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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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Minister Responsible for
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Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1611
Ministers' Statements	1611
Members' Statements	1613
Returns to Oral Questions	1620
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1620
Oral Questions.....	1621
Notices of Motions	1640
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1641
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1703
Orders of the Day	1704

A.

Daily References

Monday, March 14, 2005 1611

B.

Ministers' Statements

082 – 2(2): Municipal Training Partnership Agreement (Kilabuk)..... 1611
083 – 2(2): Conference – Inuit Societal Values (Tapardjuk) 1612
084 – 2(2): Kitkmeot Apprentices (Picco) 1612

C.

Members' Statements

201-2(2): The National Airing in Cape Dorset (Akesuk)..... 1613
202–2(2): Special Needs – Informal Caregivers (Peterson)..... 1613
203–2(2): Tribute to Sport Coaches in Repulse Bay (Mapsalak)..... 1614
204 – 2(2): Safety of Service Vehicles (Barnabas) 1615
205 – 2(2): Women's Auxillary Conference (Arreak) 1616
206 – 2(2): Best Wishes to Savannah and Family (Evyagotailak) 1616
207 – 2(2): Meeting with Pangnirtung Fisheries (Kilabuk) 1617
208 – 2(2): Recognition of Search Volunteers (Curley)..... 1618
209 – 2(2): Volunteer Nunavut Forum (Picco) 1618
210 – 2(2): Members' Hockey Charity Game (Tootoo)..... 1619

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 209 – 2(1): Members for “Elder Care Task Force” (Brown) 1620

E.

Oral Questions

267 – 2(2): Executive Summary – Recommendation Update (Tootoo)	1621
268 – 2(2): Update on 24-hour Care Facilities – Alzheimer’s Disease (Peterson)	1622
269 – 2(2): Safety of Service Drivers (Barnabas)	1624
270 – 2(2): Medivac Contract to Provide Washroom Facilities (Netser)	1625
271 – 2(2): Arctic College Student Family Accomodations (Curley)	1627
272–2(2): Clarification on the Petition for a Mini Mall (Netser)	1630
273 – 2(2): Nanisivik Funding Cleanup of Fuel and Propane Containers (Barnabas)	1631
274 – 2(2): Justice Committee for the Smaller Communities (Kattuk)	1632
275 – 2(2): Liaison with Federal Government (Tootoo)	1633
276 – 2(2): KPMG Report Implementation of Recommendations (Peterson)	1635
277 – 2(2): Financial Help for Ladies’ Auxillaries (Arreak)	1636
278 – 2(2): Update on Funding for Legal Fees (Tootoo)	1637
279 – 2(2): Multi-culture Meeting (Barnabas)	1638
280 – 2(2): Update on Contract on Purchase and Supply Savings (Tootoo)	1639

F.

Motions

012 – 2(2): Standing Committee Hearing and Consultations on Nunavut Arctic College – Notice (Tootoo)	1640
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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 14, 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. Alagalak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 082 – 2(2): Municipal Training Partnership Agreement

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce a new partnership between the Nunavut Municipal Training Organization and the Nunavut Construction Corporation, a 100 percent Inuit owned company (NCC 99).

With the successful launch of the Municipal Government Certificate Program, management teams in every municipality now has the opportunity to receive comprehensive training.

The next major objective is to provide just as comprehensive an approach to meeting the municipal need for trades training. This goal of employing qualified Inuit in the trades is shared by the NCC 99.

Today, I am pleased to announce that NCC 99 and the Municipal Training Organization have signed a training partnership agreement to achieve this shared goal. By sharing resources and coordinating their efforts, this partnership is an effective and efficient way to help Inuit receive training and certification in the building maintenance and construction trades.

The Department of Community and Government Services is very pleased to have supported the development of this partnership agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 083 – 2(2): Conference – Inuit Societal Values

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today to inform members of a conference that my department is hosting from March 15 to March 17th, 2005 in Iqaluit.

In collaboration with Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit, the Departments of Justice and Health and Social Services, the Department of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is holding a conference on Inuit societal values and how we can start to identify gaps, strategies and solutions to address community and social wellness issues.

There is a strong and growing sense that community service agencies should deliver programs in a manner more in keeping with Inuit societal values and approaches. Elders are eager to pass on their knowledge of social behavior and values which promote healthy, and harmonious kinship structures. Traditionally, these structures were in place that supported families and individuals. The cultural lifestyle change in the last forty years have created gaps and changed people's role.

The goals and principles outlined in the *Pinasuaqtavut* document indicates that, as Nunavutmiut, we need to work together; aajiiqatinniinniq, piliriqatigiinniq, ikajuqatigiinniq. This will help us to identify consistent structures and support mechanisms to promote healthy communities in a more holistic way.

There are 40 participants from the communities. The involvement of elders and knowledgeable people at the community level play an important role in how we shape our programs and services. It is our responsibility to adapt to the different lifestyle and acknowledge the change and seek solutions. This conference is part of this process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 084 – 2(2): Kitkmeot Apprentices

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that we have three new journeypersons in the Kitikmeot region who recently completed their apprenticeships, and are now fully qualified tradespeople. I would like to congratulate:

- Kenneth Kuodluak – Housing Maintainer;
- Ryan Nivingalok – Housing Maintainer, and
- Pete Hamilton – Plumber/Gasfitter/OBM, all of Kugluktuk.

We congratulate and commend these three for their commitment to excellence in their respective trades. I would also like to recognize the Kugluktuk Housing Association, Kikiak Contracting and the career development officers for the Kitikmeot region for their support of the Kitikmeot's newest journeypersons.

The Department of Education is committed to supporting and working with apprentices and the businesses that employ them. Life-long learning is a priority for the Government of Nunavut and skilled trades people are vital to the growth of our economy. Recognizing these individuals' achievements is an important part of encouraging Nunavutmiut to enter the trades.

Please join me in congratulating our newest journeypersons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 201-2(2): The National Airing in Cape Dorset

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we watch TV tonight, the National will be airing from Cape Dorset tonight. I encourage everybody to watch the National with Peter Mansbridge.

I congratulate them. They will be giving a story on Cape Dorset, and I am happy that they were able to go to Cape Dorset. It will be on tonight. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 202-2(2): Special Needs – Informal Caregivers

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to alert the House to a situation which occurs in all of our communities that affects many of Nunavut's families.

It is a fact of life that some of us face difficulties with our health. Sometimes these difficulties exist from birth and sometimes they appear later in life. Some of us suffer from the results of accidents or debilitating disease. We all grow older.

When a person is unable to live independently in safety and comfort, it falls on others to provide the appropriate care and support. Very often, the role of caregiver is taken on by

family members. If a family is already living in an overcrowded situation, providing special care for one individual puts added pressure on their situation.

Family members provide support and care out of love and a sense of duty, such as caring for a parent who is growing older. Many individuals would never think to complain about their role as an informal caregiver in the family home but it is important that the caregivers themselves receive the care and support that they need.

Research has revealed that informal caregivers are much more likely to suffer from health problems and from depression that result from additional stresses on their personal circumstances than caregivers in formal settings like group homes or elders' homes.

The lack of dedicated care facilities in Nunavut has been noted many times by Members in this House. This means that when providing care for a family member at home becomes too difficult, families are often faced with very little choice.

If the person they are caring for requires care and services that cannot be provided in the family home, then the individual is often sent away, usually far away, to a facility in another jurisdiction. This is extremely difficult for families to deal with.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that our Government considers plans and strategies in the areas of respite care, support networks, transportation services, and investment in training more community homecare workers. These types of initiatives can provide vital support to informal caregivers.

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

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 203–2(2): Tribute to Sport Coaches in Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the efforts of two of my constituents in Repulse Bay. All Members of the House know how important organized sports are to the well-being of our communities and our youth.

Being active in sports also helps to reduce the ways of making unhealthy lifestyle choices.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this team provides our young people with important great opportunities. Local teacher Ian Gordon and Mike McMillan coached the Whalers with ... (interpretation) My apology, Mr. Speaker, I will say it Inuktitut. Local teachers Ian Gordon and Mike McMillan coached the Whalers with enthusiasm and dedication.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to tell the House that they were recently selected as Hockey North winners of the second annual Royal Bank of Canada Local Hockey Leaders Program.

Mr. Speaker, there were over 3,000 nominations from across Canada for this year's program. The award included \$10,000, which will be used to cover part of the cost of sending the team to an upcoming tournament in Manitoba.

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

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

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I am pleased that our local efforts have gained national recognition. I will be continuing to support these efforts, and urge the Government of Nunavut to also lend a hand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 204 – 2(2): Safety of Service Vehicles

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today regarding the safety of service vehicles in Nunavut. Members of this House will have noted recent news reports indicating that fuel truck drivers in Resolute Bay have been operating those trucks without proper licences and training.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, inquests were held into four deaths that occurred in Nunavut. The Coroner's Jury made several recommendations based on their findings to make our communities safer for pedestrians. Many of those recommendations focus on proper training for the people who operate vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that the local fuel contractor in Resolute Bay is not hiring properly licenced drivers. The coroner's report indicates that more training is required. I think they mean more training for licenced operators. How much less safe are drivers that are not even licenced in the first place?

Mr. Speaker, it is not acceptable that an operator has been allowed to continue operating under these circumstances. I understand that the Department of Community and Government Services, in cooperation with the Municipal Training Organization has instituted a territory-wide training program.

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

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 205 – 2(2): Women's Auxillary Conference

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that last week was International Women's Day, and Women's Auxiliaries from across the north are meeting here in Iqaluit, and I would like to make a few comments regarding them.

They assist anybody in need in the communities, and that includes people who are sick. We know, for those people who are very sick, they are the last people that they see in their lives. If people are leaving the community and if they don't have any money, they raise money, and they help families who have lost a loved one.

The women do the most volunteer work in the communities because, whatever activities there are in the communities, women are always more visible, and they do more voting during elections.

Oleepeeka Iqalukjuak from Clyde River has welcomed everybody during their meeting at the Anglican Parish Hall this week, Mr. Speaker, so I urge you to provide the opportunity for members to attend their meetings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We will take that into consideration. Members' Statements. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 206 – 2(2): Best Wishes to Savannah Egotak and Family

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to send my best wishes and support to young Savannah Atagak Egotak and her parents Cheryl Egotak and Jimmy Carpenter who live in my community of Kugluktuk.

(Interpretation ends) Savannah has recently been diagnosed with Leukemia and, like many of our Nunavut patients suffering from a serious illness, she has to travel south for treatment. Savannah will be getting her treatment in Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, when a family member has to go out of the territory to receive medical care, this puts a huge burden on the family. I am happy to say that community residents are trying to offer as much support as they can. The community has begun fundraising and people can drop off donations of food at the Co-op and Northern Stores to help support the family while they are going through a very difficult time.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our best wishes to Savannah and her family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 207 – 2(2): Meeting with Pangnirtung Fisheries

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just in Panniqtuuq this past weekend, and I had a meeting with members and management of Pangnirtung Fisheries this morning. We discussed how turbot fishing has run into some difficulty in the Panniqtuuq fiord.

Just last week, I made an announcement where four fishermen barely made it to land. Usually, they fish for turbot right up until May, but right now with the deterioration of the ice and other problems, they are currently not fishing, and Pangnirtung Fisheries' fish plant has closed down completely.

This is due to the rapid and early deterioration of the ice. The fishermen have lost all of their fishing and hunting equipment due to the problems they ran into last week. With the weather and ice conditions, they currently can't get any kind of support or any income from the fishing.

We now know that they can't get any support financially. Most of the equipment that they have to go out hunting with are out in the fishing camp. Also at this time, the fishing plant is closed and because of the inadequately small quota that they received for off-shore fishing, there are going to be a lot of people who will be affected.

There are approximately 50 people who are now unemployed and can't get any unemployment insurance due to the number of weeks that they worked.

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

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. The fish plant is the only one of its kind in Nunavut where they process turbot and because of this problem that we have and because of the quota that they get for organizations, we'll have to look into this closely. This is the only off-shore fisheries in this area and this is the only fish plant we have in this area.

I will be asking for support from my colleagues to rectify this problem. At this time and with the current problems that we have, there are new problems coming up and we will have to look at new solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 208 – 2(2): Recognition of Search Volunteers

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the issue of the recognition of volunteers.

I very strongly believe that we also have to recognise the individuals and organizations involved in search and rescue operations, not only by the government, but by every single person in this House.

They go through extreme conditions to look for people who get lost out there. As people we know that we live in extreme conditions and it's extremely cold out there. We have four seasons and every single one of those seasons has some danger to it. With that, search and rescue are not given adequate funding from the government.

It's very important for the government to seriously think about given more funding to the search and rescue. They will need support in technology. They need equipment for the snowmobiles and for other equipment. Usually if there is breakage, they will have to pay for it themselves.

It is very important for the government to help these organizations because with these organizations and the crown corporations, the government gives millions and millions of dollars. We give them bingo licenses so they can go fund raising and that's our only search and rescue parties.

This is something that is very embarrassing to the government, and I would urge all government representatives to make sure that these organizations are given adequate support. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 209 – 2(2): Volunteer Nunavut Forum

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The second annual Volunteer Nunavut Forum was held on March 11, 12 and 13 here in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, the Volunteer Nunavut is a territorial organization funded under the Federal Canadian Volunteers initiative.

Kammaksiaqtut Help Line has taken on the role as host organization for three years and with Sheila Levy and Charlotte Ford are the co-chairpersons. Mr. Speaker, for the second year of pan-Nunavut meetings, these jointly planned sessions were held in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the participants were from many Nunavut communities including Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Gjoa Haven, Hall Beach, Iglulik, Iqaluit, Kimmirut and Pannirtuuq. Also, Mr. Speaker, Taloyoak and Sanikiluaq were represented.

Each hamlet was an integral part of selected appropriate participants who best represented their community. The weekend forum included training on proposal writing, fund raising, supporting volunteers and other critical and essential aspects of volunteer management and support cycle that nurture and support volunteer.

Mr. Speaker, there was also a session on Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit aspects for volunteerism. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Charlotte Ford and Sheila Levy and all the volunteers for working with and for Nunavutmiut everyday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 210 – 2(2): Members' Hockey Charity Game

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very relieved to be standing here today. I'm not in pain after our hockey game last night. I would like to thank all the members that came out and supported us, whether they be coaching staff to cheer leaders.

It was a great game. It was lots of fun. I wanted to just indicate one thing that I'm kind of worried about is that I don't know what's going to happen now. Last night, I think, Mr. Picco broke two world records. I should say, one personal best and one world record. I think he set a new world record for the longest penalty shot and he also scored a goal last night, so I would just like to congratulate him on that.

>>Applause

It was a record breaking performance that he made last night. Also, Mr. Peterson was there as well, as the saying goes, he took one for the team and took a puck of the chin and had to go for four stitches. I would like to commend our health Minister for coming down quickly with the bandaids for Mr. Peterson on the bench.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I also want to say I'm very ashamed that last night I had left in such a rush, that the idea was that it was charity game. Any funds that were raised through donations by the members and players would get donated to a charity. I never gave my donation last night, so here's my \$20. I'm going to be putting it on the table and delivering it to Mr. Chegwyn at the fire hall.

I would like to ask all members, if they haven't already, to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Members' Statements.

Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Ms. Brown.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 209 – 2(1): Members for “Elder Care Task Force”

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Question 209-2(2), Members for Elder Care Task Force asked by Mr. Curley, on March 07, 2005.

Mr. Speaker, on March 3rd, I was asked to table the recommendations from the Elders' Facility Review and advance of the social services main estimates review. I would like to clarify that these recommendations are only part of a broader report developed by the Continued Care Elders' Task Force.

This report presents general recommendations for a comprehensive elder's plan aimed at addressing the needs of Nunavut's elders for the coming years as well recommendations related to the creation of more 24/7 elder's care facilities.

Mr. Speaker, I have consulted with my senior staff and had decided not to table the recommendations of the continued care elders' task force. These recommendations have been developed to provide advanced advice to the Cabinet, and will go forward for Cabinet's consideration in the near future. This report is a work in progress, and therefore, it would be premature to table the recommendation at this time.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that the report of the continued care elders' task force doesn't impact the department's current proposed 2005/06 main estimates because there's no funding allocated to this work.

Once the plan has been completed and approved, the department will follow the appropriate process for capital spending.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to updating the members on the continued care plan at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to Oral Questions. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Speaker (interpretation): I am pleased to draw the members attention in the Gallery to the Parliamentary interns from the House of Commons; these Canadians are participants in the prestigious national program. They are in Iqaluit this week for the annual study tour.

The participants are, I apologize ahead of time if I don't pronounce their names properly, Joshua Alcock, they are sitting over at the gallery, Jeffery Bell, thank you, Karen Diepeveen, David Hugill, Melisa Leclerc, Jonathan Manes, Katrina Marsh, Jay Nathwani, Anthony Romanelli and Althia Raj. With them is their program director, Jean-Pierre Gaboury and Ms. Diana Nemiroff. I apologize for not attending the dinner last night. I went to attend the meeting at 6:00, I didn't realize I was attending the meeting too early, so I apologize. Thank you.

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 267 – 2(2): Executive Summary – Recommendation Update

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the record-breaking Minister of Education. Earlier in this session, the minister tabled an executive summary of a report that he had commissioned on Arctic College, and there were some pretty significant issues raised in that report. He has since then assured the members of this House that they are working on those recommendations, rectifying some of the problems that were identified at the college.

My question to the minister is, would he commit to providing the members of this House what someone in the education field would call a report card, or some kind of a formal update or a progress report, on the actions that the college is taking to rectify some of the issues identified in the report for our fall sitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the budget debate on the Department of Education, I said that at that time almost 50 percent of the recommendations that were in the report are either being dealt with or have been dealt with.

At some point, I could update the House on that process, how the recommendations are going. Again, the board of governors of the college accepted the recommendations; indeed, there were 75 within the report. Action is taking place on those recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am looking for more of a formal response or a report on the issues that were identified in the report. As the minister indicated, there were 75 recommendations. I wonder if he would be willing to instruct the board of governors and senior staff of the college to prepare a report that he can table in the House in the fall that outlines the issues, recommendation by recommendation: what the issue was and what actions, corrective measures, have been taken to rectify those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we would be able to facilitate that report. I think it is a good suggestion by the member, and it is something that I would, as the Minister of Education, commit to do and table in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 268 – 2(2): Update on 24-hour Care Facilities – Alzheimer’s Disease

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Last November’s throne speech included an important commitment to our senior population. It stated, “In partnership with communities, the government is committed to opening one new 24-hour elders’ facility and care facility in each year of its mandate, beginning next year.”

I understand that the minister has already initiated the evaluation process to determine when these 24-hour elders’ care facilities will be established. However, my question addresses what specific aspect of elder care? Can the minister update this House on what specific initiatives her department has been considering to address the needs of persons who are suffering from Alzheimer’s Disease or related dementias? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure that all of us are concerned about individuals like that; we have family members with various illnesses. In regard to Alzheimer’s Disease, we hear of it from all over the place in Nunavut. Because we don’t have any care facility for Alzheimer’s, we usually send them down South.

I do believe that in upcoming years, we will be able to provide services to Alzheimer’s patients and other various diseases. We will be able to care for these individuals with these diseases; I will look into that further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. One of my constituents found space in a home in Baker Lake recently, for three months, for her mother, but it's short-term. She will have to come back to the community if she can't continue to stay there.

My question for the minister: Parliament is at present debating a motion to establish a national strategy, in consultation with provinces and territories, to ensure a nationally coordinated comprehensive approach to Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias. Can the minister inform this House what her department's position is on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate my colleague for bringing this up because there are Nunavutmiut who have Alzheimer's Disease. I forgot to mention earlier that home caregivers are very busy at this time and we're initiating that and promoting home care.

In regard to the member's question, we are now seeing more and more of that kind of disease in the South. Once I hear of any Nunavutmiut having that kind of illness, I will let you know right away. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. In the Northwest Territories, our counterparts have recently noted a projected increase in the number of seniors in their territory, and the possibility of building a dedicated dementia facility is being reviewed.

Can the minister update this House on whether similar studies and considerations will be looked at here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I appreciate the member's question. Yes, we will look into that and find out more about it. I expect to see more cases occurring in Nunavut. There are other illnesses that are occurring in Nunavut too; there are approximately 755 illnesses. The Department of Health and Social Services is working really hard to make sure that there are caregiving services.

Yes, I will look into the member's question, and I will look into that matter. I appreciate him for asking those questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for appreciating my asking questions; it's good, healthy debate when we get these things out in the House on behalf of our constituents across Nunavut.

Can the minister tell us if the government of Nunavut keeps records of Nunavut residents who suffer from Alzheimer's disease or related dementias. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we all want to provide support and assistance to people with illnesses and we want to inform the public about these possible illnesses. Yes, Alzheimer's disease is very important, and I'm sure that once they diagnose people at the local level, we'll hear about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 269 – 2(2): Safety of Service Drivers

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

Can the minister tell me or the House how his department has responded to the problem occurring in the High Arctic in regard to fuel truck drivers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My officials were going to go up to the High Arctic to actually look into this matter, and if they found any problems occurring, then they were going to deal with them and rectify the problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the Government of Nunavut formally act on the recommendations made in the coroner's jury's report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) Some of the recommendations from the coroner's report have already been acted on and some of them are being considered, to make sure that the majority of the recommendations could be implemented as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends)
Recommendation number two of the coroner's jury is to increase the number of training courses for the operation of heavy equipment and heavy trucks in Nunavut.

Can the minister tell this House what additional training will occur in response to these recommendations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A majority of the staff are trained in air breaks, heavy equipment operating, and this training program will continue in the municipalities.

They are also following the coroner's recommendations, and the needs of the communities are acted upon, especially when our communities request a certain type of training. Yes, that will continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a contract in place for fuel delivery in the High Arctic, so what will happen to the contractors or the contract that they are holding once they find out that they have to follow the rules? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The heavy equipment operators and the fuel and water delivery truck drivers have to have an adequate licence. So, if they find out that they don't have a proper licence, the contract will have to continue.

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

Question 270 – 2(2): Medivac Contract to Provide Washroom Facilities

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. The lack of washroom facilities on medical travel airlines, especially in the Keewatin region, has been a long standing issue of concern in our territory.

I have raised this issue in the House a few times, and I have written letters to the Minister of Health and Social Services on this very issue. Even the KPMG medical travel review tabled last week by the minister states, on page 14, that "Washroom facilities on small aircraft are problematic." That was written in 2002, and nothing has been done.

Can the minister tell this House why medivac contracts are negotiated with airlines that don't meet the RFP specification stated for flights over one hour in duration: "The contractor shall provide washroom facilities on all aircraft on which patients will be flying." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this has been ongoing for some time, especially in regards to the medivac aircraft that don't have washrooms. I understand that if there's going to be a one-hour flight, then they don't need to have the washroom facilities, but if it's over an hour, then they would have to provide them. So, that is the reason why we have hired those medivac planes that don't take an hour to fly. That's the response that I can give him at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Back in about 2002, when the government issued a tender for expansion of our water reservoir in Coral Harbour, I was then partners with a local contractor and I put in a bid. It turned out my bid was the lowest of the four bidders, and they turned my bid down because I did not qualify for one item on the specified tender. They, in turn, awarded the contract to the next-lowest bidder who in turn hired my company to do the work, which was not qualified in the first place.

Now, the RFP states that any flight with a duration of over an hour is supposed to have a washroom, and she just mentioned that the RFP does not say that. But I can show the minister that particular, where the RFP says that there is supposed to be a washroom facility on the aircraft.

Can the minister tell me why that has not been followed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although we don't have anything to do with the specifications of the airlines, because of our responsibility at the Health and Social Services, I have to respond to those types of things. The member's question is very important and I will do my very best to try solve that, along with my colleagues.

What we would like to do is ask the airlines why they don't have the washroom facilities in their airplanes. Those companies approach us, and we know that they can do their best to try to provide Nunavutmiut with medical travel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 271 – 2(2): Arctic College Student Family Accommodations

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should have thanked the Minister of Education yesterday for making a statement on the carpenter-framers. I would like to give my appreciation to him now.

I would like to ask the minister, because he didn't state this in his minister's statement in regard to the Nunavut Arctic College accommodations: what is going to happen with those people who are married and going to Nunavut Arctic College with their children and their wives? What kinds of payment are they given?

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier last week, in the House: when a student is accepted at a program at one of our three campuses, in those cases, the regional campuses, and we bring students from outside the community in... For example, in Rankin Inlet, if we're running a program there, a student would apply and they would go to Rankin Inlet for the course.

In this case, we have two units available in Rankin Inlet, which are actually leased on the open market from individuals, which provide family accommodations. If a person has a family and they're taking a program in Rankin Inlet, they are told immediately that there may not be housing available; if those two units are gone, there may not be family housing available. If the person still chooses to take their family to Rankin Inlet, then under FANS there are monies available for those types of accommodations, if they're billeted with a private family; within that allowance there is money to pay the billeting family.

Again, it is up to the student how much that student pays the family and so on. So, that's how it's handled right now in Rankin Inlet specifically. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly appreciate the minister's clarification on some of the information that is really quite important to those young people that have an interest in taking courses in Rankin Inlet, because the campus in the Kivalliq has been in existence in almost or over 20 years, in my view. I remember recommending capital expenditures for that project.

Mr. Speaker, the problem is that the young people with families that are going to take courses really don't have accommodations available. I appreciate the two units that are being made available from the private market, but will the minister commit to establishing a long-term capital plan to allow those young families to stay and have accommodations at the campus? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue around the accommodations in Rankin Inlet... . The member is correct, we do have the facilities for single student accommodations, and the need in Rankin Inlet is for family accommodations.

There are monies allocated within the supplementary capital plan, but they are not in the five-year capital plan. Those monies would have to come forward from that plan as a capital plan and be voted on here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, if there were support from all members in the House to do that, then that's something I would be willing to advocate, on the behalf of the college, to move forward with those family accommodations. But then again, it has to be something that goes before the House first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate the minister clarifying these important initiatives. There are supplementary estimates included for housing, but I think the minister should also understand fully that the housing is not only important to the student... . It's important not only to the government staff that are applying for positions in Nunavut; there are many millions of dollars made available for staff housing of Government of Nunavut staff, wherever they are.

But the minister had stated, during the last few years, to make a recommendation to the cabinet or to this House that the housing for young people who are trying to make a living and earn their education through these colleges should be one of the priorities.

Will the minister commit that the housing needs of the young people of Nunavut will be one of his priorities? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that the member from Rankin Inlet is very concerned with the issues around student accommodations.

Again, as the members are aware, the election was only a year ago in March. I have only been the Minister of Education for a year, and at that time, what we have tried to do is bring forward and address the capital plan that has to be voted for in this House. If there was a motion from the members supporting extra dollars to be allocated and be found for student accommodations in Rankin Inlet, then Mr. Speaker, that's something that I would advocate on behalf and for.

Right now, an example: when I look at the college, I have to look at the whole college. Right now, there are over 30 units being leased, for example, here in Iqaluit, which is costing the college, on the open market, considerable thousands and thousands of dollars. We are trying to move away from that.

At the same time, on the campus at Rankin Inlet, for the number of programs that are there, there are the single accommodations and they are efficient, but, there is a need for family accommodations. Again, I would say and suggest to the member that I am very supportive of the line of questioning that he has raised, and I support his premise that there is a need for family accommodations.

That's something that I will advocate, with him, for. But again, we have to move it from the supplemental plan to the capital plan. That debate, Mr. Speaker, is not until this fall, when the next capital budget of the government begins, and at that time, I am sure the member can bring those issues forward; that's something that needs to get the support of all of the House, to be able to move something from the supplemental plan into the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I will be pleased to move such a motion to transfer one item from the Department of Education or whoever, or housing, for all that matter, to transfer to the Kivalliq region student housing needs of Rankin Inlet.

We do have ten units that are not occupied in Rankin Inlet, 80 percent completed, 80 percent paid for by the Nunavut Government. I will certainly make a recommendation that they are made available if I can get the ministers' support. Will he do that?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just trying to explain the process. The five-year capital plan is based on the priorities of the government and the department. The supplemental plan are things that would move forward into the capital plan based on prioritization.

I am not sure the units that the member is talking about in Rankin Inlet, he says that there were ten units, they may already be allocated for staff housing. They may be allocated for the new hospital that is being built in Rankin Inlet that will come on line very soon, that you will need to staff up. It would be premature to say that we would move a motion to allocate those ten units, because then you would have to find ten units from nurses or doctors, if that is the case.

So, what I am saying to the member is that, over the coming weeks and months, is that the member... when we review the capital plan for the college, because we still have an ambitious capital plan for some of the other projects within the college itself, and within the whole framework of the government, if that is taken into consideration, then we could move forward. As I said earlier, remember we are going to have to get the acquiescence and the support of the House to move an item from the supplemental plan, that is no different from any other member, to put in his community of Rankin Inlet. So, that is all I have said.

I will advocate on his behalf because I believe that there is a need for family housing there. We are only leasing two on the open market right now because that is all the funds we had at the time. If we had the opportunity to lease more units then we could do that, because there is a need there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 272–2(2): Clarification on the Petition for a Mini Mall

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tabled a petition from those who wish to build a mini-mall in Clyde River and the response that I got from the minister was inadequate. It is not adequate for what they proposed to get.

During the Northwest Territories days, as opposed to the bigger communities and the smaller communities, on how they can create jobs. Clyde River, ever since it started, is still going. When they asked for assistance for developing a mini-mall, maybe the minister can provide me with information who the contact people should be and their phone numbers.

Speaker (interpretation): Can you specify which minister you are directing this to?

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): My apologies. I am directing my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister for Economic Development, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information that I gave you is the contact people, because their community has to specify exactly how big it will be and what will be in there and how it will benefit the community.

Those are the things that you have to specify to those contact people that I have provided. They can assist you with all of that, if they are going to be requesting some funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They don't have very much money, either, to start off, especially when in a non-decentralized community. Will these people be able to get assistance from Economic Development for designing the building?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The contact people that I listed can help you with those different phases of the proposal, if they're going to put in

such a request. I have the phone numbers listed for those contact people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. I still have three members who raised their hands. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 273 – 2(2): Nanisivik Funding Cleanup of Fuel and Propane Containers

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. At this time, during the clean up in Nanisivik, there are old fuel containers and old propane containers abandoned between Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet. These were not included in the cleanup of the Nanisivik mine.

I'm asking the minister if the hamlet or the hunters and trappers organization can be provided with funding for cleanup. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister of Environment, Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My voice is very hoarse because I have a very bad cold.

The people responsible for cleaning up, the mine owners, would be responsible. As a government, we're more of a watch dog and we ensure the work is being carried out. We're making sure that they do the cleanup the way it should be done and seeing how they can work together. The people who are doing the actual cleanup are those who own the mine. We, as a government, are more of a watch dog. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Environment, they have more jobs available for those people who are not working. I wonder if the government, because they have to go a great distance in order to clean some areas, I wonder if they can provide funding for such a project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe these will have to be directed to the actual cleaning, because it's quite dangerous to clean up. We don't have funds that are available for the clean up of a closed mine, but we can certainly look into this. In the future, we will look into how we can get some more funding so the jobs will be available to the community. At the same time, we still have to follow regulations, even if we're going to give jobs to the local people, because we have to be careful about how it will affect them. Local people will need to complete training programs. Thank you.

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

Question 274 – 2(2): Justice Committee for the Smaller Communities

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. Before Nunavut, I used to be on a justice committee for people who were sent to jail or to BCC, even if their offence didn't seem to be very serious.

I would like to ask the minister: if someone wants to set up an outpost camp, first of all, what training would they need to have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would be more than happy to assist him in his community if there were such a request. Even if they can't speak English, we're more than happy to help them, but they have to be given training to be on the safe side. We can assist them and help them with the training if they wish to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they require training, would they have to come to Iqaluit or would the people providing the training go to Sanikiluaq and provide training? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can go either way, whichever is most appropriate. A lot of times they have to do an onsite assessment, to be on the safe side, so they know what facilities are available in the community. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During Committee of the Whole when he was at the witness table, maybe I missed the information. Where can they get the funding if they wish to set up a justice committee? I wonder if they would be able to be paid from the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we provide them with startup funds, especially if they need help towards purchasing snowmobiles or boats. We pay different rates for inmates: for instance \$145 per day for one inmate, and if it's more than one, it would be \$135 per day per inmate. That's how we pay them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the inmates are being handled in outpost camps, are there policies or regulations that the inmates have to abide by while they're in the outpost camps? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The inmates are very carefully screened before they are sent to the outpost camps since we don't want to put anyone at risk. The more dangerous inmates remain at the correctional facilities.

Those who qualify, and, indeed, if they request to go to the outpost camp, they are taught what is expected of them.

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

Question 275 – 2(2): Liaison with Federal Government

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for Intergovernmental Affairs. I know that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is the lead role that liaises with our federal counterparts in Ottawa. We know that Ottawa is a very interesting place to meet people. A lot can get done if you have the right people knocking on doors for you to try and set up meetings and that.

My question for the minister is, do they have people that work for the government in Ottawa, that do that type of lobbying for the government, on it's behalf, whether it be a staff position in our Ottawa office or through a contract with a consultant? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have an office in Ottawa and they organize everything from meetings to keeping track of any needs that any member or minister may have while they are down in Ottawa. They provide us with support. Any bureaucratic meetings that have to take place between the federal government and our government, we do have an assistant deputy minister position there, so they assist us in meeting our commitments in intergovernmental forums.

Yes, we do currently have a lobby firm that assists us in tracking what is happening at the political level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if any of the work that has to get done down there for lobbying, that it does flow through the EIA and that the lobbying firm and the staff that are down there are the people that do that work on behalf of the entire government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work that the lobbyists do on our behalf is through EIA, so it represents our government. They are as-and-when, and they do a very good job in making sure that our interests are protected at the political level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not questioning the value of a good lobbyist. I think it's a great thing to have if it can be identified.

The Premier indicated that any of that stuff flows through EIA, and if that's the case, then EIA would be the only department that could contract such services in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For our government purposes, we've been using a firm representing all of our interests as a government, and each minister and department has, also, contracts with various consultants to do specific work, so all I can say is that for our overall government needs, we've been using a firm in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier just indicated that other ministers may have contracts similar to that in place. Would he be willing to provide the members of this House which ministers and how many contracts they have with lobbyists in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there was a list of contractors already tabled last week, so it might be already in the member's hands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 276 – 2(2): KPMG Report Implementation of Recommendations

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services concerning the KPMG report.

The June 2002 report contained eight major recommendations and 24 sub-recommendations. Most recommendations were scheduled for implementation within 12 months of the report, I think it was June 2002.

My question for the minister: it appears that many recommendations were not implemented within 12 months of the report being submitted. Why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the member's statement is correct. Some recommendations have been done and some are still being worked on. This KPMG report is three years old now and it was initiated by the last government, but the department is still working on the recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister, for that answer. The KPMG report cost the government \$406,345 to complete. I take it, it contains some good recommendations. Did the Department of Health and Social Services complete a cost-benefit analysis of the major recommendations to determine what the future savings would be to the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that KPMG report was commissioned by the last government and I believe it was paid for by them as well.

Remember, we just got elected last year, and we're the same government, but we have a different mandate now. But, if you need further information, I will check into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. One of the recommendations is an integrated dispatch coordinated call centre. Can the minister tell us what the status is of this recommendation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we are currently doing a review and the RFPs will be given to cabinet shortly. At that time I will give you an update on the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. The minister indicated that the report is almost three years old and that they're still reviewing some recommendations. As we've heard in the last year, a lot has changed in Health and Social Services since June 2002, including the opening of two new regional health facilities in 2005, and yet the annual costs for health and social services has continued to rise. I'm sure we'll see that in the upcoming budget discussions with that department.

Does the minister believe that the KPMG report recommendations are still valid in 2005? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they are still valid and we'll keep using them to date and later. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 277 – 2(2): Financial Help for Ladies' Auxillaries

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to direct my question to the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. As I mentioned in my member's statement, the ladies' auxiliaries put a lot of time and effort into volunteer work. Has the Government of Nunavut given any financial help to these volunteer groups?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The ladies' auxiliaries do a lot of work at the community level. The government has recognized the ladies' auxiliaries at the community level, but I can't tell you which communities have had financial support from the territorial government. I will have to look at the list and give you an update.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier in my member's statement, the ladies' auxiliaries that I am referring to are the ones from the Anglican Church. They are the ones that don't get any kind of financial support from the government, but they do raise funds in order to have those annual meetings, and they are here this week.

I believe that some of these women paid for their travel out of their own pockets because they wanted to make a contribution to their communities and to Nunavut. Could the minister commit to giving financial support for these ladies' auxiliaries? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member and I thank the ladies' auxiliaries for their contributions. It seems like their organization is growing, but again, as you probably know, if we are going to make any kind of commitments financially, we have to go through the process, and there have to be proposals written in order to get some of the contributions. I will take this as notice. Thank you.

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

Question 278 – 2(2): Update on Funding for Legal Fees

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice. During our last sitting, the minister had agreed to table or provide the members in the House, here, a list, an amount, of how much the department spends on legal fees outside of the territory.

I would just like to follow up with the minister if he could update us as to where things are at with that, and when can we expect to see it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I believe I tabled the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister referring to the procurement and contracting reports that the Minister of Community and Government Services tabled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I followed up right after the session and provided the information. I will have to check my records and see if that list was provided to the member and if not, I will do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 279 – 2(2): Multi-culture Meeting

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism. (interpretation ends) Will that minister raise our issues in the context of federal fees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Who did you direct that question to, Mr. Barnabas?

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize. The Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, I believe it's Mr. Picco. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct: there are a lot of different forums and tables that as a government we have an opportunity to sit at, and the member is correct, again, that that is one of the federal tables that we have an opportunity to participate in.

I would suggest to you, Mr. Speaker, that the Government of Nunavut would be vociferous in its support in its advocacy on behalf and for Nunavumiut at that federal table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will the minister meet with his federal colleagues concerning this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that the provincial and territorial ministers of that portfolio would be meeting in the next several weeks. I think it's in the new year. So, that would be the next scheduled meeting to bring those issues forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to announcing what has happened after their meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we're able to make that meeting, depending on the other commitments that we have, I would be very willing, through debate in the House and through the open forum that we have, to prepare a minister's statement or,

indeed, an answer to a question from the members on the role that we played at that federal meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 280 – 2(2): Update on Contract on Purchase and Supply Savings

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister Responsible for Petroleum Products. Last week I had asked the minister to look into how much savings we've realized on this new format for the contract of purchase and supply of fuel.

I would just like to ask the minister if he could give us an update on that, if he has been able to ascertain how much of a savings we have realized with this new system? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to look into this issue for the member. I have been working with my officials, and although we're nearing the end of our second year term, we couldn't really figure out how much savings there was going to be. So, therefore, once I have that information, I will provide it to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister also look into the fact that the announcement made at the time, indicating the substantial, I think it was in the millions of dollars, savings that we were going to realize... Was that for the exact same type of contract that we have in place right now? Or, was it in a purchase and supply contract versus just a supply contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have looked at it two ways, on the cost savings of the the new system over the old system. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister has indicated that they have looked at it, but were the savings that were announced when the contract was awarded to the current suppliers who deliver the fuel, I think the minister had indicated that he thought it was around \$20 million, my guess was \$14 million... Was that savings based on the old

contract style, which was to purchase and supply, or was it based on just the supply part of the contract, which it is now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to my colleague's question, it has been a few days since I spoke to my officials and looked into this issue with my officials.

At this time, I am sorry, since we stated that there's going to be savings on the delivery of fuel, after we found out this winter that the fuel cost had increased, after we realized that the fuel was going to increase... . It is mainly mainly for distribution and supply. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there was a separate contract for the purchase of the fuel and a separate contract for the supply of the fuel, which is the new system that we are on. One would think that the supply portion of it is a fixed amount, and that was part of the announcement, I think, that we would know how much it's going to cost us to deliver the fuel, to be able to break it down and see what the difference was.

My question, again, to the minister: is that \$14 or \$20 million savings that they were projecting at the time, was that the combined contract versus the split contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to be corrected, but to the best of my knowledge, the savings that had been integrated by the government in the first term was regarding transportation.

Like I said, Mr. Speaker, I stand to be corrected. I will have to confirm that response in discussion with my staff, and I will commit to providing that to my colleague and other members, upon request, of my findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral question period is now over. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14. Notice of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 012 – 2(2): Standing Committee Hearing and Consultations on Nunavut Arctic College - Notice

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 16, 2005, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Arviat, that the Standing Committee on Health and Education hold such hearings and consultations as it deems appropriate on the long-term role, operations and effectiveness of Nunavut Arctic College:

AND FURTHER I move that the Committee report its findings to the House at the earliest opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole on Bills and Other Matters: Tabled Document 52-2(2); Bill 8; Bill 9; Bill 10; Bill 11; Bill 12; Bill 13 and Bill 14

With Mr. Netser in the Chair. In accordance with the authority vested in me by a motion, the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Sergeant-at-arms

>>House recessed at 15:18 and resumed at 15:51

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

Chairman (Mr. Netser)(interpretation): Thank you for coming back. During Committee of the Whole, we'll be dealing with the following items; Tabled document 52-2(2), Bill 8, Bill 9, Bill 10, Bill 11, Bill 12, Bill 13 and Bill 14.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 8 and commence with the review of the Main Estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Brown, do you have any opening comments. If you have any opening comments, please proceed.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2005/06 Main Estimates and Business Plans for the Department of Health and Social Services.

With the largest budget within the Government of Nunavut, the Department of Health and Social Services is responsible for the development and delivery of services and programs addressing the physical, mental and social health of the Nunavummiut.

Our vision of bringing *Care Closer to Home* is reflective of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and its complicity, accessibility and responsiveness.

The *Pinasuaqtavut* identifies healthy communities as one of the government's priorities. Bringing care closer to home for Nunavummiut means strengthening healthier communities to community capacity building.

The total departmental budget for 2005/06 is \$240,611,000. This includes \$215,219,000 for operations and maintenance and \$25,392,000 in capital funding.

As you may already know the Department of Health and Social Services has in the past operated in a deficit. This year I am pleased that the figures presented in the main estimates for the operations and maintenance more accurately reflects the budget requirements for the department.

Care Closer to Home

Nunavut's health system is extremely fragile and is in need of significant reform. The Care Closer to Home Strategy, recently approved by Cabinet is designed to improve health in Nunavut, creating a system that is sustainable and meets the needs of Nunavummiut for years to come.

Care Closer to Home includes three major initiatives; increase territorial health care capacity; reducing the need for medical travel; and, training Inuit. The *Care Closer to Home* strategy will result in more health care money being spent in Nunavut, helping to create jobs for Nunavummiut and contribute to the territorial economy. As an example, we now have all of our communities health centres equipped with a telehealth facility.

Recruitment and Retention

Health and Social Services has contracted an independent firm to help with the recruitment of nurses with their main focus on international nurses. The contract is for the recruitment for up to 100 indeterminate nurses. This effort will lessen our dependency on agency nurses and help the department to stabilize its nursing work force. The demand for nurses for the new health facilities has also necessitated the hiring of this firm. I am proud to say that the firm started the job offer process and that we anticipate the arrival of our first nurses by the end of April.

Out of Territory Hospitals

The 2005-2006 budget allocated for these services reflects an increase from the previous budgets for out of territory hospital costs to the actual 2003-2004 level of services for our southern providers.

Non Insured Health Benefits

The department has successfully negotiated a new contribution agreement for the delivery of Non Insured Health Benefits with Health Canada. These negotiations have increased the cap on the agreement from \$10.5 million to \$13 million with the ability to request more funding should expenditure levels increase due to any unforeseen circumstances. This budget is reflective of these negotiations and an adjustment has been made to our 2003-2004 expenditure level.

Physician Services

The department has included in the estimates an amount of \$3 million for physician services. This amount will give the department the dollars required to hire more doctors for all of Nunavut with specific focus on the New Health Facilities.

Midwifery/Maternity Care Services

The increase in the budget for this service will allow the department to hire 6 new PYs to deliver these services in other areas of Nunavut. These funds will also allow the department to implement a training program in partnership with the Nunavut Arctic College for beneficiaries to be trained as maternity care workers. This educational initiative will be supported and enhanced by partnering with the newly announced Aboriginal Midwifery Program in Manitoba, which will allow our graduates to further their education to the degree level.

Medical Travel Fund

The department has completed the negotiations with Health Canada in conjunction with the other two Territorial Governments on the Medical Travel Fund which was initiated by the First Ministers Meeting held in Ottawa in September 2004. Starting in April 2005 this will give to the Government of Nunavut an extra \$10.0 million per year for the next five years.

Public Health

As we move towards building community capacity we are focusing our efforts on public health. The Department has received special one time funding of \$600,000 from Health Canada during this fiscal year to assist with the travel of children requiring special orthodontic procedures. Public health prevents disease and promotes health. Early dental care means children with less dental illnesses, less pain and less costs to our health care system.

Our goal at the Department of Health and Social Services is to promote and support Nunavumiut in their growth to become healthy individuals.

We are in a position to make a change. We believe that the health of Nunavut depends on the physical, social, economic and cultural health of each of its communities.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you and the committee members for the opportunity to speak to you today. I welcome any questions the committee may have regarding the Department of Health and Social Services' Main Estimates and Business Plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Just before the opening comments I would like to let the members know that my wife and my granddaughter are here. Thank you.

Perhaps if you can go to the witness table and have your officials along with you.

Welcome Ms. Brown, and if you could introduce your officials before the Chairman of the Health and Education Standing Committee gives his opening address.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): On my left is my Deputy Minister, Bernie Blais, on my left is Eric Whitworth, Executive Director from Corporate Services.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health and Education have opening remarks? Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Education have reviewed the budget estimates and business plan of the Department of Health and Social Services for 2005/06 fiscal year and I am pleased to provide you with the opening comments.

The Standing Committee notes that the operation and maintenance budget for Health and Social Services for 2005/06 fiscal year of \$215,219,000 represents nearly 26 percent, the largest departmental share of the government's overall operation and maintenance budget.

To put this in perspective, the Government of Nunavut will spend close to \$590,000 on Health and Social Services programs every single day of the next fiscal year. Nunavut spends more than twice the national average per person on health.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee applauds the government's success in getting additional health funding from the Federal Government. Members believe that the Government of Nunavut must be accountable to our public for how these funds will be used to improve the health situation in Nunavut. Members urge the government to be transparent as possible with respect to health spending.

Given the Department of Health and Social Services' past record of overspending, the Committee remains concerned that the base funding for the department will not be adequate to address the many issues and responsibilities that fall under its mandate.

A significant portion of the department's projected budget relates to accessing healthcare outside of the territory including medical travel, out-of-territory hospital costs, and long-

term care for individuals with physical and mental disabilities. Members continues to have questions about the quality of services provided in boarding homes. With the opening of the new regional health facilities and the implementation of the department's "Care Closer to Home" strategy, members expect to see a reduction in the department's actual spending in the future as well as initiatives to improve the level of services provided.

Members of the Committee note that the department projects another increase in the number of employees for 2005/06, despite ongoing difficulties in filling existing positions such as nurses and doctors. Members question the department's steady increase in the number of management positions given that the Regional Health Boards were dissolved partly in an effort to reduce administrative expenses. In the past, members have also noted the department's over-reliance on casual and term staff hires.

The Committee supports the department's long-term objective to train and hire more Nunavummiut to work in the healthcare field, and will be keeping a close eye on the department's success in training and hiring beneficiaries. Members hope to hear more positive reports for full-time employees filling vacant positions, especially as nurses, social workers, and other frontline staff.

Committee Members were pleased to note the department's progress towards providing training for maternity care workers with a view to expanding midwifery services within Nunavut.

Committee Members encourage the department to make more efforts to address health issues at the community level, such as supporting the involvement of elders in counseling and family support, providing more services to people with disabilities, and making our Arviat Full Caucus Retreat commitment to establish 24-hour elders' care facilities a community reality.

While the Minister has yet to provide a formal response to the Qullit Status of Women Council's 2004 report on abuse and violence against women in Nunavut, the Committee suggests that the department address family violence issues by focusing more at the family level, with dedicated support for the needs of men as well as the needs of women and by exploring opportunities for healing within an individual's home community.

Mr. Chairman, every year, the high cost of medical travel receives a great deal of attention. Members have consistently asked for meaningful information regarding the department's arrangements for medical travel. Members recognize that making specific contractual documents public in their entirety may not always be possible. Nevertheless, members believe that more information about medical travel contracts negotiations and arrangements should be made public especially as the department is asking this Legislative Assembly to approve tens of millions of dollars in related funding. The level of secrecy surrounding these contracts raises even more questions regarding the value for money that we are receiving.

To conclude Mr. Chairman, now that the Government of Nunavut has announced that the Telehealth network has been established in all Nunavut communities, members of the Standing Committee look forward to regular updates on use of these systems and its costs effectiveness.

That concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. According to Rule 77, you have ten minutes for general comments. At this time I don't have any names on my list.

H-5, in the Main Estimate and also there is a Business Plan. If you have any questions, please specify which book you're referring to. If you have any questions please make reference to which book. Thank you.

Page H-5, Health and Social Services Branch Summary. Directorate. H-6 and H-7, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. There is one sentence under Directorate. I could have said it under general comments but they are mainly for the directors including policy directions, whether they wish to, or not. I just want to ask them if they know their in the process of making transportation policies regarding medical travel, and those are the main ones.

They're being followed by the air carriers. They're dealing with policies on transportation. (interpretation ends) I'm going to switch to English.

Because of the amount of dollars that are spent for transportation, the Department of Health and Social Services drives the transportation policy. I don't know whether you accept that or view that or acknowledge that. Northern carriers pretty much are guided by what type of arrangement they will have with the Department of Health so that they can align their transportation system.

So, what I'm saying to you as a Directorate is that you guys are in charge of transportation policy, the Department of Transportation is not. They just merely follow your lead. Cross references on transportation comments, yes. Northern transportation strategy, but in a sense.

Now, having said that, I think it's really quite important that whatever the contracts the department signs are not cast in stone forever. You know why? Because there are people who use transportation for various reasons. One is the private sector. They need their supplies. Their costs of cargo shipments must come in. They are not always guided by medical transportation's guidelines.

The Minister must know that whatever the Health Departments enter into has a long term impact on the consumer; consumers who want to have their shipments come in cheaper.

You are creating a monopoly with long term contracts. If the contract does not have a triggering mechanism that within a year or a certain year that they will come to a review process, or a couple of years.

So, I'm just making my comments to these. I want to ask the Minister whether or not in fact she shares my view that when you enter into medical contracts for medivacs as well as medical travel, you are aware that you are, in some places, creating a monopoly with airline services. Thank you. That's it.

Chairman (interpretation): Is that a question. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand what my colleague is saying and I feel the same way because even though the Health Department uses air carriers and other consumers too. I can understand what you are saying and I am in agreement with you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the Minister then for sharing my views. Not only that if she shares my views and understands my views, she will then also agree that whatever the contracts that are awarded to the successful bidder will have a mechanism that will be reviewed within two or three years at a time, that it's not be too long so that we can have private sector component to have the cargo, you look at our region for instance, in Kivalliq Region, cargo is stock piled in Churchill, because the medical policy to Churchill is mainly one except for the First Air part through other regions. There are smaller ones. The main floor of cargo is aligned with the Churchill health centre.

So, I'm asking the Minister if you will have a mechanism put in place that these contracts will have a review process for every two or three years. That they not be too long a contract. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am representing the whole of Nunavut and he was making reference to the Kivalliq Region. I am aware, because I am from the Kivalliq Region.

He is asking for a review process after two or three years. They might go through that route because when we have a long term contract; it is very hard to terminate the contract even if there are disagreements. I like his idea. Thank you.

Chairman: We are well aware that you are the Minister for Department of Health for all of Nunavut, not just for the Kivalliq. (interpretation) Do you have any comments, Mr. Alagalak?

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Directorate, I feel it's insufficient, and the minister and her officials have big responsibility, even though there are a number of people who are working for the department, it seems like they are lacking direction, especially for the staff.

The patients who have to travel out of Nunavut or medically evacuated, it was clear that, last summer, they didn't have anywhere else to go. It seems like they are not working together with the Directorate. So starting from 9:30 to 5:00, it seems like there are no phone numbers that are available. The nurses in the communities seem to be like that. This has to be changed.

Within the Department of Health and Social Services, they should be more accessible to the public, and especially to unilingual Inuit who can't read English, and sometimes people are left alone in the house, and they are alone in their house.

For those patients who leave, sometimes it takes a long time for the family to find out what is happening. I wonder, especially in the communities in the regions, there should be a centre of some sort where people can get more information.

We know there are Health Committees in the communities or the chairpersons even get phone calls, and the counselors are not accessible, but it's not even the RCMP's responsibility either. I feel that there should be improvements because I hear this constantly ever since I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly. I would want this to be checked into.

I want to ask if the minister has ever thought of setting up or getting an advisor of some sort within regions. So I would like to ask her that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel your concerns and they have been experienced by many people. It doesn't matter in which community; this always comes up because a lot of times we don't even know who to get a hold of when they go down south. I understand this.

If possible, I am going to ask my Deputy to respond. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Just a minute. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to acknowledge the statements that have been made that it is obvious that we need to some changes in Nunavut in order for us to make sure that clients that go south and families who need information about their families in the south are provided that information.

Part of the organizational structure that we have proposed with Closer to Home involved the putting in place of a Client Service Coordinator who will be responsible to connect people and hopefully provide that information that they need.

The other piece that we are looking at, through the visitation of various Boarding Homes that we have done over the last year, with other Members of the Legislative Assembly as well, that we have heard a lot of concerns in regards to the same issue.

In cooperation with the Boarding Homes, as well as the Client Coordinator, we hope to have in place by the end of this year a comprehensive strategy of how we are going to provide better information to Nunavummiut, who travel south and their families who require information on their statuses.

So we will commit to making sure that that is in place by the end of this calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You responded in some part, but I would like to mention again that it is very hard at the community level to have nurses who speak Inuktitut.

If I use Arviat as an example, I usually listen to the local radio station in the evening and there are quite a lot of callers after the nursing station has closed that are looking for people who could speak in English. They are saying that they would like to talk to the nursing station, because there is an emergency or something has happened to a child, they go to the local radio station that they are looking for somebody who can speak English so that they could confer the nurse.

We definitely have to something about that and the minister should do something about that. Usually they're in an urgent matter when they are looking for somebody who can speak in English, and then nobody says anything. It seems like nobody speaks in English at all in the whole community.

I have put in my bit more than once to help those unilingual people. Usually it is the new nurses who have that problem and I think that at least if there is a recorded answering machine, it would help other people out there.

I just wanted to mention that again and I will be asking further questions once we get to the appropriate page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I didn't hear a question, so I will go to Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to make a comment and I do have a question. I know that this is an issue that has been brought up in most of the communities because we always mention the nurses. We have the Nunavut Arctic

College Nursing Program and other programs available, which is very nice to see. I am very glad and look forward to getting Nunavut nurses trained and going into the workforce.

We keep hearing that there are shortages of nurses up here. My question is if we look at the Nunavut Nursing Program, I know that these graduates will very likely prefer to stay in their home community once they complete their training.

If they should be transferred or are asked to transfer to another community and there is no job opening in their own community. What would happen in that case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last year, we had two graduates from the Nunavut Nursing Program and they are now eligible to work anywhere in Canada.

The position won't disappear and I can say that we're looking forward to two more graduates in 2005 in the spring time. For example, even if they wanted to work in their community and there were no positions open, there are always other positions available in other communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You see a lot of other graduates from other programs who complete their training but if there is no opening available in their preferred community, they just don't look to fill the other positions that are available.

What if there was a situation in this case. What if there was a graduate who didn't want to go anywhere except their own community. Would they have to ask the people who are currently working in those positions to move in order to put that person in that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): With the graduates, if there are no positions available in their preferred community, I'm sure that they would be under the collective agreement and they could be appointed by the government to fill that position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): We're on page H-5, H-6, H-7. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your speaking notes, you had mentioned that there are about 100 nurses that will be coming into Nunavut.

I would like to ask a question to the Minister on that. You had also mentioned that midwives are also very important in Nunavut. There is a nurse where her contract was not renewed and I'm sure you know who I'm talking about. But anyway, she's been in Kugluktuk for probably three years and has a son who is married to someone from Kugluktuk. They have a son.

They were wondering if anything was going to happen. I think the nurses are very important in the communities that work in Nunavut. Since her contract was not renewed, she was going to move out of town. She asked if I could ask some questions on what was going to happen.

She wanted to know if her contract would be renewed or not. I would like to know too because when you're hiring the nurses from outside of Nunavut, there is money involved as well. You're paying a lot of money for their transportation. The nurse is right in the community and you don't have to pay for the transportation to pay for the contract and stuff like.

Is there anything that's going to happen to the nurse that is in our community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my Deputy, Mr. Blais, respond to your question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. In regards to issues dealing with staff, if it's inappropriate for us to have discussions pertaining to specific individuals, and our reasons why a contract should be renewed or not renewed. Really at this point in time, we are simply not in a position to make statements, I think this is between the Government of Nunavut and the staff that are under contract or under collective agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you. Yes. I think it would a lot cheaper to hire the local nurses who are living up north rather than getting new nurses. I would like to thank you for answering my question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I didn't hear a question. (interpretation ends) We are on H-5. Health and Social Services Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$22,303,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to H-8. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to follow up on my colleague's question about hiring nurses. How do you hire nurses these days? There are still a lot of nurses on those, what do they call them, medical agencies, nursing agencies versus all of our own nurses or indeterminate nurses. What's the ratio? How do you hire nurses? Have there been any improvements since last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Which one wants to answer? Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. The issue of agency nurses is pretty well the same as it was last year, but we expect hopefully in the next six to nine months that we will see a change in that direction given that we have already extended at least 28 full-time positions to international nurses, and probably another 20, or so in the next month, as well. So how many of those will accept? We are hoping that at least 40 new nurses will be recruited into the territory.

So at this point in time, I think we made some slight progress, but the big progress will come as we recruit these nurses on board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you Mr. Blais. When you recruit these nurses from other countries, are you offering them any additional benefits over and above what we might offer a nurse in Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the salaries and benefits are identical to what nurses are currently making in each community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. I have heard in the past that some nurses are offered an annual bonus of \$6,000 per year if they remain in Nunavut for a length of time, but I am not sure how it works. Is that in addition to their salary or is that part of their salary? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said earlier, there's no difference in salary between those who are currently here and the ones that will be coming in, our international nurses. There is no annual salary or bonus or a retention fee that is paid. They are paid identical and what's in the collective agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. So just for the record, you don't pay any nurses a bonus of \$6,000 per year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some nurses who are currently being paid under a previous agreement that were recruited and they were guaranteed a bonus per year for a three-year period, and that will run out in the near future.

So once that agreement runs through, then again, everything will revert to all nurses will be receiving what's in the collective agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's as long as they remain nurses under that contract.

I've heard of instances where nurses come up as nurses and then they transfer to other positions within the health department and they're not nurses anymore, but they're still receiving those bonuses. How do you deal with situations like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware of that. So, if there is a case like that and you would like to bring it to my attention, I would be prepared to look into it. At this point, I am not aware that a case like does exist. So, Mr. Chairman, Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. Could you just tell us, again for the record, where you're currently recruiting nurses from in the world. I believe you hired a recruiting firm, an international recruiting firm. Could you update us on how they go about recruiting international nurses and then what kinds of incentives you are offering them to come to Canada and encouraging them to stay in Nunavut for any length of time.

Continuity in the nursing profession in Nunavut is very important. The agency nurses, many of them are good, but they come into a community and only stay for 3-5 weeks and then they're gone. I've heard many complaints from my constituents that the nurses don't know them or don't understand them or aren't familiar with their family history or the health of their children.

I would be interested in hearing from the minister or Mr. Blais on the efforts to recruit nurses who are going to remain in Nunavut and remain in our communities for two to four years, if possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no incentives in terms of bonuses and things like that.

What we do pay, and I do believe we pay our nurses a good salary that is competitive with all of the other jurisdictions. The incentive for nurses to come there; Canada is an attractive place for many countries. We're recruiting currently in the Philippines and India.

The company that we have is a company out of Toronto. So, basically, it's a Canadian firm who does constant recruitment for a number of provinces and hospitals across Canada. They are paid on a fixed fee. I believe we are paying them about \$13,000 per person recruited for Nunavut.

They also provide in that, a guarantee that if a nurse was to come and leave within that period of time that they will replace them at no charge to Nunavut which is somewhat unusual. So, we insisted that we have this guarantee built into the contract and they willingly agreed with that because they feel very confident about the process that they have in place to screen out nurses that they recommend to come to work in Canada.

So, for all intents and purposes, the people who come here come here willingly I believe because it's attractive to them. The salaries that are paid are no different than the salaries that are paid under a collective agreement. The fee that is paid to the recruitment firm is a flat rate with the guarantee. When you consider the cost of agency nurses and the cost of moving nurses to Nunavut if they don't stay for a long period of time, most of them under 18 months, then there is a huge cost for all this movement in and out and also an additional cost to fly nurses, agency nurses or casual nurses in from other jurisdictions.

So, the rate that we pay, I believe, Trillium, is really pretty reasonable when you consider what we're currently paying at this point in time with no guarantee. Hopefully that answers the question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much are we paying Trillium for their recruiting services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: I think I mentioned, again, it was \$13,000 per nurse recruited. So, if we recruit 40 it will be 40 times 13. If we are able to recruit up to 100 then we will be applying that amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought maybe you had \$13,000 plus some kind of lump sum on top of that. So for those services they are going to guarantee that nurses will stay a minimum of two years, and if they don't, they will recruit them again at no cost to the Government of Nunavut. The move in/move out cost; who covers all of those? Will that be Trillium? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry for that delay. Basically, we will cover the cost to move them to Canada, and the Department of Human Resources will cover the cost to move them from wherever they land in Canada, possibly Winnipeg to Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. Maybe you could expand on the relationship between Trillium and the Department of Human Resources. How does that relationship work in terms of how they go and recruit the nurses and land them in Canada, then Department of Human Resources somehow gets involved to bring them to Nunavut.

I know there's a requirement to post positions in Canada, or in Nunavut, and then if you can't recruit someone who's in Nunavut, then you expand to the north, then if you can't get anyone in the north, then I think you recruit from the south.

So there are all of those sorts of obstacles that get in the way of government policies. So maybe you could take us through that so I can understand how the process works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The recruitment of nurses is the delegated responsibility of the department, it's the only one that we have the responsibility to recruit in. Everything else is basically done by Human Resources. So, for example, if we are recruiting a physiotherapist or a manager that would be done through Human Resources.

The delegate of responsibility then give us an opportunity to recruit, advertise, and offer and plan it without having to go to Human Resources. The movement of staff from one jurisdiction to the other. Again, that is still covered under the Government of Nunavut

policy for recruitment. It's a very simple process. We can recruit on our own. We can offer employment on our own only for nurses in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So there would still be a cost to Nunavut in the end if a nurse gets here and decides after six months, or four months, or less, that she or he doesn't like it. The Department of Human Resources or your department will have to cover the relocation cost to the point of entry in Canada, whether it's Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver or Edmonton, is that correct?

I am not sure what the money costs are, it ranges, I think, for Human Resources between \$10-15,000 to move people in and out. So there's still a cost to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Is that a question or a comment? Question? Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: That's correct, Mr. Chairman. There were still a cost to the Department of Human Resources and Health and Social Services. We had consider as well, though there with the 23 percent vacancy rate of nurses, and the opening of three new Health Centres, that the cost to do nothing is much more when you consider the impacts and the risks that this department faces. So I guess it's one of those situations where you have to decide what's in the best interest of Nunavummiut and also to ensure that we can provide services here.

We have done extensive recruitment across Canada and have had some minor success. The other piece is that given the report that have been published by national nursing organizations in other jurisdictions, there's a projection that they are expecting about 100,000 to retire over the next five years, which will add to the challenge that we are facing in Nunavut.

So I think the guarantee that Trillium gives us at least is the reassurance that they are convinced that these nurses will stay in Nunavut, and the screening process that they put them through hopefully, otherwise they are not successful, they will not going to be very successful as a company.

So this is the best guarantee we could obtain, and none of the other people who submitted proposals were prepared to offer that guarantee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. Was your department involved with Trillium at all when they recruited from these other countries? Did you have someone from Nunavut go with the recruiting group? They must have gone to the Philippines and India to do interviews. Did that happen? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, our team, from November 15 to December 15, we sent a team of two people, very experienced people to participate with the Trillium team to do the interviews, as well to be part of the screening process. Out of the 100s of people interviewed, they short listed 55 initially, and then in the second phase of the interview they short listed another 58.

So we think that we have been able to screen out what we considered, the best candidates, excellent candidates with good English languages skills as well. So, Mr. Chairman, hopefully that addresses your response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. What type of employment contract did the nurses sign with the department? Is it your typical letter of offer, like a normal government employee would sign or was that a special contract? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer to that is yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Is that it, Mr. Peterson? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Please let me know if my question doesn't correlate with the page. I would like to talk more about Social Services and social workers.

What is the process for selecting social workers? I wanted to ask questions in regards to social workers. The social workers, do they have to come from a different community to obtain a social worker position in a community?

I know the social workers, their job is very challenging, but we do get a social worker who is totally alien to our culture. When they come to our community, it seems like they do whatever they want to do. I am sure they comply with the rules and regulations but when some clients in the community are refused by the social worker, they have no place to turn to.

I have been told by my constituents that they are concerned that our constituents have no place to turn to, especially when they can't talk with the social worker. It seems like the RCMP officers really listen to the social workers' comments, or whatever they say.

What is the process of selecting a social worker? How can I ask this question? What is your policy in hiring social workers in the communities? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Would you like to respond, Madame Minister?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): I will have Mr. Blais respond to some of the questions because there are different levels of social workers. I am glad that my colleague asked that question in regards to social workers.

The report and the recommendations for Care Closer to Home, once that is being implemented, I know that there are going to be improvements and it was just accepted not too long ago.

Once five or seven years are over, I'm sure that the contents will be visible but we're now working on the implementation on some of the recommendations. In some communities, we do want them to get into the field of social worker training program.

There was one program in Cambridge Bay and I would like to see that program open again through Nunavut Arctic College because there are a lot of avenues that we could use to help us develop more. I'm glad that the member asked me that question.

I will have Mr. Blais give a supplementary response. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand, the question is what process the department uses to recruit social workers, is identical to the process of the recruitment of any other employee. It really is no different. Typically, if we have a beneficiary that can be directly appointed into that job, which we have had, we just directly appointed a beneficiary into Rankin Inlet who had a master's degree, who graduated from British Columbia, recently. Where that is possible, we always use that particular vehicle. Typically, it's a general posting and we interview those candidates who qualify.

There are different levels of social workers. We have social worker 1 and 2. We have a social worker 3, 4 and 5. So, depending on the level that we are looking for, the qualifications for those individuals will vary as well.

Hopefully that answers your question. It is identical to any other recruitment of any other person in the government. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community residents just get totally confused when a social worker does something wrong. They don't even know who to turn to so they go to their Members of the Legislative Assembly. It's not my job. It's very difficult to assist the individuals when they ask for assistance, especially when they're not believed. The social workers are believed no matter what they say by the RCMP. They put Inuit down.

Even though we're experiencing all these problems, the RCMP will continually believe the social worker or the headquarters, her superiors will definitely believe the social worker. Right away the community has no say or no opportunity to voice their concerns.

Who is responsible for dealing with social workers at the community level? Who is the superior worker for the social workers at the local level? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with your comments. I do agree with you that social workers face challenging tasks and difficult situations. I'm sure that's how it is in all the communities. Down south, I'm sure it's like that with the social workers. If there are such incidents, I personally would like to hear about that. The superior guys are the ones beside me. You can even approach me about these kinds of problems.

If you approach me, I will take part in resolving some problems. I come from a smaller community, myself, and we do see those. At times it becomes very difficult to look for somebody to face. They can even come to me or my Deputy Minister and let us know and inform us about any kind of incident similar to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are you finished? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Likewise, with Mr. Mapsalak's constituency and my constituency, it seems like we've experienced the same situations, especially within the Department of Social Services.

The social workers work in the community for a short period of time and when the government finds out about their capabilities, they move the social workers to headquarters, and at times this creates problems. This has been a problem with social workers for quite some time. Even when there are positions for social workers, they don't get filled for a long time.

So we have been experiencing similar problems in my constituencies. There were many people in our communities that need to be assisted by the social worker and they have no place to look to, especially when we have different time zones because my constituency in the High Arctic is one hour later than eastern time, and the offices here close even before our offices in the High Arctic close.

For the communities that have no social workers, I believe that these vacant positions have to be filled right away because they have a right to these services.

I forgot to welcome you and your officials, Madame Minister, to the Witness Table.

My question is if we are on H-7 in regards to \$150,000 Nunavut Arctic College, Maternity Care Services in remote Nunavut communities. Which community are we talking about? Are we talking about the Baffin region or is this split between all of the three regions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I will get them to answer, although we dealt with that page already.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. We have been working on this quite a bit. They were looking for an instructor, perhaps they will find one this fall. They will get an instructor this fall and start this fall.

So we have to do some recruiting and get some students and stuff like that. So that's the way they do it, so that's what they are going to do.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank you for the response. In regards to midwifery training, there used to be some midwifery training in Ottawa, and we have never heard it further. There was an elderly woman that went down to Ottawa to teach midwifery and she doesn't seem to have done any training whatsoever. Where is that at right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to get the name of that elderly woman and the Manitoba Government wants to be involved in our training in midwifery, as well as Quebec.

This is ongoing, and we would like to be able to have those midwives be recognized, even outside of Nunavut. Apparently they could do it in Northern Quebec. The training that is going to take place will probably be very good and I would like to see that midwifery training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can get the name of that elderly woman and give you the name, Madame Minister, and find out from her first.

I just want to know if it's in H-8 or H-10, let me know. If I say it in English.
(interpretation ends) Can the minister tell this House what assistance is provided to individuals who have special needs related to long-term condition or disability? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you Mr. Barnabas, Page H-9 and H-10, Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my Deputy to answer that question.

Chairman: Mr. Blais

Mr. Blais: I'm wondering if the question could be repeated, I didn't get the full comprehension of the question itself, I apologize for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas could you repeat your question.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell this house, what assistance is provided to individuals who have special needs relating to a long term condition or disability? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a number of programs under the NIHB agreement, special devices like wheelchairs, and other things can be provided or obtained from that source. As well the department provides today, home and community services, and each community across Nunavut. And there are services available for children with special needs or adults for that purpose.

So those are the services that I'm aware of currently that we provide. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. During the Government of the Northwest Territories days, there was some assistance given to those people. The lack of employment especially in non-decentralized communities makes it really difficult for people without jobs to be able to afford special items such as wigs. Not everyone has access to sources like the Internet to be able to order specialized items like wigs and other things that make their lives more normal.

What help is available to individuals who need it such things as wigs or other items relating to long term health condition or disability? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not aware that such a service is available, but I would suggest that I think our department could accommodate that similar request in foreseeable future. So patients who require wigs or those accessories and I think we can certainly make every effort to ensure that they have that service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: (interpretation): Mr. Chairman I will allow my colleagues to ask questions. I would like to thank the department, and I will notify those individuals that needed a wig. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Evyagotailak

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to get back to page H-7 on midwifery, you mentioned that.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Evygotailak we already agreed to that page. If we could go to H-8. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Mr. Chairman if you can get my colleagues to go back. That's why I asked if I could go back to H-7.

Chairman: Thank you. I am going to give you maybe 2 questions at the most, with the discretion of the chair, so please proceed. Thank you

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask a question to the minister. You mentioned that you were looking for midwives to come to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Please answer, Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I said was that we are looking for an instructor presently. The training for midwifery will probably begin this fall because they have to get an instructor and call for people that would like to take midwifery training. It will also include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of ladies in Kugluktuk that know about midwifery.

One of them has been delivering her babies in the early 60's, 70's and 80's. I'm sure that she can remember all the knowledge that she had. She's an Inuk and I don't think any of her children who are living today were born at the health center in the hospital. I remember that she delivers her babies at home.

So, if you're looking for instructors, I have a couple names from Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. That was just a comment. Does anyone else have any questions on the directorate before we approve H-7.

Does anyone have any questions on Page H-7. H-5, 6 and 7 are all combined. So, I'm going to give you two questions, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I better make them good questions.

I would like to ask the Minister if she can update the house on the savings that the Care Closer to Home Strategy are going to bring to Nunavut in say over the next two years, financial savings.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I cannot answer that question specifically. I guess it will depend on a number of factors; if we are successful in our recruitment and we are able to implement our plan as we have anticipated. It will also depend the creation of an Inuit workforce which is part of our strategy as well. We will be hopefully redirecting our resources to achieve that objective.

Our major hope is that we can flatten or at least level off the levels of increases that have been a major concern for this government and the previous one as well. Our main objective right now is to try and flatten out the cost increases through repatriation.

At the same time, we need to know that we have to redirect some resources to achieve the training of an Inuit workforce including social workers, maternal care workers and midwives. So, I'm not sure that in the next three to five years we will see a significant savings if those resources are to achieve the overall goal of care closer to home.

We have to create a workforce that is going to deliver that service as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Peterson, your last questions.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've mentioned this KPMG report cost us quite a bit of money. It came out with a lot of recommendations. We've talked about the care closer to home strategy.

That is supposed to save us money, in theory. We've got some health facilities opening soon. You're recruiting nurses that you say are going to hopefully stay for two to three years and a whole number of other things. Yet, health costs seem to keep going up.

You're also hiring more staff. I think you're adding 39 positions this year all in the directorate. I'm wondering, just for my own comfort and maybe the comfort of some of the members on my side, what guarantee can the Minister offer us that the department is not going to overspend its projected main estimates in 2005/06. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I feel pretty confident that the budget we have received this year will at least be able to deliver the services that are currently required in Nunavut.

I can say that I wasn't as confident maybe last year. There are no guarantees. If Health and Social Services was predictable, we could know that we won't have an influenza outbreak this year or as public health officials are predicting that we will have a major pandemic epidemic of influenza in the foreseeable future.

We are preparing for that. I think that health is one of those services that I'm not sure anyone could predict the future on that one. We don't have an assembly line on that of process. But I feel very confident that in terms of the services that we are putting in place, we are recruiting eight more physicians because there is a lot of service that we send out of territory currently that could be done here.

We have demonstrated in the dental health area, for example, we have 757 children that require major work. I understand that at least 60 percent of that work will be done in Nunavut or has been done in Nunavut for the first time ever. So, we are looking at quite a number of repatriation of out of territory clients.

All I can say is that I feel quite confident that with the care closer to home and the initiatives that we have put into place that we will see a leveling off, if anything else, of future cost increases. I wish I could provide all members in the House with a guarantee, but it's not possible. I don't believe anyone in my position or the Minister's position could provide that guarantee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Arreak is next on the list.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister stated care closer to home more than five times and the chairman of the standing committee referred to it.

It's also mentioned in the business plan. In Clyde River, they're trying to work on to the problems in regards to alcohol or drugs. This is being worked on within the community. They try and ask for funding from different agencies. When these kinds of services are being provided, is that referred to as care closer to home. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would agree with that statement. Again, our hope is to try and support communities with initiatives that they feel will help them improve the health status or reduce issues such as alcohol and drug. I think in the past we have not had the resources to support a lot of these initiatives. But our hope is this is exactly where our investment has to be made, public health and improving the health status of communities and to hopefully provide that level of support.

So, we will be refocusing if you want, more of our energy and resources on the public health side. Again, I think that this is a major direction for our department, which is somewhat different than where we were in the past. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is part of public health. The previous manager met with different organizations and when the communities are in the negative state, they try and get access for funding so they can make a healthier community, for the whole community.

Once this kind of service is initiated within the community, it should be supported more, even though there's an allocation of only \$949,000, I wonder of some of that can be given to communities for core funding. Thank you

Mr. Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You will note on the grant and contribution federal, that there is an allocation to Clyde River of \$50,000, so the resources that are currently outlined on this page have already been committed too at this point.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): it's ok.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I wanted to ask on the same item too, why this has never increased, even though a service like this was provided in the community where people would come down from different communities and if we distribute this to 26 communities, it would come out to \$44,000 per community.

I wonder how we could increase the funding because some communities are going through a very difficult time in hiring councilors, I wonder what we can do to increase the amount and there are a lot of young people who require counseling and they need to be properly trained, and those things are not available.

I wonder if the minister can tell us how we could increase this amount. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: (interpretation): Thank you. Minister, did you wish to respond.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We seem to be lost, I wonder if he could repeat his question.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): On what my colleague mentioned, alcohol and drug treatment, the amount hasn't increased in three years, \$949,000. There's only 40 something thousand per community.

I wonder if why it's always like that, and the people who require treatment or counseling, there's no service available in the community, they don't know who to go to, and drug and alcohol abuse and substance abuse is increasing.

I wonder how we can increase this amount. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you very much Mr. Chairman, I think that's a good question, I'm not sure that I have a good answer to that, again part of our review this year for care closer to home is that mental health. There are two sections that are very important that we've identified as priority, and one of them is addiction and the other one is suicide prevention.

We have already started a process and have supported a major initiative on the suicide prevention piece, and we will undertake this year, to develop a more comprehensive plan on mental health and hopefully be able to reflect some resources to address this issue.

We also have a task group with NTI, where we're looking at hopefully the merits or whether or not we could substantiate the development of addictions rehabilitation center in Nunavut. That process is underway, and we hope by spring to have a response to that.

So there is a lot of activity, but to say at this point in time whether we can allocate it, I think it will depend on the outcome of the work that's being done in regards to the mental health portfolio. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. (interpretation) Yes, this has to be considered in the long-term process because it's not just mental health; it's for those people who have addictions. (interpretation ends) Some of them are at a pretty good mental state, but we don't have to look all that far to know that some people need treatment and that stuff.

What does it take for some members who do want actual help? I know that you do provide some out-of-Nunavut treatment. What would it take for individuals to get an out-of-Nunavut treatment for substance abuse and alcohol related habits? Thank you.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. It's not a very complex issue, I think, that once an individual has been seen by a care provider and has been identified as

requiring that level of support or help, we make arrangements then to have that service made available for that individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I am actually trying to find out because I know there are people, are they on their own when they go for treatment like out of Nunavut. I have seen people that do go out. Are they provided with some assistance from the department or are they actually on their own? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What my colleague just brought up is what I know. What usually happens is they go down to Thompson, or outside of Winnipeg, and they are in an institution for 28 days. Once they go, they have to write in a log book, along with somebody to supervise them, but that's how it usually was. When they are serious enough about getting help, and a lot of times when they go back to their communities, they are not given proper support.

In a lot of cases, they have to go back, but they are constantly supervised, and I will let my Deputy supplement the response. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Did you want to add to that?

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can. It's not so much what happens out-of-territory; I think it's when they return to communities. The lack of support to help them continue with their treatment is not always available, or if it's available, it's not to the degree that it should be.

So the services that are provided in the south, I think, are pretty reasonable, but it's when they come back to Nunavut that I think the system is not robust enough to provide that follow-up that most of these clients need. That's the direction that we are trying to address currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, I appreciate your response. My question in short was trying to get a confirmation that there are help available through the counseling help that they get from community they do want to carry on because I know that Hay River is one of these sites.

Does the department actually help them out? Or like the second part of my question, or are individuals responsible for their own arrangements? That's what I am trying to find out. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. No, the department will normally arrange for all of that to take place. So it's really a departmental responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate that. The second part of my other question will relate to dental activities assuming that most of that work is handled through the contract services in the amount of \$13,451,000. I would assume that the major chunk of the cost of that division here.

So how many of these dental agencies or services do you know that we have contracts with that provide dental services for children as well as adults within the Nunavut's three regions? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a NIHB area, so I think there are four providers in Nunavut, and off the top, I can't remember their names, but I believe there are four providers of dental services in Nunavut.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A follow-up to my question is: has the care provided by the dental care to youngsters and adults being reviewed at all in terms of whether or not they are providing the best care possible?

I have seen, and actually have heard from dentists, that there are major problems with some of what's being done, and if we were familiar with the liabilities because you know many of these cases could be done, but we are not in the United States, so we are doing pretty good.

So, actually, has the department thought about or has carried out, had major reviews of these services, or whether or not, the care that's provided a top quality? Thank you.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am glad to say that we have. In March of 2004, based on what I was looking at and observing, I asked my staff to do a full review of all clients in Nunavut waiting for major dental surgery or major dental work. It took about six months to do a full review. That means every child or adult has to be visited, examined, and categorized.

We then proceeded to establish a task group and we met with Health Canada for another six months. We were successful in getting them to provide additional funding to do a

catch-up of these 757 children mostly that were identified, which the two adults, but mostly children, and as of the end of this month, out of the 757, 500 of them will have been done, and the balance of them would be completed by September.

So we will have basically eliminated the waiting list. So, again, Health Canada has really been probably one of the few times where they have come to the table and recognized this need.

The other thing we did last year is we looked at the consistency of dental service in Nunavut. As you know we have dentists coming, they are not always the same dentists coming in to our communities.

So with the help with Health Canada, we developed a tender or a Request For Proposal where we will hopefully we would attract certain dentists that would want to take up permanent residency, and I think it was the Kivalliq Region that we tested as a pilot project.

I was very disappointed and I thought the proposal that we put together was very attractive. We didn't get one single application to take up that offer to become a permanent resident in a strategic location in the Kivalliq region. So we had to revert back to the current system.

So having said that, now we are looking at again, another approach with the hope of achieving permanent dentists in Nunavut.

The third piece of that is dental assistant or dental technician, which is the prevention piece of dentistry in Canada. We have had a serious shortage of dental therapists in Nunavut and also Canada is experiencing the same problem. Out of 17, I believe we only had six or seven dental therapists in Nunavut. So, over the years, we have lost that front end provider that does mostly the prevention piece.

I am glad to say that in the last year, we have managed to recruit four more dental therapists to the Kitikmeot region. We are sending out a team in May, and hopefully, we will attract some of the graduates out of the Saskatchewan program. There's only one school in all of Canada, and if we were successful, that would be another piece.

And fourth, we are working with Health Canada as well, who, we hope, will provide funding to train dental aides in Nunavut. This will be an Inuit workforce again, and we are quite hopeful that in the next two to three months that we will reach some kind of an agreement where they will provide some funding to help train dental aides in Nunavut.

Those are the four major areas that we have tackled in regards to the dentistry program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the Deputy Minister's response. These services are really quite important to many of our community members and I believe the centres are normally pretty full not only from the communities but particularly that serves the whole region.

My only point is that these review recommendations and I would appreciate if the Minister and her Deputy Minister would provide updated status of what is happening with these services so that the public and members will be fully aware of what is happening. The measures that the department is taking appears to be very positive and I'm pleased with that. That will be my last point on that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Business Plan on H-12, Kugluktuk Medical Affairs, 2004/05, there's \$53,000 and in 2005/06, there is \$0. I'm wondering why, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman: That's a good question. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if Mr. Whitworth can answer this question because it's something I wouldn't be able to do at that level. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The decrease is because our Director of Medical Affairs, Dr. Sandy MacDonald is located in the Baffin Regional Hospital and he coordinates all of the physician's services through out Nunavut. That's the reason for the decrease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any plans to put more money into this in the future? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as the Minister had stated in her opening remarks, we have increased the physician budget by \$3 million this current year which is what the Medical Affairs position does, is to bring more physicians to Nunavut. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you. Yes. On H-13, of the Business Plan, right almost in the middle, fill the Midwifery Consultants and the Community Homecare Consultant position in the Kugluktuk office, not just completed because of the difficulty

recruiting suitable candidates. I'm just wondering if these two positions have been filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consulting position for midwifery, if according to the Care Closer to Home Strategy will be upgraded to a Coordinator for Maternal and Childcare so that we can have someone in place to help develop a strategy for the next five years.

The answer is yes to that. We will be recruiting for that position. The other one, I didn't get the second one, I didn't get Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Community Homecare Consultant.

Mr. Blais: As far as I know, that position is still there and hopefully will be recruited as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have anything else Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So are you saying that you have found the midwifery consultant already?

Chairman (interpretation): Go ahead.

Mr. Blais: No, I am saying that we will be actively recruiting for a coordinator of maternal and child care, instead of midwifery. Midwifery will be a component of that, but that position will be in Kugluktuk

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a nurse that knew about midwifery there that you guys can look into. And, if you want a name I could give you a name. That way, you don't have to spend no dollars on travel and moving, I'm sure you'd be happy on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you Mr. Evyagotailak. Maybe Ms. Minister can respond to that.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be very pleased to get that name from you, I would definitely like to get that name. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman (interpretation): Is that it for you, Mr. Evyagotailak?

Mr. Evyagotailak: Yes, thank you, Madam Minister, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman (interpretation): Are you done? On page 8, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the minister for an update on the community health representatives. I'd like to know how many there are in Nunavut, how many there should be in Nunavut, by community, exactly what their role is in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know how many there are, but we will get that answer for you, if that's possible.

On the second piece, we are undertaking a review of all communities in terms of staffing patterns and looking at what the need might be over the next five to ten years.

So in terms of how many CHR's we do need, the purpose of this review, which will take four to five months, is to determine exactly that question, not only for CHR's but for all other positions, such as social workers, mental health workers and things like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2001 or 2002 in Cambridge Bay, we had a Arctic College course, I think there were eight community health representatives, or students who graduated. They came to our hamlet council and asked for lobbying support to help them get jobs across Nunavut, which are back in their communities.

It was quite surprising that they had to do this. Because I was president of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities at the time, I was able to bring the mayors' support across Nunavut.

I think most of them were hired, they are folks who are right from the community, they know the people, they know everybody. I know there are two in our community who seem to be doing a very good job.

They take a lot of the pressure off the nurses and other people, social workers, but something's sticking to my mind here, I think there's a ratio of community health representatives by community. Large communities obviously need three or four and the smaller might need one or two, there's some ratio there that exist in some policy.

I wish I had that information that I could share with you. You talked earlier about training nurses. I think Nunavut Arctic College should be putting on courses for community health representatives because they really do a good job to help community health.

I'm wonder, Mr. Chairman, if the minister or Mr. Blais could comment on that. Thank you

Mr. Chairman: Could you comment on that, Ms. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for bringing up the issue of Community Health Representatives. There were four graduates from the program in Panniqtuuq last year, and every two years there are always graduates, so the numbers are increasing. I would also like Mr. Blais to make a supplement to the comments that I just made.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. If you could make it real brief, Mr. Blais?

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really don't have anything to add at this point. The minister has said every two years is what we do in terms of access for Community Health Representatives. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was a comment. Do you have any more questions, Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is good to know. I don't know if four every two years is a good number. We could probably use 10 to 12 every couple of years. Hopefully, they will get hired.

I have some questions specifically to Cambridge Bay, but maybe they are applicable elsewhere in Nunavut. I had a young lady come to me last summer. She was young but she was a teenager, she had just turned 18. She wanted to get her birth name and apply for her Social Insurance Number. It was quite amazing, actually, she had spent two years searching around and getting the run around by the bureaucracy between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories and Ottawa.

I thought it would be difficult when she phoned me up looking for help, I thought I was going to be caught up in the loop. As it turns out she came with a complete file, to my surprise. She brought all this paperwork that she had done, so it was quite easy for me to pick it up.

I had to call Inuvik, and then they had to chase around over there. And then I had to call Rankin Inlet, and then Rankin Inlet had to do something. Ultimately, she did get the papers that she needed to go apply for a Social Insurance Number.

I am wondering, Madame Minister or Mr. Blais, how does the Adoption Services work in Nunavut when we have to put people through a complicated system that requires you to call three or four different places in the north and down south, to get an adoption document so they can apply for a Social Insurance Number. Without your Social Insurance Number, you can't legally work.

This was the problem. She needed her Social Insurance Number so she could get paid from the Government of Nunavut, and she was working for the Government of Nunavut.

It had taken her that long to get the step where she could get an SIN number. If she didn't get it within a certain period of time; she wasn't going to get paid. It caused her quite a lot of grief. What got me is that she spent two years trying to get this.

To me, it seemed like it should be a one or two month process and not two years. Unfortunately, I don't have the files here. I would table all those documents for your information just to prove a point.

I am wondering if the Minister, or Mr. Blais, could comment on what their department is doing to speed up the process for people trying to sort out their adoption records. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The process of applying for a Social Insurance Number, I know is not the responsibility of our department. All I can say it is the first time I have heard a complaint of that nature and we will look into it, but I am not aware that we are responsible and provide that kind of service at this point.

So if you could give us the person who had the incident, we will certainly look into it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Blais, and Madame Minister. I will do that. I know that Health has a role in there somewhere because you have a bullet in your Business Plan on page H-18, Adoption Services. So your role is there. I think that is a start.

If it's done properly upfront, then your paperwork will be done properly as well and you will not lose files, if people come along years later to look at their files, if it is not filed correctly, it will start to cause some problems.

Another question that has been raised by some of my constituents has to do with child apprehensions, and in particular has to do with Child Tax Credits that parents get from the federal government. People have been wondering if the parents who have had their children apprehended, do they continue to get the Child Tax Credits every month. Or is that cut off to them and then the money goes to the Government of Nunavut to help support the child. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Mr. Chairman, again I don't know that answer. It's the first time I've been asked that. I will have to get back to get back to you with a response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais. He will get back to you. Go ahead, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope this isn't strike three and I'm out of here. My other question is related to my riding. It's to do with, and I've been trying to get this answer for several months out of your department, but since I have the Minister and her senior officials here, I'll ask it here. Medical and treatment services for Umingmaktuk and Bathurst Inlet. I would like the Minister or her officials to explain to me how the regional department, how Cambridge Bay provides medical services to those two communities when they require it? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Sorry. Are we referring to the two outlying communities?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Yes, if he wants to call them outpost camps. I don't think they refer to themselves as outpost camps but those two outlying communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, clients from those communities are flown out to Cambridge Bay, or where appropriate to Yellowknife, or Edmonton, for care as required.

We have historically, as least in the last couple of years that I've been able to examine, have sent medical charters in to conduct vaccine vaccinations and other things into those communities I believe twice a year.

So, there are times when we send a medical team in on a charter to services those clients if we feel there are enough clients to be serviced in those two communities, most of the time we fly those people into Cambridge Bay or out of territory for care. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Go ahead Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Blais.

Yes there are always people down there, I think Bay Chimo or Umingmaktuk, you have anywhere between 20 and 25. Some of them are elders. And then in Bathurst Inlet, you have ten, and some are elders. They are there all the time. That's their homes.

What I'm trying to get at as well is do you have someone in either of those communities, who if one of the residents gets sick, a cold or a toothache or any kind of ailment, is there someone there that can provide immediate medical treatment or contact to your nurses' and doctors in Cambridge Bay to get advice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes to that. We have a person in each of those communities that has a certain level of training to provide assistance. Where required, that person would then be referred to either Cambridge Bay or out of territory as well. So, we do have that service available as well in both of those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. Do these people in the communities get regular medical training somewhere in Cambridge Bay, or Iqaluit or somewhere so that they know when there is an emergency situation what they have to do to help who ever is requiring treatment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again the answer is yes to that. In reviewing that last year, I noticed in one of the communities, that training had not been updated. So I directed my staff to develop a plan to ensure that the level of training was completed and I believe that training is underway currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. I just want to turn to your business plan for a few minutes on page H-20. Priorities for 2005/06 is they are talking about creating a Nunavut Foster Parent Association with the links groups in all three regions. Could you expand on that for us a little bit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Expand on that, Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our department has done extensive work on this particular foster care, and I know the current leader is now an Association for Foster Care in Iqaluit and one in Cambridge Bay.

The idea is that over time to have Foster Parent Association that would be a Nunavut, an umbrella association for all of those so that we could create, at the same time, capacity in Nunavut because we know we have a shortage of foster parents. The only way to achieve that is to create and hopefully encourage people to form these types of groups. Over time, they will hopefully transform the system as it currently is today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. My colleague from Rankin Inlet brought this up a couple of weeks ago in the House about foster children,

and I think it's a concern in Cambridge Bay as well that we don't have enough foster parents to try and track foster parents to try and look after the kids is quite a challenge in some communities.

I am wondering if the minister, or Mr. Blais could comment on what their department is doing to encourage adults or parents in Nunavut communities to become foster parents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think if you look at what took place two weeks ago in Rankin Inlet. We are encouraging our staff to go out and hold forums in communities, and talk about the need for foster parenting, but also we are providing information in terms of what you have to be to become a foster parent.

We have just completed a Foster Parent Handbook that provides extensive information. I think it has been translated and circulated already. At the same time, we have looked at the fee structure, which is currently in place, because depending on the type of individual that we are asking you to take into your home, often, many of these have a higher level of need.

So, therefore, we will be proposing, very shortly, a new foster parent fee schedule, or fee initiative, as well as a fee for special needs children who have a higher level of need. Our hope is as well that that fee will also reflect the more remote the community, the higher the fee will be, similar to what the northern allowance is currently.

So that work has already been done. Through our minister, we hope to bring that to Cabinet for a review in the foreseeable future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. Does the department have a ballpark number for how many kids are in foster care in Nunavut or group homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe we have approximately, I guess that varies on a day-to-day basis, but I will give you the numbers I had let's say two weeks ago. It was approximately 293 children in foster care, and 30 children in special care, which require that all of those 30 children would be out-of-territory because they require either medical or some type of support structures, which is not provided in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. On page H-21, if Mr. Blais or the minister could give us an explanation of what the public guardianship for all challenged adults in Health and Social Services facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe the intention here is that we have approximately 37 children out of territory that would be what I consider special needs and about 54 adults in the same category, but anybody above 19.

Our hope with repatriation is to establish services in Nunavut. In order to do that, we have to complete a full assessment of each of these individuals to determine their ability to be repatriated. At the same time determine what level of service that we would have to provide and hopefully which communities could provide that level of service so that we could bring many of these children, and of course, adults back to Nunavut. So, this is one of our goals I would say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. I'm going to go to the next person. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Mr. Chairman, I am also concerned about our alcohol and drug program. I come from a community where there was child abuse from a teacher. They're adult now and as you grow older your trauma is very high, what happened to you when you are children. So, I would like to see that figure increase because in my community that program coordinator, what I see is not adequate facility that she has that figure of about \$34,000 is not enough.

So, maybe my question might be from your department, is there help to the communities that can provide from your department on help that coordinator at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would say the answer is yes to that. I would hope to be able to come to your community shortly after hopefully in the next couple of months. There is a program as well that is provided by three people out of Montreal and they have been to my office in the last month or so and have requested support as well to continue that program. We will be looking at that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Go ahead Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Also, when you are dealing with a person who wants to talk to you alone or in the office, but, in that office in my community, there is no telephone in that office. So, I think it's not adequate.

So, when you want to talk with the coordinator, besides somebody here, or if you want to make a call outside of the community, then, I think you would have to be in a public area

because there is no phone in the office. So, I think I want the department to look into this and provide that coordinator with better facilities. That's just a comment. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Did you want to respond to that Mr. Blais?

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will certainly follow that up right away in regards to the telephone issue. Rest assured, my staff will be looking into that right away. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Blais. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you. That's it for now. I'll have more comments on the social workers when this comes up. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Are we going to continue or are we going to take a break?

Chairman (interpretation): They have not brought in our supper yet, so I will let you know when they do. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we are under H-8 and it's part of H-9 and H-10. Under social programs, I have a question.

The safe shelters that are provided with funding, how many shelters are there anyways in Nunavut that are in existence, and the ones that are being used here in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am guessing seven, but that would be the number that comes to mind right now because we have started to undertake a review of all shelters, elders' centres, group homes, and I may be mixing them up, but my senses right now, I believe there are seven. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not exactly sure, I am asking mostly about the women's shelters, not the other shelters. Are there seven women's shelters? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe there are seven women's shelters. I know there are 11 shelters, but I think we are talking about women's shelters. My sense right

now is that I think it's seven. I will have my staff verify that number, but that's what comes to mind. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any thoughts about making more women's shelters in Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais. Ms. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are seven women's shelters in Nunavut, and it's very expensive to run a building, such as paying for their utilities and other expenses.

I would be in support of building more shelters, but I am not really sure of exactly where the money would be coming from. Just to let you know that I am in support of those women's shelters and they are very useful in the communities as well. That's about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, thank you for the response. I would like to also make a comment under the same thing in regards to the elders' centres.

There are so many different ways of running those elders' centres and there has been people that have stated that there are a lot of problems with that. Some of the elders that stay in the elders' centre pay over \$700.

Like I stated before when we had our Session in May that it has been a year and nothing has been done. There was a renovation that was done to an elders' centre, and then we heard that they would not be paying their rent at the elders' centre. I think there are only two elders' centres, if not one, and it's the only one that whereby the tenants pay.

In Arviat, they were getting the care done for them, but all of a sudden what they did was, when they had to pay they didn't want to stay anymore. As soon as they found out that they have to pay to stay there, they just went back home, and then they just stay at there home and nobody caring for them.

I wonder what the departments going to do with those elders' centres and whether are they going to charge the tenant.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department has done a cross jurisdiction review across Canada to examine what the current practice is in every single jurisdiction.

We're now looking at assessing that. We currently have two of the three elders' centres, these are 24/7 elders' centres, these are not independent living, in two of the three are currently being charged a fee. This is a result in a policy that was established and I believe signed off some years ago.

So it's been an inconsistent application of a policy that exists today. So we will be coming forward to the cabinet with a recommendation on to address that certain issue, because if we move forward in the future and build more elders centers, these are 24 hour days, seven day a week support with nursing and that, then we have to resolve this issue once and for all.

So our department will do that within the next two months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel that the public housing units, they don't get charged at the public housing units for those elders and it's not very good to hear that some of them are not being treated properly, and then they take their pension away from them and stuff like that. After two months I will be questioning the department again as well.

I wanted to see an agreement whereby there's an agreement that the tenant signs and the government. There's also an agreement in place whereby the tenant has to pay so much of their pension. I heard that the money the elders pay has to be in a form of cash. Do they put them in the government's account? I have not seen anything in paper that where there's an agreement in place with the government. I just wanted to see what the agreement looks like. Thank you

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Blais. I'm sorry, Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my knowledge, I have never seen a signed agreement but as the member stated there is a process where the elder signs the cheque to the home, the home goes to the Northern Store, the Northern Store cashes the cheque, sends to the government \$721, I think, returns the balance to the elder and then it comes to the government and it's deposited into the general revenue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard that they have no choice, they are ordered, they're commanded to sign their cheques and give it to the person who's looking after their transaction so that money. Without a choice, who ever, other than the elder or relative, cheque is taken as cash form because it's signed by the elder, taken to the Northern, and the commanding officer whoever it is, has to command what ever he or she wants to do with that money. Whatever is left over and then is given to the elder, and if there is no left over and then it goes on to next account, no transaction

book or nothing is kept for the elders. So this is wrong. This is a really, really wrongdoing of the government I think, in my own opinion.

(Interpretation) I would also like to make it stronger and say if there is nothing done by April 1st, there has to be something in writing on that. Under the same page, under alcohol and drug programs, I'd like to ask a question.

First of all, the money that goes into that line item, and the hamlet says that the hamlet receives funding from that line and it doesn't say what they could use it for. They just give the money without specifying what they're going to do. It says there Nunavut Association of Municipalities funding is to provide an alcohol and drug treatment program.

There are people that are addicted out there that use drugs and alcohol that should be getting some help from their drug and alcohol addictions. When it goes to the municipalities, it doesn't state what they're supposed to be doing. There are no guidelines or anything. We wanted to get the guidelines so that funding could be utilized properly. Are there no guidelines at this time in your department?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding normally flows to municipalities or other agencies through contribution agreements. And in the contribution agreements, there are specific requirements to identify what the funds will be used for and also reporting on the use of those funds.

So, it is in the contribution agreement with each of the organizations receiving grants including municipalities where that service is outlined. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister receive any report on how many people have received help for their drug and alcohol addictions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I don't know which individual will respond to that question. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry. I have never found out about that before and now I'm more aware about what goes on with that line item. Maybe I'll have my official answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are actually normally two requirements under a Contribution Agreement; one is the financial reporting and the other is operational or the service provision part of the Contribution Agreement.

Under my authority, we receive the financial reports. I assume that, and I'm going to make an assumption because I don't work in the field, that the operational people in each regional office would receive the program report as to what services were delivered and what not under the Contribution Agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Whitworth. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): What I stated earlier, when there are no guidelines, it seems like the Government of Nunavut is just getting rid of the money with no accountability from the hamlet councils. They are not giving them guidelines and not even evaluating whether it's positive or negative because the way I look at this now, it's just being thrown out there.

I want to ask the minister if she is prepared to set up guidelines to assist the communities? Thank you.

Chairman: Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to hear those kinds of concerns because I am concerned. I want to make sure that the funding that is available is being put in a good use. How many people have been assisted?

I am in full agreement with my colleague, and I will check this further and find out exactly what the contents are, along with my staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question is quite lengthy too, but I will raise my hand later. Thank you, Ms. Brown and Mr. Blais for responding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I don't have anybody on my list. Mr. Alagalak. You can proceed.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I want to say a few words on the Council for the Disabled. For those people who are in wheelchairs because there are three of them in Arviat and they come to see my sometimes.

I believe last year that they were sent to Iqaluit for a meeting. That was a very positive step to those people who are physically disabled. Their only mode of transportation is in a wheelchair. At that time, in the meeting in Iqaluit, they said they made quite a few recommendations to improve the services.

I wonder what had happened to those recommendations at that meeting. Thank you.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Executive Director for Population Health, who I believe was the person who spearheaded that initiative, has taken all of those recommendations and we are looking at how we will implement those over the next few years. So they haven't just been taken under advisement.

We are also trying to determine the resources required to implement some those recommendations, and at the same time put a plan in place in order to ensure that some of those recommendations that we think are implementable, are done over the next two or three years.

I don't have anything to report today, but I can tell you that we are definitely working on those at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was told last spring, that some of the recommendations were going to be implemented right away. That there should be improvements on their wheelchairs or crutches but looking at this, it says \$90,000. It seems like it was just used for a meeting. Before 2005-2006 some of these could have been implemented. It seems like we are just going to go on and on without actually implementing those recommendations.

I wonder if the minister can provide us with those recommendations and what actions have been taken on each recommendation up to date. What other plans that she has? Can she provide that to the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand my colleague's concern. We are falling behind with people with special needs, but we are currently working with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and I will let my Deputy Minister to respond further. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Unfortunately right now, the Executive Director for that particular area is away until April 4. So I have no on else that I could look to provide that information at this point in time.

We do have an initiative; we are working very closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, we have a task group that's basically dedicated between our department and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, in looking at the whole issue of people with disabilities as well.

So I can assure you that it's not because of the lack of action. Our department has a severe shortage of personnel, and I think as soon as that person comes back, I will be in a better position to respond to providing at least an overview of the recommendations and where we are at with the implementations of it. I can't do that until that person returns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Go ahead, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: What you are saying is you are committed to provide that information as soon as you can with that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: What I am saying is I will provide it to our minister, and then it will be up to our minister to determine how that information is dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I assume that the minister will commit to provide that information for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: That's not a question, so thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to ask the minister and her officials. On June 23, Mr. Whitworth stated about the elders in the elders' facilities. You said there were going to be investigations and I would like to ask if the policies are the same. What stage are they at right now? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. I am going to let him answer this question and then we are going to break for dinner. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Whenever an incident occurs, we normally look to the professional practice unit to do a review or an investigation depending on the seriousness of the incident. A report is provided to my office, and then directions provided in terms of any corrective measures.

I believe that issue has been dealt with and corrective measures that have been put in place that were recommended by the review group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are going to break for half an hour. We will be back. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 18:23 and resumed at 18:58

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I'll thank them later. The other question I wanted to ask. The Custom Adoption Commissioners, how difficult is their job. What kinds of responsibilities do they have.

I'm pretty sure they spend quite a few hours so I would like to ask the Minister what their responsibilities and how difficult the job is. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess I'm not really able to answer that question very well.

I haven't been involved since coming to Nunavut very much in this particular area because of the other priorities. I know that, typically the appointments are made by cabinet and that the work appears to be fairly straight forward and simple but that would be just my observation at this point in time. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask the Minister or her Deputy Minister, I don't know, maybe they're not aware how difficult it is for the parents to be and if they're going to interview the foster parents. He stated that it seems very simple, maybe it doesn't require that much paperwork. I wonder why it's simpler than foster parents. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like I said earlier, I said that my observation, and I guess it's not my...I have not done an in-depth review of the process, but in looking at the application form and the process, it doesn't look to me like it's any more complicated than a foster parent, but I would not be speaking with a lot of degree of knowledge on this issue.

Again, it's basically just the observations that I have observed in looking at the documents normally that are used. So that's as much as I can say on that particular issue at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I will rephrase my question. My question is that, is there much...application is one thing, paperwork probably involves whether or not social services are somewhat involved or relative to the interview or what not. So in my view, it's probably not a one-day or one-hour job, and after all of that work, if the adoption doesn't go through, what happens to the case?

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I am not able to answer that question because as I said earlier, this is not an area that has been an issue since I arrived here 21 months ago. So there have been no cases or particular issues that have been brought to my attention. So, again, I am not experienced enough to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. But I believe though that the deputy minister is responsible for ensuring that all of the rules and regulations within the Department of Health and Social Services are obeyed and complied with, and that goes with the adoption commissioners.

My point is this: if all of the work is involved in preparing adoption, if that work doesn't succeed, my point is the adoption commissioner doesn't get paid, particularly the Customs Adoption Commissioner.

So in lieu of that, I would urge the deputy minister, Mr. Chairman, to keep records of whether or not, even statistically exactly how many adoptions are custom adopted, carried out in Nunavut, and the amount of work involved because I am concerned because if this payment system for the commissioner is only based on successful ones, then the incentive is to rule as many as you can because I realize these adoption commissioners may have other jobs, but in some respects, it may be tempting to get one adoption out of the way in order to get paid.

So would it be possible for the deputy minister to bring in a report as to whether or not, include statistics as well as the number of adoptions and so on, and maybe even review the payment system so that it's not be seen as trying to have more adoptions in order to get paid for the number of adoptions. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will commit to provide our minister with a report on the number of adoptions and any other information that would be relevant, and secondly, we will look at the fee schedule that is currently being paid.

Also what happens if someone, if for example, an adoption does not go through, to ensure that the Adoptions Commissioner, who has done all of the work, as to whether they get remunerated or not. I would agree that that would seem to me unfair if I have done all of the work, and something doesn't happen, and there has be I think some degree of payment for that.

So we will look into that, and we will bring back to our minister that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: My other question, Mr. Chairman, I heard the deputy minister indicated earlier that there were seven 24-hour elders' facilities. I'm not really clear if there are that many.

I know Rankin Inlet has four units or so, elders' facilities, but it's not a 24-hour facility. So, could you clarify that for me because if there are 24-hour facilities other than Iqaluit, which communities are they in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I said earlier was that there were seven women's shelters and I guess the question was in the shelter area. I was not making any reference at that point in time to elders' facilities. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Are you then at all making any progress with respect to the 24-hour services, for the facilities for particularly the elders, mainly because I know that in my constituency there was certainly a strong case for that but it appears to have been an incentive to do a market survey for whether or not elder's 24 hour facilities are needed.

Was it meant to be a market survey? Whether or not you have established a task force, publicly paid for, I assume there was some members on that task force that are not employees of the government, but they have been paid for by the public which we appropriated through this house. Also, the taskforce appears to have a non-public responsibility. Why is that.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Okay, I'm going to try and answer that. I'm sure I'm clear on the question. First of all, the task group represents mostly all public sectors. Health and Social Services, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Department of Education, in regards to the social support as well as Nunavut Tunngavik Inc and housing.

Those are the key representatives on the task group and of course as you know, the taskforce's mandate was basically to do a review and to come back with recommendations in regards to the continuum of care for elders. Of course, there would also be a subset of that that would be focused on elder's care.

That review is complete. The report is being drafted and its recommendations and we could expect, some time in early to mid April to submit our recommendations to cabinet for consideration. I think this is where we are at this point in time. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My point was this, that if the non-government officials can be the custodians, able to read and write, at least read the recommendations and the report, why couldn't the members of the assembly have some information available to them that may be of use to us in assessing and taking part in at least recommending how we think the direction of the elder's facility should be established or funded in Nunavut.

Chairman: Mr. Blais. I'm sorry. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Only when we hear from the people, it seems that is when it's brought to our attention.

What my colleague mentioned makes a lot of sense and the task group was given a directive from the cabinet and my Deputy Minister already stated them. I think there can be changes made if he has any suggestions as to who should be there and also include Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit in there. I will try to push for that.

So, it will be formed like that because it makes more sense to consult with the people who live in the community and I just wanted to bring that up because I support his comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Minister for her response. My point is the minister announced today she was not able to make public or table the recommendation of the task force, so that it being in the point is perhaps on the business of the recommendation from his officials, I would think that you or your Assistant Deputy Minister.

Normally if you have a task force that is established by the government, it's normally a pretty broad membership and has a pretty public responsibility, to consult, seek advice and so on, and pretty free wheeling kind of advisor group that is seeking comments from the public for the purpose of creating something or a government policy related to it.

Why couldn't you agree to table that forward so that we as the Members of the Legislative Assembly could take part in giving you some advice rather than just seeing the final recommendation once they've been approved.

Obviously my point again was if the non government officials are beneficiaries of the report and recommendations that non government officials, would it be okay to seek copies from them, instead of you guys because we couldn't get it from you, would that be okay? Thank you

Mr. Chairman: Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, the report was completed, but what we are doing now is working on the recommendations. I would also like to have my Deputy Minister to supplement my response.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The report is still in draft form. We are currently pulling together the recommendation as a result of the extensive review that we've done across all jurisdictions.

We've been working with Department of Community and Government Services to determine some of the requirements that would have to be put in place. I don't see how that report could be made available at this time because it's not ready to be made available, that's one reason.

Secondly, this was a direction from cabinet as well, that we come back with a plan and recommendation to look at possible site selection and we were given a very tight time line. We are working towards that time line as well. So all I can say is the report is not ready to be tabled or made public, and secondly once it is, then we will, through Cabinet, can decide what course of action is in regards to the communication of that report and the information contained in that report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Perhaps then the minister could consider one possibility, how the Members of the Legislative Assembly or there group could be incorporated.

Would you include the task force then in consulting with some Members of the Legislative Assembly, or all of them for all that matter, throughout the region? Thank you

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you. I'm a bit confused; maybe I can ask the chair, there is no request under our O&M budget for funding for elders care facilities for this year or for Capital Budget. Again this is one of the recommendations that will have to go forward to Cabinet in regards to funding of this facility, or through the regular process.

There is quite a lot of work yet to be done in regards to getting this whole thing finalized. I look to my minister in regards to the question from the member, because I'm not in the position at this point to provide that report to you, its not ready, recommendations being drafted and as far as I know it's to go back to Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. So we will not be consulted, the answer I got then is, we got your message, that Members of the Legislative Assembly will not be consulted nor will see the recommendations report until the Cabinets approve the report.

Then in that case, then it will become a policy not just a recommendation. So all the elders facilities should be established or funded in Nunavut. Is that what I hear from the Deputy Minister? Thank you

Mr. Chairman: Deputy Minister.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer to that is no. That is not correct. There is, at least in our recommendation a recommendation that consultations do occur. So it is part of the pulling together of that document but under my view is that Cabinet will support our recommendations, one of them will be to consult with communities and regards to the billing of these elders' facilities, should they be approved. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Is that it? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A question is for the minister and/or Mr. Blais. In 2004-2005 on page H-20, you said it would inquire to explore women's health in the areas of mammography therapy, women's shelters, maternal care and violence against women.

With the transfer of the Status of Women's Council from the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, to the Health and Social Services Department to adopt the full responsibility for these issues, both are seen as ongoing objectives.

Could you update us on the work that your department is doing for those four priority areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to some of the initiatives that we have in place currently, and some of the ones that we are working on, in the area of Maternal and Childcare, as mentioned earlier, we basically have received funding to train 28 Maternal Care Workers, starting this year. We have established a partnership with Nunavut Arctic College. We will begin training four this year, 12 next year and 12 the year after that.

So this will address, hopefully Maternal and Child Care Workers will be the frontline workers to do a lot of the pre-natal and preventative things that can be done to improve the births of children and also the welfare of the mothers as well.

So we are looking at 28 people trained in that particular area. Of course, they will be looked at being placed in all jurisdictions across the communities.

As it relates to other initiatives in regards to women, our department is also a member of the Violence against Women Task Force, which is basically, again a multi-government department membership, mostly at the Deputy Minister level.

We have identified a number of initiatives this year, which Health will be a main partner in those initiatives. We hope to be able to host we'll be able host a major forum, which Health will probably sponsor sometime in the fall, September I believe as well.

The whole area of Violence against Women and looking at developing better information systems to track these issues is a major initiative of our department, and also others as well; it is not just our department that is putting that in place.

We are also undertaking a review of all of the shelters across Nunavut and how they are dispersed currently. We will be looking at trying to develop a needs assessment tool to determine if future shelters are to be built or those accommodations provided then where we should be in the future. So that work will also be undertaken this fiscal year.

Those are some of the activities that we will be working on in this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I asked the minister in the House on Friday about Violence against Women. She said that they track incidents of violence against women. She said that the trend was increasing.

I am wondering if the trend is increasing, if the department looked into why the trend is increasing and what types of activities, or initiatives we can put in place to reverse the trend so it starts to decrease. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that there is an area where there is significant cooperation between the Departments of Justice, Education, Health and Housing. This is the purposes of the Violence against Women Steering Committee.

One of the first things that this group recognized, not only health because this is not only a health issue, this is a multi-departmental issue, recognize that there needed to be a better gathering of statistics and it doesn't matter if also the RCMP are involved as well.

So one of the first initiatives that all of our departments undertook is to look at how is information being gathered in each of our departments with the hope to be able to quantify more succinctly not only the numbers of people being affected by this but also to determine what strategies we could put in place to address those.

Again, statistics are only as good as the amount of information that you have that gives you the ability to determine what strategies can be put in place. So this is the work that is under way currently. We do track through out health centres of course how many women show up in our health centers that are facing those situations.

The RCMP also has tracking systems and other departments and justice as well. The cooperation now is to bring all of this information together to establish priorities and that's what we're working on currently, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. Listening to the questions of some of my colleagues earlier about the number of shelters in Nunavut, I recalled the questioning during the Capital Planning session in November. I think the number at that time was four. I think we had two then that were closed. Now I'm hearing seven are open.

The thing that kind of interests me is we have 25 communities in Nunavut and we have only a few shelters, whether it's four or three or seven. Why do women have to move out of their house in a small community into a crisis shelter with her kids probably, when it would make more sense to have the person that is hurting them move out of the house?

Wouldn't it make more sense to move that person out and then the women and their families could stay in their houses. It makes sense to me. It just doesn't add up to me in the smaller communities.

Why do the women and their families have to move into shelters? Take the one person out and do something with. Put them somewhere. Mr. Chairman, if the Minister or Mr. Blais could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Who would like to answer the question? Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I respect the question that's been raised because it's a question that our task group, the Violence against Women Steering Committee has asked as well, is there a different way that we could deal with this issue.

You may want to direct that question to the Department of Justice, who is currently doing consultation in communities, for new legislation that they hope to propose that will hopefully reverse or give us the opportunity to do just that. This is not a health issue. Health only responds to the needs. This is an issue that has to be looked at legislatively as well. So, I think that process is under way, not from Department of Health and Social Services, but from Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais for that answer. The reason I was asking that question is because your department is providing \$3,350,000 this year.

It's been increased from last year of \$3,091,000 for shelter facilities. Some of them are women's shelter facilities. I'm not sure how many. If a facility does not exist in a community and a family has to seek emergency shelter, where do they go? How do you move them to a safe area? Do you send them out of town? Do you put them with a family member? Do you move them out of territory? If the Minister, or Mr. Blais could comment please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, we always try and find a safe house where accommodations like that can be made in each of the communities, where there's no facility or service available where the person might be in danger, then that person often is moved to another location; such as Iqaluit, a lot of our clients in the shelter are from all over the Baffin Region, for example. So they will be moved to another shelter where that can be accommodated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. And typically they would be sheltered somewhere whether in a community or a safe house or in another community for one to two weeks, and then they have to move back.

What occurs in the community that allows them to go back to their housing before the violence occurred? Does the Health Department get involved? Does Justice, do the RCMP and social workers; what do you do to help them to return to their community, to their house and ensure that they are going to be safe? Could you explain that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Please explain, Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Mr. Chairman, I can't speak for the other departments, I can only speak for our department. Our department basically provides support structures such as Social Services, and at that point, we work with the community, we work with the person that's involved, we work with the family in the hope of getting the family reunited. That's our main objective that the department attempts to achieve.

So, from our perspective, we are there to support the abuse and we are there to try and reconnect the families through our Social Services Department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope that whatever the department is doing starts to take effect because the minister said the other day that the trend is increasing. We have had these marches every year, I see these 'Stop the Violence Against Women' stickers in every window and in just about everywhere in town. I hope there's somebody reading them, the guys that should be reading them. I am glad to hear that you are working on it.

Go back to page H-20 on mammography. Could you take us through the process to diagnose or to do breast check-ups for women? At what point would they see the doctor or be sent to a facility where they have the proper equipment to do the testing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Typically, our department has been very much focused on trying to encourage self breast examination. I think that's always the first step that has been in every jurisdiction I have ever worked. That's usually a very important step to educate women to carry out self breast examination. So that, I believe, is the first step.

When women present themselves to a care provider, that could be the nurse in the community or a physician, then I think it's the care provider that will determine whether a person has to be sent out of territory for mammography. So that's the current situation.

We are working, though, in the new Health Centre in Iqaluit to put in place, that's part of our program, a mammography unit so that at least the beginning of a mammography program can be put in place, and probably by early 2007. So that's what we are working to at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. At what age would you consider sending a lady out to get a mammogram? Is it age 30, age 40 or age 50? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not aware at this point in time that there's an age categorization that if you are diagnosed with a lump, and normally the practitioners are pretty good at identifying whether it appears to be serious or not, then they will make the decision at that point to send you out of the territory for that service.

There are jurisdictions like British Columbia and others that have age specific requirements, and there are some that don't. We happen to be one that doesn't at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. You might want to check with operations in Cambridge Bay because I think they're using the age of 50 to determine whether they should send you out for mandatory breast examination with some of that diagnostic equipment they have in Yellowknife, or Edmonton.

I think age 50 was the age I was told by a couple of constituents. So you might want to check up on that. That's all the questions I have on that page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. That was just a comment. We are on page H-8. I have no more names on my list. Health and Social Services, Branch Summary. Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$40,970,000. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. We're up to H-11. Health and Social Services. Branch Summary. Health and Insurance Program. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$49,450,000. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister, or Mr. Blais can explain where the NIHB are administered in Nunavut. Could you give us an updates on how the processing of paper work works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our processing location is Rankin Inlet. Rankin Inlet is the headquarters for our Non-insured Health Benefits Agreement. All claims or invoices for any services for that Contribution Agreement goes through our claims processing system, to ensure that we can claim the dollars back against Health Canada. I hope that helps the member. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That helps me but it doesn't help my constituents because they run into a lot of red tape and paperwork when they go to submit claims. I get a lot of inquiries which I try to direct to your department. And there are months and months and months of delays for folks to get payments.

So I'm wondering if you could explain to me how a client from Cambridge Bay, or Bathurst Inlet or Umingmaktuk could simplify the paperwork so that they could get their claims processed a little bit faster. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have stringent reporting requirements on the department as well to Health Canada. We require certain documentation and support for every invoice we pay, in order to report it to Health Canada.

If a client has performed a service for us and there is certain documentation that we don't have, we have to go back and sometimes that's an onerous process but we have to make sure we have the proper documentation to get it back from Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the clients not use the services of your local department, Health Department to help them expedite and move the paper down to Rankin Inlet? It's very complicated if you follow me. We don't like red tape in Cambridge Bay. It's become quite cumbersome. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's concern. The issue that we have is to ensure a consistent approach to our claims that we're putting into Health Canada. If we process claims in Cambridge Bay and they're not processed properly and we don't capture their correct data, then we will lose that money. And the Government of Nunavut as everyone is aware; we cannot afford to lose those dollars. That's why if we keep it focused with what we consider the experts for the Non-insured Health Benefits services based in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Whitworth. Perhaps it might help if your clients in the communities where they have to submit the claims could be given some instructions to help them, and who the contact person is, the fax number, the mailing address.

Quite often, from what I have heard is people will get an answering machine, or they find out that the person is and I am not pointing fingers at them, I don't know who the people are; they are on vacation or there has been a staff turnover, and then of course, the paperwork will sit there in the office for weeks or months.

Then of course, when you hire someone new or someone comes back from holidays, they have a stack of paper to process. If they try to track people during certain times of the year like summertime, people are out on the land or traveling.

It might be something you want to look at; if you could clarify it for the clients so they know exactly what they have to do. And be honest with them. Tell them how long I might take; it might take two or three months to get paid.

Most people expect to get paid within two to four weeks. When it's two to four months, then that's when the Members of the Legislative Assembly start getting the phone calls. That's when we start calling the Directors in the regions or even possibly with the minister to get answers for them. That's a suggestion, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

Chairman: That was just a suggestion. I believe I didn't hear a question. So I have nobody else on my list. We are on page H-11. Health and Social Services. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to ask my question, Mr. Chairman. Under the Travel and Transportation line item, there's a reduction by approximately \$2.2 million. Perhaps the minister can tell us why there's a reduction on that line item.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Travel and Transportation was re-profiled. So Mr. Whitworth can respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Whitworth.

Mr. Whitworth: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we did in this case was a line or budget to the way we have been paying the invoices. So if you look under contract services, there's an increase, but there's also a reduction. All of those are equal amounts, there's about \$100,000 difference, but it's roughly what we have done, just re-aligned to base it under our payment pattern. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Whitworth. Mr. Curley. Are you finished? We are on H-11. Health and Social Services Branch Summary. Health Insurance Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$49,450,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page H-12. Health and Social Services Branch Summary. Health Protection. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,574,000. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Business Plan on page H-23, if the minister could update us. Last year, there's a priority for consultations with the new public health legislation. The status of the new Public Health Act is targeted for completion in 2006. Community/stakeholder consultation will be ongoing until that time.

The priority in 2006 now is to create a new Public Health Act for Nunavut. If the minister could update us on the plans and processes that they have underway to create the new Public Health Act for Nunavut in 2005/06. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As of April of this year, we have recruited a new Chief Medical Officer of health, and we will have in place as well an Associate Chief Medical Officer of health.

So that will provide us with the nucleus or the capacity that we have been looking for in Nunavut for a long time, so we were without a Chief Medical Officer of health for quite a long period of time.

So now with that in place, we have also allocated \$300,000 for this following year under Contract contributions, and to allow us to begin the consultation process. Prior to doing that we will be hiring a full time person in place to help us organize the consultation process.

We have consulted with Department of Education and other departments that have done this, early in the past, to try and obtain as much information as we can, to insure that we do that properly, and that information is being gathered at this point.

As soon as our new Chief Medical Officer of health comes into place, on a full time basis next month, then hopefully this will give us the capacity to get this process under way. Those are the kinds of things that are being worked on currently. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. Can Mr. Blais explain to us what a new Public Health Act would do for Nunavut, why would it be beneficial to us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current Public Health Act is an Act that was carried over from the Northwest Territories government; I believe it was 1988 they dated that far.

The Public Health Act, currently as it stands, never anticipated things like SARS, maybe even the mad cow disease, and a lot of the current things that are facing Canada at this point in time and the rest of the world. So that's one aspect.

Secondly there is a major pan Canadian public health strategy that's been put in place that all of the minister and deputies have agreed to. There is a new public health organization that's being structured as we speak.

So, yes we're not prepared currently and having got the ability under the existing Public Health Act to respond in the event of a major crisis as we have seen in other jurisdictions.

And secondly the current public health is very cumbersome when a situation occurs, we had one last year, were we had directed the schools to close, it requires us to obtain permission from other departments before we can actually make that decision.

So it really is obsolete in a since that we don't have the flexibility to deal with current problems facing Canada, and Nunavut. Secondly we know that as this new public health institution gets organized, that we have to be able to fit into that new direction. I think this is the key piece of legislation for our department, hopefully that answers your question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Thank you, Mr. Blais. Yes it does. I raised this in the last sitting. What would Nunavut do in an event of a pandemic?

I reflect back to November 2003, early December 2003 when we had a flu epidemic in Cambridge Bay. It became necessary for the Hamlet council to go around town; we approached the IDEA to ask them if they would close the school, we talked to some store owners to see if they would close their stores. We had to call the people organizing events and ask them to please cancel their events and not come to town. It was quite necessary.

What we ended up doing in the case of the flu epidemic, we learned when we tried to eliminate public gatherings that we were able to stop the flu outbreak in a matter of weeks. However, it occurred to us that there is no overriding legislation that could come from the government.

The government could take control and recognize that there's an epidemic in a community, and that they should talk with education people and talk to the other government departments and ask them to cooperate and work with the hamlet council.

That's just at the community level. If you have situations like SARS, that was quite an epidemic. There's always talk down south and around the world that there's a pandemic building.

A pandemic could come and hit us within the next five to ten years and it would devastate communities like we have in Nunavut because you just wouldn't have enough nurses and health facilities and doctors and others to help us out. It could take out half your workforce at any given time.

I wanted to know how the Public Health Act would help us. I think it will. Is your department working at all on plans for a possible pandemic hitting Nunavut within the next five to ten years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Blais: The answer to that is yes, as I stated earlier. This is why we have worked very hard to recruit a Chief Medical Officer of health and an Associate Chief Medical Officer for health. Recently I gave the approval to order 15 thousand doses of an anti-viral that is available through the federal government a very minimal cost to Nunavut, in the event that this should happen at any time, so we have prepared.

We have also done a number of specific projects to look at how we would manage certain situations. We are developing manuals right now, as we speak to accommodate and to ensure that we are as well prepared as we can be in a number of areas as well. What's missing right now is I need the expertise on board to help us with that.

So we haven't waited for those people to arrive. We have already initiated a number of what I would call high risk areas. I think we've done a reasonable good job. What's required now is I need the leadership in place in order to move the agenda forward. We have made this a major commitment of our department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. That's good to know that you have made it a high priority.

When you mentioned 15 thousand anti-viral doses, what was that in reference to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. You didn't understand the question. Could you repeat that, Mr. Peterson? Thank you.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. He mentioned that he has given the go ahead to order 15 thousand doses of anti-viral shots. Could you just clarify what they would be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the pan-Canadian Public Health Strategy, the government has recognized that there is a possibility, the federal government and all governments across Canada have recognized the possibility of a pandemic influenza. It will possibly happen in the foreseeable future. It could be ten years, it could be five years. We're not sure.

So, in preparation for that, the federal government have stock piled a number of anti-viral dosages that can be given to the people who will be treating those individuals. For example, health care workers will be important in the even of any pandemic outbreak.

So, we have been given a timeline and the opportunity to participate in that. So we feel that 15 thousand doses provides us a reasonable degree of assurances that if that should happen, then we'll be able to maintain a workforce to deal with the possible outbreak.

This is just like an insurance policy where we have made a decision to follow other jurisdictions and this is why we're doing this at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. We have 31 thousand citizens in Nunavut. That's half the population. I would take it that the high risk age groups would be receiving vaccinations, like the elderly and children under 4 or 5.

Do you have it all figured out as to who will get the shots in every community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't say that I have. Again, hopefully once we have a Chief Medical Officer of health that will be part of the process.

Typically what happens in this kind of a possibility is that you have to support the people who will be taking care of those individuals who are sick. So if you don't do that, then of course then it will be very difficult to sustain any kind of assistance. So the people who provide care, I can tell you right now, will be a priority for us as part of maintaining the support systems that are in place to treat sick people.

So beyond that, I can't really elaborate other than hopefully once we have someone in place that can take us to the next step, we will be able to answer that question, but caregivers are going to be one of the first priorities in order for us to sustain any type of outbreak. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. I would appreciate that information. I look forward to, at some point, if you would share that information with the House so that we can take that information back to our constituents.

I just wanted to touch on the annual flu outbreak that we have every year in Nunavut. I know you vaccinate the elders in September and October because typically November, December, January are the flu months. How many people on an annual basis receive flu shots from the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Blais.

Mr. Blais: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't really know that answer right now. I must say that I know that we have one of the highest rates of vaccination in the country, but an exact number at this point in time, I don't have an answer to that, but I will make it a

point to pass that information on to our minister. It varies from year to year, but how much is it so far this year, I don't have that at my fingertips.

Chairman: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Blais. Two years ago when we had our flu outbreak, I think as a community, we just were not prepared. I know the elders and some of the kids were getting flu shots, but the rest of us were not, and then the outbreak occurred. I have to compliment your department because they got the dosages in there and we all had our shots. There were lineups all over the place.

This past flu season, your department was very proactive. They were actually going around to Cambridge Bay into the workplaces and giving the shots wherever we worked, which is great. If you missed the shot there, then you could go to the nursing station.

I think the general awareness of the dangers of flu were highlighted, or what we would call an epidemic, it was quite serious for us. It's something that your department should be complimented on, for being proactive, raising awareness, going down to workplaces, making the shots available to the elders and the young people that need them, and the caregivers.

I hope you continue that in the future. Be very proactive because you can save a lot of people a lot of agony from the flu. I hope that you continue that in the years ahead, and then build on that for a pandemic so that people are prepared and more aware of what we have to do to protect our communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I don't hear a question, so I am going on to the list. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to move that we report progress.

Chairman: Thank you. There's a motion on the Floor, and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

(interpretation ends) I would like to thank the minister and her officials. We will see you again tomorrow.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Orders of the day, Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Netser.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, your Committee has been considering Bill 8 and the Main Estimates and would like to report progress. Mr.

Speaker, I move that the report the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Evyagotailak. The motion is in order. All those in favor. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, Orders of the Day, Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Announcements for tomorrow, a meeting of the Full Caucus at 10:00 in the morning in the Nanuq Board Room.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday, March 15, 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, and
- 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 until Tuesday, March 15th, 2005 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant at arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:59*

