor, so I can appreciate the work you guys are putting into it. It is very important work though; I think a lot of it contributes to some of our deficit problems.

I wanted to go to page J-9, in the Government Asset and Protection Program and your putting a million dollars into that again this year. When I worked for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and NAMEX, one of the things we learned is that the many asset in the hamlets were under valued, we called it loss control. I believe there under valued, so if they had building that suffered damages, the insurance wouldn't cover it, the complete replacement of the asset, so on one end, the minister Mr. Rich would call it whether all our community buildings are properly valued are appraised by property evaluators. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The insurance people have been looking at these buildings and as to how much it actually cost and what the insurance will be, and that's what the process we use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Peterson your time is up at the moment, but I have no more names on the list if you want to proceed. I'll give you a few more minutes.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the current fiscal year have we suffered any major losses to the hamlet assets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, not this year. Thank you

**Mr. Chairman:** Fire away Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since the inception of the NAMEX Program has there been any success, is it going to be a continuing ongoing success? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we have been very pleased with the program and we have nothing but high hopes for its continued success for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you Mr. Minister. That's good to hear, something we needed. I'm not sure where this falls in your Main Estimates here, but Search and Rescue, maybe it's under Community Support.

Who is responsible for Search and Rescue? I know that you mentioned in your Business Plans under J-24, so the work you're going to do with it, but is it Community and Government Services, or does it fall under hamlet council in the community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do provide funding and assistance to through our programs. That falls under the Protection Services category under our department and that will be in J-12, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just wait till we get there then. Thank you

**Chairman** (interpretation): I have no more names on my list. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Community Development Funds, \$1,050,000. It says to provide a reasonable amount of funding to communities to be used for locally determined administrative projects.

I'm just wondering if the minister could elaborate on what types of projects those are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Interpretation): I apologize, I did not find the page right away, but in regards to the Community Development Funds, it goes through MTO, so that's where the projects are used and on top of that, they are used for training purposes. Thank you

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this funding provided to the communities as when they apply for it, type situations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, MTO and also the hamlet will determine the types of training, but there are no fixed amounts per say per community under this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a reasonable amount of funding, who's interpretation of reasonable is it. Is there a criteria or guideline that limits the amount that goes out there or just whatever whoever feels is reasonable at the time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess in saying reasonable, there is \$10 thousand that is set aside for each municipality under this and I guess that's what we mean by reasonable amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. \$10 thousand for each community. Like, Iqaluit gets \$10 thousand allocated to use to train employees in different areas through some of the courses that are offered by the MTO which we got lovely pamphlet tabled earlier on. Is that correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm going to get Mr. Rich to relieve me for a few seconds of fresh air. I'll pass it onto Mr. Rich. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Rich go ahead.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been a change in the community development funds over the last couple of years.

Originally this was the primary source of funding for training in communities and it was allocated on an application basis by communities. However with the creation of the MTO two years ago, we took a portion of the community development fund and used that as the base or the core funding for the MTO and then the MTO uses that to then attract other sources of funding from the Federal Government, Inuit organizations etc.

It has been extremely successful in doing that. So we have a huge multiplier affect. So, what's happened is a fairly small training fund has now become in fact well over one \$1 million training fund that we administer through the MTO. We did leave a small amount of funding, the \$1 million you see here in the community development fund because communities said they still wanted a fund to draw on for some special activities. So, this is not for that sort key fundamental training that the MTO does. That's all budgeted through the MTO and is shown in the amount that's shown elsewhere in the budget for the MTO contribution.

We've had endless discussions with the communities about an allocation formula and tried to get a consensus of which there was none. So we did the straight, as the Minister said allocation of \$10 thousand per community. What communities use this for is some specialized training that is not provided for the MTO. Sometimes for their staff to attend conferences that are particularly relevant to the community and they serve a professional development fund for the community, those sorts of activities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Are you done. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I have no other names on my list. J-6, Community and Government Services, Branch Summary. Community support, total operations and maintenance, \$49 million 71 thousand. Do you agree.

**Some members:** agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go over to J-10. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under J-10, government services, there is a grants and contributions for \$500 thousand and it's for the Qulliq Energy Corporation transition contribution.

I'm just wondering if that transition that's identified here is the transition that the Minister of Energy indicated wasn't going to happen, that it had been postponed for another year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes that is correct. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo** (interpretation): I'm done.

**Chairman:** I have Mr. Peterson next on the list. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On Page J-10, property services, I wonder if the Minister could give us an indication of what the value of all government buildings are in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not believe we have the information that my colleague is looking for at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** That's all the questions I have at this time, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that it is quite important that there is a government policy to establish new corporation and what not that there is proper plan.

There is a plan of action. There is a planning document. For two years now, we have not had the planning document for various corporations that ultimately would have to earn income through selling products. Many of us are not convinced that the item that was included in last year's spending in the amount of \$500 thousand was not fully justified, nor urgent.

We have urged the Minister to consult with the private sector on whether or not there are other means of rearranging and restructuring the supply of petroleum products in order to establish a stable sustainable fuel system. We're not convinced. Many of us are not fully convinced that the government crown agency is the way to go because ultimately they would have to be concentrated into one location in order to make it profitable.

It would have be profitable. It could not be completely, continually subsidized by the government. I believe the Petroleum Product Division as they are in place have worked. Kitikmeot Region has no problem with the way in which the fuel is delivered to their region.

I think many respects, the Baffin Region is doing quite well with the Petroleum Product Division groups. Where ever they are based, they are doing fine. It's the supplier that we're having problems with. So, Mr. Chairman, I think we are setting a precedence that the government will establish a crown corporation and has now spent \$500 thousand last year and now they're asking for \$500 thousand more without a report. Without a detailed plan. Without a vision.

Buying and supplying fuel is an expensive huge undertaking. It should be well planned. It should be well presented to the public. The government has failed for two fiscal years in scoping out its objective. For reason, Mr. Chairman, I would like to move the following motion:

**Committee Motion 004 – 2(2): Delete \$500,000 From 2005-06 Main Estimates –  
Department of Community and Government Services**

I move that \$500,000 be deleted from this 2005/06 main estimates of the Department of Community and Government Services under contributions, government services branch for the purpose of Qulliq Energy Corporation transition contribution. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with the debate on the motion I have a few comments to make as to the procedures.

1. Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20minutes.
2. The mover of the motion must speak first



3. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which closes the debate

To the motion. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I thank you and to make sure the message goes across, I am not opposed to the Petroleum Product Division. I think that if we're going to set up a crown corporation that is going, with the majority shareholder being the government, if I use the Kitikmeot Region as an example, I think they're doing perfectly fine.

I think that it should be privatized. In the Kivalliq Region, the Province of Manitoba is very close. I believe that the crown corporation is not the only avenue that we can use. These crown corporations have to generate revenue. For the information of the government and to the public, we're not opposing you but I think there are other options that we can use.

We talk to the private sector and we have to consult with the communities. For myself, if you go through a consultation process, you meet with the stake holders, the government and the private sector. The government hasn't done this to date.

(interpretation ends) In my opening comments, I refer specifically to Qulliq Energy Transition contribution and the fact that it is not clear for the reasons I stated earlier what the funding will be used for. During the debate last year on 2004/05 budget, the assembly approved a \$500 thousand contribution for Qulliq Energy Corporation transition.

It is my understanding that this funding was spent and yet the transition did not subsequently occur. It was delayed. Given the fact that \$500 thousand that has already been spent in 2004/05 for transition, I believe that is important to carefully consider the wisdom of approving yet another \$500 thousand in 2005/06 for a total of \$1 million for a transition that may or may not take place.

Mr. Chairman, this assembly has never deleted a budget item before. This is no longer a rubber stamp legislature. Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has considerable concerns with respect to the transition of petroleum products division to the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

During our meeting, this winter, the staff of the Petroleum Product Division indicated that the \$500 thousand was spent in part for acquiring new computer systems and so on. Those concerns led me to believe that the transition may continue to be deferred year by year rather than being cancelled all together and outright.

Mr. Chairman, it would be unworthy of the public's trust for us to approve a contribution for this transition when it is not clear that the transition will occur. For that reason I ask all the members including the Ministers to support me in this motion and I would like to state again that this is not an opposition for government's attempt to find the best possible route for engaging in a long term Petroleum Product Division.

I believe that this route is a short sighted one. It does not give the private sector an opportunity to make a presentation because in the long run, if the Qulliq Energy Corporation were formed, it will ultimately have to make a profit. If it's not going to operate as a non-profitable group, that would not be wise. It would have to pay itself through the kind of prices that we're looking at all over the world. The prices are going up.

I believe the Petroleum Product Division has track record now. We should allow Petroleum Product Division as they are to operate with the current system. So I'm asking for your support with my motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been looking at this for a long time and we're all concerned.

Part of the Petroleum Product that we're receiving is a concern by the public. We want to be open and we're trying to support our constituents and trying to look for the cheapest way. We're trying to have the best price for petroleum. What we are trying to do is trying to put them together, and it's starting to get cheaper. Last year, we used \$350,000 to purchase computers in the Rankin Inlet offices because their computer was no longer in effect as of December.

We brought out another legislation in regards to petroleum products, especially the tank farms. We want to be open to the members, and in the coming years, we would like to also review how we can save money in regards to petroleum products and energy.

If they have to be put together or if they have to consolidate them or not, we want to review that, especially when it's in regards to tank farms, and we want this to go ahead. We are open to the members. When we vote on the motion, I would like to see a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have been concerned about this \$500,000. I first saw it last year, I supported it last year in good faith thinking that it would need to establish sort of a system that would bring cheaper fuel to Nunavut.

Since then, as Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have seen that the government has had loads of problems with the Qulliq Energy Corporation, we have talked about that two or three times in the Session.

We have more recently learned that we have got a lot of problems at the Nunavut Arctic College. We are struggling to get those two crown agencies up and running back on a good footing.

As Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have not seen or read anything that clearly articulates to me and my constituents the benefits for the transfer of Petroleum Products Division to the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and I agree with my colleague of Rankin Inlet that from what I can see, Petroleum Products Division is doing a fine job now.

It's doing a good job in the Kitikmeot. I have not heard any concerns there. We did provide the \$500,000 last year. All I have seen are opposite to the results I expected where they spend a lot of money on computers and other stuff.

We heard recently by the minister that it all can happen this year to lay it on another year. I think as Members of the Legislative Assembly it would be questionable, perhaps even responsible to approve additional \$500,000 of public monies without any real evidence or concrete information that doing so would provide solid benefits to Nunavutmiut. Mr. Chairman, I will be voting in support of the motion. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I have no more names on my list. The mover of the motion, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I couldn't agree more with my other two colleagues on this side of the House.

It said in regards to this, I know the Minister of Energy, and has quoted probably looked back it's two or three time in Hansard in the last couple of weeks that's saying to this transfer that it is not going to happen, I think it was the exact words that he used.

They say it has been delayed another year, regardless of whether this model is one that is going to be pursued or not. Right now, we don't know, and the government has said; we don't know, we are going to delay, we are going to look at it for another year.

I am absolutely certain that if some evidence is provided to the House that shows that this is the direction that we are going to take and here's why. This is what the benefits are going to be, whether it is this proposed direction or a different direction that at the appropriate time that members would have no problems supporting any appropriations in next year's budget, if that is when it is going to happen.

Like the minister said if it isn't going to happen, then why do they need that money this year? I think that there are a tremendous amount of other needs out there that that funding could be used for. It is a drop in the bucket really if you look at the overall budget. A little bit of money for some organizations or some groups or some services can go a heck of a long way to helping other people, other Nunavutmiut that are in areas that need help right now.

Once we have some concrete evidence in front of us; to show that this is the direction that we are going to go; I don't think that we as Members of the Legislative Assembly would be doing our job properly if we are just saying yes just go ahead and spend this money, whether or not we don't know if that is going to happen or not.

Like I said, if we know it is going to happen, I am sure that there is no problem getting the support to have that money in the budget, if we know it is something that we see is going to happen. Right now that isn't going to happen in this fiscal year. I don't see why it is necessary to have that funding in there. They just got new computers in the last fiscal year; that should at least do them until next year.

If that is the direction that this government decides to go in that area and then we look forward to them bringing something solid back to the table for the Members of the Legislative Assembly to look at and make an informed decision when dealing with allocations of funding.

So with that, I support my colleagues with their comments and we will be asking all members, urging them to support the motion. I just want to say that I am happy that a recorded vote has been called for.

I would also like to welcome back the Minister of Human Resources, who had a miraculous recovery from his illness that we were reported to this morning that earlier this afternoon that he wouldn't be in the House due to illness. I am glad that he is feeling better and is able to make it back into the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak to the motion as well. The Qulliq Energy Corporation, as everybody knows, when we just became members of this House, but as far as I can understand I thought last year when we voted on giving them a contribution of \$500,000 that they would be doing a transition.

Also after that not all corporations but some hamlets, and Arctic College and the Nunavut Power Corporation is always short of money. We have not really heard them asking for some contributions and them receiving contributions right away. We have not heard that. But now the Qulliq Energy Corporation has not even requested that funding and then they are giving them the \$500,000. I don't really understand whether Qulliq Energy Corporation is going to replace Petroleum Products Division, but we haven't really understood how it is going to be done. There is no plan in place, although there was at the beginning.

I know perhaps in the future the transition will happen, but we're not really quite clear and we have not consulted with the public or asked the public as to what they would be doing in this regard. Such as there's been a lot of companies out there dealing with petroleum products that's probably looking at Nunavut.

So for these reasons it seems like PPD will not be, Qulliq Energy Corporation will not take over PPD right away, it seems like according to the information that we have been

given. So what we don't want to do is just give the contribution of \$500,000 for the transition for the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

I know that they are constituents out there, are serious about the money, like they have to pay taxes and it's not very fun if you're going have to pay money into taxes. Like we can't just sort of play around with money, and have no explanation whatsoever as to how it's going to be used.

As a Government of Nunavut, we were told that we were going to be closer to the people and inform the people of Nunavut, and there will be transparency I'm trying to understand this very well but there's no reasoning.

I understand a little bit about finances and the Main Estimates but they have not given us any reason, good reason, that they're going to use this for transition purposes.

We have not seen any good reasons behind that, and what exactly the money is going to be used for, we would like to be working with the Cabinet, with all the good reasons and plans in place, so I feel that at this time I will support the motion.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Alagalak. I have no more names on my list. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I talked about earlier in the House was about I would like to be in support of the motion, to delete that contribution, because we have to start thinking about our constituents, I will be supporting the motion, because as I stated before, the reasons that I had behind supporting the motion. We can't just look ahead, we have to look at the constituents as well, and support our communities.

What I'm saying is it's the same as the other I members have stated for that \$500,000, if there is nothing that says what it's going to be used for. Because of that we have to consult with the public, and there's no information to the public on what it's going to be used for. So I just want the members to know I will be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It gives me an opportunity to address the motion. Just very quickly, I think the members have probably hit a good point and that is the explanation on some of the costs associated with the money. To go back to some of the other comments that have been said, when we reviewed some of the issues around the Qulliq Fuel Corporation, we agreed with the members.

The members came forward with a recommendation from the Standing Committee and said to the Cabinet to put the Qulliq Fuel Corporation on hold until the financial viability of the Power Corporation was met. That was recommendation number 8 of the Standing Committee. So we did that. That's the reason why the postponement occurred, number 1.

Number 2, some of the reasons and Mr. Kattuk just hit a couple of them just now, he said there hasn't been a good explanation on what the \$500,000 would be used for. Mr. Chairman, it is my understanding again by reviewing what has occurred and looking at the Business Plan, the money whether we voted right now will have be found to look at the remediation about 19 sites that have some environmental issues on them. That's correct.

It is, Mr. Curley. It is. It also, Mr. Chairman, if I may, looks at the evaluations of the tank farms itself. That's what the evaluations would be done again independent of government. It had that value and that's something Mr. Curley keeps talking about when he talks about the private sector that they were going to move in that direction. They not going to come in and buy a pig on a pole.

They need to know what the evaluations and so on are. So those types of things need to be carried out. So that's some of the transition funding as well as the liability evaluations, there is assets evaluation. What is the cost of the evaluation of the asset on the ground? What is the evaluation of that asset? That needs to be done.

So, Mr. Chairman, there are quite a few things that need to be accomplished even if the Fuel Corporation doesn't go forward. We announced that it was postponed based on your recommendation. I really like that gentleman. He's good.

Mr. Chairman, so those are some of the issues around the \$500,000 and what they would be used for. Then, because the members have brought it up it up in the past, very strongly and forcefully, the Auditor General comes in and looks at the way the money has been spent. It's not going into some hole. It's not going down to Saskatchewan. It's going to be used and accessed by the government and would be audited as per the financial accounting procedures that are place.

So, there is a whole process for management information systems, for integration of the great plans, accounting software application process and so on. That's what the money would be used for.

If the money is not voted for right now, we still have to do the assessment based on the Auditor General's Report and the member's review. That where the Auditor General says we have to prepare for those environmental sites. We still have to look at the costs of remediation of the 19 sites. That's been unknown. We still have to do the evaluation of the tanks. So that money will have to come from somewhere. I hope that helps answer the questions on the \$500,000.

And again, Mr. Chairman, I want to point out something, whether we agree or disagree with the amount, what we're doing right now is a good thing, because you have an opportunity where either you're for or against something.

There is no need to go and get mad or anything like that. If it goes forward, the very best. If it doesn't fine, then we have to find another way. I think this is a good debate and Mr. Curley, is correct, if there is money deleted out of the budget, it will be the first time that it's been done here, and that may be the very best. That's a very good indicator of a check and balance and that's what the whole process of the House is for.

So, I don't see any reason to react to that. I think that the statement that the Member from Arviat made is a good one. The constituents need to be assured of the money that is being spent and it is public money.

I think there are those checks and balances in place to show where the money was being spent and so on. I would be, of course, supporting the motion. At the same time, yes, I will be supporting the motion.

And when it comes time to vote for that motion, then of course I will be voting with the government's side of the House. That woke some of them up.

In all seriousness, Mr. Chairman, again if there isn't support for it, then we have to look at some other issues, how do we do some of the things that are supposed to be called for and then again, as the 19 members, we have to address that at some point.

So with that, I hope that gets a better explanation as to what the money is being used for, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Picco. I just want to remind you that you can only vote once. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Mr. Picco. He indicated that he will support the motion. We don't seem to be too clear on this money; not being able to identify exactly what it will be used for. We hear different things from different people, and we also heard from the other side, from the Premier. We are elected to represent our constituents and we want to represent them well.

It was also indicated earlier, there are six hamlets that are in a deficit situation. They have constantly been asking for money and they are always short. Those are the communities that we represent. We want to delete this so when we get to voting for the motion, we have to think of our constituents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. I don't have anybody else on my list. I will get the mover a chance to speak before we vote. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want the government to think that if we delete \$500,000 that we will lose it. It will not be like that. We will be able to utilize it on more useful things.

Just like what Mr. Arreak just mentioned, we can say that there's lack of funding for landfills. We heard just yesterday, I wonder if those people whose machines broke because of their oil. Will they be compensated?

We heard that this will be used for tank farms. On J-10, if it's going to be used for that, it would indicate so on the description. We shouldn't just sort of beat around the bush on these. I just wanted to specify again, I don't want you to think that we will lose \$500,000, we will just be making it into a better use.

If we are going to set up a corporation, we will have to be prepared because we have not seen any written material, and that's not how you set up corporations. You don't have to do it like that, Mr. Premier, because it's like that, the corporation is not established that way. The plans are approved, they have to have (interpretation ends) vision, cost analysis, feasibility studies; is it worth, not worth it? (interpretation) We have not seen anything of that nature in front of us, and that's not how you operate things. A lot of energy corporations are well over \$100 million in debt, but we are going to have to pay ourselves if that turned into a crown corporation; maybe the corporation would go deeper into a deficit situation.

So I want you to support this motion in the Auditor General's Report, and once that surfaces, we will have to deal with it. There's no mission statement. I know the Auditor General will say that there is no mission statement.

So, for that reason we are not losing that. Maybe next year we can revisit it and maybe make improvements if you support this motion. So I ask you to vote for that. Vote for the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister, if you can go to your regular seat while we are voting. Thank you. Before members vote, I just want to say to Mr. Kilabuk that I cannot recognize you where you are and ask you to return to your seat.

All those in favour of the motion, please stand. Then sit down when I have called your name.

Mr. Curley

Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Kattuk.



Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Barnabas.

All those opposed, please stand.

All those abstaining, please stand.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk,

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk,

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq.

Hon. Paul Okalik.

Hon. Levinia Brown.

Hon. Ed Picco.

Hon. David Simailak.

The results are: for the motion, 9; against, 0; abstentions, 8. The motion is carried.

>>*Applause*

(interpretation): Thank you. We will take a five minute break. I'm sorry, go back to your seats. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was listening to the Inuktitut translation. It was mentioned 9 opposed, that is what I thought I heard.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Nine voted yes, 8 abstained, and no opposition. The motion was carried. Thank you. We will take a five minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 17:54 and resumed at 18:05*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, for coming back. We are on page J-10. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just to go on record. I just want to state on the record for the first time that we have deleted a line item from the

Main Estimates. As I am still the same minister for this department I was very pleased to take part in that motion. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I am sure that it won't be the last one. We still have four more years to go. Thank you.

We are on page J-10. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$48,905,000, less reduction of \$500,000 for a revised total of \$48,405,000. Do you agree?

**Some Member:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. To J-12. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,880,000. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. During my opening comments I was talking about fire prevention and I am sure that there was \$2 million for Fire Protection and Safety. I would like to thank the department for that line item because this is very important.

Mr. Chairman, I want to state to them that the firefighters are volunteers and they are always busy. They should be recognized and acknowledged by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Although I don't see them all the time but I would like to state to the volunteer firefighters.

They work very hard and some of the firefighters are very young, especially in Rankin Inlet. My friend, Peter Karlik's son Ambrose, has been working for the Fire Department for quite some time and he is also taking part in the fire drill. I would like to state to the minister that we are in support of this, and we are proud of them and we are very thankful that the firefighters have to face dangers. So therefore we have to acknowledge.

Mr. Minister, if you can relay that message from the Legislative Assembly Members that we appreciate them. Sometimes they save lives and they save some infrastructure too. I wanted to state that. Also I am in support of the fire prevention drills and the training programs.

Perhaps you or your Deputy Minister can relay the message to the firefighters that we really do appreciate and acknowledge them. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): I agree with my colleague that we have to acknowledge the firefighters and we have to acknowledge the volunteer firefighters and we know that they are very important.

In the Main Estimates for this line item, I thank my colleague for stating what he said because the volunteer firefighters will have to be acknowledged. We have to acknowledge the volunteer firefighters and appreciate them and we're going to have some funding line item for that.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** I'm finished. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time I'm very happy to see the Search and Rescue assistance. This is quite critical now, that in some communities, because that we have to search for hunters, and especially right now because of the weather due to climate change and because of the ice melting earlier.

And also in my community I have seen some individuals that have to be rescued by Search and Rescue teams especially when they are on the flow edge.

So the Search and Rescue teams work really hard. There are many volunteer Search and Rescue teams but they have to look for outside funding. They actually have to get look for money from the affected members of the family who need to be searched for or rescued because they have to purchase fuel, and when the search and rescue snowmobiles whether it be by boat and if they don't work properly then they run into a lot of problems.

So therefore I would like to thank the minister for this line item and in regards to the fire prevention and at this time the fire fighters currently at times the firefighters that can't get into, firefighters equipment have to be in a warm place all the time and due to lack of space on some of their fire fighting equipment are left outside. And when there's a fire that occurs in winter time there's a potential problem because the weathers so cold and it could freeze up the fire fighting equipment.

For that reason I just wanted to make a small comment in regards to that. Thank you

**Mr. Chairman:** I don't think that's a question. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak:** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too want to make a comment in regards to this. Some of the issues I wanted to raise have been brought up by Mr. Curley and Mr. Barnabas.

Yes. I am in support of the community volunteer firefighters, and they are volunteers and they work very hard and they always monitor their firefighting equipment on a daily basis. That's' how it's done in Repulse Bay with the firefighters. And the extinguishers, as someone had said, that some extinguishers, we run into problems when we don't have enough space for our firefighting equipment and some of our firefighting equipment have to be left outside and they end up freezing.

And were always in shortage of firefighting equipment and it seems like they are left alone, or neglected. For that reason, I was wondering you go check and check the firefighting equipment at the community level.

Do you go to the communities to investigate the firefighting equipment, if they are up to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Fire Marshall's Office does go to the communities, and work on their firefighting equipment. Thank you

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak:** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also, I would like to thank the Minister also for his response.

The Search and Rescue teams have faced challenging issues especially during the winter and anywhere in the season. They work really hard to search and to rescue individuals that are out in the hinterland.

The hamlet complex that burned down, the Search and Rescue team that had an office that was situated in that building that had burnt down and they were trying to make their money and they had purchased capital assets like GPS, telephones and satellite phones etc. that are basic needs.

When they are searching and rescuing but they lack funding and assistance. Search and Rescue Assistance, is there an increase in the funding for that line item for Search and Rescue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Search and Rescue, we know what challenges they're facing. Since I became the Minister for this department, I became responsible for their operations and they were able to let us know about their problem about the lack of space.

My staff at this point, we're now starting our discussion point. If we look at the fire fighters, by-law officers, nurses, and RCMP, they work together in some communities. Perhaps if they can work closer together, that way they can use their equipment, perhaps we can alleviate some of the challenges that they're facing.

We are encouraging other departments to work together to find out how they can provide more assistance in Search and Rescue. We would like to be able to look at all those so we're now discussing, questioning or some kind of a consultation process where we can

just consult with some of the communities, not just on fire fighting and Search and Rescue but on actually working together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too would like to echo the comments of my colleagues about the important role of the volunteer fire fighters and other fire fighters in Nunavut.

I think they are under appreciated and under represented. I had the privilege of participating in Closing Ceremonies last fall for the municipal training organization. They had a level 1 firefighters course in Cambridge Bay. Folks came from all over the Kitikmeot Region and Nunavut. It was an intensive two week course.

All the firefighters appreciated it. I had a chance to look at some of the photographs they took of their training. If you were to use some of their photographs in brochures and promotional posters about the dangers of fire, I'm sure people would be a little bit more cautious and safe in Nunavut when it comes to fires. It was very scary to see flames shooting out of buildings, and smoke, and other such things.

They do play an important role. They have to go in and save folks when there are fires. I thank the Search and Rescue folks as well, they're very important to all communities. When people get lost, they're the first people we have to call. A lot of those fellows go out in zero visibility.

We had a situation three years in April 2001, when two kids were lost in a blizzard. The Search and Rescue guys, as a Mayor I had to tell them not to go out but they went out anyways. There could not have been more than 2-3 feet of visibility and they found those guys. So it is quite amazing.

The thing that concerns me the most, Mr. Chairman is that Search and Rescue groups in the communities do not seem to have the facilities and the training and that comes in similar amounts of the volunteer Fire Departments. They seem to have to rely on their own wits to keep their organizations together. I do not think many of the organizations, Search and Rescue groups in Nunavut are formerly organized and volunteers around town have to bring their own snowmobiles and equipment.

They have to get time off work to go out for days on end. I know through your department there is a Coordinator in Iqaluit here to the Mayor, to your office. The person in Iqaluit authorize a Search and Rescue, and that covers the Search and Rescue guys for Workers' Compensation Board, and insurance purposes in case one of them or more of them lost their lives or are injured. In the communities, the Fire department have fire halls, they have practice facilities, they have vehicles, they have equipment, and they have whole range of things to support their volunteer work.

Those Search and Rescue folks, in many cases, do not seem to have facilities. They have to bring their own equipment. People's lives depend on those guys and those folks and in the wintertime and in the summertime as well. I think we have to really look hard to provide more support to all those Protection Services. Look at that group in particular since they do plan for all their communities.

The Fire Departments are getting their support, they are getting more, and they deserve more. I think Search and Rescue deserve a bit more help as well and we should endeavour to support them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That was more or less of a comment so we will go on to the next comment. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am also very proud of the organizations that do volunteer services, like the Fire Departments and the hunters and trappers or the search and rescue. They work extremely hard in Clyde River, and I think that they should be provided more training opportunities because of course it is dangerous work that they do.

They are very well functioning and they provide this service on a volunteer basis. I think the Fire Departments are very well coordinated and I am very proud of them. With the Search and Rescue it is very true that have to use their own equipment like snowmobiles, and other equipment.

I supported Mr. Peterson's comments. They do go out on the land when there is zero visibility, in order to find the people who are lost.

I would like to ask the Minister if there is going to be training provided for the Search and Rescue volunteers, and especially in the different seasons like in the summer and in the winter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Arreak. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** With the support of my Deputy Minister. I don't mean to sound like a man armed with pistols. There is a very strong focus on Search and Rescue with the new Director of Protection Services that we have just recently hired. This man comes with a lot of knowledge as he is a former member of the military. Right now he is doing comprehensive planning developing training especially for Search and Rescue groups.

So, there is some work underway. As I just indicated with somebody who has a good sense of background in this field. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do another comment, Mr. Arreak?

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, in Nunavut, it seems that there are very few financial resources for those types for these types of services that are required.

Do you get training funds from the federal government in order to provide training for these organizations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-18, there are monies that are identified for the use of Emergency Planning under an MOU. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also support my colleague's comments in regards to the Fire Prevention and Search and Rescue Assistance.

In terms of the fire prevention and the Fire Department, I would also like to see them recognized as they do a very crucial job. As well, the Search and Rescue people work very hard when they have to search for hunters who are lost on the land. I think it would be beneficial for those who are in the search and rescue field that they are recognized even with plaques. I think they would really appreciate that.

In terms of Fire Prevention through the Fire Marshall's Office, if they would have additional training. As we know, most firefighters have been in the field for many years and that's very beneficial for the young people that are coming through as firefighters where that they can learn from experience.

As we know, all these firefighters are volunteers. At times, the inexperienced make mistakes but we can learn from our mistakes. That's just a comment. I appreciate it. Thank you.

**Chairman:** I didn't hear a question. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of questions for the Minister in regards to the Main Estimates. I don't see any additional support being provided to the Fire Department. I have worked for the hamlets and one of the challenges that we had was the Fire Department facilities. We have two facilities where there is a garage and a small office there.

In the communities the fire extinguishers should be inspected to make sure that they're functioning. You have to rotate them or service them every two or three months. We don't have an individual who takes care of these fire extinguishers.

In the communities the population is increasing very fast, and every house has to have a fire extinguisher. Some of the privately owned houses do not have fire extinguishers, or even if they do have fire extinguishers, they have never been serviced.

What is your department's thought on setting up a plant to make sure that everything is well serviced?

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fire volunteer training is ongoing and the Municipal Training Organization also has a set of photographs of firefighters in training. I am very pleased that we are going to include \$2 million. There is less than a million that will be geared to the training of the fire volunteers.

In regards to the extinguishers, we will identify some funds that will be used for the servicing of fire extinguishers. It will make a big difference and will help alleviate some of the concerns that have been voiced by the communities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We will take a 20 minute break.

>>*Committee recessed at 18:31 and resumed at 18:55*

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak had questions before the break.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I was saying before the break was the volunteer fire fighters work very hard in the communities and to try to keep up with the firefighting equipment. I feel that some of these people have to be trained to fill those fire extinguishers and to inspect them.

If they make a mistake, then they could be taken to court. There should be some funding for individuals to be trained to do those sorts of things in the communities. It wouldn't even cost about \$1,000 at all to set up. I would like to ask the Minister if this has been given to the Fire Marshall's Office to do?

During the Nunavut Association of Municipalities meetings, this was discussed at length. I just wondered if there would be any pilot project at first by the department to do those sorts of things? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We know that the volunteer firefighters are taught codes and standards. At this time, also I'm happy to say through the Municipal Training Organization, those volunteer fire fighters are trained to do those kinds of things. The training will continue as well. Just to assure the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm happy to hear that because we have to be very proud of those volunteer firefighters and they should be welcomed by the department for doing services that they are proud of and for them to be able to be proud of themselves to do the job that they're doing.

I'm sure that this going to continue in the communities and I will be relaying that message through the local radio. It's just a comment, Mr. Chairman, at this time. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to confirm for the record, Mr. Chairman, how many Search and Rescue groups are there in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe each community has Search and Rescue Committees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister tell us if they're all properly incorporated? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted the question for the record. I don't believe every community is set and registered but the Committees I believe are in all of the Nunavut communities. Thank you

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just so we are clear here. Can the minister tell us how much funding that all the Search and Rescue Committees get in total from this section of the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Go ahead Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the total money used differ from year to year. I'll just ask my two officials if they have something further to add to that.

Mr. Chairman with the fact that the searches are different varying from different from a couple of day to more days, depending on the extent of the search it does vary from year

to year. So I can't give my colleague an exact figure as to how much is spend on Search and Rescue annually, but we can provide expenses from the previous year. Thank you,

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that there might be difficulties to do that. I know in Kitikmeot when there's a Search and Rescue, the funds are limited to Cambridge Bay, but there's other people involved, there's the RCMP involved, I think Cambridge Bay, Adlair Aviation provides a air support and that could be quite costly. I think they provide at their own expense, but those are expenses over and above what the government might provide us. Probably in another region, you have other groups that provide support.

I'm thinking that Search and Rescue, since it provides such a valuable and critical service to the people of Nunavut and all the Nunavutmiut in general in all our communities that we should perhaps use some of that \$500,000 to provide more resources to the Search and Rescue groups. It could bring them up to an adequate level of operations and training, help them get better organized, be incorporated, proper bylaws, committees, Chairman, and a Board of Directors. Then they'd get a bit more respect and credit for the valuable service that they provide to us all so Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Good point. A comment or question. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow the comments that I'm not in a position to comment as to where that \$500,000 should go. So I will make no comment to the intent of that money. However, my colleague raised a good point about air searchers and the additional support that we have here in Nunavut. When you require air support and more resources to do air searches, we get very good support from Trenton, Ontario. And this does not cost this government any more money, so we do have available to us very good air support from Trenton, Ontario. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** No more comments. Mr. Chairman

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Peterson. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm falling a little behind, when I heard Search and Rescue Committee. Are we talking about the local HTO or was that for somebody else? Thank you

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well it could be in a community, but in most communities the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations and the Search and Rescue Committees are separate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So if we form a Search and Rescue Committee, is there an application to form a local Search and Rescue Committee? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is a form in place and also a process in place that a community can use to establish a Search and Rescue Committee for their community.

It was just pointed to me. Thank you. Through this, we have also a start up funding available for a community of up to \$2,500 so that is available. Just in the last year, we had also increased the funding for rescue activities from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

So if my colleague wants more information on this and also on the process, that's something, we would be more than happy to assist him with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk:** That's all for now. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Is that it. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to speak about the Search and Rescue a little bit.

Just following up on Mr. Peterson's comments, as to where that funding that we just deleted could be used, just for consideration. We live in a very cold climate from the Kivalliq Region up to the Kitikmeot Region. The air rescues work very, very hard. We don't get any help from Trenton and the military cannot come to our region. We don't get any help from Trenton Air Rescue.

We are still very traditional in our Search and Rescue techniques. Because the Search and Rescue usually hold bingos to raise funding to be used for Search and rescue.

I would like to be in support of the other comments that were made. I think the Search and Rescue people, I think will have to start requesting or talking about getting those equipment such as communication equipment.

So, for that reason, I would like the Minister to be supported on supporting that \$500,000, is not lost and it should be considered to be used for Municipal Training Organizations to train the Search and Rescue people in the communities. They usually don't have insurance.

I know that money is not going to be put to that but I just want to make sure that this is considered. Does the Minister think it's important to be used for Search and Rescue? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the member is saying because I talked to my officials a while ago for the communities to be able to work together.

We talked about that and we will be looking into it again as to what kinds of things that we can put together to help the Search and Rescue people. It's in the talks anyway with my staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Is that it. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This Protective Services Division houses something that has been an interest of mine for a little while now, and that is the Fire Marshall's Office. As members will note in the last sitting, I posed a written question to the minister on that.

I am just wondering, I have seen the overall budget has gone up every year but it seems like from last year to this year, in almost every area that there is a decrease in the stuff that has been done. I recognize that it is after the time of the question that there was still one quarter left to do in the year, the fiscal year.

Is there a reason why the numbers would seem to indicate that they are doing less with more in that office? Is there any rationale behind why that is the case there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know part of the reason has been the heavy emphasis on training, but Mr. Chairman, maybe my Deputy Minister can elaborate a little more on this subject. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister is quite right. The particular emphasis of the Fire Marshall's Office over the last two years has been developing the training programs that have been worked on in conjunction with the Municipal Training Organization. That has required some direct involvement of the staff of the Fire Marshall's Office.

That has also direct involvement of some of the professional fire fighters in communities; Iqaluit has been a particular community that has devoted some of their support in some of their professional fire fighters working with us to develop those training programs.

In 2004 the Office of the Fire Marshall conducted 227 inspections. That can be limited by the number of staff that we had. We did go through a staff turnover in the Baffin region. We filled a position and then lost a position in the Baffin region in the past year so that has limited the numbers to some extent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Fire Marshall's Office or the people that office that train; they said the emphasis has been on training and that. Are they the ones that train the local fire fighters, here in Iqaluit and throughout the communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, recognizing that there is communication back and forth regarding the training needs, they developed the training programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says specifically here that they call the Fire Marshall's Office was the one that deliver the training program, as well? Or do they contract that out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The short answer to that is that we do both the Fire Marshall and also, when necessary, contract experts from outside. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given all that that the Fire Marshall develops the training programs and then delivers some of it and contracts other professionals to deliver some of it.

My question is I know in the report that was issued on a fire here in Iqaluit, and the Fire Marshall's Office had indicated that with a lack of training that led to the loss of the building by the fire fighters. I kind of wonder how if his office is developing the training plan and implementing the training plan that he can say that they are not qualified to do that.

So if I can get an explanation or clarification on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We had met with both people from the fire department and also the Office of the City to discuss the issues souring this matter.

As a result of some issues that were raised also stemming from that particular incident, training has been a focus point for not only Iqaluit but also the other communities as a result of that fire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, I can understand but if the person that was developing and implementing the training plan was saying the people he trained weren't trained and I understand that all the firefighters had just recently gone through some training with the fire marshal's office, for him to come out and say after he delivered his course that they weren't qualified, that raises some questions to me about the quality of the program.

Is it doing what we want it to do. We have the people there with the expertise to be able to provide those training opportunities to our firefighters so we don't have losses like we have in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I guess to tell the house again, the importance of firefighter's training both in procedures and practices has been very important to all involved.

That is why a major training planning started in this year. I will add Mr. Chairman, that the Iqaluit Fire Department, because of the resources and training they have, they have assisted greatly both with the personnel and resources for the fire training courses that have been run here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess, if you read between the lines and the Minister indicating the development of the training program and the delivery of the training program prior to this year had some flaws in it and as a result of those things being exposed and as result of the incident that happened here, that we need to fix it.

I guess on that, I know that there was a considerable amount of hard feelings between the professionals on that. Maybe it really wasn't their fault. They were doing what they were

trained to do by the person who trained them. The person who trained them is the same person who said they weren't trained enough to do it.

Given that that's been identified, nobody's perfect. New incidents, you always have to continually re-evaluate and re-look at things to try and improve it but no matter of what you think about at the time, something else always comes up that you missed.

I see that this is the process that's been outlined here by the department and the Fire Marshal's Office but given if that's the case then, if there would be some kind of letter coming from the Fire Marshal's Office to the City Fire Department, maybe expressing an apology of some sort over some of the comments that were made in the media and put in the report on that specific incident. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will follow up on the member's last comments because I believe that issue had been addressed. However, I will follow up on it.

Now, in previous years, there was also a shortfall of funding to provide more training to firefighters straight across Nunavut, which included Iqaluit.

So, the lack of training stems greatly from not having had the funding that we see in this budget today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman on my written question, the third one, I asked about the annual report under subsection 3-E, and it indicates in response that there was no data recorded for 1999/2000 and that the reports for 2000/01, 2001/02, 2002/03, 2003/04 are now being prepared and will be presented to the minister by the end of this month.

First question; Why wasn't I told that a question was asked that these reports were done; that they are required, under the Act, to do these. I'm just wondering why, you're told something was asked about it, that all of a sudden they're all being done now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a couple of factors to the problem of the late report.

The reports currently are being produced from paper-based information, a cumbersome, insufficient system. We are also now looking at a new fire reporting so which is under development by the national research council of Canada, and expected to be available

early in 2006. The report, 2004 annual report, should be ready by the end of this month, and will be tabled at the next available legislative session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated the late report; trying to think, from the creation of Nunavut, the report has been non-existent; it's going on five years now. I think it might be safe to say if that question wasn't posed as a written question that they still wouldn't be working on the report.

So, it is a requirement under the Act. So who's monitoring this, and why, until someone asked the question about it, are they all of a sudden now being done for the last five years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you Mr. Chairman no I must apologize to my colleague, I must have misunderstood his question. With that, I'm going to allow my deputy minister to go through process in relations to the fire strategy.

**Chairman:** please continue Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The need for better fire reporting was identified as part of the fire strategy, which was tabled in the legislature in the fall of 2003, if memory serves me right.

We have been developing the system to do that. Regrettably, we've been short of some of the resources, the human resources the minister mentioned some of the reporting resources that we needed to do that. As a result we did not start working in earnest on gathering all of that data until this past year.

In fact, the work started on it last summer, early in the fall, and it was part of our identified work plan for this year to do that. We had always targeted the end of this fiscal year as being the target for the production of the first report.

We certainly agree that it's been unfortunate that previous year reports were not done because of lack of resources, which is one of the reasons that's been identified as part of the strategy and in fact, we put financial resources into reporting as part of fire strategy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are you done. Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The inspections of the fire marshal, because in the smaller communities especially after some school fires, in Arctic Bay, when the students were in classes, they used to have problems with sprinklers.



Are the contents in the reports followed up after. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's one of the duties of the fire marshal. He has a big responsibility. In the past, he didn't always have staff to help him, but if members have concerns in the content of the report, or if you have seen problems or want more information, I can look for that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How often does the fire marshal go to the communities to do inspections? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fire marshal further inspected 247, but regrettably the member was referring to the smaller communities. I can't give him a figure on that because there are three communities which are considered bigger communities that are growing is where I think the inspections were done on.

I will let my colleague know of how many inspections were done in the smaller communities, but I can't give him that answer right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The smaller communities, it's very obvious that they don't get the same services as they do because there is no government in the community and the gymnasium or the community centre, it seems like the fire marshal has to write a report, especially the gymnasiums.

When the residents use it, I wonder if those can be looked at.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it would be good to be able to visit all the communities within a year, but Mr. Chairman.

I just got information that the fire marshal inspects the schools, daycares and the smaller communities. Even the bigger communities are treated the same way. One of the most frequent is Iqaluit because they have more buildings here. Even the bigger communities than the smaller ones sometimes don't get more frequent inspections.

So, according to the information I have they're treated the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The smaller communities, when they are visited, there is no change in the funding because the municipalities are responsible for the inspections. I wonder why is that the case? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite understand my colleague's question. It seems like he is stating the municipalities is responsible for fire fighters. Can he re-state his question?

**Chairman:** Thank you. Please re-state your question, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The municipalities are given inspection reports after the Fire Marshall has done his inspection. Also it seems like there is no funding increase for the fire inspections or to follow-up further with the Fire Marshall's Report?

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Fire Department with the Fire Marshall's inspector's after they have gone to the inspection, the Fire Department and the Fire Marshall themselves will identify where the funds would come from to fix the problems. Usually that is what the report contains. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Does that mean that process, even though the smaller communities are experiencing a lot of difficulties because of the Fire Marshall's Report, so there is not going to be any change? You are not going to rectify the smaller communities' situation even though there is the Fire Marshall's Report stating that there are problem areas in the smaller communities? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently the issue that we are discussing with my colleague, we can't really identify which areas where we have problems areas. When it comes to Nunavut Government's infrastructure, the Fire Department can do inspections but also the municipality infrastructure or if they need to make improvements on the building they are administered by a private business. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We are on page J-12. (interpretation ends): Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. Total. Operations and Maintenance. \$4,888,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will go to J-14. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Total. Operations and Maintenance. \$1,171,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Any questions to J-14. An information item is on J-18. There are no questions. We are in J-19 and we will go back to J-4. We will go back to J-4. Departmental total. \$132,665,000 less reduction of \$500,000 for a revised total of \$132,165,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Committee agree that the Department of Community and Government Services is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister, if you had any comments before we proceed with the Housing Corporation?

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to thank the members for their input and questioning and also my staff who prepared the work necessary for our appearance today. With that thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister and your officials for being here today.

We are going to deal with Housing Corporation. Do you have any opening comments Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman I do.

**Chairman:** just a moment. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to report progress.

**Chairman:** We have a motion on the floor to report progress and it is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Motion defeated. We will continue. Mr. Minister, proceed with your opening remarks.

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to be able to appear before you to discuss the 2005-06 business plan estimates of Nunavut Housing corporation. We have another full and exciting year ahead of us in housing. We will once again concentrate on both public and staff housing supply. All there, with different approaches to each. Additionally, we will promote suitability and adequacy in home ownership to positive proactive changes to the popular home repair program. Mr. Chairman, we will renew our commitment to our community partners, the local housing organizations.

The Nunavut Housing corporation is taking both steps towards long term solutions to the housing crisis and public housing soon the Nunavut 10 year Inuit Housing action plan. This plan clearly presents Nunavut's housing need and outlines the resources needed to address the shortages in every community. Together with NTI we have been pursuing an ambitious advocacy effort to bring the federal government to table as a full partner in the action plan. On December 13, 2004 we met with Minister Fontana, the federal minister of Labour and Housing. We then sent correspondence to Minister Fontana detailing our expectations and our next steps, and are currently awaiting a reply.

Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I had the opportunity to host Minister Godfrey, Minister of State for Infrastructure and Communities. We discussed how the action plan has had the potential to stimulate the economic development across the Nunavut Territory. In cooperation with NTI determined to raise the profile of the action plan with federal decision makers in advance to Minister Fontana's visit to Nunavut later this spring. On the staff housing side, we continue to develop recommendations to address supply shortfalls and are currently developing homeowner and rental options.

In 2005/06 we hope to be able to finalize those policy initiatives. Mr. Chairman, funding to our community partners is the largest single change to the corporation budget this year. However, it is not the biggest initiative that the corporation with our community partners.

Local housing organization block funding for administration and maintenance has remained the same for over 10 years. While it is true that the additional operations and maintenance funds for incremental housing units have a small component of administration and maintenance in them.

The formula itself is outdated and must be refreshed. During 2005/2006, a task force made up of Nunavut Housing Corporation and local housing organization staff members will develop a draft revised funding model for review. As I announced in the Legislative Assembly before Christmas, we have increased the funding for the home repair program.

As well, we have increased the amount of funding a home owner can access and have raised the income limit. The changes mean that Nunavut home owners will be able to make more significant repairs to increase the adequacy and suitability of their homes.

(interpretation ends) Before we discuss the fiscal changes to the corporation's main estimates for 2005/06, I also want to thank the members for their interest in many aspects of housing in Nunavut. During the last session, several members posed both oral and written questions with respect to housing.

Unfortunately, some of those questions could not be answered either due to privacy issues or because the information was not available. I want to assure the members that the corporation is complete open in its business practices. We encourage members to ask any questions they feel is necessary to increase the understanding of housing realities in Nunavut and Canada.

Recognizing, Mr. Chairman, some things, however, cannot be discussed in the public domain. I wish to emphasize that as long as we respect the Integrity Act, I am willing to share any and all information with members privately either one on one or as part of standing committee appearances.

Fiscal 2005/06 Government of Nunavut funding to the Nunavut Housing Corporation will see an increase by \$10 million 469 thousand from the main estimates of 2004/05. This amount is made up of the following;

- Increases in funding to local housing organizations of \$8 million 92 thousand. This amount represents over 77% of the Nunavut Housing Corporation total increase
- \$1 million 440 thousand for the operating and maintenance of new public housing construction
- and one I'm very proud of Mr. Chairman, \$5 million 626 for historical increases in utility costs
- \$1 million 26 thousand for forced growth.
- An increase of \$1 million 420 thousand to staff housing
- Bolt \$1 million 334 thousand for utility costs mostly due to the conversion of condominium units to rental housing
- \$86 thousand for forced growth.
- An increase of \$957 thousand for general administration and maintenance.
- \$690 thousand for a new collective agreement impact
- \$267 thousand for forced growth.

(interpretation) For 2005/06, the Nunavut Housing Corporation projects a full staffing compliment. We currently expect the full salary allocation to be used during the 2005/06 with any savings from vacancies used by casual staffing requirements and over time.

Mr. Chairman, in all of the material respects, the main estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation remain unchanged from last year. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have regarding the Nunavut Housing Corporation 2005/06 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Does the chair of the standing committee have any opening comments. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide you with my comments as the chair of the standing committee on infrastructure, housing and economic development.

The committee has reviewed the 2005/06 main estimates and business plan of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and had the opportunity to meet with the Minister Responsible in January.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to remind the house that one of the key priorities for our mandate that was determined during our caucus retreat in Arviat was to quote, “address the ongoing housing crisis by actively supporting homeownership and improving programs in addition to partnering with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc and lobbying the Federal Government to join in implement the 10 year Inuit Housing Action Plan”.

Mr. Chairman, members recognize the work that the corporation is doing to lobby the Federal Government for funding for social housing in Nunavut. The standing committee shares the Minister’s concern with respect to federal infrastructure programs that do not always recognize the severity of our needs for increased investments in housing.

Committee members were disappointed to the lack of reference to the 10 year Inuit Housing Action Plan in this year’s federal budget address. Committee members continue to support the Minister in his efforts to secure further federal funding for new housing construction and for new funding for the operations and maintenance of the current housing stock.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that one of the corporation’s priorities for 2005/06 is to integrate the feedback from community consultations on long term housing priorities into the draft Nunavut Housing Strategy. Members look forward to reviewing the strategy in the near future and encourage the Minister to table the strategy making it public as soon as it is completed.

Mr. Chairman, the standing committee has been a strong supporter of making home repair programs accessible to more homeowners by changing the criteria to include family size when determining ceilings used to qualify for funding. Members were pleased, Mr. Chairman, when the Minister announced these changes this winter.

Mr. Chairman, members remain concerned that local housing organizations are critically under funded. This is especially worrying in communities where the hamlet office performs the duties of the local housing organization. Members have consistently raised concerns regarding the fiscal capacity of hamlets to undertake additional responsibilities without adequate resources.

The standing committee supports the corporation’s efforts to secure increased funding for local housing organizations and looks forward to providing input once a revised funding

model is developed. Mr. Chairman, members are concerned by the impact that the general rate application and the increased costs for power will have on the local housing organizations.

Utility costs constitute a significant percentage of operations costs for housing units across the territory and any increase in those costs conceivable means a decrease in the number of new units that can be built. Members urge the minister to continue in working closely with his colleagues to find solutions to this issue.

Mr. Chairman, members have consistently advocated for the development of new public housing designed to better reflect the needs of Nunavutmiut. The minister's announcement on Monday regarding new housing designs was a welcome one. Members have noted that constituents' preference for detached housing units. We will monitor reactions to the newly designed units closely.

Mr. Chairman, committee members understand that the federal minister of Labour and Housing, who is also the minister responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, will be visiting Nunavut in May. Members would like to reiterate their support for the ministers work with NTI to lobby the federal government with respect to the 10 year Inuit Housing Action plan.

Mr. Chairman, members remain concerned with respect to the effectiveness of the corporation's current staff housing initiatives. Members are aware of situations where the Government of Nunavut positions in our communities were not filled because staff housing was not available.

At the same time, it was known that staff housing in the community were sitting vacant. Members understand that some staff housing may be reserved for essential positions. However, members believe that no housing unit should remain vacant for extended periods of time, given the shortage of housing in the territory. I urge the minister to increase cooperation between departments and agencies to insure that our limited staff housing stock is maximized.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that in 2005-06, the corporation will continue to research and planning with respect to the under one roof initiative for staff housing. Members further note that it has been more than three years since the corporation took responsibility for staff housing, and I would like the minister to bring forward an implementation schedule for the initiative.

Mr. Chairman, members appreciate the openness that the corporation had displayed in the past when responding to questions from the committee. Members are concerned that the corporation is not always consistent with respect to information released in the House in response to Written Questions.

Specifically, members wonder why the minister was not willing to release information with respect to leases for staff housing, when his predecessor was more than willing to

release identical information with respect to contracts for the construction of housing units.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a brief comment on the issue of housing...

**Chairman** (interpretation): Just a minute, Mr. Barnabas. Would the minister please come the witness table.

Did you bring any witnesses with you, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes, I do.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to bring in the witness?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. For the record, could you please introduce your witness, Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me here before you is Mr. Peter Scott, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I will give members ten minutes to say their opening remarks. We'll begin with Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to welcome the minister and Mr. Scott. I'm sure this is not going to be the first time that they are going to be hearing these comments, especially Mr. Scott.

As I was going to say, we have had concerns about housing, especially in my riding where we have very old houses. These houses were built in 1967. They started out as matchboxes, but they've been remodelled over the years. They're remodelled every year and they're running out of space. The foundations of these houses are now rotten and it smells; there's an odour in the house because of the condition of the foundation. I believe that it's time to replace those old houses from the 60's.

And again, I am for the houses and especially for the young people, I think that they should be able to get into the single dwelling units. We do have problems with the people in the duplexes and disturbances from the neighbours. We prefer to see them in stand



alone units. We are all for duplexes but we have to see stand alone units, at least build one or two new houses per year.

We don't want to see our families move into old decrepit units. I do know that they do get remodelled, but they're shrinking in footage or in size. I wanted to make those comments. Mr. Chairman, Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** I move to report progress.

>>Applause

**Mr. Chairman:** There's a motion on the floor to report progress, the motion is not debatable, all those in favour. All those opposed. Motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

(interpretation) I would like to thank the Minister and Mr. Scott, so I'll see you tomorrow.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 20, report of committee of the whole, the chair of the committee of the whole, Mr. Netser.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and I would like to report progress, with one motion being adopted. I move that the report of the committee of the whole be agreed with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): A seconder. Mr. Curley. Motion is in order, all in favour. Opposed, abstentions, the motion is carried. Going back to orders of the day. Item 21. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Announcements for tomorrow, meeting at the regular caucus at 11:00 in the morning in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday March 9:

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. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notice of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 11
  - Bill 12
- 19.
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. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 9, 2005 at 1:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 20:01*

