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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, March 11, 2005**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>> *Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please be seated. Good morning Mr. Premier, Ministers and Members. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Minister

Item 2: Ministers' Statements**Minister's Statement 080 – 2(2): Framer Helpers**

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you know, providing training opportunities in construction and housing maintenance and housing maintenance has been identified as one the government's priorities during our current mandate.

I am pleased to inform the House that in conjunction with my colleague Hon. Peter Kilabuk, the Department of Education, Nunavut Housing Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College in Rankin Inlet are working together to train Framer Helpers for the construction industry.

A joint training program is being offered which combines an Introductory Carpentry Program and Introduction to Framing Program from January 05 to May 05 for 15 students. Some of these students will be hired by the General Contractors on Nunavut Housing Corporation job sites this summer to work with a journeyman to continue learning framing on the job site in Kivalliq communities.

Framer Helpers is a recognized trade in other areas of Canada and leads to a Framer and Framer Contractor designation. The College and Nunavut Housing Corporation are working with the Department of Education to develop the designation Framer Helpers of Nunavut. This project is funded by the Department of Education and the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 081 – 2(2): Nunavut Volunteer Symposium

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform Members of an important initiative that my department in partnering with the Volunteer Nunavut Network.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind the House of how important it is that we all show our support for volunteers in Nunavut. They make a valuable contribution to strong, self-reliant and healthy communities.

My department has developed a recognition program and a management training program for volunteers. We, along with our partners, the Volunteer Nunavut Network, are hosting Nunavut's first Volunteer Symposium to take place in Iqaluit from March 11-13, 2005.

The purpose of the Symposium is to determine the needs and priorities, both short-term and long-term, for the Nunavut Volunteer Network and the development of strategies to strengthen and develop the Nunavut volunteer sector. It will also build capacity within the voluntary sector in communities.

We anticipate that there will be approximately 35 Nunavummiut in attendance.

Please join me in thanking all volunteers for giving their time so freely to Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statement. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Curley.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 189 – 2(2): 2005 Mining Symposium at Rankin Inlet

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to invite all Members to join me in April when Rankin Inlet hosts the 2005 Nunavut Mining Symposium. My colleague from Cambridge Bay has been vocal in this House about mining development in the Kitikmeot. I would like to share some of the exciting developments that are taking shape in the Kivalliq.

Members may be most familiar with Cumberland Resources, Meadow Bank and Meladine Properties but they are not the only ongoing projects. In 2004 there were 11

projects in the region. Gold, diamond, nickel, copper, cobalt, platinum, palladium, silver, lead and zinc have been found.

My constituents are very familiar with the mining process. The North Rankin Nickel Mine operated from 1959 to 1962. Mining has changed a lot in the last 40 years. What hasn't changed is the fact the people of Rankin Inlet will welcome in this sector. Private businesses are well equipped to provide services to mining companies.

Development in the Kivalliq could well lead to economic development for the territory as a whole. The current level of activity in the mining sector in the Kivalliq makes Rankin Inlet the ideal location for the 2005 Nunavut Mining Symposium.

If the Members are able to come, you are invited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 190 – 2(2): Medical Travel Escort Policy

Mr. Evygotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today with respect to the government's Medical Travel Policy. Several of my colleagues have stood in this House recently to talk about situations such as unilingual elders being stranded in the Iqaluit Airport and other southern airports.

Recently I was told that one of our elder from Kugluktuk was sent out on medical treatment. She was alone and lonely and wanted to call home but she was not familiar with calling long distance. Clearly this elder should have had an escort.

The issue of escorts for patient on medical travel is not new. Perhaps now I have added my voice to those of my colleagues and hope that we will be heard.

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

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 191–2(2): Checker Players of Pangnirtung

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today being Friday I would like to first of all say hello to my constituents. They all know in Pangnirtung they play checkers in my constituency and if you don't know anything about playing checkers then I would like you to know that they got their opposition in the corner.

In this House during question period that is what they do is they move around when they are playing checkers. In Pangnirtung what they do is they play checkers for recreation. Those people include Peteroosie Qappik, Pauloosie Veevee, Mosesie Qiyuarjuk, Mosesie Nuvaqiq, Tom Evic, Padloo Etuangat and the others that are involved in playing checkers. They enjoy it very much and I would like to send my regards to my constituents in Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 192 – 2(2): Hockey Game Against Firefighters

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that it is Friday and we are on the lighter side on Fridays when we have to deal with serious issues during the week. I want to announce to the people that I will be playing against the fire fighters. I urge all my constituents to come and watch the hockey game.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know which side you are going to go for but I urge all the members to go to the hockey game. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements

Member's Statement 193 – 2(2): Amauti from Alice Panipakoocho

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank Alice Panipakoocho from Pond Inlet. She had made this amauti for me and I am wearing it. I wanted to get a souvenir and Alice, I can still picture you.

I send my regards and good morning to Rankin Inlet and Whale Cove residents. The weather here in Iqaluit is really nice but it is quite windy but finally the weather has warmed up.

Also Brock Junkin, I would like to congratulate him for being elected as the President of Sakku Investments. No matter who is elected, I would like to congratulate them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 194 – 2(2): Develop an Inuit Qaujimagatjuqangit Relevant Game

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a statement on the lighter side. It seems like nobody really notices me. Every time I change my hat every few days, nobody notices me wearing a different hat. I just wanted to bring that up.

As an Inuk person I don't know what hockey is all about because it is not in the traditional knowledge of Inuit. I was wondering if we can get an association with traditional games where you throw rocks to put the rock down. There were too many long faces here I figured that I would make everybody smile. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 195 – 2(2): Hockey Game Against Firefighters

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague directly across my indicated that we are going to be playing the fire fighters in Phase 2 of our challenge this year. I look forward to playing and joining forces with my 2 colleagues from on the power line, as it is called.

Hopefully, the Premier when he is playing tonight, he won't have things in his ears so he can hear us say, "Pass the puck, and get off the ice." I look forward to having some fun tonight. For all those people that are starving for hockey with the lock out that is going on right now. I urge all the public to come out. Any funds raised will be going to a good cause.

I can guarantee those fans that it will be as entertaining, or more entertaining than watching the NHL on television. The skill level may not be as good but it will be much more comical to watch. I also understand that we have a special guest referee, Mr. Brian Twerdin is going to be refereeing and he is indicating that Mr. Picco had better watch his antics on the ice, otherwise he is going to give him a game misconduct. So I just hope that Mr. Picco behaves himself, but we could use his puck handling skills on the ice instead of the penalty box.

I just want to acknowledge this morning that I was at a parent/teacher interview and I want to acknowledge parents that were there with their children going to meet the teachers to go over their report cards. I just want to commend all of them as well for going out. And I look forward to getting a little bit of exercise on Sunday evening. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 196 – 2(2): Inuktitut Item on CBC Newsworld

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rose this morning at 4:30 and although I have a small heart, but around 5:30, I was deeply affected when I was watching the CBC Newsworld and unexpectedly saw an Inuk appear onscreen.

This morning I actually experienced something that I've never experienced before. The past experiences that we've had, such as when we would go hunting and they would be airing Inuktitut programs while going on a dogteam. I didn't expect to see any Inuit on television and that is what I saw on television 5:30 this morning.

I'm sure they were on, they were aired last night, but also I was watching a funeral for the four policemen who died on duty and this Inuk woman was singing a very moving and beautiful song. I don't usually get teary eyed in the morning, but I was getting emotional when Susan Aglukark was singing at the funeral.

So, therefore I would like my colleagues to join me in praising Susan Aglukark for she has really had a beautiful impact in my heart. But, I would like to encourage Mr. Picco. This is Friday morning, so I would like to encourage him since he sings in English.

I will sing in English.

>>*Singing*

>>*Laughter and applause*

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

Member's Statement 197 – 2(2): Hockey Game Against Firefighters

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That was beautiful singing, but I would like to make a statement in regards to hockey game. I would like to ask the coach to watch out because the last time when we went to play hockey in Yellowknife, Ed the Forrest Gump Picco had checked a woman. I'm going to ask him to watch out and be careful with the coach because at times he doesn't know what the gender of the coach is. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 198 – 2(2): New Hair Colour by Arctic College Students

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I wanted to begin by saying that Mr. Kattuk, I don't like the competition that I'm hearing across the floor. I'm going to invite Peter to join with me in my next recording session.

It won't be on the National this time, we're going to go Memphis and we're going to do some Elvis tunes.

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Barnabas had indicated, by tradition, Fridays are usually allocated for humorous or lighter statements. Mr. Speaker, I would raise at this time, however, on an issue of seriousness.

An issue of seriousness, an extreme information update. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut Arctic College is well known for many things. Eighteen years ago, when I worked with the college, it was a very serious workplace.

Earlier this session, some members have worked with the college students to improve and enhance their training. The students' training, Mr. Speaker. After my visit with the students, I came away looking younger, physically fit, and in better frame of mind. My new hairstyle and colour has been well received by the thousands of fans across Nunavut and Canada, where they are viewing this on APTN.

I want to say this right now. It is not the image, it is not the hair colour and it is not even the hair style that makes the man, it is what is inside. In my case, there are lots to go around.

In seriousness, I want to take this opportunity to thank the hair styling students at Nunavut Arctic College, Ms. Suzanne Laliberte and her students, who will be traveling south very soon to enhance their professional development as hair stylists, but also they will be entering in a national competition there and we believe that they are going to be doing very well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 199 – 2(2): Cape Dorset Hockey Team in Iqaluit Tournament

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning. I too want to make a statement. I play hockey with the senior men's hockey group here in Iqaluit. They will start the hockey game tonight. They will be three individuals from Iqaluit, as well as some individuals from New Hampshire.

Once the weather gets better in Cape Dorset, they'll be arriving here in Iqaluit and I will be joining the hockey team from Cape Dorset. If you'd like to watch the hockey game, you are invited. It is going to be exciting and lots of fun.

I am sure that there will be Americans playing with us. I am sure that it will be even more exciting then. So I am just trying to announce the hockey game in Iqaluit. I am sure that many people are watching so I am inviting all of them to come to the hockey game and enjoy the fun. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 200 – 2(2): Daughter in Hair Dressing Class

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my colleagues reminded me when he made a statement in regards to the hair dressers. The students in the Hair Dressing Program will be leaving. My daughter, who is adopted, is one of the students in the Hair Dressing Program, and I am so proud of her. She will be going down to Montreal.

Although I can get free haircuts, I never get a chance to see her. Every time she comes home from school, she just wants to sleep and then gets up in the morning and goes back to school.

I am sure that there is an individual that I am sure can further their training how to grow hair on a bald head.

I am very proud of the fact that she is going down to Montreal with the Hair Dressing Program. I urge all the Members of the Legislative Assembly to wish them good luck. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *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 227 – 2(2): Access Housing Causing Hardship

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to return to oral question that was asked by the Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson, on Tuesday, March 8, 2005. I am pleased to stand today in response to the question asked by the Member from Cambridge Bay.

When a mortgage client of the Corporation turns sixty, they no longer make mortgage payments – in other words, they receive 100 percent of mortgage payment subsidy. With respect to other operating subsidies, the Nunavut Housing Corporation does not have any, although some assistance could be available through the Income Support Division of the Department of Education, depending on the client's circumstances. An example of this is the Senior Citizen's Fossil Fuel Program.

I'm also pleased to inform members that in the last Legislative Assembly, in recognition of the high cost of living in the territory and the responsibilities that go along with our

extended families, we changed the access repayment scale. Clients would previously pay up to 30 percent of their income for shelter costs. It is now 20 percent.

Mr. Peterson also asked about the sale of an access home. This is possible, Mr. Speaker. However, within our Access agreement, there is a profit sharing formula. We must remember that Access clients make mortgage payments to the Nunavut Housing Corporation, based on their income. The client pays a part of the mortgage payment and the balance is subsidized by the Nunavut Housing Corporation. If a client sells their home, the profit sharing does not allow the client to earn a windfall by keeping the entire mortgage subsidy that has been provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

If an Access client sells their unit and then moves out, they are eligible to apply for public housing. I know the member and this house, and indeed all Nunavutmiut understand the current crisis in public housing. Being eligible to apply for public housing and being put on a waiting list does not guarantee instant housing availability.

(interpretation) A former home owner will receive a point reading and be ranked on the waiting list for public housing in the same way as all other eligible public housing applicants. Mr. Speaker, although it is then possible for homeowners to sell their homes, I suggest caution before doing so, and strongly urge anyone considering this to arrange for an in depth client review session with the Nunavut Housing Corporation program officer to consider all other possible options before proceeding with the sale of their home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome an individual who is watching the proceedings who is from Rankin Inlet. Her name is Melinda Tatti. Welcome to the gallery. She has been in Rankin Inlet for many, many years and she's a family person and has a business with her husband and son.

I'm also very pleased that she was appointed to the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors. I know that since she is a former educator, she works extremely hard on behalf of young people.

Another individual who has been in Rankin Inlet for over 20 years is Joe Alexander. Welcome to the gallery. And originally from Arviat, she is now living in Rankin Inlet, Sheila, I would like everyone to welcome them to the gallery.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent of mine who is in town this week, Mr. Bobby Greenley. He's a long term resident of Cambridge Bay. He's on the Apprentice of Trades Board, representing the Kitikmeot region, and it was good to see him this week.

We don't get to see a lot of folks from the Kitikmeot region over here because it's expensive and a long distance to travel. It's very good to see him here this week. I'd like to welcome him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Melinda Tatti. I worked with her for a number of years on various boards and I think that we worked many, many hours to take decisions. We had a good working relationship and her husband. She is one now one of the board members and I know that she is very, very capable and again, I'm not sure if she started aging, but she is here now, younger looking than before.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors from the gallery. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the individual from my home community. The first time I met him was when I was living in Cambridge in the mid 1990's. We were playing hockey and he was playing on the opposite side and we were both defensemen.

I would like him to stay here for the Members of the Legislative Assembly hockey game so that he can play as our defenseman because the reason why I said that, I ran into him as a defenseman and after I bounced off of him, I opened my eyes and he was still standing there. So, that is why I would like him to stay, Grant Spike Newman. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could play hockey, I'm sure Joe would have recognized me, but there are some people from Arviat here. I'm sure they don't recognize me because I'm not wearing my hat. Joy Suluk, welcome to the gallery.

We are very proud of you and Sheila Napayuk who works tirelessly to help the people of Arviat, regardless of whether she gets paid or not. And also from Rankin Inlet, she works extremely there, Mrs. Tatti. Welcome to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, many of the members have welcomed our guests this morning. The guests this morning are the members of the Apprenticeship Board of Nunavut. They deal with issues on the apprenticeship or trades, like electrical, plumbing, carpentry and so on.

So, I'd like to take this opportunity and ask them to stand when I call out your name. First of all, the vice chair of the board, and a new appointee to Nunavut Arctic College as pointed out by Mr. Curley, well known advocate in Nunavut, Melinda Tatti. Melinda.

>> *Applause*

Also, from Rankin Inlet Mr. Speaker, Mr. Joe Alexander.

>> *Applause*

From Cambridge Bay, Bobby Greenley. From Kugluktuk, Mr. Grant Newman.

>> *Applause*

And from here in Iqaluit, Mr. Lloyd Kendall.

>> *Applause*

And supporting the apprenticeship board is also some staff members introduced earlier, Miss Joy Suluk. Joy.

>> *Applause*

Sheila Napayuk, and Mr. Cam McGregor who is the directors' advisor.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, I met with the board yesterday, and I believe there is going to be some good work with the board and the department when we move forward on some of the issues around the prevocational training school that we're looking at and, hopefully, we'll be in a position later on this fall to be able to make some announcements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity also to welcome Melinda Tatti. I have known her for over 30 years and I used to work with her in the education field. She is an excellent person to work with and I worked with her at the hamlet for five years.

I would like to also recognize all her extended family. I would also like to recognize Alexander, who is an excellent instructor in Rankin Inlet, and Joy Suluk. I have known her for many, many years and I've very glad that you're able to come here to Iqaluit, and also Ms. Napayuq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize some people in the gallery.

I just want to say it's very good to see some Arviarmiut here in Iqaluit, besides Mr. Alagalak. A friend of mine I've known since, I won't say how long, but since high school, we'll just leave it at that, is Sheila Napayuk and Joy Suluk.

We did a lot of things with them and visited them quite a bit when I lived in Arviat and also Melinda Tatti. It's good to see her here again and Lloyd Kendall. Lloyd's son is a very good soccer player and Manasee is a very good friend of my oldest daughter, Eden. Also, Mr. Speaker, Cam McGregor, who owns my house right now. I'm just waiting for something to happen there.

He's made me a promise that I won't forget. I would like to recognize those individuals. Also, as the Minister of Education pointed out, I would like to recognize them as an apprentice and trades board and wish them all the luck in developing the programs for apprentices throughout the territory. If there's anything we can do to help them out, we'll get Mr. Minister to do things, that we're there for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6, Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 256 – 2(2): Non-Provision of Medical Travel Escorts

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. What is her department doing to address the complaints raised by communities about the situation where medical escorts were not provided? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The medical travel policy was approved in 2002, and right now it is under review. Once I have more information, I can let the House know what the outcome is of that review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What improvements can we expect to see in the coming year with respect to the department's client travel policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I predict and am optimistic that there will be improvements coming in the future years, down the road, simply because we have to look forward to the opening of those two facilities that are being built in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, which will decrease the volume of patients flowing down South.

That means that we'll be utilizing them more, and the review is being done so that we could have more improvements to that travel policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): You second supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Madam Minister. What recommendations have been made to improve medical travel, and when will they be implemented? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot speak to those recommendations at this time, because they have not come back to me yet. Once they have come back, there is a process to follow. They have to go through cabinet before they are reviewed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the department's medical travel coordination centre be up and running and where will it be located? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raised a very good point and I thank him for that. That should be up and running in the future, but I can't say how long. They are working on it. The process can be so lengthy at times, and I hope to report back when it's up and running. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 257 – 2(2): Attendance at 2005 Mining Symposium

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for economic development, regarding the mining symposium in Rankin Inlet. It's clear that at that meeting there will be people who will be working, doing business and other things. I wonder if the minister had any plans to attend the symposium. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for economic development, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As economic development staff from Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet, we are organizing and participating in the preparation of the symposium. This is being planned at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to hear that this will benefit us in the future. It's clear that in the past, when there have been symposiums there are different businesses who wish to attend, but can't afford the airfare or the accommodations. So, I wonder if you have considered providing assistance to those private businesses in order for them to have a voice at the symposium and to see how they can benefit from the mining industry at that symposium in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The private businesses in Kivalliq or in Nunavut can ask the Kivalliq partners, and if they can't assist them, then as a department we probably can assist them if we have enough funding during the mining symposium.

I personally know that businesses in the Kivalliq can greatly benefit from this symposium in Rankin Inlet. If they aren't able, we are more than willing to help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell me that the offices in Iqaluit can provide me with the addresses, e-mails, and phone numbers, because our contact person in Rankin Inlet is no longer there for people who might be interested in it. I am asking for contact numbers and names. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can give him that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 258 – 2(2): Cost Share Profits from Homeowner S.T.O. NHC

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

In his response to Mr. Peterson's question, he stated that if a homeowner sells his house, (interpretation ends) the profit sharing does not allow the client to earn the windfall to keep the entire mortgage subsidy that has been provided by the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

(interpretation) My question is: (interpretation ends) what percentage does the Nunavut Housing Corporation get for the cost share of profits? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to look at the payments they have made towards their homes. So, the cost share due to the housing corporation would be calculated and deducted from the sale price. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. He didn't specify as to what percentage is paid by the homeowner to the housing corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): In my response, I stated that it's based on the income of the homeowner and those incomes vary individually. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 259 – 2(2): Selection of Independent Body

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the younger looking, more stylish minister of energy, Mr. Picco.

Mr. Speaker, close to ten months ago, on May 26, 2004, a minister's statement was made in the House on the issue of Nunavut Power Corporation. At that time, one of the things that was being worked on was collections.

The statement said, and I will quote: "The Nunavut Power Corporation will enhance its efforts in collections. An independent body will be sought so that customers can resolve disputes over billing. Independence will ensure that this process will be fair, confidential, and will provide timely responses to customer concerns, and the decisions of this body will be final and binding."

My question for the minister is, who has he selected to be on that independent body? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As pointed out in the Auditor General's recommendations, in her report, the power corporation has to be a little bit more aggressive on the collection side of the equation when it comes to the finances of the corporation. I don't have the information with me, Mr. Speaker, I think it was, actually, on that board and if the board has been constituted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like the minister is being kept in the dark. I'm wondering if the minister can, when he is finding out that information on who is on that board and how many times they've met and the decisions that they come up with, whether it be for or against the customer or the corporation, without getting into any confidentiality issues around clients, particular issues... . Could he provide that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's statement from last year indicated that there was a body being formed within the corporation. At that time and since then, there has been an audit committee formed within the corporation, from the

board of directors, which also reviews issues around the billings, especially accounts receivable.

It is my understanding that that audit committee is up and running and indeed Mr. Clark, who was recently appointed to the board, is actually the chair of the audit committee.

I will get the information on that committee and so on for the members and, also, who else is on that committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister seems to have indicated that the audit committee is going to be doing this as part of it. I know that there are some very capable people on there, as the minister indicated, Mr. Phillip Clark.

But, in the statement it said that it would be an independent body, and I would assume that would mean it would be made up of people from outside the power corporation. So, I'd like to ask the minister if he could clarify whether it is actually going to be an independent body as was stated last year, or if there has been a change in plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was my understanding, from that minister's statement, that some of the processes that were being formulated for and by the corporation included, as the member has said, an outside body and internal work.

As I indicated earlier, the internal follow-up has been accomplished and direction has been given by the and to the audit committee, which Mr. Clark will be heading. And that consists of the board of the corporation itself. At the same time, the other body that had been mentioned in the report, again, I have to ascertain from the corporation, has that board been constituted or has the body actually been put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope it is in the works. I guess it has almost been ten months and that is something that a lot of members have raised issues on, on the billing of the corporation, over the last number of years.

The minister indicated, if it hasn't been made up already, which he is going to be finding out, and there is going to be an independent body, for the process of selecting the people to be on that independent body, will the minister be looking into putting out a call to members and the public for nominations for that? Or, is that something that he is going to hand pick himself? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, all we have to do is review the terms of reference for this body, if it has been constituted, and exactly what those terms of reference for the committee are. And then at that point, after ascertaining that, then we would look at how that call works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 260 – 2(2): Caribou Population Count – Coral Harbour

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the minister responsible for wildlife and his officials.

The minister for economic development went to Coral Harbour last year, and he stated that they would do a survey or a review of the caribou. We are now hearing that the caribou are starting to die off, and those harvested are skinny. So, I just wanted to know if they are going to be doing a count of the caribou population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The counting of the caribou will begin this year, during the harvesting, by Coral Harbour harvesters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can tell me in which month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. They have just started recently. Mitch Campbell will start this month and finish in June. Thank you.

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

Question 261 – 2(2): Repatriation of Patient Files

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services to respond to me, if she knows the answer to this. There are a lot of people in Nunavut who have died down South in hospital. Do you keep the medical records of those patients that have died down South? Are the medical records brought back to the Government of Nunavut, or where do they keep them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a policy in place in Health and Social Services where if an individual dies down South, the body is brought back and this is paid for by my department. There are morgues down South, so what they do is they keep them there until they are ready for transportation back to Nunavut. That's our policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe she didn't understand my question. There's usually a diagnosis made when the individual is in the hospital: do they keep the medical records down South, or are they brought back?

I will use myself as an example. My mother died years ago, but we still don't know what sickness she had. There have been a lot of people asking me what kinds of sicknesses those people died of.

I just want to know what happens to the medical records when an individual dies down South? Do you just throw them away, or what happens to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I didn't understand you properly. The individuals that died down South, their medical records can be explained to the next of kin.

There is also a policy in place in our department that if an individual's kin wants to find out, they have to go through the court because it becomes a legal matter. They have to go through the proper procedure, because there are a lot of policies in place for different things. If someone wants to find out what the individual in the hospital died of, and if it is dealing with one particular individual, I can't really state what he wants.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have always wanted to find out. I will use myself as an example. My mother died in Moose Factory, Ontario, but when I was down there, I was trying to find out what she was sick of for about three hours, and I wanted to see the medical records from the Moose Factory General Hospital, but I didn't get any response from anyone. I was made to feel very uncomfortable.

I wonder if the minister can look into what procedure we can go through in order to access the medical records of our relatives so we can find out how they died or what they died from. I wonder if the minister can look into that to make it easier for us living in

Nunavut, because a lot of people probably don't know what their relatives died from; if they died in a southern hospital, they would like to know.

So for that reason, I would like the minister to find out how the next of kin or the families can find how those individuals died in the southern hospital? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel the same thing that the member feels, because obviously this is very sensitive matter to the relatives. We all have to abide by the policies.

If you come to my office, I could probably assist you, and perhaps we could see what documentation we will be able to find to find some information. I will work with my officials and it would be easy for us. I would like to make it easier for us to access that information using the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. I can find out with the member if he will approach me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 262 – 2(2): Housing Allocation Policy

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Some of the housing corporation staff gave us some information, but there are some people in the communities that are provided with housing, and the housing corporation is responsible for distributing or building of houses.

There have been a lot of young people who have been on the waiting list for a long time. I wonder if the minister, just before the budget is done, could provide us with a policy or rules as to how those young people can be provided with housing a lot sooner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can sympathize with the member and the young people that have been waiting for a house for quite some time.

I stated that there would be a local housing authority meeting to talk about how much sooner the people that are on the waiting list can receive housing. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that the communities would appreciate it because this policy is quite outdated now. Since it's outdated now, you stated that they could go through the point system, and when they first apply for housing, their points are quite high. Once they receive the correspondence from social services... . Some of them are given eight points, and some of them are two points. They are ready to move in, but I don't know what that means, but sometimes without letting the applicant know, they lower their points.

I would like to thank the minister and ask if he can inform the House of when you change the allocation of units policy. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I agree to inform the House after the local housing organization chairs have reviewed it. Also, I am sure I will be able to provide the information to the appropriate standing committee to make sure that everything is included. I commit to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I thank the minister. I also want him to know that the local housing associations work really hard, and they have to provide or allocate units to the people that are in most need.

Sometimes, when their points are lowered or reduced, they are no longer a priority. So, they have to be informed; they do this without warning, and I am sure it will be more appreciated by Nunavutmiut if you can let them know about the changes of this policy. I thank you for your response. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the chairs of the local housing association and the secretary managers, we will all have the same understanding of what they are facing with such problems.

So, in that meeting, we will have a clearer idea and have a clear understanding. After the meeting, I will be able to make a member's or minister's statement to the House. Thank you.

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

Question 263 – 2(2): Plans for Selling of Sealskins

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. Mr. Speaker, the humane society of the United States has announced that they will be starting a campaign to ban the marine mammal hunt in Canada, starting on the fifteenth of this month.

During such a protest in the past, the previous minister for that department had made a video about the use of sealskins and how we harvest them. When the non-native people first arrived in the North, we Inuit had to take care of them because the food supplies they brought with them went bad. They are part of our history.

What is the minister doing or what is his department doing to ensure the sale of sealskins? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are working within our department of environment, and it would be ideal to work with our federal government counterparts, in order to inform the world about how we use seals for sustenance and for clothing and how this protest all over the world is going to have a negative impact on us. That protest is going to have an impact on Nunavutmiut, so we are going to work harder on behalf of harvesters and Inuit. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I know that protest is going to have an impact on us. Back in the 1970s there was a similar protest, and it had a negative impact on our way of life, which was mainly our sustenance on country food and the money we earned from selling skins.

Perhaps the minister can announce to the House if he is going to... . Like, in the past we were shown on TV programs and radio programs about the sealing strategy. Perhaps the minister can do a similar thing to make sure that he informs the international countries. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will work diligently on it. As I stated earlier, if it is going to have a negative impact on Nunavutmiut, we will do what we can to counter with media campaigns such as that film. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I'm sure that they won't be dealing with just sealing. Perhaps the minister can identify to us what other kind of fur products the humane society is planning to protest against. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Many species are being dealt with, for example, the increase in the polar bear quota. I am sure that animal rights activists are going to work against what we hunt, but we will do our best to inform them. Thank you.

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

Question 264 – 2(2): Update on Medical Conditions of Staff in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister of health. In Cambridge Bay last week, and again this week, we had a crisis situation with our public health facility. Last week there was a fuel spill, and then this week after it was cleaned up, the staff were moving back in and many of them got sick. One was put on an IV.

I think, as members of the Legislative Assembly we want to provide all of our staff, the workers, with the right to a safe workplace. So, my question for the minister: can she update the House on the medical condition of the people who got sick and who were sent home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Basically, I have the same information that we shared with you yesterday. There have not been update reports since this morning. I have not heard anything further, but they are being maintained and the staff are being looked after to make sure that they are under medical care. There's only one so far that was under medical care; the rest were under observation and were sent home immediately. That's all of the update I have so far. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been in contact with the mayor of Cambridge Bay, and there's a great concern in our community about the level of medical services with the closure of the old health facility. The mayor is asking me if there's going to be any decreases in the level of medical and patient services of Cambridge Bay as a result of the closure of the old health facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct that the old health centre has been closed, but they have another building where they are having a make-shift one, for emergencies only so far, but up until a day or so ago all of the services were being provided at another building, other than the old health centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure about the full staff compliment at the old health centre; there are quite a few, and the temporary facility in the Enokhok Centre is quite small. There's a bit of concern in the community that there may be some people laid off as a result of the closure of the old health facility.

So, could the minister tell me: will anyone be laid off as a result of the closure of the old health facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's reassuring news; I am sure many people that work at the health facility will be happy to hear that.

The area where the temporary facility is now is really small, and I don't think it's suitable, even in the short-term, to operate from there, and you can't go back to the old health facility. I am wondering if the minister could tell us what the department's immediate plans are to operate a public health facility providing the same level of service as we had before, until the new public health facility opens in the new regional facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report that I received was that all the staff of Health and Social Services have been accommodated in that small unit that the member is speaking of.

Assuredly, I will ask for more updates on the situation, and once I have that information, I will share it with everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 265 – 2(2): Assistance to University Students

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my question, I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me last night. I really enjoyed it.

My question is for the highlighted Minister of Education. We know that this government and the department have continually expressed their efforts to try and help educate our young people so they can pursue further post secondary education and be able to come back well trained and qualified to work in Nunavut.

My question to the minister is, I understand the FANS program only supports students for so long. In cases where you have young people entering into programs that go beyond that, if you want to go into a doctorate, or a master's, or PhD program, that over time, they run out of funding.

I am just wondering if the minister or his department is looking at anything to try and assist those young people that are trying to achieve academic excellence and come back and be productive members of Nunavut's workforce. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The student financial assistance program, the FANS system under the Government of Nunavut, is a pretty comprehensive system. It includes a combination of possible grants and loans under the fund itself.

It usually is based on an academic year. In most jurisdictions, an academic year and a degree, depending on the level of the post secondary education, usually includes something within a five-year time frame, which means that you have an undergraduate degree, whether it be a bachelor of arts, and then go on to do another degree, which could be a master's, and it usually is in the time frame of five years.

If a student so chooses to continue their education and move forward with an opportunity to do a PhD or another type of program, then there are some issues around the time frame that that would entail, and the amount of money.

The member is correct, we are reviewing the current situation in regard to those types of specific issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response, that they are currently reviewing that part of the program. But, right now, I understand that what that does is it puts those students that are in that situation right now at risk of not being able to continue their education.

I am just wondering if the minister would canvass his departmental staff and see if there are any particular situations like out there, and come up with an interim solution to help these young people pursue their education with the full support of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, there are, under the student financial assistance program of the Nunavut government, or the FANS program itself, which, by the way, is probably one of the better ones in Canada... . There are opportunities in there, for example, if a person is a beneficiary, for supplementary grants.

If a person is a non-beneficiary of the program, there are also available monies, plus they can have an option into a student loan, which is remissible, meaning that over a certain period of time that loan is forgiven and indeed there is no debt associated with the student.

That is something that is pretty unique to northern areas of the country. That is the avenue, I think, that we would be looking at in a case like this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the minister. I'm not questioning the quality of our FANS program. The fact that they are reviewing it indicates that there are loopholes and cracks in any system or program that is out there. My question to the minister is, will he take immediate steps to try and fill those cracks so that those students who do need that assistance to pursue their education get it on an interim basis, until the review is complete and a different proposal is brought forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, under the program, and again I don't know if there are gaps or loopholes... . What we have seen with the program itself, in most cases, for 95 percent of our students or more, is that the five-year program, when you actually receive a bachelor's degree or master's and so on, you can do that within that five-year time frame or a little bit more.

You're allowed a primary loan of up to \$26,000. After that, you can get a secondary loan. The case that the member is referring to is when a student prefers and intends to go on to a PhD program. In many cases, most students and most people going for a PhD program will actually go back into the workforce first and then at some other point in time they would move forward to the PhD program, or they may continue those academic studies the whole way through.

That's the issue where there seems to be a little bit of a gap that needs to be reviewed and that's what the department is doing right now. I only know of one instance right now that has been brought to the attention of the department on an issue like that.

So, I think the member has raised a good point, that indeed, there needs to be a comprehensive review to see where we can make up, if there is a shortfall there, and deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the minister is aware, as he had indicated that there is an area there, where there is a gap or a crack in the program, of an incident where that is, will he commit to reviewing that specific situation, or any of them that come up like that, and come up with an interim solution to be able to support these young people

in their striving to achieve academic excellence and to become well educated and come back and be productive, contributing members of our workforce and our territory of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will be doing that. I think that the member is a member of the standing committee on education, and I think, through the auspices of that standing committee, we will be able to update the members on what has proceeded with looking into issues like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 266 – 2(2): Plans to Repatriate Artifacts

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. My question is in regard to the artifacts that are housed outside of the territory, in Canada. Could the minister tell us if they have repatriation plans for artifacts that belong to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of CLEY, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, there are quite a large number of artifacts that are housed outside of Nunavut. There is a wide variety of art. In the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, there is an article outlining how they are going to repatriate those artifacts back to Nunavut. There has to be a proper facility so that the artifacts do not deteriorate, and it has to have the right conditions, air conditions.

Only after we get that facility would we repatriate those artifacts. At the present time, the artifacts are housed properly in other jurisdictions, like in Yellowknife and other museums. There also have to be negotiations and agreements made where there are artifacts outside of Canada.

First of all, we have to establish a museum or a facility before anything can be repatriated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understood you correctly, in my riding, there are a lot of artifacts that were sent out of Sanikiluaq to facilities outside of Nunavut. In the 1930s, there were many artifacts that were sent abroad. Is the minister saying that we can't repatriate any of those articles before a facility is built? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, you understood me correctly. There are laws that have to be followed and we have to house those artifacts properly. In the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, it states that these artifacts are to be repatriated as soon as we have a museum or a proper facility so that no deterioration takes place.

We have to establish a facility first, before we can repatriate any of those artifacts. There is an agreement where we would repatriate those artifacts once a proper facility is built. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could you give us an update on what's happening with the building of a museum or a plan, if you have any? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the present time, there was a review done in August 2002. We have a planning committee established with people from the Nunavut Heritage Trust, NTI, and the Government of Nunavut.

We are presently working on building a plan and how it's going to be funded. We have also set up an RFP through the newspapers, and the federal government has agreed to pay half. We would think that it would cost approximately \$55 million to build a museum and the federal government agreed to pay for half, but we will have to come up with our half of the money.

To date, that's what we are doing: there are three stakeholders who are making those plans. There's Infrastructure Canada, who were up here in Iqaluit; we had a meeting with the minister and talked about how we are going to be funding those types of facilities and if we can access some of this infrastructure money to build a facility.

I don't know if it's going to be happening today, but it's currently in the works. Once we identify or find some money for this facility, we would have to, first of all, go through the Financial Management Board and have a discussion about this issue with cabinet.

To date, I can't say when we are going to be building that museum, but we will definitely do something about it with this present government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for your response. I would like to further ask him about permits. Maybe in the future or it was asked in the

past... . They usually require licences; are they given permits? I want to get more information on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, the Inuit Heritage Trust usually reviews applications for permits to archaeologists. We get a high number of applicants and they have to specify exactly where they want to do some work, and they are reviewed by the Inuit Heritage Trust and the government. After the review, the applicants who want to do some archaeological work are then given permits.

For people who live in Nunavut, like hunters, or if they go out camping, especially tourists that come up, they are warned not to touch or disturb artifacts because there's protection on those, so their permits have to be approved first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Orders of the day. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bill. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 002 – 2(2): Bill 13 – An Act to Amend the Wills Act and Bill 14, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 13, the Act to Amend the Wills Act, has amended and Bill 14, Miscellaneous Statute Amendment Act, 2005 has been reviewed by the Standing Committee, Ajauqtiit and that these Bills are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Committee Report on Bills 003 – 2(2): Bill 11 – Loan Authorization Act, 2005 - 2006

Mr. Tootoo: Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that Bill 11, Loan Authorization Act, 2005-2006 has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability and that the Bill is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Report of Committee on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Committee Report on Bills 004 – 2(2): Bill 12 - Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2004 - 2005

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd also wish to report that Bill 12, the Write Off of Assets and Debts Act, 2004-2005 has been reviewed by the Standing Committee and Government Operations and Accountability and that the Bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Report of Committee on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 100 – 2(2): Government of Nunavut Leased Properties Report Ending March 31st, 2004

Tabled Document 101 – 2(2): Procurement and Contracting Report for the Fiscal Year 2003/2004

Tabled Document 102 – 2(2): Annual Contracts Data Report for the Fiscal Year 2003/2004

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents: Government of Nunavut Leased Properties report ending March 31st, 2002; Procurement and Contracting report for the Fiscal Year 2003/2004; and the Annual Contracts Data report for the Fiscal Year 2003/2004.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please forward the documents to our Clerk Tabling of documents. They have to be recorded. So, that is why we're waiting for a little bit. Tabling of documents. Item 14. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 17: First Reading of Bills

Bill 9 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3, 2004/05 – First Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Capital Act 3, 2004/05 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Members: Agreed

Speaker (interpretation): All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried and Bill 9 has had First Reading. First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (O & M) Act No. 3, 2004/05 – First Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act 3, 2004/05 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Some Members: Agreed

Speaker (interpretation): All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 10 has had First Reading. First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation (O & M) Act No. 3, 2004/05 – Second Reading**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act 3, 2004/05 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes Supplementary Appropriations for Government of Nunavut to defer the Operations and Maintenance expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal ending March 31, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Any comments. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Second Reading of Bills. Bill 10 is ready for Committee of the Whole. Second Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Bill 9 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 3, 2004/05 – Second Reading

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for South Baffin, that Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation, Capital Act 3, 2004/05 be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill makes Supplementary Appropriation for the Government of Nunavut to defer the capital expenses of the Government of Nunavut for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favor.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Opposed. Abstentions. Bill 9 has been read for the second and is now ready for Committee of the Whole. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 52-2(2); Bill 8; Bill 9; and Bill 10 with Mr. Arreak 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. We'll reconvene at 1:00 after our break.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed 11:54 and resumed at 13:07*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you for coming back. We have the following items to deal with Tabled document 52-2(2), Bill 8, Bill 9 and Bill 10.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, we wish to continue with the review of Bill 8, the main estimates for the Department of Finance. If time permits, we would commence with the review of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Are we all in agreement that we first deal with the Department of Finance?

Some members: Agreed

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that the Minister of Finance....

Some Members: Agreed.

>>*Laughter*

Chairman (interpretation): For the record, Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Paul Reddy, Director of Expenditure Management and to my right is Mr. Bob Vardy, the Deputy Minister of Finance. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. According to rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I would also like to suggest to members that where ever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page by page review of the department estimates. Do members have any general comments. General comments. Page by page.

Turn to page E-5, Finance Branch Summary Directorate. Total operations and maintenance, \$2 million 999 thousand. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to refer to her opening comments that she made. In her opening comments the major components and the significant changes I wanted to ask her because I felt that it wasn't complete when she referred to leases. There are significant items too, which you stated in your opening comments.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening remarks I pointed out that the \$10.5 million for the cost of leasing the Legislative Assembly and the NCC Building that I included in the Department of Finance's budget. Is that his question? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes. Some of the leases are significant costs too, especially when they are over \$15 million. Why are they not included in there? Are they separate?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Aside from the Legislative Assembly Building and the NCC Building all the other lease costs are covered under the Community and Government Services' Main Estimates. A listing of those were also tabled this morning to this House.

In terms of my opening remarks I outlined some of the examples of what was major within the Department of Finance budget and not necessarily the overall Government of Nunavut lease budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Those are clear through the Access to Information. I believe that I brought this up last year, the \$10.5 million, that is a significant cost. I felt it was kind of misleading for the reason to the public and to the members.

Maybe the Deputy Minister can respond but the leases are signed by the federal government and are paid for by the federal government for probably another 15 years. It is just passing through from the federal government. For example, as Member of the Legislative Assembly I would think the NCC spent \$10.5 million and that is very significant and some of the leases.

I haven't gone through everything but I wonder if the minister can tell us why the \$10.5 million that we get from the federal government that goes to the territorial government. My question is does it come from there?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NCC units and the Legislative Assembly building, in order to pay the leases, we have to appropriate that funding internally within the Government of Nunavut.

The Government of Nunavut pays for those leases for the Legislative Assembly and NCC buildings, which we have to appropriate through this process. Once those payments are made, we are reimbursed by the federal government, but we still have to pay out of our pot of money.

So, we have to appropriate those dollars through this process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I fully understand that. I believe that's what's happening, but it's not fully explained by the deputy minister of the Financial Management Board that these leases are not Government of Nunavut generic, these are federal leases.

These leases are assigned to the Government of Nunavut. To me, I made it quite clear it's what sort of a misleading, if I wasn't aware that these leases, those payments flow through the Government of Nunavut from the federal government. I'm trying to help the minister and his officials to be really quite transparent with things because these are federal commitments. These are federal dollars 100 percent and paid by the federal government.

It may be appropriated, but if I didn't ask the question, the ordinary Members of the Legislative Assembly would believe that these are just territorial expenditures. So, could the minister or the deputy minister clarify for the average person like myself on the street and this house that these leases are paid for 100 percent by the Federal Government.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lease pre-date the Government of Nunavut leave in and those were brought over from the time before. So, in terms of the details of the lease, I'm going to ask Mr. Vardy to explain the process that's in place to pay for these leases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those leases were entered into with NCC before April 1, 1999 and the Government of the Northwest Territories, as the member pointed out was involved some.

It was mainly the OIC, the Office of the Interim Commissioner of Nunavut that was involved in that process. What the federal government did was adjust our formula financing payments, adjusted the base that we get in transfers to allow the new government to pay for the extra costs of those leases on the commercial buildings.

The commercial buildings are appropriated in the Department of Finance including the Legislative Assembly. There were a lot of residential units that were built in all of the decentralized communities that NCC built. That was budgeted for under the Department of CGNS.

It is a case where the money has to be appropriated by the Government of Nunavut and that's why it shows up in Community and Government Services's budget and Finance's budget. It is very transparent. We have acknowledged many times that the federal government adjusted our payments back in 1999 to allow us to make those payments.

There is nothing appropriated in the federal government for those purposes. It is part of our formula financing arrangements which is a general purpose transfer that pays for over 80 percent of the expenditures of the Government of Nunavut.

I would argue that what is put there is not misleading. It's very accurate and very transparent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the deputy minister for his attempt to clarify the point.

My point is these were incremental expenditures appropriated by the federal government through the infrastructure amount that was allocated prior to 1999. They set aside \$300 million at that time for all the infrastructure. \$150 million was for offices and residential housing for incremental infrastructure requirements of new government.

Am I correct in saying that, that these leases are incremental infrastructure facilities and are 100 percent paid for by federal incremental dollars.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those buildings were entered into by the federal government or the initial contract to have those buildings were entered into by the federal government and it could have been part of the discussions on the incremental infrastructure program.

The dollars to pay for the leases come out of our general purpose revenues and they are paid for through the formula financing program. It's not through a cost share program or any other vote 4-5. It's par to of our general revenues that they're paid for. As I acknowledged in the first statement, the formula financing, there was an adjustment made to the base back in April 1, 1999, to allow us to pay that source.

From an appropriations point of view it is Government of Nunavut expenditures totally. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. My other question now is were these leases at all, like we're leasing that detailed cost like this subject to 'Access to Information' or privacy related regulations or federal or Nunavut.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With this amount, it's one lease and the amount shown is the amount that we pay towards that lease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure I got the answer. What I asked was is this lease subject to the 'Access to Information Act' or 'Privacy Act.' For that reason, that they have the concurrence of the lease holders and so on for releasing that detailed information.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They're not subject to the Access to Information Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): So my information is that the lease holders which is the federal government has concurred that these are subject to full disclosure and that kind of thing and third party doesn't require any consent to releasing detailed information. Is that so. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order for us to pay the NCC leases, we have to appropriate those dollars through the main estimates process.

Any payment that the Government of Nunavut makes towards to facility or pay roll or operations and maintenance, we have to appropriate through the main estimates. So, that is public information through this process. There is no other way around it. So, the questions around the access to information whether this should be up front or in our books, those are two different issues.

To appropriate funding for the Government of Nunavut, we have to show those publicly in our books. It has to be approved by this house. If you're concerned about the whole issue about access to information and whether, NCC or the federal government or whatever are concerned about that, there is no way around paying this lease unless we show it in our books. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): No, there is no need to get excited about this thing. I'm just asking questions whether they are subject to the Access to Information Act.

I would think that the federal government have leases all across the country. I am not 100 percent sure they release the lease holders. They normally release the figures in totals in general, and not directly generic leases here and there released publicly.

That's a good turn, actually, hopefully that we will get to see other leases; that they be released annually because I see this figure comes out annually, and I am not 100 percent sure of whether that if you had concurred with them. I spoke to them and they were a bit startled because it had been going on for the last two years. All that amounts are normally, what I know for lease holder agreements or whatever, but I have never quite seen anything that it could have been an individual in there with the company.

So that's the only point that I am making that it's probably a good precedent that we would like to see in the future with all of the other leases. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't comment on the federal government leasing policy practices and accounting practices, of how they disclose or not disclose lease costs. So, those are just comments, and I have nothing to add. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Anything else, Mr. Curley? We are dealing with (interpretation ends) Finance. Branch Summary. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,993,000, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and her officials. I would like to ask the minister about that new agency we have there, the Crown Agency Council established last year; we have talked about it at the standing committee last summer with the Auditor General, and Mr. Vardy was present. We were wondering how effective the Crown Agency Council's activities are.

I noticed in the business plan for the department this year that there's no mention of the crown agencies in there. I am wondering why the Crown Agency Council's activities are not discussed in any detail. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Crown Agency Council is a subcommittee of Cabinet, so they mention that in the finance business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand, the Crown Agency Council is an important, I guess, subcommittee, for the GN to sort out the problems of the crown agencies.

Could the minister outline, for the record, what specific decisions the Crown Agency Council has taken to date; what is being accomplished? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

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

The Crown Agency Council, as I have stated in the House before, has been working with the agencies in trying to get a full understanding of the government's structure and legislations for each crown; Qulliq Energy Corporation and Nunavut Arctic College, the business credit corporation, there's a whole bunch of different crowns that govern or have different processes, policies or governing structures.

So the research has been going on with staff and working with each of the agencies of trying to get a handle on that. It's very important for us to have a good understanding of the different governing structures of each agencies to be effective in putting forth a recommendation for improvements in areas that would identify to the Auditor General.

So part of the work has been to try and get a handle on that before we move forward. We need to understand the differences in each agency, so most of that work has been done.

We are also in the process of putting out mandate letters for each agency and appropriate ministers will be signing those to outline, on an annual basis, the requirements of them to provide business plans as an example, they are reporting to us of their finances, just to use that as an example.

But, once those mandate letters are finalized and developed, we will be sharing that with the House, as soon as they are signed and delivered. Leading to that, we needed to research the concerns that have been raised by the Auditor General, look at their governance models and number of other things to put forth the final mandate letters for them to start addressing on a regular basis, the reporting requirements to this House or to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to Madame Minister for that explanation. For the record, can the minister tell us who the members are on the Crown Agency Council? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: That would be myself, I chair the Crown Agency Council, the premier and Mr. Tapardjuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And for the record, could the minister explain how much authority they have to make recommendations or write these letters of expectation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The final decision goes to cabinet or Financial Management Board, depending on the nature. We basically are looking to try and move forward on information that we can share to cabinet, on directions to deal with crown agencies. But, the final decision rests with Cabinet members or the Financial Management Board, not just the three of us that report or make final decisions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. So, when a letter of expectation is issued to a crown corporation and although it comes from the Crown Agency Council, the Crown Agency Council reports to the Financial Management Board and Cabinet, so it has full authority and weight of the Cabinet behind the letter of expectation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In drafting the mandate letters, we've been working with the departments as well, the appropriate minister responsible for the particular crown corporation or agency will sign the letter.

The authority for that, it is approved through Cabinet and it has the Cabinet backing on meeting those objectives, outlining the mandate letter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Madame Minister. If the letter of expectation is issued to a crown agency and the crown agency fails to live up to the letter of expectation, what is the penalty to the crown agency for failing to live up to the letter of expectation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Madame Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It all depends on what the issue is, and how severe that is. Obviously, if the crowns are not dealing with what we've asked them to provide, then we'd have to deal with that, but again, it all depends on the situation and what the issue is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know there are probably varying degrees of seriousness with a crown agency. Would any senior officials in the crown agency, if they fail to live up to or achieve the objective of the letter of expectation, could they possibly lose their jobs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the worst case scenario, yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the minister again. What would be the worst case scenario? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It all depends with the worst case scenarios, and I can come up with my own guess, I guess because it isn't basically guessing what the consequences may be of a particular situation or non-existent situation.

So I suppose the worst case scenario would be set, I suppose another worst case scenario would be mismanagement of operations. These are things that are hypothetical in nature, and that doesn't lead to a certain subject.

So I will just keep my response general. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked that question is because the minister mentioned that the worst case scenario. It was not under my list of questions to ask, but then she gave me that opening.

When will you be issuing or tabling Government of Nunavut letters of expectation to the Members of the Legislative Assembly for our consideration or oversight? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I reviewed the draft yesterday. So hopefully before the end of this month I will be releasing that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson. He is finished. We are in (interpretation ends) Finance. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,993,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): You agreed. Turn to C-6. Finance Branch Summary. Fiscal Management. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the bullet here it says that it manages the territorial tax system. There was a tax break announced in 2002. I am wondering if the minister could update us on whether the tax break actually resulted in any benefits for Nunavut, or if you have measured the impacts of the tax break. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information I have on that is that there's more businesses that have been completing their returns in the territory on that tax break. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Department of Finance have a mechanism in place to measure the impacts of tax decreases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a delay in the allocation by two years. So, it just starts to show up, the tax break of 2002. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page C-14 of the department's business plan, there's a mention of a new capital planning process that was presented to the Financial Management Board for consideration.

Could the minister explain what specific change to the Government of Nunavut's current capital planning process would be proposed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The capital planning process is still in the works, but one of the changes that we are dealing with here is to have more consultation and input from municipalities, but the planning process has not been finalized, and we are looking at consultation sometime before we finalize this, I will be talking to each member about it.

So there's really been no specific area that we have put forth as recommendation to changes; that we are also working with the Community and Government Services in that process in trying to improve proper planning for hamlets as an example that's forward looking.

That is still in the works, it's nothing finalized at this point, so I can't speak to any specific change as yet because it is still in the development stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the minister for that. Could the minister give us a more specific time line for the changes. When will consultations begin with in the hamlets and regular members, when might we expect to have some input? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Some time over the summer or early fall. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yesterday in our opening comments, we talked about the growth of the public service. It is over 3000, I have the paper in front of me here.

There are over 3000 people in the public services now, Government of Nunavut public service. I'm wondering if the minister could comment on what she thinks about the surging growth in the public service and how it could potentially affect our economic situation in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The opening remarks from Mr. Peterson yesterday, made the observation that since 1999, there has been a huge increase in the public service.

I think with the creation of Nunavut, and the establishment at headquarters operations in Nunavut, particularly in Iqaluit area, there is that expectation that the public service in Nunavut would grow.

Those positions, in the past, were out of Yellowknife, so there is an expectation from 1999 that we would eventually have a public service of more than 10 people when we started in OIC, so I think generally that is being the trend in Nunavut.

An increase in the population, such as teachers, students in schools, so there's an increase in PY's that way, in management positions, of course, because those management positions were in Yellowknife in the past.

To comment on the impact of continuous growth, of course we have to monitor every department's activities. Each department has a target to work with, and manage their salary dollars and their PY's and O&M's, so we have to just basically monitor on a regular basis, the growth.

One of the other things that we are doing with the Department of Finance and Human Resources is that we're looking at reviewing the process of establishing positions with the government, how that process is done. With the new system that we also have in place that will be launched, P2K. There will be a better tracking system of the actual positions in the system. Budgeted positions and processing pays on approved positions. So, there is that management aspect that's also being worked on to monitor the growth of the public service more closely. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Madame Minister. I'm just thinking back to the days when we were part of the Government of the Northwest Territories, prior to 1999.

That government had significant growth, and it seemed like every three or four years they were stretched to the seams. Then, they got into situations where reprofiling or downsized and cut back on person years. People lost jobs, cut back on programs and services, they cut back on capital projects, cut back on benefits to employees. It caused quite a lot of pain in all the communities in the Northwest Territories. We were part of the Northwest Territories then. I know our economy is very, very dependent on the government, all levels of government, municipal, territorial and federal. We have a very small private sector, so any situation where we have to re-profile could really harm our communities.

That's what we have to be cognizant of. When we were talking about the growth in the public services, we're closing in on a \$1 billion budget. I don't think members of the standing committee will agree with me on this. I think we can continue the growth for ever, unless we really start to the costs in.

When we see increases in 233 positions classified as middle management, as mentioned in my comments yesterday, we're not sure how that growth contributes in the delivery of programs and services. So, there are those kinds of factors. I'm wondering if the minister could comment on whether she talks to her ministerial colleagues about looking very closely at their departmental growth, that efficiencies can be achieved by not hiring positions that really aren't necessary in the public service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member with his comments and his observations that, yes, we have to monitor our expenditures around positions.

I think originally with the creation of Nunavut, 1999-2000, there was an expectation that management positions would grow in Nunavut, but to what extent, we have to monitor that very closely. In my budget address, I outlined the whole issue around having to manage our resources more effectively and more efficiently and stressed that in the budget address because it is going to become an issue, if we continue to spend in the pattern that we've been going in the last few years.

We're not going to be able to continue that pattern without cutting programs or salary dollars somewhere to achieve goal X,Y,Z. So, part of this exercise in the fall will be to also consult with my colleagues on some of the priorities of the Pingasuaqtavut document, which we all had input into and to allocate those resources in the priorities.

We won't be able to meet many of those objectives if we don't manage our dollars effectively. I agree with the member. That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for agreeing with my comments. That is reassuring, that we have a minister who understands that we're verging on a potential crisis if we continue on our current growth rate.

Mr. Chairman, I'm looking at the Inuit employment report of September 30th. Total employees in all departments for 3,198, but there are vacancies of 559. That disturbs the standing committee because those are positions that we've budgeted for last year, and it works out that 1 in every 5 of Government of Nunavut positions is vacant.

As we all know, government can use unspent salary dollars for overspending in other areas. I mentioned this in our opening comments yesterday. I'm wondering what the minister is doing to encourage her ministerial colleagues to try to stop this practice, where unspent salary dollars are used other activities in their departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are very few salary dollars that get transferred for other areas. That does not happen very often and if it does happen, it requires Financial Management Board approval, as well as the Legislative Assembly.

So, the members here would see that change in that transaction to a supplementary bill or what have you. If any salary dollar is being transferred to other areas, in that way I can reassure the member that they will see that type of activity through the main estimates supplementary process.

The other area is that, there are vacancies in the system one given day, we'll never have 100% filled positions. In many positions that are not filled are often filled through casuals as well. Internally, I had mentioned earlier that Department of Finance and Human Resources are working to position management positions that is directly linked to P2K system to again better track vacancies on a given day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that comment. Can the minister offer some observations on why there is such a high vacancy rate at any given time at the Government of Nunavut. It works out, one out of five, that is 20% of Government of Nunavut positions are vacant any given time. That is quite a high percentage number. There must be a whole range of factors for that. Perhaps, the minister could explain some of them to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the last six or seven years in our total, I mean that is our total since we've been in existence six, seven years. We are building up capacity. We still continue to having staffing challenges, as we all know.

The member is correct. There is a whole range of issues why we don't have our positions filled at one given day. It could range from lack of housing, or it could range from specialized area that is difficult to find people in. Your guess is just as good as my guess on why there are vacancies but, generally, every attempt is made to advertise and fill positions in the communities, particularly in the areas of line works. Efforts will be ongoing and that is a challenge we face on a daily basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are departments budgeting for positions that they know they are probably not going to staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: One comment that I wanted to add to my original comment is that the other challenge that we face in recruitment is that there is a shortage of skilled work force. One is in the area of finance and the other one is in nursing.

That causes us a bigger challenge in the north to try and hire people that are in demand across Canada.

Departments that have their positions in place that are salary and they don't have a full time person, normally they fill that position with a casual. So, I would say no to your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: No more questions on that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On a follow-up, a little bit on some of the colleague's questioning and it deals with budgeting. I know that the Department of Finance puts everything together for the departments and it's Financial Management Board that establishes the targets at the departments have to work within in developing their budgets. Mr. Peterson mentioned, as I have in the past, about this mushrooming in the bureaucracy and the minister had indicated earlier that they expected it to grow right from the beginning.

Keeping that in mind, how we were funded was based on a base budget that we were given from the federal government. Were they aware that it was the intention would grow, that the bureaucracy in the government would grow as well. If so, why has it been

such a struggle to get any additional dollars out of them, if there was an indication that ears needed to be unplugged for them to listen to some of the issues that we have with the limited financial resources that we're getting from them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When I made the comment that the public's service was expected to grow from the very beginning, I started with OIC when there was 10 potential Government of Nunavut employees.

To set up a government with 11 departments with 10 staff from April 1, 1998 when we started in OIC, that's what I meant when I said we expected to grow. Naturally, the Footprints 1 and Footprints 2 documents were produced to kind of indicate what the structure would look like in government and the number of PY's that would be required to run a new territory.

So, from that, we have been in existence, as you all know, six or seven years and we continue to try and fill those jobs. In the opening remarks, we talked about the growth in management. Many of the positions that were established were headquarter positions. Headquarter positions did not exist in Nunavut, April 1st.

A lot of the regional positions existed, which we inherited through this system. So, yes management positions increased, because many of those jobs were carried out in the Northwest Territories in Yellowknife. April 1 came on, and many of the departmental regional operations we inherited and established a headquarters.

So, that explains why we have increase in the public service. At the same time, in the area of management, you talk about middle management and management on. That's explains that. The other question in regards to, has the federal government listed to the needs up here.

On April 1, 1999, our total budget was around \$600 million. It's now close to \$1 billion in six years. So, that's a 90 percent growth. I think we have been very effective in conveying to the federal government, the challenges and the needs of the north and that has been recognized through the funding we have received from the federal government around health, strategy, around changes to formula.

Of course, it's ongoing and they have been very responsive to many of the cases that we have put forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister indicated and I think it's understandable that a lot of functions that are now being carried out here in Nunavut weren't here before and that there were Footprints 1 and 2 models.

I had always thought that those models incorporated the entire government structure, not only what was here already. I guess my question then is, is the minister stating that those two sets of Footprints were going off in the wrong direction, if we're seeing this huge increase in PY's since 1999, which was based on those two documents, that there were some fundamental flaws in the preparation of those two documents. Again, I'm just wondering if that's what the minister is indicating. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member. I did use the Footprints 1&2 as examples, as a starting process of creating a new territory. There were flaws in those models. We had to adjust the plans, as the Members of the Legislative Assembly members elected in the first assembly and the cabinet members were elected. They were then responsible to take it from there and create the public service. There were flaws in that and just to use one example, there was no payroll function identified in finance in that report.

So, of course there would be revisions and changes. Plans change all the time, and we have to continue to deal with. There has also been a the new concept around the close to home issues, so we're trying to get the positions in the north to home type services and delivery of health care. The other are 2001, 2002, QEC was now part of Nunavut.

So, there was all these other changes that are continually made to better manage our departments and programs and what have you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I glad the minister agrees that there were some serious issues with those initial documents. I think as anyone would agree you can't have things that look good on paper, but when you try and implement them, you have to change, willing to change.

I think the government, over the last six years, has done that to some point. When we talk about the issue around the mushrooming civil service, especially in certain areas, I know that for the six years we've been saying we need more teachers, we need more front line workers, whether it be social workers, teachers, nurses, I know there is an initiative going on now for nursing, which is good. We're getting 12 new teachers next year, as the Minister of Education had indicated in his budget.

I know in some communities, they've been trying to hire social workers and sometimes social workers work more than one community, same thing with income support workers. The front line people, one would think that there are more of over the last six years that I've been around, you know there is where a lot of the concerns are raised by Members of this Assembly that they need more of that, and we see this huge increase in middle management sections that don't do that front line work.

And you know I guess, one has to ask is how are those set? You know like, the department says, the Financial Management Board says give the and the budgeting like you had indicated earlier on, in question period, that they are given targets to work with, is there no checking to see if you know where there if there given whether it be a 2% growth or you know are they staying the same, or 5% growth, you know that those dollars are going into the areas of need that have been identified here in the House. Like the front line workers. Like the funding for other programs and services that are offered by the government, instead of middle management PY's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I don't think that was a question. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, if there was a question, I missed it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any kind of mechanism in place to watch when increased budget targets are given to departments, that those dollars aren't just going to middle management and mushroom PY's, that are going in there and ensuring that they go into front line services or other programs and services that never seem to have enough money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Each minister is responsible to manage their operation.

Each minister puts forth their business plans and the number of positions they need to deliver their programs, whether they be front line workers or managers or what not. With a design of program, naturally there is a need to have people to deliver the program, so, each department, each minister oversees those targets.

Before you came in here, we had talked about the question of managing growth in the public service. I mentioned that the Department of Finance and the Department of Human Resources are working very closely together to develop a tracking system for positions within the system directly linked to the new payroll system.

Those two will be linked and we'll be able to manage and monitor the growth of the public service quickly within the system, without having to manually go through every organization chart and count the boxes on the organization chart. So, there is that type of work in place for us to monitor.

Each minister is, again, responsible to manage their salary dollars associated with positions and to ensure that he has the resources and the people to deliver his front line

workers or not. As a former deputy minister, just because I was the deputy minister didn't mean that I didn't get involved in front line work. That's what I did.

So, to say that managers don't provide that, I don't agree with that because I think we have a public service, where we have a number of positions that are vacant that work very, very hard that are doing two or three more jobs at a time, and we have to try and address that by filling the vacant positions and to get more positions in place so that they have that help.

I think, generally speaking, we have public servants that are very committed to providing service or delivering programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to let the minister know I was listening to her comments earlier, that was what she said and that's why I'm following up on this questioning.

If they're just getting the system up and running now, then there really hasn't been any monitoring or evaluating, other than taking the minister's word for it when they come forward with their budgets. I know earlier, during the sitting, the minister had indicated, that, when I was asking about the PY's and that, that they don't even consider that at Financial Management Board.

They just take it for granted that it's all set and done and it's the minister's responsibility to do that, and the deputy minister and their staff to identify positions in their departments. I understand that. My question was, is there any mechanism to look at evaluating and the minister said that they're getting this new system set up.

So, I would take it then, that they haven't really been looking at this in the past, and you see some of the growth figures that we see here are a good example of why this is something that should have been monitored in the past a little more effectively by the government.

When you say you want to deliver stuff closer to home and you see the positions growing further away from home and not being able to put positions into communities, whether it be anywhere from Grise Fjord to Arviat, Resolute Bay, Kugluktuk, anywhere like that in the non-decentralized communities.

We've heard over and over again, when are we going to get a social worker. When are we going to get this. Or, when are we going to get that. These groups that are in desperate need of funding don't have, sorry, there's no money available for that, but we've got lots of money to add a significant number of PY's within the department.

So, it's not so much the responsibility of the Minister of Finance, but there should be some kind of a general commitment coming from Cabinet to identify this and try and

look at a better allocation or a more prioritized proper allocation of resources to the departments, to the appropriate programs and services.

That was just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to comment back and say finance is part of the budget review process.

It always takes particular note on a proposed increase to PY positions. I don't necessarily agree with the member's observations because there is an expenditure management division within the Department of Finance that oversees any growth. So, like I said, it is the responsibility of every department, every minister to manage their resources effectively.

Finance, of course, monitors that through expenditure management on a regular basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo, your time up is. We have to give certain people a chance. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, I think we're on the same page under Nunavut Arctic College. They have different programs now.

The students that complete grade 12 and also we hear about small businesses in Nunavut. It's very, very hard to get accountants to come and work for you and there was training on the job programs that were in place during the Government of the Northwest Territories days, but we don't seem to have them under the Government of Nunavut anymore.

I just wondered if the Department of Finance is using students, and providing them with on-the-job training. Do you have some people training on the job and working with your accountants in your department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance, at the present time, has 12 interns who are on-the-job training and at the same time, they're taking university credit courses.

I believe 11 of them will be completing in the next month or so. But, we have put in the efforts to try and hire individuals for the finance type positions because of some of the challenges we were also facing in hiring trained staff. So, we hired 12 staff to train them on-the-job and get their accreditation. All are beneficiaries in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. I have heard about it a little bit, but I haven't heard it publicly before. So, I thought I would ask the question.

In your department, it is good that you have those types of trainees in your department. Just in case there is an opening in your department for a certain accountant, do you give them priority hiring?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With the interns, there will be priority hiring of those individuals upon successful completion of their training program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How long is this going to be in place? Do you have an expiry date or do you have a, are you going to keep on training them?

Chairperson (interpretation): Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program has been basically two years. At the present time, we haven't decided whether we are going to go forward within 2 years with this point and time. But we're planning to evaluate that. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is very good to hear and I wanted to publicly state it here in the House. I will have more questions later on when we get to the appropriate page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Alagalak. We're on page. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to follow up on some opening comments that I made yesterday about our crown corporations. I noticed in here that in fiscal management, Finance manages the annual budget development process. One of sticking points was, for the standing committees and our members on our side is that, we don't get to see business plans for organizations like the Nunavut Arctic College or business credit corporation or Nunavut Development Corporation.

In many cases, we don't see them in time for the main estimates process so we can scrutinize them before we vote on their budgets. To the credit of Nunavut Development

Corporation mentioned yesterday, they did table their business plan for this year which is good because it gives us a chance to view and ask questions to the appropriate ministers.

What is the Department of Finance doing to encourage the crown corporations to be more proactive to prepare those business plans so we can get them in time for the main estimates process, review and scrutiny before we vote. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee members' concerns have been noted and we are following up with the departments or the crown agencies to develop business plans on an annual basis.

The mandate letters that we are preparing, which I hope to have will be on an annual basis. There is a requirement of the corporations and the crowns to produce business plans the same time the government departments do business plans, so you'll see much improvement in the go-around. But, that will become a standard procedure for these agencies to produce business plans as part of the departmental business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that information. That is good to know. We look forward to seeing their business plans on a timely manner in the next go-around as the minister indicates. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Page G-6. Finance Branch. Summary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was talking earlier about the targets and budgets and stuff like that and I'm just wondering if the minister had give us an idea of how the departments, do they come to the Financial Management Board, the Department of Finance saying this is what we need or are they given something to work with and if so, how are those numbers arrived at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before the budget process is started, there are call letters that go to departments and those are approved by Financial Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister could elaborate as to what a call letter is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The call letters basically outline requests to departments to outline what new initiatives that they may be looking at implementing. As much of those new initiatives would have to be linked to the Pinasuaqtavut document, as an example, as priorities.

It basically provides the guidelines of how each department will be required to put forth their departmental budget. If it were in a situation where there are increases, we would identify the percentage of the increase and what not.

If there is a reduction exercised or there are cuts made, the call letter would outline the departmental targets and the percentage. So, it basically outlines the process, the targets, them to identify priorities, what their forced growth initiatives are, what their new initiatives are and the time lines they require to produce their financial statements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated it outlines targets and I would assume that would mean, okay, this is how much money you're going to have to work with to try and develop your budget. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The targets would be for the base budgets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How do they determine what their targets are going to be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: It all depends on our current situation and what we can afford. If we were in a major deficit situation, as an example, obviously, we would have challenges to deal with there. But, it all depends on our financial situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I say, how does that number figure that they have to work with, how is that come up with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: That would be through recommendations from the Department of Finance as well as through Financial Management Board. We decide and the call letters go out explaining the targets to work with and again it all depends on our current financial situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Given that there is some liquidity in our financial situation from time to time, it does change and I recognize that.

A lot of times, we don't know until sometimes after the fact that there are going to be impacts, whether it be on the positive side or the negative side. Given that there always is that uncertainty around that, the part that there is certainty, how do they determine, how does finance and Financial Management Board determine this is what the number is going to be plus or minus these variables that may change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every year, departments are given their targets on their base and that information is based on departmental historical growth. The amount of flexibility that is added to that process, when you say there is a two percent increase or a three percent increase, it is based on what available resources we have or financially what is available.

So, by the end of next year, we'll go through that similar exercise and that process is repeated on an annual basis. If we were in a deficit situation and we had to go through a cost cutting exercise, that's part of the whole process. We figure out how much money we have and it's by forecasting. It's by monitoring our expenditures on a regular basis and this exercise that we went through, we had some dollars set aside for new initiatives and each department was given a target.

But, really at the end of the day, how we determine that is how much money we have, flexibility to work with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, and I recognize the difficulties around the details of extra funding or not, but when you're looking at historical data from the departments, for how many years does that go back. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First we always have the information on the current year, but departments also have the information on the last two or three years back as well.

So, depending on what the issue or situation is, we can look back to those historical spending patterns as an example on X,Y,Z programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our first budget for Nunavut was based on whatever the percentage was of the total territorial budget at the time.

Our funding is based on that. I know and I'm sure my colleague has raised it here, today, is that the budget that we inherited from the Northwest Territories was a cut budget. It was slashed. They cut deeper, they even cut some bone out in that budget in the final years leading up to division.

If we're basing our targets from those initial numbers that were brought over, then whether be in different programs or services or anything that I think they were very inaccurate and that maybe some other type of process needs to be looked in evaluating whether those targets and the numbers that we're going by are accurate and really meet the need that we have out there for the demands on our programs and services.

A perfect example of that is under the Department of Health and Social Services. For the last five years, they've been chronically under funded right from the get go. I've said in the House before, that on questioning the accuracy or the validity of the budgeting if say, health is given X amount of dollars and we already know before they even start that they're going to be between \$10 and \$20 million in deficit by the end of the year.

I'm just wondering if the minister can indicate if there are any initiatives that the department is looking at on a government-wide basis to see if we can try and tighten up and improve on the system that we have in place right now for allocation and setting of targets. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In seven years, I think we've done a very good job. In seven years, we've gone from a very small organization with no assistance to what it is today. We've gone through a huge growth in our resources. I mentioned that we are now close to a billion dollars in funding from transfer payments compared to six hundred million April 1, 1999.

So, I can't speak for what happened seven years ago in the exercise of budgeting, but I can speak for the process that we have in place now. As Nunavut grows in terms of years, we'll have better historical information on activities. Every year, those patterns are setting patterns or those factors are being monitored, so we build on that and we're building on what we've learned year by year. So, the ongoing effort to monitor department growth activities is there and we recognize the concerns related to health and we have increased the Department of Health budget again this year.

There's always going to be challenges, but we are trying to address the pressures by allocating the resources where it is needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate the minister's comments and that, as time goes on, we'll get more of that to look that. But, the basis for studying the budget is based on historical data that may not have been accurate and the departments, for the most part, hold the line when it comes to being what they've been budgeted.

So, in a lot of cases you're not going to get a overrun in one area, if they run out of money, they say, sorry, we don't have any money. You know, there's a lot of programs and services out there like that.

I know that the minister, the former deputy for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. You know if they in the past, if you look at the historical data you know one year they had no grants and contributions X amount.

You know 90% of those or a large portion of those grants were used up in one area, yet the following year, they didn't increase that amount. They left it the same or lowered it and did the other area. Maybe, if I said that the minister was doing a great job, everything was fine and dandy, she'd agree with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We are in 2005-2006 main estimates.

Madame Minister did you want to respond?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, I believe Tootoo's comments were personal in nature and I will not respond to him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say the minister is shaking her head at some points that I was making the same thing. You know, if she would take the time to listen to the question instead of having...

Chairperson (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, I'm sitting here to deal with the Department of Finance's main estimates. If a member wants to make comments to me of a personal nature, we can deal with that on the side. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): At this time, in order to proceed properly, order please. We are on the Department of Finance of the government.

We are working on the 2005/06 main estimates. As I stated earlier, please keep your comments to the point and to the subject at hand in order to proceed properly. Any other comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point I was trying to make earlier, the minister had indicated how they determine what the targets were and based on the spending that had been budgeted.

I've seen in the last five years where certain programs were budgeted X amount of dollars and more than that was spent, but stuff was moved around internally, so you don't see any overspending and that's what I meant, that was what I was trying to get at, if those numbers aren't adequate, yet they're not going over, there's internal stuff, then how do we really know that those numbers are adequate.

And that's the point that I've been trying to raise here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Madame Minister. We're on C-6, fiscal management. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the last five or six years, we've had an overall balanced budget in the past five or six years.

When stuff is moved around, as I mentioned earlier to Keith's question, that movement of salary dollars to whatever are approved through the House. They go through the main estimates process. When you approve the main estimates and you approve a line item and there are changes in that category, there is a requirement to go forward for that approval in the House.

That's usually done through a supplementary bill. How accurately are we... the supplementary bills will tell you, Mr. Chairman. That process I mentioned earlier, we don't just make those changes singlehandedly in the department. We go forward through members here for approval.

That's a process that's been in place for six years now. What happened five years ago, I can't speak to. I was not here five years ago. So, what I can speak to here is what we're dealing with today. What happened in the past five years ago, I wasn't here to be a part of that, so I can't comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not talking about anything that happened five years ago. I said over the last five or six years, I've seen these things happened.

I'm a little confused now, because earlier on the minister had indicated that any internal movement had to go and were approved by the Financial Management Board. Now, she's

saying that they have to come to the Assembly for approval. If that's the case, I'd like to see all the decisions that were made by Financial Management Board get brought forward to this Assembly for us to look at. It's my understanding that those decision were made at the Financial Management Board level on the internal line item movements within their operations and maintenance budgets for each department, that they didn't have to come in a supplementary bill.

The supplementary bills were only if you were moving money from capital to operations and maintenance, or increasing or decreasing funds in certain areas. So, I would just like to ask the minister if she could clarify that because I'm not sure how things are supposed to work now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your confusion is noted.

What I was trying to explain earlier as a response to Mr. Peterson's question was related to salary dollars. That's an example I used. We can't just move salary dollars in the department to a capital project, as an example. We can't take capital dollars and move it to the Department of Health from the Department of Community and Government Services without approval. That's the process I am talking to. I am talking about, and that has to come through here.

I have two supplementary appropriation bills that I am going to be introducing next week. One is on capital, which is a supplementary appropriation bill to take last year's capital dollars to this fiscal year. If there are going to be any changes to departmental items to increase their dollars, of course, that goes to the supplementary appropriation bill. The same process exists that has been in place for six years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Tootoo your time is up. We are dealing with the Department of Finance. Branch Summary. Fiscal Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what the minister is stating there, and that's my understanding of how it's supposed to work, and how it has been working for those types of transfers.

What I am talking about is more within a department's programs, and an example, just an example that has nothing to do with anything about this, one that I recall vividly is in Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth's contributions they had, lets say we will just use round numbers of \$10,000 for youth grants and contributions, and then another \$10,000 for elders' contributions, and then another \$10,000 for heritage contributions. When I see the end result of the list of grants and contributions that were distributed, there was I think close to 80 percent of that \$30,000 went to youth programs and grants and contributions.

So when the next year's targets were set, they are set based on the budgeted amounts, not what the demand was. I guess that's what my point is because there was a huge demand for funding dollars in this particular case for a youth program, and yet the next year there was no increase to that area. That's, as I said, a particular example that I am talking about, but that whole scenario of how things are moved, and those changes never came to the House in the supplementary appropriation bill.

Well maybe, that's why I am confused, and I was saying that this is, say one thing and yet something else is done. I understand for moving from department to department their capital operations and maintenance or salary that something else is one thing, but in those program and service areas, if they are not required to do that, any change, and I don't even know if those go to Financial Management Board or they are just done at the departmental level. Again that's why I said, I wonder what the accuracy of the numbers of the historical data that, in that case, nothing changes, it actually went down.

I am not trying to be critical of anybody, and I am not pretending to know a heck of a lot more than anyone either, I am just trying to figure out and identify an area where something may not be being identified through the processes that are in place and to try, and find ways where we can address some of these issues and fix them so that we have a more accurate or better understanding of how and where we should be allocating our resources as Members of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I don't know if there's a question there. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I didn't hear a question, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Tootoo, would you like to ask a question?

Mr. Tootoo: I would maybe ask the minister if she understands where I am coming from on that. That's my explanation. Is that clear enough or maybe I could sit down with her and her officials at some future point if we don't understand each other to try and clarify and talk about it instead of wasting time in here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The comments that he has made; that's done on a regular basis each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that's done, then how come in a lot of cases things don't change? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, that's a very general question. There are a lot of changes. I put forward a budget this year that outlines a lot changes in last year's budget. To say that there's no change, that's too general, there are a lot of changes.

We have new programs we are introducing this year, there's new funding for economic development, there's new funding for health, there's new funding for hamlets, there's new funding for a number of different areas. So, they do change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are on (interpretation ends) Finance Branch. Branch Summary. Fiscal Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,492,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page C-7. Finance Branch Summary. Internal Audit Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,194,000, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Internal Audit Services Branch I believe is very important division of your department.

I am wondering, when you decide on compliance audits, you describe them as compliance audits in your business plan, when you decide on compliance audits, how is that done? Are you requested to do that or do you just pick and choose arbitrarily? Do you have a specific reason for investigating certain areas of various departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes there's random selection of department for an audit. Other times we get requests from the departments to do an audit, and other times when we hear of things, we follow up through internal audit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister. When you are doing a compliance audit, do you get good cooperation from the department that you are working in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Usually we get very good cooperation from departments. Sometimes we run into a few glitches that normally those things are worked out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much authority do these internal audit folks have when they go out to a department or to a region to do an audit? Can they ask for files? Can they go talk to contractors, vendors, all of those people that do work with the government? What gives them the authority to get information off people that they are working with? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the member of the audit team goes out and conducts an audit, they have full authority to interview staff, interview non-government staff or contractors, they have authority to access the records, and to also strengthen that process, we are putting together a protocol arrangement that will go to Financial Management Board for approval, again, to tighten up that process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister. When a compliance audit is completed, who within the government and external to the government gets a copy of the compliance audit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other thing I should mention that internally there's an Internal Audit Committee to develop the policies as well as the protocols. That Internal Audit Committee consists of five deputy ministers.

When an audit is completed, a copy of that audit goes to the particular department, the deputy minister of the department to respond and review. Another copy goes to the comptroller general. Another copy goes to the Auditor General of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister. Has the internal audit service or branch, have any of the auditors ever run into any obstacles or interference or objections to their internal audit work? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some cases there have been some push backs from that, and we dealt with it recently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister. I think the Department of Finance is probably the foundation of the government, and it's very important that the Department of Finance has the capacity to conduct internal audit services for the government, and hold people accountable to bring some credibility to our financial systems.

I know that in talking to the Auditor General of Canada, she is stressing accountability all of the time, even at the federal level, and it's very important.

So I am wondering, Mr. Chairman, if there are objections from other government departments to recommendations or conclusions within an internal audit how does the Department of Finance react to those objections from other departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In those types of situations, the comptroller general can intervene as well as myself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank the minister for that response. I am thinking that, in my mind and I am sure the minds of many people in Nunavut the buck stops with the Minister of Finance. You are ultimately held accountable for the financial condition and shape of the government. You have to go into government departments where you have to investigate cases.

You said you had 35 compliance audits last year, 26 for compliance, five were operational, four were financial. You have 16 in progress, and you completed 13 inquiries.

It's very important for the openness, accountability, and transparency which were mentioned in November in the Throne Speech.

I am hoping that, as the Minister of Finance, that you receive good cooperation from the other departments when you make your recommendations to do certain things after you conduct these internal audits.

I know you probably have the full support of the Auditor General of Canada. I believe she is coming up here in April to talk to many of your staff here in Iqaluit. I know our standing committee has a good relationship with the Auditor General of Canada, and we will be looking forward to seeing her again this year, and talk about some more recommendations from her department.

That's more of a comment, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted, for the record, to thank the Minister of Finance because that's where the buck stops. She and her officials have to hold people accountable, government departments and officials accountable. She should be given that full support and cooperation from other ministers. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Do you have anything to say Madam Minister?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank the member for his comments. We do have a very close working relationship as well through the internal audit division with the Auditor General of Canada's office.

One of the other things we look forward to in April is the Department of Finance is organizing a conference for all financial folks from the department, and throughout Nunavut. One of the things, during that time, I will be speaking to that delegation on the importance of internal controls, but the Auditor General of Canada has also been invited and she will be the keynote speaker or guest speaker at that conference as well. That again just goes to show that there is interest in working together with the Auditor General and our finance staff. I look forward to updating the members on that conference and the outcome of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We will take a 5-minute break.

>>Committee recessed at 14:57 and resumed at 15:12

Chairman (interpretation): We are back. We are on page C-7. (interpretation ends) Internal Audit Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to make just one comment here.

I am happy to see that there has been an increase in PY's in this area in the internal audit. It was an area identified by the Auditor General that needed some work on to help keep departments within the guidelines, and that's why I tip my hat for that being done.

My question on the internal audit division; how many audits, that they are trying to do five, ten, whatever how many audits are done on a regular basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are 40 on the go this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of those 40 that have been done or currently in processes, any major issues have been identified? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been some. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What were they?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, of the internal audits, there have been some concerns on a number of areas. One case that I know of, but I can't speak to all of the details of this in the House, and it's still being worked on, that was a fraud case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's just one case. She said there were a number of other areas. I would just like to get an idea of some of the other major issues besides fraud that have been identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Most of the results of the audits' recommendations are to, again, strengthen financial controls in some areas in training needs of departments that manage finances, but it's a range of training to improving processes. That's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister explain what the results of those findings were, but what were the major concerns that were identified in there? Were there delays in improper signing authorities? Were there delays in paying northern suppliers? What specific new types of issues were of a concern that were raised? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the deputy to respond to the details of each report. I am aware of some of those cases, the more serious ones, but the day-to-day ones, one example that we conducted and we were part of the review process, was with Nunavut Arctic College, and those recommendations were tabled in the House,

and that's again, along training, strengthening internal control, but the details of every report, I don't have. The deputy minister can perhaps elaborate more on those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were 40 audits conducted during 2004/05. 27 of those audits were compliance audits, where we went in and looked at the extent that departments were complying with all of the financial policies and procedures of government, and there were five operational audits, and eight financial audits.

In all cases, one of the primary focus is to ensure that government assets are being protected, and it might be a physical asset of government. We can go in and audit safety at an airport or safety at a power plant or safety at a tank farm.

Any case where a problem with one of our assets could be disruptive to the way of life in a community. It's important that we go and see that all precautions are in place to protect that asset.

In the vast majority of cases, our recommendations are discussed with the management, and there's agreement to implement the proposed changes. Always, there's follow-up audits to make sure what we recommend is done.

In the case where there's misappropriation of assets, there can be other actions that come out as a result of that, and in the Government of Nunavut, there have not been a lot of evidence of that sort of activity.

I think there are a lot of cases where departments or individuals don't follow procedures to a tee, but it's not a malicious intent involved on the part of the individual or the department.

I think there's good cooperation, there's also good cooperation with the Auditor General's department, as we conduct analysis, and some of our findings get picked up by the Auditor General in her annual report to the legislature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In these audits, is there any, I guess it gives an insight as to some of the strengths and weaknesses within the, in the most case, you are looking at the compliance audits and the financial audits, and the financial systems within the department and within the government, but is there any particular areas that have been brought to light and any plans overall to try and, okay this seems to be a problem, and if they did 27 compliance audits, and say half of them, this was something that was brought up, and we need to try and address this. Is there any specific initiative that has been developed to try and address any concerns that you were not aware of prior to these reviews? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process and procedures in place, I think, are quite strong. We have the Financial Administrations Act, we have procedures in place to assist departments across the board. A lot of times, it's related to training and lack of awareness.

So, when those items are brought forward and identified by the internal audit division, there is contact with each department to improve the process or the training of how to properly report or record or whatever they may be.

But in terms of the process in place of reporting finances of every department, that system is in place, and it works very well, and it's quite strong. A lot of times we need to train staff, and it allows consistency in how work is done by departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if, in some of these compliance issues that have arisen in the audit, if there's, in the opinion of the internal audit division of the department, that a bunch of it could be due to the significant turnover that most financial divisions within departments seem to have with employee turnover. I guess that's contributing the issue to some of these problems. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we do compliance audits, there are a number of concerns, and one of them is turnovers, of course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the minister misunderstood my question, but some of the things that were identified in the audits is that the opinion of the department or the internal audit division that there are a significant number of issues that are being identified as problems that are directly related to the high turnover of staff.

Maybe I misunderstood the minister, but my understanding of her response was that turnover was identified as one of the problems or that was looked at or identified in the audit.

So I am just asking for a clarification there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I said was turnover is a factor in some cases, but not all cases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the other areas that it talks about is, in here it says that the status was complete, conduct forensic investigations and conflict of interest audits, and the minister had indicated that there was a fraud charge or a fraud incident for the charge or whatever that was being looked at, and I am not interested or don't even hear what the details of that particular case are, but as a result of any of the investigations that the department has done, has there been any dismissals as a result of any of these investigations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there has. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I am aware of one. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate that when investigations are being done to an extent where a termination is a result that it would have to be something that is handled very delicately and very carefully.

I am just wondering if I could get an idea of how those, in general, those processes are followed. How do they identify things that may need to be looked into, and how do they follow up on those to determine whether there was anything there or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of conducting audits, we do random audits, we do audits on the request of departments, we also do audits on the basis of what we hear.

The process is there where internal audit division will conduct the audit, complete the investigation, complete the report. That report goes to the department, the department reviews it, responds, and acts on those reports.

Our job here is to identify the situation and complete the audit to ensure that yes, whatever situation may be, if identified, and each department deputy is contacted and they are required respond to that report, and once that's done, a copy of that goes to the comptroller general as well as the Auditor General of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they are looking or determining the scope of the audits or the objectives of the audits, is that something that in some of the more severe cases would end up looking into a fraud or something like that that would lead to a termination?

Whatever department it is, are they involved in the development of what to look at or consulted with the deputy on the issue, and involved in developing what needs to be looked at in the investigation or is that something that's arbitrarily done by the internal audit division? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The internal audit division conducts their audit, and once they have come to a conclusion, they provide their findings to the deputy minister of that particular department.

Once the issues are identified, the deputy head is notified immediately on the situation, and we continue to complete our audits, and provide that final report to the departments to respond to, and it's up to each department then to deal with the individuals in question.

Our job here is to provide the audits and the information to the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the audit, I guess, in that would it require the internal audit division just looking at information or doing interviews with the staff from the department that they are doing the investigation on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It can involve interviews with staff, it can involve interviews from outside the department, it can involve interviews with agencies we contract with, depending on the issue, depending on the scope of the file. So it varies each time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case there it's a government department, the staff that's being interviewed other than the Department of Finance staff.

Would there be any direction given to any of the witnesses or the people that are interviewed not to discuss anything or talk to their supervisors regarding any of the interviews that took place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In most cases, no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you. In most cases, if she could maybe identify cases where they would be instructed not to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the cases where we suspect that there is some resistance, there will be those types of directions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In any of the investigations and audits that have been done, has any of those types of directives not to talk to people within their own department been issued to the people? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know exactly how many or to who those types of directives would be given.

In one particular case that I am aware of, if they suspect that there is some resistance, members of staff are asked to keep the matter confidential. It's part of the process of conducting an audit, and to get all of the information necessary. Sometimes, we have to give direction to keep the matter of the interview confidential so that we can continue to complete the audit with the cooperation of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I am a little worried if they are interviewing someone within the department and they are told not to talk to anyone in their department on it.

If we tie that into one of the things that was mentioned that in which they base their audits on is based on just what they hear. How do you know? It could be: I heard this. So are you going to go off and do an investigation? Anyone could be a target out there. If someone doesn't like somebody or someone got somebody upset, then they could start up a rumor or something like that.

So I am just wondering what mechanism do you have in place to be able to separate that so that you ensure that what you are looking at, there are valid things and not personal vendettas like someone may have started just against someone else. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The whole reason we do the audit is to determine that. We determine whether it's truthful or not. We find the facts, we find the numbers, we find the backup materials, we find invoices, there's a whole process.

We don't do internal audits on rumours. There's room for that where you have to rule out some of those, and this is why you interview people to come to a conclusion on a particular situation.

Internal audit does not shy away from completing its reports and findings if there is an issue. We continue with the process until we are satisfied that things are okay, but if we feel that we need to continue with the audit we will until such time that we feel the matter is dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. You ran out of time, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): That's okay, Mr. Chairman, because it has already been asked. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page C-7. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for indulging with my questions. I am just trying to understand how the whole process works.

In the event of an investigation, I would imagine if the director or internal audit would be the head person, and I don't know if it would be Mr. Vardy or Mr. Ready would be the head person, but that person reports on it, but at what point is yourself or the minister involved informed of any situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The person that would be responsible and in charge of internal audit is the Director of Internal Audit. Most of the audits go to the comptroller general, who is Bob Vardy.

If there are serious situations that I should be aware, I am informed of it, but I don't get involved in the actual audits per say. I am notified if it's a serious matter, and that's the extent of my involvement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once you become aware of something that has been brought to your attention, that the comptroller general feels that this should come to your attention, is there a process in which you go and talk to the minister responsible for that department or does it go to Cabinet or where does that go from there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Just to remind the members that we are on the main estimates of 2005/06. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once I am notified of the nature of this, I do notify the appropriate minister or whoever needs to be informed. I notify the Premier, and that's the process we follow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that whole process now. One of the objectives that is set out in your business plan for internal audit is to formulate and implement an annual audit plan.

I am just wondering if that's something that's done. You mentioned there were 40 audits that were done this year, are you going to be targeting another 40 next year in different areas or what's the status of that annual audit plan? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The annual audit plan is completed on an annual basis. There's an Internal Audit Committee where there are five deputy ministers that sit with that committee, and they finalize the internal audit plans each year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does that same group review the results of the audits for the whole year as well in trying to identify future areas to look at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Yes, there are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo. We are on Internal Audit Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,194,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: C-8, Finance Branch Summary. Financial Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$11,750,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): It was already agreed to, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the business plan on C-18, the budget application support, the budget for application support in the financial management system was increased from a little over \$500,000 to \$2.2 million in 2004/05 to \$2,097,000 in 2005/06.

I am just wondering that there doesn't seem to be any explanation of why this increase is there. So my question is, I am just wondering why the budget for application support has increased so much since 2003/04. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I will get the deputy to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason for an increased budget in application support is linked to a number of initiatives to strengthen financial management in the government. One of the ways of improving financial management is to have better tools for financial managers to use.

We are trying to integrate our main financial management system, Freebalance, with all of the other financial systems that exist in government. Freebalance interacts with, I think it's around 30 other systems. So we are trying to improve that interface.

Also, we are trying to develop our own compensations and benefits system, the P2K system that was referenced earlier, and before we were contracting our payroll function, we did do a lot of the input into Government of Nunavut, but the actual computer system is run by a contractor, ADP, and one of the problems with that system, there's no good information or very little information coming forward on monitoring the numbers of

employees and types of employees, it's very weak on the Department of Human Resources management side.

So that's a main reason for the increase in budget is strengthening our financial systems and developing a new compensations and benefits system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know Mr. Vardy recalls something I have raised in the past on numerous occasions is on the whole IT program spending, and my understanding from his answers, that's what this spending is for, and that there was supposed to be a committee that was supposed to look at and keep the IT spending under control. I am just wondering if this is part of the plan that came out of the work of that committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was an IT, Information Technology/Information Management Committee that existed for the first five or six years of the Government of Nunavut. That committee coordinated IT spending in government.

The system enhancements that I referred to on the payroll definitely was discussed in that committee and was one of the plans to improve our systems. We have tried to control the amount of money that is spent for those purposes.

One of the changes that was made in last year's budget was to move the responsibilities of information management from Finance to Community and Government Services. So, with all of that, those responsibilities are under one roof right now; there's no need for any other departmental committee, and in Finance, we have scrutinized the spending on Information Technology/Information Management, the same as every other expenditure in government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vardy. We are on (interpretation ends) Financial Operations. Page C-8. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$11,750,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Turn to page C-9. (interpretation ends) Finance Branch Summary. Centrally Administered Funds. (interpretation ends) That's together with C-10. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$28,391,000, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question for the minister: does the minister's department look after funds for medical transportation, advances, dental premiums, workers' compensation for crown agencies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For Nunavut Arctic College, we do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When you do that for them, how do you recoup the funds that you pay on their behalf? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. I am going to get Bob to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Government of Nunavut, we don't charge back departments and crowns for any amounts that are paid for centrally including workers' compensation or the dental premiums. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, Mr. Vardy. Why would you administer for the Nunavut Arctic College and not for the other crown agencies? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With Nunavut Arctic College, they are part of the Department of Education budget. For example, with Qulliq Energy Corporation, they have their own revenue generating system, so they are separate. So, that's the difference. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: No further questions, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that same topic under employee benefits, it's identified on page C-21 in their business plan. It has the amount going from just right

around \$7 million to almost \$10.6 million. I am just wondering what accounts for those increases. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I need to get him to repeat the page number again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Under the C-21.

Chairman: Bingo. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Chairman, my page under C-21 of the business plan is the priorities for 2005/06. I don't know if I have the same page. I don't have that page number.

Chairman: Go ahead Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's on the top of the page on mine, it has the priorities for 2005/06, too, and then it has seven dots under the centrally administered funds, which is the section we are under and it's employee benefits section there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the employee benefits section, we have Workers' Compensation Board premiums medical travel, and a lot of those increases is the result of more staff as well as any new increases, and more usage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the department keep track of those benefits by category that they have down there, and take a look at those and see that there's a trend in increases in leave and termination or medical travel or whatever it is? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Yes, we do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would they be willing to provide that listing and the breakdown to the members? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those increases are dental premiums, \$158,000, Workers' Compensation Board premium rates with the increases is \$1,103,000, the total of that is \$1,261,000. Increases to employee medical travel, \$2,540,000, then the overall increase total is \$3,501,000, which explains the difference between the ten and the seven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the medical travel, is that for travel within the territory or outside the territory, and \$2.5 million is a big increase. I understand that that was what the increase was or that was not the total amount. Is that because more people are getting sick or those prices are going up or what's the case here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first question is it north and south medical travel, it's a combination of both. In terms of are there more sick people, I don't know that, but the usage of that particular program has increased by \$2,540,000. We receive the invoices through the Department of Health, and we pay it through this fund. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there an analysis done to look at whether that proportion is increased in the usage, which equates into \$2.5 million, roughly equals the proportion of the increased staff because that's what it was, it was \$2.5 million less for 100 staff less staff last year, and as a result of 100 more staff, you got \$2.5 million more usage. Is their analysis done like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have the information where we have the proportion between the number of employees and program, it's a combination of more usage, but at the same time, it's also an increase in costs of airfares. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) C-9. Centrally Administered Funds. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$28,391,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page (interpretation ends) C-11. Finance Branch Summary. Liquor Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$518,000, do you agree? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the minister a question. I asked this in Oral Questions a couple weeks ago, it seems like a couple months ago now.

In Cambridge Bay, to apply for an import license, you have to submit your application to Kugluktuk. I read in the media the other day that Kugluktuk has given up the contract to issue import licenses, and are saying that people would have to apply to Rankin Inlet now.

I wonder if the minister could give me an update for my constituents as to what the plans are for the Kitikmeot to apply for import licenses after March 31. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct; Kugluktuk will no longer be issuing permits starting March 31.

The impact of communities, from what I understand, the division in Rankin Inlet have contacted the communities affected by that, and at the present time, arrangements have been made that the permits will be purchased out of Rankin Inlet, but we are also looking at ways of providing that service in the communities like Cambridge Bay and Taloyoak as well as Kugluktuk for the Kitikmeot Region. We are looking at trying to put those systems in place to address the member's concern in the New Year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. In my comments yesterday, I mentioned that we are concerned that the process might be too complicated for the folks in the Kitikmeot. I am hoping you can streamline it and make it easier for people to acquire the necessary legal licenses. I mentioned in my comments yesterday and in the past, that we have bootleggers that are out there willing to sell people bottles of booze for \$200 to \$300 each because some people are finding it too unwieldy to go through the paperwork, to find fax machines, and locate people that they have to contact to get the proper application.

I am hoping that the minister's department recognizes that we have some difficulties in our region with that process, and we need to work to overcome some of the red tape. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize the member's concerns and I share the same concerns he does. We are working towards trying establish a better process for issuing permits now that we have the full responsibility within the Nunavut territory to manage the warehouse as well as the board activities.

So we are looking into that, and we are looking at our options as to who in the communities or what agencies can provide that service on our behalf, but that's still in the works, and we are trying to address that. My staff in Rankin Inlet have been directed to come up with trying to address those types of concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask the minister; there were about 40 applicants about shipper/receiver. Under shipper/receiver, it states in the business plan, under C-22 (interpretation ends) objective to promote compliance with liquor control legislation and regulation. (interpretation) You also want to cooperate (interpretation ends) with the user groups. (interpretation) How will that promotion be done? Will that be contracted or by PR group? Exactly how are they going to promote compliance? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have stated in my budget address that I would be working with the Liquor Management Board with their input to improving education type initiatives or promotion of the legislations, and I am going to be meeting with the board this month here in Iqaluit to discuss those in more detail.

But at the same time, the education parts of it will involve not only the Department of Finance, but agencies in the communities as well. We are looking at doing that work internally, we are not looking at contracting that service out. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Yeah, it would be good if the public knows about this because there doesn't seem to be a strategy in regards to substance abuse. I know you are not responsible.

But we, as the public, would place more towards the government if there was a better liquor-related legislation. Maybe, if it was contracted out, then people would understand better because if the Liquor Management Board was contracted out, and as long as the budget is approved.

So I would like to ask, the regulations, I think they are good, and there should be improvements to have more control over the bootlegging. I wonder if the minister can tell

us if she will be working on this because we don't have records of alcohol-related offences, if we can come up with a tracking system.

My other question: do you know how much the bootleggers are fined? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member's concerns on that. I have stated in the past that I would be looking at trying to address some of those issues to this in partnership with Justice, as well as Health, and are up to these.

The way we track now is before, I had mentioned as well, that any purchase outside the territory, we had no knowledge of that data. With the operations now in Nunavut, we will be able to track the number of sales to particular individuals in what particular community as well.

So the other thing that we are also looking to work with is that there's the Alcohol Education Committees at the community level for their advise and suggestions on how to address some of those challenges.

So, that work has been initiated through the staff in Rankin Inlet. I hope I answered all of your questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, I would appreciate it if maybe at some point that the minister will actually implement and promote, actually show some initiatives in that regard instead of containing a PR item, which probably will not be used or has not been used, it's got to be implemented. This promotion is for making the public aware of the consequences of alcohol as well as the illegal sale of alcohol really needs to get out to the public.

My second part of my earlier question was: what are the consequences and fines for first offence of selling illegally an alcohol without license?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to providing a plan to address the concerns that he has raised related to the whole education part of this divisions and concerns that have been raised around bootlegging, but anyway, to come up with a plan to share with the members.

In terms of fines for people that are bootlegging, I don't have the information or answer to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Yes, my point is that I think if all of us were aware of exactly what the first and second offence is related to the illegal sale of alcohol, I think the public would be under a lot more, at least aware that is.

Many communities probably don't understand that it's illegal to sell alcohol in dry communities, and that kind of stuff. So I think even the Cabinet Ministers don't know that, so that's amazing.

My second question is that I just want to make a point of I think a clarification in one of the Minister's Statements. The minister stated at one point that, earlier in this Session, that there has been a liquor warehouse built in Rankin Inlet.

I just wanted to clarify that because the government or no one actually built a facility for alcohol in the first place. The government did acquire a facility from the private sector to facilitate that, but the Minister's Statement at one point indicated that a generic liquor warehouse has been built in Rankin Inlet for that purpose.

I think that it's important that the government is leasing, perhaps with a long-term lease without public tender a liquor warehousing facility. Am I correct in that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I would like to respond to the comments he made.

I am aware of the Cabinet Member that it's illegal to sell alcohol in dry communities. I come from a dry community. I know that. What I don't know is what the fine is. It depends on the number of times the person has been charged for bootlegging. So it varies by person. So I don't know the answer to the exact fine people get for bootlegging. So I want that for the record.

Secondly, the issue around the warehouse in Rankin Inlet, that was tendered, that was tendered and awarded through the normal process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I appreciate the minister's clarification on that point. My second point is: is the liquor warehouse facility now fully staffed in Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are six positions that are staffed from the information I have, out of eight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barnabas wanted to ask some questions. (interpretation ends) Liquor Management. (interpretation) We are on page C-11. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$518,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): C-12 is just some information. (interpretation ends) Go back to page C-4. Finance Department Summary. Details of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$48,338,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Department of Finance is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): A motion is on the Floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, please rise. Opposed. The motion is carried. (interpretation ends) Minister of Finance, Ms. Aglukkaq (interpretation ends) I thank you for appearing before us. Do you have any final remarks?

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to thank my deputy Bob Vardy, and the other member had to go to a doctor's appointment, I thank him as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister and Deputy Minister. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Chairman Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Speaker (interpretation): There's a motion on the Floor. Who is the seconder of the motion? Mr. Netser. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstained. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Announcements for Monday: a meeting of the regular caucus commencing at 9:00 in the morning in the Tuktu Board Room.

Orders of the Day for Monday, March 14, 2005:

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
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 52 - 2(2)
 - Bill 8
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 12
 - Bill 13

- Bill 14

20. Report to Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): This house stands adjourned until Monday, March 14, 2005 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant at arms.

>>*House adjourned at 16:15*

