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**2nd Session**

**2nd Assembly**

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Official Report

**DAY 27**

**Wednesday March 16, 2005**

**Pages 1804 – 1907**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

**Hon. Jobie Nutarak**  
(Tununiq)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Akulliq)

**Peter Kattuk**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
(Pangnirtung)

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

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

*Minister of Community and  
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Responsible for the Nunavut  
Housing Corporation*

**David Alagalak**  
(Arviat)

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

**Tagak Curley**  
(Rankin Inlet North)

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**  
(Nattilik)  
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House Leader  
Liquor Licensing Board  
Crown Agency Council*

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

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

**Hon. David Simailak**  
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*Minister of Economic  
Development and Transportation  
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Corporation*

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**  
(Kugluktuk)

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

**Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)

**Patterk Netser**  
(Nanulik)

**James Arreak**  
(Uqqurmiut)

**Levi Barnabas**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday, March 16, 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 Evygotailak, 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. Evygotailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 087 – 2(2): Nunavut Heritage Centre – Trilateral Working Group**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to provide my colleagues with an update on the establishment of a Nunavut Heritage Centre.

Members know that Nunavut urgently requires a facility to house and care for its extensive collections of art, artifacts and archival material. These collections will form the foundation for a wide range of cultural programs and services that will benefit all Nunavutmiut.

The Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Inuit Heritage Trust have shared mandates to promote, protect and preserve the culture and heritage of Nunavut. For this reason, in 2004 the Government established a Trilateral Working Group consisting of representatives from all three stakeholders.

The Trilateral Working Group will lead the development of recommendations for a capital funding strategy for the creation of the Nunavut Heritage Centre. The initial phase of this work is expected to be completed within four months.

We hope that this approach will result in significant third-party investment in this exciting initiative and a future home for Nunavut's cultural legacy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 088 – 2(2): Principals Recognized for Achievements**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two Nunavut principals have been recognized nationally in the past month, an event I wanted to bring to the attention of the Members of this House.

Darlene Nuqingaq, the Principal of Arsarniit Ilinniavik in Iqaluit, has been recognized as one of Canada's outstanding principals. The Canadian Association of Principals, together with *The Learning Partnership* associated with the Rotman School of Management, selected 28 principals from across Canada for this award.

The winning principals will participate in a leadership forum that promotes sharing and collaboration between the private and public sectors. The goal is to foster the growth of executive leadership capability in education everywhere in Canada. This is the first year the award has been offered and Darlene is the first from Nunavut to be so honoured.

>>Applause

Dawn Wilson, the Principal of Kullik Ilihakvik in Cambridge Bay, has been selected as this year's recipient of the 'Spirit of Trent' award. The award is presented to a graduate of Trent University in recognition of her community contributions that build on the values and lessons she learned at Trent.

>>Applause

Dawn is retiring this summer after serving as an educator in the Kitikmeot for 32 years, and at the same school to boot. Her community contributions over the years have made Cambridge Bay a better place, affecting hundreds of students and their families.

Both of these fine educators deserve our support and thanks. Their example is one I'm sure many teachers will look to in the years to come. Please join with me in congratulating Darlene and Dawn on their successes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 222–2(2): Protest Against Seal Hunt**

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to make a statement on my member's statement yesterday on how animal rights extremists hinder our economic development and how they impact our families and communities.

Yesterday there were about 150 protesters on Parliament Hill protesting against the upcoming seal hunt.

During yesterday's protest on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, the Nunavut Sivuniksavut students confronted and challenged the demonstrators to point out how this will affect the culture and economy of Inuit in the North.

>>*Applause*

It takes a lot of guts to face these protesters, and I am very proud of our Nunavut Sivuniksavut students who were courageous enough to confront and challenge the protesters in order to make a point about our culture and livelihood.

I ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending these students in their great effort; we recognize and truly appreciate their work on all our behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 223–2(2): Support for People with Disability**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of providing support for the disabled. It is often said that a society's compassion is measured by the way in which it treats its most vulnerable members.

Today, we are fortunate to live in a country that has the resources necessary for providing the disabled with the means to a life of dignity, and to make contributions of their own.

Being disabled does not necessarily mean that you don't have the ability to participate fully in society. Many prominent Canadians and Nunavutmiut have had disabilities, yet have achieved great things.

Supporting the disabled means more than just providing ramps and other physical means for people to access buildings. We need to ensure that they have the ability to participate fully in society and that their voices are clearly heard.

Yesterday in this House, we approved a small annual contribution for the Council for the Disabled, a contribution of \$90,000. We have to give more support of this kind. We need a comprehensive strategy to meet the needs of our disabled.



We need to work on ways to foster independent living. We need to think clearly about how to adopt a Nunavut-wide form of sign language that is accessible to Inuktitut speakers. We need to bridge the gaps between community's needs and available services.

At the appropriate time, I will be recognizing individuals in the gallery and pose questions to the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 224–2(2): Gift of Literacy**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to talk about the gift of literacy. Before I became a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I had no idea that there was such an incredible number of documents to be read everyday in our job.

To properly represent Nunavutmiut to the best of our abilities, we have to deal with a significant amount of complex written material in a very short period during our sessions. If we can't read our briefing memos, binders and budget documents, then our jobs would be very difficult.

I was fortunate to be raised by parents taught by teachers who instilled in me the love of the written word. My own children have been given this gift, as well.

For many of our constituents, good literacy skills can make all the difference in the world. Being able to write a solid cover letter can make a difference between getting your foot in the door for job interviews, or being shown the door on your way out.

Good literacy skills are important for being able to understand the instructions on your drug prescription or filling out your annual tax return.

The Nunavut Literacy Council is now in its sixth year of operation. This Council does important work across Nunavut in the area of literacy, including working with numerous community groups.

One of my own constituents in Cambridge Bay, Ms. Kim Crockett, is the Executive Director of the Council. One of the Council's most visible activities is the annual hosting of the Peter Gzowski Golf Invitational for Literacy in Nunavut. There are 15 of these tournaments held across Canada each year, and it constitutes the largest fund raising for literacy in the country.

This year's tournament will be held in Cambridge Bay on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. I am pleased to say that the Premier, along with myself and Greg Missal of the Tahera Corporation, are serving as the honorary PGI Cabinet for the tournament.

I know that the Premier is a strong contributor of literacy and is recognized in the Council's most recent annual report as someone who personally contributed financially to the organization.

At the recent Kitikmeot Trade Show, the Council raised \$27,215 for Nunavut in a charity auction sponsored by the Tahera Corporation. Many individuals, organizations and businesses generously contributed auction items.

I look forward to welcoming the Premier and Mr. Missal and all other participants to Cambridge Bay in May. I am sure that everyone is going to have a lot of fun during this most worthy event while raising awareness of an important issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 225–2(2): Supporting Northern Strategy on Mining Development**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to lend my support to the Northern Strategy. In Yellowknife last night, there was a meeting in the Town Hall with Andy Scott, the Premier, and Ethel Blondin-Andrew. They had a meeting to hear the views of the people of Yellowknife.

Mining makes a huge contribution to the people of Nunavut and I would like to give my fullest support to mining development because of the huge contribution they make to Nunavut communities and outlying communities. They also help a lot to the government because of the financial resources that we have, or the lack of it.

Andy Scott, I believe he will be coming to Iqaluit on Friday to talk about the Northern Strategy. I would like the members and individuals to be very open on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 226 – 2(2): Extinction of Mammals Not Caused by Inuit**

**Mr. Netser**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Member for Tasiujaqjuaq. The Inuit have lived up here for thousands of years and we have never made any species extinct. Not once did we make a species of animals extinct.

>>Applause

It is only when the whalers started that animals became endangered. For example, bowhead whales became endangered not by Inuit, but whalers who come from other parts of the world.

Mr. Speaker, let us set the record straight. We are not abusers of our animals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 227–2(2): Northern Taxes**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to add my voice to those who have called for a re-thinking of the way we are taxed in the North.

Mr. Speaker, this time of year, our thoughts at this time of year, our thoughts often turn to the subject of taxes. T-4's have arrived, and, if you're like me, you're looking around your home for misplaced receipts.

The fact that we pay income taxes in the North is often not well recognized by the rest of Canada. As other Members of this House have frequently pointed out, one of the biggest frustrations is that the tax forms, which are difficult enough to understand in English aren't translated.

Mr. Speaker, ITK has recently called on the federal government to take another look at the fairness of the GST as it applies up here. I have been saying for a while that this tax is unfair. A \$20 item in Ottawa will cost you \$1.40 in GST, however in a small community in Nunavut, that same item is likely to cost you \$40 or even more, so you end up paying at least twice as much GST on the exact same item as someone that lives in southern Canada.

Mr. Speaker, nobody likes to pay taxes, but it is the price of citizenship. In the case of the GST, however, we're being charged more than our fair share. I also call on this to be re-thought. For example, Mr. Speaker, it's been some time since the northern residents' deduction was increased.

I think that this might be an area where some form of credit could be applied to make our situation more equitable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 228–2(2): Better Service for People with Disabilities**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to my colleague's statement, I too would like to make member's statement and give support.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that the members will recall when we were nominating the ministers, I asked my colleagues, I think it was on my last day when I made my member's statement, to acknowledge disabled people, whether they are in town or far away because it's not totally up to them, they did not become disabled by themselves.

My colleague's statement is very supportive of the disabled people today. We need to provide better service for disabled people in Nunavut and within the communities. Also, I'm very pleased to hear my colleagues talk about these issues in the house. Especially, Mr. Speaker, even though when we just discuss these matters, it educates the public, organizations and boards and agencies.

Mr. Speaker, later on during Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, I will take my opportunity to welcome these individuals. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 229–2(2): Iqaluit Boys Soccer Team**

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past weekend, the under 15 and under 13 Iqaluit boys soccer team competed at the fifth annual Brian Canning Memorial Soccer Tournament in Newfoundland.

Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit teams have done Iqaluit and Nunavut proud. Both teams finished in first place in their respective divisions, and Mr. Speaker, took home gold in the under 15 and under 13 categories.

>>Applause

Mr. Speaker, our athletes are competing on the national stage, and at the NHL, Mr. Speaker, we are successful. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Iqaluit under 15 and under 13 boys Iqaluit soccer players and coaches for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 230–2(2): Whale Cove and Rankin Inlet Aired on CBC**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise this morning to acknowledge the Whale Cove residents and Rankin Inlet residents.

I would like to send my regards and CBC is over there now in Rankin Inlet with their On the Road stories and I'm very pleased that they're able to be there. At least, we'll be able to educate Canadians about the north. I appreciate CBC for airing Nunavut communities. That way, southern provinces will have a better idea and learn more about the north. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Item 4 in our orders of the day. Returns to Oral Questions. Mr. Okalik.

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

##### **Return to Oral Question 217 – 2(1): Funding Arrangements for the Youth Cottage**

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am returning a response to my colleague from Iqaluit Centre about funding arrangements for a Youth Cottage. The answer I provide is, the Department of Justice is always interested in providing appropriate housing, supervision and programming for youth, both in open custody and under community-based supervision pursuant to court orders. However, we have never received a formal proposal from the Iliitit Society in this particular respect.

We would need to review any said proposals very thoroughly, as any facility of this sort would need to meet strict correctional standards, especially if youth on the court order was mixed with youth merely in need of housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to acknowledge the people from my community. First one, I would like to acknowledge that since we became the Nunavut Government I have been working with an individual for this Council that he belongs to, because this individual has worked very hard to serve the Nunavut disabled people by way of attending meetings, many outside of his community, David Arnakak.

I appreciate him for coming to this meeting and also I would like to acknowledge David's wife. I know that there are many disabled people in Nunavut who support their spouses. I also know that the spouse of disabled people don't just sit there. They have to think like a

disabled person, that is the only way they could provide support and assistance to disabled people; they are very patient and very helpful. I would like to acknowledge David's wife, Mary Lisa Kakki, and welcome.

Also beside Mary is Ahme Kipsigaq, from Iglulik, and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's official who is Pat Angnakak, the coordinator for this group, and Judy Anilniliak, she is the assistant coordinator. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I acknowledge all these individuals and welcome them for their services for Nunavut's disabled people. I am sure that we will hear more from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome an individual from Coral Harbour, Raymond Ningeocheak.

Since I was a small child in the Northwest Territories, I have watched him. Even though I am a mature adult now, not that old yet, even though he has faced challenges and difficulties in his life, he has never changed. I would like to acknowledge and recognize Mr. Ningeocheak. When I get older, I hope to be like him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my constituent Ahme Kipsigaq. We were children together and now we're old together. I would also like to recognize Nunavut Tunngavik Inc's Raymond Ningeocheak.

I know that they are faced with challenges everyday in trying to help the people of Nunavut. The Arnakak's are the ones that I know too as well. They are here for the disability council. I would like to welcome them to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome the people from the Disability Council. Raymond Ningeocheak's name was mentioned and I

would also like to recognize him as well. The Disability Council is being formed at this time and he's been asked to assist them and to support them.

Raymond loves everybody, or every loves Raymond. I would also like to recognize Betty Brewster who has been an interpreter for a long time during the Northwest Territories days and she's also an interpreter here in Iqaluit, and Mali Curley who is my niece, my oldest brother's daughter. I would like to welcome the rest of members as well, Pat Arnakak and the rest of the Disability Council. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize my relative, Betty Brewster and Mali Curley, who has been my friend for a long time.

I would also like to recognize Everybody Loves Raymond. One of the members of this house made a mistake and said that he was from Coral Harbour but he's from Rankin Inlet. He used to live in Coral Harbour. This morning, he reminded me of something when I went for breakfast at the Navigator Inn. Raymond told me and made me remember that I'm his Member of the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to say that Raymond Ningeocheak and his wife and myself have been good friends for a long time, we both had daughters who were disabled. Both of them are not here with us. It was in June that I had a great-grandchild, they share the same name with their daughter Nipi, and I love them very much and I very much love the people with disabilities.

They have challenges everyday and I would like to support them and to help them. As the Minister of Health and Social Services, I will make sure that I help the people with disabilities. It's been very hard on me because there hasn't been too much help for disabled people. I thank Nunavut Tunngavik Inc for supporting the disabled people.

My daughter and Raymond's daughter are together now, even though they have passed away. Thank you, Raymond for being here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mr. David Arnakak and his wife, Mary, to the Assembly. I have known David and Mary for a long time.

David has been very active, especially for the disabled. I remember when I was the Minister of Health, David wrote me many letters and called me and contacted me on issues in advocacy for the disabled. So, I would like to welcome David to the gallery, plus he's my wife's first cousin, so I'm trying to be nice to David.

Also, next to David and Mary, Ahme Kipsigaq. I've known Ahme for a long time from when we used to live in Hall Beach. I would like to welcome Ahme to the gallery. As well, I would like to welcome Judy Anilniliak and two fantastic individuals, Mali Curley, just recently retired from the government, long time employee.

She's one of the few people who would laugh at my jokes so, I thank Mali for that. Of course, next to her, that fantastic individual, Ms. Betty Brewster. Thank you, Betty for her service to the Legislative Assembly. Next to Betty, Mr. Speaker, last, I would like to recognize someone everyone loves, Pat. They all love Ray, but we all love Pat, and I wanted to point out that Pat Arnakak was also a music agent and indeed was involved with the group Uvagut.

We helped them record their album in the south, helped market that album, became one of the most successful albums ever in the history of Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, when I approached Pat to manage my career, she said no.

>>*Laughter*

I would like to recognize Pat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to take this opportunity to recognize some constituents that are here in the gallery. Pat Arnakak, she's here in the gallery. She's been recognized a lot and I would like to thank her for her support and conversations that we've had over the years.

Also, I would like to recognize and acknowledge Betty Brewster. Thanks to her fine work, the Utility Rate Review Council was able to hear firsthand from Nunavutmiut their concerns.

Mr. Speaker, I would like take this opportunity to apologize to Mali. During the campaign I went knocking at her door one evening and I woke her, so I want to apologize for waking her up that night. Also, I would like take this opportunity to acknowledge Raymond Ningeocheak here in the gallery.



He used to live down the street from me in Rankin Inlet. I would like to thank him for all the timeless effort he's put in on behalf of Nunavutmiut over the years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize those individuals over here. I would like them to stay for the duration of our session today, but they probably won't be here.

We have three people that use wheelchairs in Arviat. It is very hard that they are like that, but they're always smiling every day and they're able to be involved in the community and they do. I would also like to recognize Raymond Ningeocheak who has been very supportive of people with disabilities and he has assisted them for a long time.

I remember Raymond, we used to live in the same community and he's always been supportive of people with disabilities from the time I can remember. It's very hard to be in that situation because you can't help but to be how you were born. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize people in the gallery, David Arnakak and Mary and Ahme. I am happy to say that Raymond Ningeocheak's family are going to be living in Sanikiluaq soon.

Mr. Ningeocheak's son is living in Sanikiluaq and has children. I'm happy that they are living in Sanikiluaq and there's going to be Ningeocheak's living in my community. I think it was in the 1970's that Raymond Ningeocheak's father was my good friend. When I was young, I had long hair at that time. In the early days, David Alagalak and Mr. Ningeocheak were one of my instructors when I took a course to find out how the hamlets operate.

These two people have taught me quite a bit when I was younger. Some of things that they taught I have not forgotten to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Mr. Alagalak. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

### Item 6: Oral Questions

#### Question 293 – 2(2): Disability Council Supported by the Government of Nunavut

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank Ms. Brown, the Minister of Health and Social Services. I would like to ask her a question.

I know that there was talk about getting a disability council in the first Assembly, but now in the second Assembly of this legislature, they are going to try to start another disability council. Will that organization be fully supported by this government?

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This organization is being supported by Health and Social Services. There was a task force, but it is no longer in operation because they wanted to get together with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

I could say, however, that the Department of Health and Social Services is in the midst of holding discussions in Rankin Inlet right now with the group called the Pamiqsaijiiit Association of Community Living, and at the appropriate time, we'll have a meeting with that group.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister this, because they're trying to form a disability council that deals with all of Nunavut. They will be mandated to deal with people who have disabilities.

I wonder if the minister can appoint a certain department to whom the council can report to or talk to when they need assistance. And, as my colleague from the Kitikmeot region, the Member for Cambridge Bay, likes to say, to do so without too much red tape. Can you name somebody that could be the person whom the council would report to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The formation of the disability council has been delayed a little bit, even though Rankin Inlet started that quite a while ago.

On the question that the member posed to me at this time, to see whether there could be someone that could coordinate or someone who could be an avenue in our department for us to talk with disability council: we will.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that there is a group in Rankin Inlet, but they would have to deal with it amongst themselves. But, for the disability council that is being formed right now, I would like to be able to have a contact person in her department so the council could have a good contact person there. That way, they will not have to wait for the things that they want to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're working with NTI in this regard. I am sure that I will be able to find a contact person for the disability council. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 294 – 2(2): Upcoming Meeting with Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my member's statement, I said that I would be asking a question to the Premier.

The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs will be coming to Nunavut, and I know that NTI will be having a meeting with Minister Scott. My question to the Premier is, will he be meeting with Mr. Scott and what is the agenda for their discussions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the minister is here, I will be meeting with him as well as with Ethel Blondin-Andrew. I will be meeting with both of them to discuss various topics that we have been dealing with regarding housing, devolution, Inuit employment under the land claims agreement, and I'm sure we will be talking about fisheries as well. Those are the types of topics we'll be taking about when we meet with the minister and Ms. Blondin-Andrew. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yellowknife residents were able to have a meeting with the minister last night, and the subject of mining was brought up by various aboriginal groups. What does the Government of Nunavut expect to see as improvements after the visit with the federal minister? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am in regular contact with this minister. We have also invited business people, and they will have an opportunity to meet with the minister and myself. We have scheduled this for Friday afternoon. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What aspects of the Northern Strategy will be discussed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is slowly moving forward. We were able to come up with an agreement in December in regard to devolution and it's scheduled to conclude in 2008. We are slowly moving along. Before that, it was just in a dormant state. In three years, we have made slow progress. We are always seeking new ways of consulting each other and on what people think in Nunavut in regard to that. We have also made this available through the news. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 295 – 2(2): Plan to Increase Tuition Fees at Nunavut Arctic College**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. I know in the report that the minister tabled, they outlined a number of concerns at the college. It's also my understanding that there had been a deficit reduction plan put forward by Nunavut Arctic College in the past. One of the recommendations in there was to increase tuition and board and lodging costs.

I would like to ask the minister if that is something that they are planning on putting in place? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of the budget process last year, in 2003-04, the college took a hit of a little over \$1 million. So, the first priority of this minister was to have that money put back into the budget and we did that, with the support of the members, in 2004, in this House last spring.

At the same time, there has been an ongoing deficit issue with the college over the last several years. So, I've asked, in cooperation with the college, to have that deficit reduced. The college is working on two plans. One is a deficit reduction plan and the second is a new formula funding arrangement for the college that would come forward.

Mr. Speaker, on the deficit reduction plan, it's my understanding it was presented to the board of governors, which has to adopt it formally. It is my understanding that they have not adopted that formally. There were several ways of increasing the revenue stream to the college within that plan, which included issues around tuition and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this is going to be the case, much like the Minister of Energy had indicated in the past, that it's the government that pays the majority of the fuel bills, in this case with education... . It is my understanding that through FANS and through training programs run through the workplace, that the government is the major payer of tuition fees to the college.

If this increase were to be put into place, is the minister anticipating that there would be a requirement to increase the amount for financial assistance for Nunavut students as a result of this? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it's hypothetical, because the proposed budget has not been accepted by the board of governors of the college. I don't know what form it will take.

The member is correct: the majority of funding that comes from the FANS program, that goes to the college, for example, for tuition and so on, if those were increased, then there would be a cost to the FANS program. But, that is no different than if we had 30 students attending a program anywhere else, and their tuition costs would be covered under the FANS program.

So, there is a reciprocal issue there. But, again, I can't say what that impact would be, because the plan had not been adopted by the board of governors and I don't know what the rates would be. If they were minimum rate increases, then the impact would not be that great. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know from experience over the last number of years that I've had to go out hunting with students, so that they could get food, that lived in student accommodations and family accommodations here. I suggest that any increase in the cost of lodgings to these students under the current formula would be something that they could not afford.

I'm just wondering if the minister would discuss this with his cabinet colleagues and the board of governors that... . Instead of coming up with any type of increase to the students, the money, he had indicated, is pretty much coming from the government

anyway, if they could look at revisiting that issue, at the way that the college is funded through its formula. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct; that's why I said there is a two-stage process here. One is to complete a new funding formula model for the college and the second is the deficit.

As the members know, as the Auditor General pointed out, the college has to get its ongoing deficit, that has had for several years, under control. I have asked them to come forward with a balanced budget, where we can actually balance the budget, and they've made some proposals.

Some of the proposals include, for example, and are not limited to, increasing the administration cost they would charge to third parties for actually running programs at the college. As we've said before in this House, the majority of programs by the college are third-party sponsored programs, so there is a revenue stream right there.

Mr. Speaker, once the budget process is accepted by the college, and that's the directions to eliminate the deficit, there will be an impact, as the member has said, on the FANS program, because that's where the majority of the money comes from, then I would bring that back through the regular process to the cabinet.

If the increases are in the FANS for tuition or whatever, then they would be covered off by the FANS. There would be no less money being received by the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know our former minister of health was always indicating that the department of health was chronically underfunded right from the get-go. It appears that this might be the same situation here with the college.

Again, I would like to ask the minister, if, instead of raising the costs to students for accommodations, for tuition, and things like that, he would consider first looking at the formula for the way the college is being funded, to try and incorporate those costs into the formula so that their costs are addressed adequately before any increased costs are passed on to students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Any increased costs that were passed onto students would be covered off by the FANS program, because FANS picks up those costs. That would be an equal add-in to those expenses.

The formula itself is to look at how the college is actually funded for its base programming and so on. Some of the things the members have talked about in this House is the base trades funding, which we believe, and the members seem to indicate that they're in agreement with, should be base-funded by the college. The college shouldn't always be out trying to get third party funding to run programs. That's part of the funding mechanism.

So, what I can commit to the member, because again, we're in the hypothetical here, because if something happens... I can commit to the members that there will be very negligible increases to the students. That's one of the reasons why, when the budget came forward, there was a concern how that cost would be covered off so that the students would not be affected, and that's why it wasn't endorsed by the board of governors. That's my understanding of it. In conjunction and cooperation with that, that's how we would present it, so that there would be no more costs to the students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 296 – 2(2): Income Tax Filing Services for the Communities**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance.

Regarding the T-4 slips that we need to file income tax, there are services that are available, like McKay Landau and other accounting firms, to assist people with their income tax returns. In the smaller communities, those services are not available. So, I would like to ask the minister where people should go to get assistance in filling out their income tax forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Finance, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In most cases, the member is correct that there are no agencies in the communities that provide the services of H&R Block, or accounting firms.

As it is right now, there is a group of volunteers that provide that service in most communities; a resource, to work through available people that are able to complete income tax forms on behalf of individuals. But within the government itself, we don't provide that service in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You said there are volunteers in the smaller communities. For individuals in the communities who are not bilingual, can

the minister provide me with the names of the volunteers in the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that concern and it's a problem that we deal with in all of our communities in Nunavut. There are many individuals that have limited resources or services to go to get their income tax completed.

Individuals, themselves, volunteer to provide that service in most communities. Who they are, I don't know the names of those individuals, but there are some ads that do go out in the public to provide that service.

The other thing that people do in the community is they mail their forms to H&R Block in Yellowknife or here or to different firms. I can provide that kind of information as to what agencies provide services related to completing income tax forms to the member and to this House. But, what I'm not able to provide is the names of the individuals, because every year it changes, who volunteers and who does not volunteer. Right now, I don't have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand her response, but Nunavutmiut should be treated equally. She mentioned that we can send them to H&R Block: if I'm here in this community, I can easily go to the accountant, but if I'm in my community, I have to send them through the post office. Who would be responsible? Can the people be paid for the postage stamps that they have to use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, any individual who uses the services of accounting firms or H&R Block pay for the fees to complete their income tax. They also pay for their own postage stamps to get the forms to the agency.

The government does not have a program in place to complete income tax forms for the citizens of Nunavut at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My concern is that I think the government has to look at the public equally. Like here in Iqaluit, all you have to do is walk down to the accounting firm and pay for the fees. When you are outside of Iqaluit or outside of Yellowknife, you have to pay for the stamps or the courier fees.



So, my question is, how can the smaller communities get help from the government?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I tried to outline is basically the services that are available are at the community level, that provide assistance to individuals who are trying to complete their income tax. Filing income tax is a federal program. There is a 1-800 number from Canada Revenue Agency in place. At the same time, at the community level, individuals can also complete their income tax on-line through the Internet system.

The other thing is the services through H&R Block or accounting agencies, those are private companies in towns such as Iqaluit, perhaps Rankin Inlet, I am not aware of one in Cambridge Bay. What we can do is direct individuals to those services.

The other thing that I am aware of in the communities: the Northern Store completes income tax for citizens in each community. I believe that there is a ten percent fee for that as well. There are some on a volunteer basis, individuals go to people they know, or send in their income tax to companies as well, or go to the system itself.

So, there are a number of different options that individuals have outside the government. The Government of Nunavut does not complete income tax for Nunavutmiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 297 – 2(2): Number of New Positions in the Department of Education**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. To be understood clearly, I will speak in English. (interpretation ends) Can you confirm how many new positions for our classrooms across Nunavut will be a result of this budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Directly, through the Department of Education, there are over 82 new positions in the budget plus an additional, under the DEA hires, 73 positions. For a total, there's actually 156.2 increases in the staffing. Some of those are DEAs, and over 82 positions are Government of Nunavut positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does his department have any new positions for special needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Special needs are very important across Nunavut, and this budget reflects that. There will be over 40, Mr. Speaker, 40, over 40 new special needs positions that will be hired after the completion of this education budget. That means there will be over 40 new special needs positions across Nunavut in our schools. That allocation, those 40 positions, will be based on the need of each individual school, so that's very good news. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the minister. (interpretation ends) How many new program support assistants will be available in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the budget, Mr. Speaker, as I just said, we have targeted over 40 new special needs program support positions within the budget. There are 13 new full teaching positions in the budget. As well, for the first time we are actually budgeting new counsellor positions in the budget. So, I believe we have actually targeted almost eight full-time counsellor positions that we will be hiring.

And at the same time, currently all of the classroom assistants are hired by the DEAs. That has caused issues because when they are hired by the district education authorities, the salary levels are not comparable to the classroom education assistants that are hired by the Government of Nunavut.

So, we are transferring over 50 of the support assistant positions that are with the DEAs to the Government of Nunavut and making them GN employees. They will see their wages increase, and all of these positions are hired locally from the member's community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In some of the schools in Nunavut, there's an overcrowding of classrooms; usually the ratio is 25:1. Are we going to be increasing the funds for these classrooms?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This budget allocates over 80 new positions directly for our schools. For the first time ever, we actually have a position now targeted for a child psychologist, and that's a specialist who will actually work with children through trauma and so on, for the first time ever. So I think this is a really good news item for our teachers and our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have said in the past, I am trying to implement a new school funding formula. Phase one was implemented last fiscal year. This fiscal year, we're implementing phase two, which is the increasing of a whole range of positions like special needs, program support teachers, counsellor positions, and so on.

Phase three, we will look at the pupil-teacher ratio. Right now, the pupil-teacher ratio in Nunavut is approximately 1:19. There means one teacher for every 19 students. That is a very, very good pupil-teacher ratio, Mr. Speaker, and it stands up at a national level. So, that's something that Nunavutmiut could be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 298 – 2(2): Consulting Nunavutmiut on the Northern Strategy**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. I want to follow up on some questions that my colleague from the High Arctic asked this morning on the Northern Strategy.

I am aware that extensive consultations have to occur in Nunavut with the public. My question for the Premier: how does the Government of Nunavut propose to consult with Nunavutmiut to ensure broad public input over the next three- to five months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you. Over the last little while, you have probably seen ads questioning Nunavut residents to phone our offices, our Government of Nunavut office, to solicit their views on what they would like to see in the Northern Strategy. So, that has been happening and will be ongoing.

Here in Iqaluit, while the minister is here, we're going to be having a roundtable discussion with various business community members. Those are just starting, and I look forward to hearing from my fellow Nunavutmiut on what they would like to see from the Northern Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for that answer. I'm flying to Cambridge Bay tonight to meet the minister of DIAND. I'm not

sure if it's all going to be on the Northern Strategy, but I'm sure there will be some discussions there with people.

The Premier mentioned in the March 3 Hansard that he would be meeting with his Northwest Territories and Yukon premier counterparts in Yellowknife next month to come up with a joint strategy for the North.

Can the Premier expand on his comments and explain to the House what he hopes to achieve at that meeting next month to discuss the Northern Strategy with his colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't set the agenda as of yet, but so far we've been quite successful in working together, whether it be on health care, this Northern Strategy, getting additional funding, devolution. So, we've been very successful in our efforts by working together. We try and get together at least once a year and that's what we will be doing in Yellowknife.

As for the agenda, we don't have it set yet; we're working on it. I'm sure one of them will be on devolution and updating each other on the progress we're making on the overall Northern Strategy, what we would like to come forward with and what we would like to see for our territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for his answer. I hope that following the meetings the Premier will be able to brief the House as per his commitment of March 3.

One of the issues that always concerns people in Nunavut, and probably the North, is that when we get money from Ottawa there is an administration and bureaucracy put in place and the dollars don't all get down to the projects or communities that we target.

I'm wondering if the Premier could comment on what type of funding mechanisms he or his colleagues are proposing to put in place to ensure that the majority of the \$40 million receives will go to important priority projects identified in the communities and doesn't get chewed up in administration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would agree with the member, my colleague: that's the objective that we sought on the \$40 million and there are no strings attached. It will be going to our government, so one of the things that we want to avoid is additional bureaucracy that will cost us additional money. That's something that we have accomplished to date and we want to see more progress on other files, whether it be

housing and devolution. We'll keep pressing those issues that are very important to Nunavumiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to thank the Premier for that response. Can the Premier tell us if the Government of Nunavut has specific priority projects already identified to receive funding from the Northern Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues are lobbying amongst themselves in trying to find the best uses for the money. So, we'll have to have a good discussion in cabinet and I'm sure that our colleagues will have some suggestions too.

We want to take the time and spend it wisely. We've already set our goals in *Pinasuaqtavut*, what we would like to see in the next four years. Those will be our guiding principles and whatever we do, we'll do it in the best interests and the best use for the dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 299 – 2(2): Hiring Special Needs Positions at the Community Level**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up on my colleague, Mr. Barnabas's, question on special needs to the Minister of Education. There are 40 new positions that the government is hiring: will they be hired in our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The short answer would be, yes, that these positions would be hired, wherever possible, locally in the community. I would suggest to you that almost 100 percent of these positions would be hired locally, at the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for his response. (interpretation ends) My other question is: for the upcoming Education Act, when will they start doing consultations in the communities, and will the DEAs be part of the consultations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think our good friend Manitok Thompson is just chomping at the bit and ready to go on the road and start those consultations right now.

That process will begin as soon as the budget is complete, because the process is for the new fiscal year, after April 1, 2005. At that time, she will begin those consultation tours, and she will also be in consultation with the community district education authorities in each community as she begins that process. So, there will be excellent give and take and information gathering by Minister Thompson, Ms. Thompson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. I got confused when you said “Minister Thompson”. I forgot what I was going to ask, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

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

### **Question 300 – 2(2): Attendance at Chamber of Commerce Meeting**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask you a question in regard to my statement yesterday about the chamber of commerce meeting on March 29 and 30. You can actually charter a plane since all of you are invited.

I would like to ask the Premier: I know that the chamber of commerce has a lot of work ahead of them, and I believe they are waiting for you, as minister, if you will be attending their meeting. Would the minister be open... .

There are six Nunavut-wide projects, and let me list them: the Nunavut Soapstone Strategy; the Nunavut road project; the 2005 sealift process and how the contract process is going to run; Nunavut Power Corporation. If the Minister of Energy is listening, they will be discussing the power rates. They will also discuss Cumberland Resources, and the sixth one, entertainment by Charlie Panigoniak. Will you ask cabinet members to be available during that meeting? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, well, I never received a written invitation, so I regret not being invited there. I will be missing Charlie Panigoniak. I would be really glad to receive an invitation letter.

Of the two ministers mentioned primarily by the member, the minister for energy is one, and the other, Mr. Simailak, I am sure, is planning to attend that symposium. I am sure

those two ministers will be available, if it's possible. I would like to tell the organizers that I do want to attend that symposium if I can be presented with an invitation letter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier. If you want to get more information, you can ask for Ellie; she is the secretary-treasurer. Her phone number is 867-645-2817. You may call her anytime. I am sure that you will be receiving your invitation.

I said Charlie Panigoniak: I should have stated that he has changed his name to Charlie Funnygoniak.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not hear a question, I apologize, but that was a very good point. I, too, want to attend that entertainment part. Thank you.

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

### **Question 301 – 2(2): Assistance to the Communities on Economic Development**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Minister Simailak.

We just heard recently from the Panniqtuuq member about the Cumberland Sound fisheries and how fishermen could not go fishing because of poor ice conditions. On a related issue, my community has experienced economic hardship when the local HTO was not given any assistance in the marketing and sale of fish, caribou, and muktuk. What is your department doing to assist the hunters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have already been asked this at the department and our officials are now considering this, as to how we can provide assistance and support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The smaller communities that are not decentralized are poorer than the decentralized communities. The smaller

communities don't really have the resources to do things for themselves. Will they have to make a request or an application, for example, if the HTO is going to be provided with support in fisheries and the marketing of fish? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to discuss this matter with my colleague, the Minister of Environment. We will have to work together in regard to this issue. We still have not completely finalized this issue. In regard to your question, we are still considering how we can resolve this issue. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister table the results after this is resolved, so that Nunavutmiut will know? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once I have those document ready, once we resolve this, I will be able to table that information to the communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know today that hunters usually don't carry any insurance, even though they lose their equipment. Just recently, the Panniqtuuq turbot fishermen lost their equipment. Will your department be providing some form of assistance and support to those individuals? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): We are still considering this issue with the Department of Environment and the department of economic development. We are discussing this matter now, as to how we can resolve this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 302 – 2(2): Allocation of New Positions to Communities**

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

Earlier, in a response to one of my other colleagues' questions, the minister indicated that we're going to have 13 new teachers put into the schools across Nunavut, based on need. My question to the minister is, does the department know where those teachers are going to be going, specifically, yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 13 new positions will be allocated based on need. Those needs will be ascertained and determined based on the school alone. So, no, at this time, I'm not in a position to say where or in what community the positions would be allocated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that they are in different phases in changing the formula funding for the schools. Earlier in this sitting, the minister had indicated that the dates in which they count the enrollment come from the previous year. In my mind, that's passed already. So, is he indicating that the department hasn't, yet, an idea where these positions are needed: is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I'm saying is that the 13 new positions... . Again, the budget has to be passed first. It's very difficult to allocate a position when there are no positions until the budget is passed. As soon as the budget is passed, and I'm saying April 1, then the Department of Education has already looked across the spectrum to see where the most needs are. Then, those schools and DEAs would be consulted to see how the positions could be staffed.

Again, on top of the 13 teaching positions, there are 40 new program specialist positions that would also be put into the classrooms and into communities. So, what you would try to do is balance both of those off so you can actually address the most pressing needs of our schools and of the DEAs, based on their requests, and then in consultation of and facilitated by the enrollments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister saying that they just came up with this figure of 13 new teachers out of the blue without having a clue where they were going to go, that they just needed these teachers? There must be some methodology as to how they came up with that number. I'm surprised that the department has no indication of where those positions are going to be going.

I would like to ask the minister exactly: when his budget has been approved informally in this House, when are they are going to start looking at assessing the needs and what enrollment dates are they going to use to determine what the need is and where those positions will go? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, the member has been around a long time. He knows the process. Each member, each department, and he's seen the budget back in January and had an opportunity to review it in standing committee... . Mr. Speaker, then we did the debate here for six days.

I'm repeating exactly what I said a week ago during the budget debate: I'm saying the same thing: this is a good news budget for our schools. There are over 80 new positions that will go directly into the programming side of our schools. What I'm saying about the 13 teacher positions is that there will be a combination of those positions based on whatever the greatest need is, on what school has the greatest need.

How we came up with the 13 teaching positions was, when we were looking at the formula, we had to structure what we have available in money. So, I was allocated X number of dollars, like every other minister in the House. Let's say it was \$10 million. Within that \$10 million framework for the Department of Education, we've already done some announcements.

For example, we know that we have the rebate done for the coop and that cost us money there, a 5 percent increase into income support, that has to come out of the \$10 million. Then you look at the other issues around the department. Nunavut Arctic College had to get its money back, and so on and so forth.

So, when you actually come down to the schools side, K-12, because that's what the member is asking about, it would be like \$4 or \$5 million. So, now you look at what is the most pressing need brought forward by DEAs, and those needs, how do you fix those within the \$4 or \$5 million, whatever the allocation that you have as a budget. And that's how we come up with the 80 positions: the child psychologist position, all of the new counsellor positions that have never been there before, the 40 special needs positions, the 13 teacher positions.

So, for the member to make a statement like we don't know where we got this, it came out of the air... . I mean, it doesn't give credence to the whole process that members and ministers and the standing committee have to go through to allocate those positions.

So, what I am saying, and I will say it again, is that all of the positions would be allocated based on where the greatest need is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not arguing that this is a good news story, but in any planning, and the minister is correct, I have been around for a while and I know they don't just come up with numbers, but they must have an idea of where those teachers are going to go.

There are other things that need to be taken into consideration around that. The school year is coming to a close soon, and they are going to be starting recruiting new teachers.

They need to know the setup of their classrooms. They are not going to know; they don't have an idea right now where that need is. Those communities that are going to be getting these additional teachers, they have to make sure that there's housing available, they have to plan their classroom sizes and allocation of students around that.

So, I think they do have an idea of where they are going, or they should have by now. My question that the minister didn't respond to in the last question was, what date of enrollments is the department going to use in determining where the need is for these specific teachers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the collective agreement that our teachers have in place, and specifically on the 13 teaching positions, under the collective agreement with the Federation of Nunavut Teachers, which is a legal contract, the teachers have to give 60 days' notice if they are going to renew their contract, 60 days from the last teaching day for the students. So, up to that point, I don't know how many teachers would be returning to school.

For example, in a community where you have, let's say, five local Inuit teachers in the community, what if they don't renew their contract? Does that mean if I can't find five local teachers in the community, do I have to bring in ten other non-aboriginal teachers and try to house them? So, all of those factors have to be taken into account, like the member has said.

The budget has not really gone through the House. I am not able to advertise the positions. However, it will be based on need.

Right now, as the member has indicated, each regional operation, for example QSO for the Qikiqtaaluk region, KSO for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot regions, they are looking at each school based on the September 30 enrollments, as the member has said, based on the needs brought forward by the DEA and each individual principal how I allocate those positions.

Mr. Speaker, as the member has just said, maybe there's no housing available, but we have 40 extra positions that would actually go into the classrooms to help out in issues like that. So, we would be able to fund those positions. I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 303 – 2(2): DEA Input on the Education Act**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I finally remembered the question that I was supposed to ask to the Minister of Education. (interpretation ends) Can you tell

us what part of the year Ms. Thompson will be traveling to our communities to consult with the district education authorities? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that a schedule has been put together, as well as the logistic and the administrative issues, around the consultations on the Education Act, with our DEAs in the community consultation tours.

It is my understanding that they will start as soon as the budget... April 1. They would go into, probably, early- to middle May, because after that time a lot of our communities' people are out enjoying the spring.

They would pick up steam again this fall, coming in August, September, and so on. Again, I believe that we are going to be able to meet our time frame of bringing the new Education Act into the House by 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 304 – 2(2): Documents on the Folk School**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our Arviat caucus retreat we briefly talked about the folk school. My question is directed to the Minister of Education. Can the minister provide some documents to this House on the status of the folk school as previously discussed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Coming out of the deliberations of the caucus in Arviat, I have been working with my colleague, the Minister of CLEY, on the issues around the folk school.

At the present time we have had discussions, there has been some work, in the public, looking at what the process for the folk school would be: what it would take on, what combination of academics as well as pre-vocational training, and incorporating traditional skills, Inuit Qaujimaqatugangit, within the folk school itself. So, that is the work that has occurred to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister be inviting some of the regular members and his officials? Will he be inviting the CLEY minister to Greenland to talk about the folk school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think the plan would be, then... . The CLEY minister and I have talked about this. At some time we would hope to be in the position, after April 1, to have an opportunity to go to Greenland, in consultation with the members, to look at the folk school that they have set up over there. Some of the members have already been there in the past.

So, that is something that we would do. I would extend an invitation to the members, if they would like to accompany us at that time, to Greenland. The Standing Committee on Education has its own budget of this House that could be provided for such a reason. I think that is usually what has happened in the past.

So, I would invite the Standing Committee on Education and the chair and the members to come with me and Mr. Tapardjuk, sometime in April, when we schedule the folk school visit to Greenland. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They talked about Iglulik being the ideal location for the folk school. Has the minister made a commitment that Iglulik would be the location for the folk school? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some people talked about having Coral Harbour and Baker Lake, some people have talked about Whale Cove. I kind of agree with Mr. Barnabas that probably Apex would be the best place for a folk school.

>>*Laughter*

We haven't come to a determination. That would be part of the RFP process on the folk school. The member is correct, Iglulik does lend itself well to a facility like this. Indeed, we actually have opportunities for infrastructure on the ground in Iglulik.

So, that is something that will come out of the recommendations of the RFP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the meeting in Greenland and after looking at the folk school in Greenland, will the minister be tabling the minutes from that meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Tapardjuk has told me that he's taken two cassette recorder decks and an MP3 player to make sure that all recordings and minutes are taken there.

Seriously, I would suggest that the Standing Committee on Education will receive a formal invitation to go to Greenland. We haven't worked out the logistics or the dates and times yet. I will make that known to the members in writing. At the same time, the RFP information should be available some time this spring.

In combination with all of that, I would bring that information to the House, probably, this fall. I would extend an invitation to the member, Mr. Barnabas, if he is interested in coming. I'm sure that there is an opportunity within Mr. Barnabas's budget to be able to come with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Netser.

#### **Item 14: Notices of Motions**

##### **Motion 013 – 2(2): Referral of the 2004 Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut to COW – Notice**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice on Friday, March 18, 2005, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for Netsilik, that the Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut be referred to the Committee of the Whole and the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut be invited to appear before the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Mr. Netser.

##### **Motion 014 – 2(2): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday 18, 2005, I will move the following motion;

I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for Netsilik that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the house concludes this presenting sitting in Iqaluit it shall be adjourned until April 26, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Mr. Peterson.

##### **Motion 015 – 2(2): Recommendation for Re-allocation of \$500,000 in Deleted Funding – Notice**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, March 18, 2005, I will move the following motion;

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for Rankin Inlet North, that the Legislative Assembly recommend that the Government of Nunavut bring forward a supplementary appropriation act during the spring sitting of the house to reallocate the \$500 thousand that has been deleting from the 2005/06 main estimates for the Department of Community and Government Services and that the funding be primarily directed towards contributions to community based search and rescue organizations for local priorities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Motion 016 – 2(2): Reinstatement of Private Accommodation Rate under NIHB – Notice**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday March 18, 2005, I will move the following motion;

I move, seconded by the Honorable Member for Quttiktuq that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government of Nunavut to make every effort to lobby the Federal Government for the immediate reinstatement for the private accommodation rate provided under the non-insured health benefits program immediately, prior to October 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Orders of the Day. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Orders of the Day. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Item 16: Motions**

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS institutions of learning play a fundamental role in helping Nunavummiut gain the skills necessary for achieving meaningful employment;

AND WHEREAS Nunavut Arctic College, which was recently established in order that learning and higher education opportunities be available to northerners in their own territory;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has approved millions of dollars for their operations of Nunavut Arctic College;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Education's External Review of Nunavut Arctic College and the report of the Auditor General of Canada have identified a number of leadership accountabilities in financial management and operational deficiencies;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly affirms that the Government of Nunavut is expected to act decisively in addressing these immediate challenges;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable for members of the public to have the opportunity to express their views, concerns and ideas on the education needs and aspirations of their communities, and the opportunity for Nunavut Arctic College to meet them;

THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Arviat that the Standing Committee on Health and Education holds such hearings and consultations that it deems appropriate for 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. The motion is in order. Are there any comments to the motion? I will give each member 20 minutes to speak on the motion. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion before the House has been brought forward in the spirit of progress, in the spirit of moving forward, and the spirit of planning and preparing for our future.

When planning for the future, we as representatives of Nunavut, can't afford to ignore the insights, observations, and concerns brought forward by our constituents.

As members, we are aware that Nunavut Arctic College is the only post-secondary educational institution in Nunavut. Its programs are offered through campuses and community learning centres across the territory.

For many Nunavut residents accessing courses through Nunavut Arctic College is their only realistic opportunity for upgrading their level of education for developing skills to improve their employment opportunities, and for acquiring the necessary certifications to get the jobs that are becoming available.

No effort should be spared in ensuring that adult learning opportunities really are opportunities, and that they meet the needs of adult learners.

We know that the success of Nunavut Arctic College has been in question; this has to change. We need a vision that reflects the goals and aspirations of Nunavummiut. We



need a plan that takes into account the challenges and difficulties experienced in our communities.

It's important that we hear what these goals and aspirations are. It's important that we learn firsthand what kinds of challenges and difficulties exist on the frontlines. We can learn from the best practices in other jurisdictions.

A measure of responsibility for future success rests with each and everyone of us. Our Standing Committee on Health and Education has an oversight responsibility for the Department of Education. Members of this Committee are ideally placed to hear directly from the public on issues relating to the role of Nunavut Arctic College.

Our government has stressed the importance of life-long learning in recognition of the fact that education in all its shapes and forms is a never-ending process. Bringing Nunavut Arctic College up to the level that it can become will take time and effort.

I am pleased to note that the government has begun to address some of the 75 recommendations that have already been brought forward to improve the functioning of the College. For our part, as Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly, it is important that we contribute to the process of improving Nunavut's only institution of higher learning.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this motion to allow the Standing Committee on Health and Education to contribute to the positive development and improvement of the effectiveness of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the seconder, Mr. Alagalak have any comments?

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in support of this motion.

Last week, a number of my colleagues, including the Minister of Education, gave their support to the idea of consulting with Nunavut communities to hear what Nunavutmiut felt about adult learning. I was pleased to hear Members express their support for a consultative process to address this.

Mr. Speaker, we need to hear directly from the public, from stakeholders, from students and teachers, and from people working in the field of adult education about what works and what doesn't.

Mr. Speaker, one of the roles of the Standing Committee on Health and Education is to provide support and direction on issues that relate to the mandate of the Department of Education. The motion before us provides a good opportunity for the Committee to carry out its responsibility in this area. I encourage all Members to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, I am in support of this motion after hearing some concern, but I would like to state that this motion doesn't indicate or say we're going to be fishing.

We are trying to identify what the shortages are in the regions. Some things are available in some regions and some are not. Those students who want to further their education don't have any place to stay if they want to go to a different community. We want to hear those concerns and we will be able to raise our concerns to committee and they will be able to say things where they wouldn't normally to the government that we can be more open.

For that reason, for those people who are listening, the parents, the parents of young people and once they finish high school and if they are aspiring to go to Nunavut Arctic College, they will have that opportunity. So, for that reason I am in full support of this motion.

I would like to encourage the students and the parents. I want to give them an opportunity to voice their concerns on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want a recorded vote on this motion. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): To the motion. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to thank the members for bringing forward the motion.

I think the motion is a result of the report that was commissioned by this minister. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Arctic College. I'm proud to be an alumnus of the college, a person who worked with the college over 18 years ago. I think the college has done some very good work.

What the external review report found and it was an external review was that there are issues at the college like any operation. I think that this type of Standing Committee process is a good one. I think it is a proactive move on behalf and for the Legislative Assembly. I look forward to seeing the recommendations and the findings of the committee.

The only issue with the report that I would like to bring up with the findings is it concerns the Public Colleges Act. The Public Colleges Act is actually the instrument that governs the college under legislation,

There was no mention of that in the motion, but I would ask at this time that the members also have an opportunity to look at the Public Colleges Act. The Act hasn't changed since

1998 and some of the issues around governance that the members have talked would be within the Act itself. So, maybe that is something that the members would take on.

With that, I will be supporting the motion. I look forward to the recommendation. I believe that all members, as Mr. Tootoo and some of the others have said to support the motion. I think it is a proactive move on behalf of the members. I thank them for bringing it forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had a lot of discussions in the last year about the crown agencies of the Government of Nunavut. We have talked about the QEC and fuel corporation. In my opinion, Nunavut Arctic College is one of the most important because we are educating people to take advantage of future opportunities to improve themselves, and benefit themselves and their families and their communities.

Although the Nunavut Arctic College is a crown agency of the Government of Nunavut, it is also an organization that belongs to the people of Nunavut. We have to keep that in mind. People look to the college for help in improving their future lives.

I think they should have some input into developing a mission for the Nunavut Arctic College, not just the Board of Directors. People must provide some input into that, and the Board of Directors can work with that information. The legislators in the House here today can work with it as well.

We have a lot of dedicated educators working in the Nunavut Arctic College system. It would be a great opportunity for legislators and standing committees and people in communities to show their support. We can help them with their jobs by giving them the resources that they need to help our residents.

I think it would be a great show of support with all of us working together to improve our training organization and help you in supporting this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. To the motion. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear when the motion was being read. This will be passed, and I would just like to remind members that our constituents, whether they're in colleges in Nunavut, we have to keep them in mind and we should always make sure that they are comfortable. We have to keep in mind that the Community Learning Centres can be more affiliated with Nunavut Arctic College.

We want to support those kinds of things, but the Community Learning Centres are there so we can have smooth, I want that to be considered seamless, opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): To the motion. I don't have anybody else on my list. I will give the mover to say a few words again. Thank you. For those of you who are for the motion, will you please rise if you are in support of this motion, and you can sit down after I say your name.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Akasuk.

Ms. Aglukkaq

Ms. Brown.

Mr. Picco.

Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Netser.

Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Kattuk.

(interpretation) The motion is carried.

>>*Applause*

Motions. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of 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. We'll take a lunch break, and we'll be back here at 1:30.

Sergeant at arms.

>>*House recessed at 12:07 and resumed at 13:37*

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

**Chairman:** Thank you for coming back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order.

(interpretation): We have the following items to deal with 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. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 8 and the review of the main estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. We then will proceed with the review of the Department of Human Resources and tabled document 52-2(2). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Do we agree then that we will deal first with the 2005/06 main estimates for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation.

**Some members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak, please proceed to the witness table with your officials. Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

For the record, introduce your officials.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Rosemary Keenainak, Assistant Deputy Minister, and on my left, my Deputy Minister, Mr. Alex Campbell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Welcome Ms. Keenainak and Mr. Campbell. I will give the members an opportunity to make general comments for 10 minutes on the issue of Economic Development and Transportation and the main estimates. I don't have any names on my list. Thank you.

We're on page K-5, Economic Development and Transportation Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total operations and maintenance, \$3,785,000. Do you agree? Wait. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In order to go on to the issue of the NNI policy, and the requirement for training, I'm sure there are going to be

contractors this upcoming year. I don't know how the NNI training is going to be Nunavut Government wide. Why is it that some of the contractors are not beneficiaries and there are also people who are blaming them for the high costs? Could you clarify that point? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The NNI policy training is specifically for the new employees, so that they'll know how to apply the NNI policy. Some of our staffs are also going to be going to some of the communities to meet up with individuals and entities on how the NNI Policy, how it's going to be applied, and they will also be getting feedback on what they think about the NNI Policy, especially from the business sector and where there can be improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And again, in the overall Financial Management Policy Development, when the Government of Nunavut was established, we haven't seen any change in the Economic Development Department since we grandfathered it from the Northwest Territories.

Have you thought about the many programs that are made available to the economic groups, has your department considered restructuring the Economic Development Department and if you thought so, what kind of structure would it be? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As our Premier stated in the House a few days ago, our staff are currently reviewing the Economic Development Department, identifying the obstructions or the challenges and seeing if there's too much red tape for the people of Nunavut.

The people out there are looking to the department for help. The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has been restructured. Previously, when people submitted applications through NBCC would have to wait 4 or 5 months. That has been restructured and the waiting period is now 1 to 2 months.

That is just an example of the revamping we've been doing in our department. We've been restructuring so that it would be more accessible to the people of Nunavut. It's an ongoing process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): My next question, Mr. Chairman, is in regards to the tourism group. Are you also considering the revamping the policy so that the tourism

sector in the communities that are not members of that specific tourism association will have access. It's all lumped into one at this point, and it's structured totally different from the rest of the departments.

So my question is: how can the promotional organizations out there, the carvers, the outfitters and so on, get more benefits from your department? Are you also thinking about revamping or restructuring the tourism sector in your department so that they can access more services?

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, we are restructuring through the Arts and Crafts Strategy and the tourism sector is going to be a part and parcel of that. It would be for organizations of those who are not associated with associations, and so on. They would be the hospitality sector, the tourism that would be part of this review.

In regards to the associations, there's the Nunavut Tourism Association, and they get financial support from the Government of Nunavut, and the members get their support through the Nunavut Tourism Association.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister for responding to my question in looking at the Arts and Crafts Strategy, which is going to be very popular to the people out there. They would also give a lot of support to the consumers of arts and crafts and also with the organizations or the individuals who own the galleries and it would be very important to the retailers.

There are also the carvers who need financial support to buy tools, and so on. Would they be getting more support, and the galleries will want famous carvers and artists. Are you going to be doing anything about the local arts and crafts and the carvers out there?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Yes, we already have some programs for the carvers. The carvers can access funds up to \$5,000 to buy tools and other essential equipment that they need for their artwork. If there's a requirement to restructure or revamp, then that will be included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I have no other names on my list. Mr. Peterson. Just a minute, don't show your hand prior to the completion of one member's questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for appearing before us today. My question is on K-5, Policy Development. I just want to get

an update from the minister, I know you gave us a letter about the Economic Development Agreement and the Mining Strategy, but could you give us a bit more background in detail in what you are doing to develop those two areas, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the Mining Strategy, we just about have a draft completed now. I think what we are looking at is between April and June for consultations with probably about six communities. We will also be consulting with the mining industry, other Inuit organizations, and environmental groups.

I am even hoping that we would have a completed draft that we can do initial consultations with the mining industry at the Nunavut Mining Symposium that's coming up very shortly. I am hoping that we will have a draft completed by that time so that we can do some initial consultations there with those groups.

We are hoping that once we have gone through with that process, we'll have a final draft ready probably September. And that would go to the Cabinet. So that's the plan right now on developing the Mining Strategy.

On the EDA there's really no negotiations going on right now. I'm not sure when we're looking at that, there's no negotiations going on in the near future at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. In terms of the Mining Strategy, I asked you last year if you were going to develop a section in the strategy pertaining to diamonds, the diamond industry in Nunavut. I wonder if you could give us an update on where you are with that as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because the diamond mining industry is going to be such a huge part of Nunavut's development, there is a section in the Draft Strategy in dealing with diamonds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Mr. Minister. The Tahera Corporation is proposing to open their mine in late 2006, if it works out they way they plan.



One area that's going to be very important will be the secondary diamond industry. Extracting the diamonds is a primary activity, but there will be opportunities in the secondary diamond industry.

I'm wondering if the minister could comment on whether the Diamond Strategy will contain recommendations in that regard. How can the communities participate in the secondary diamond industry? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a section in the Draft Strategy dealing with the secondary industry, and I'm very looking forward to talking with Tahera with a copy of the Draft Strategy, and have a good discussion with them on it.

They are opening up the first Nunavut diamond mine. And so they would have, they'd be perfect people to talk to about the secondary strategy, in fact the whole strategy, but particularly the diamond section. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister. I recall when the Northwest Territories' diamond industry just starting up with the BHP and Aber Resources or Diavik Diamond Mines. The initial years were very rough for them. From what I'm hearing, in the secondary diamond industry, it is still a bit rough with Sirius Diamonds. They opened up a diamond cutting and polishing business. There were three or four of them in the Northwest Territories that participated in the secondary diamond industry. I don't know how successful Sirius Diamonds are when you read media reports. There's probably a lot of people hurting from the lay offs and so and so forth like that.

Is the government contemplating encouraging people to participate in the diamond cutting and polishing industry as part of the Diamond Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just reading in the Canadian Diamonds magazine that's published out of Yellowknife. There was section in there talking exactly about that, the secondary industry that's going on in Yellowknife. There's two brothers that just bought the Arslanian Cutting Works, the one in Yellowknife, and they claim there making good money, in fact there hiring more diamond cutters very shortly. They must know what the secret is to make it work for them, and they'll be very interesting people to talk to.

Yes, we will be working with the mining industry, Tahera specifically right now, to see what we could do about helping them getting it to the secondary industry in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. There are issues with the secondary diamond industry when it comes to cutting and polishing. This applies to Northwest Territories. It's a very labor intensive industry. Then you compete with the world markets, countries, like India and Hong Kong or places like that where they cut and polish diamonds very cheaply. They have huge sources of labour to draw on. In New York, there's a population base of 7-9 million people, and around Northwest Territories I think the total population is 40-45,000 people. In Nunavut, you have 31,000 people and they are stretched over a huge geographic area.

It would be very difficult to participate in the cutting and polishing operation, but there may be other opportunities in the sector of diamond industry. I guess what I am hinting at might be a jewelry manufacturing, design and manufacturing type of industry. It's part of the diamond industry where you add value to diamonds because the more value you add to a diamond, the more you could sell at retail. We have lots of arts and crafts folks in Nunavut who are very good at design and very good at making jewelry.

In the Kitikmeot, we have worked on this. With a market survey, we surveyed 10,000 retail and individuals across Canada and the United States and we found that there was a demand for aboriginal motifs. We have proven that there's a market out for it; it's just a matter of having enough money to get into the markets because in order to develop one of these opportunities you have to spend a lot of money up front to carve out a niche for yourselves.

I think the folks in the Kitikmeot want to continue that work because it's a good opportunity for a lot of people. I am wondering if the minister is aware of that initiative or is interested in pursuing that initiative with the folks in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have had very interesting discussions with the diamond cutting companies in the Toronto areas and also the representatives of diamond cutting industries from India.

They are all very interested in investing in Nunavut and doing exactly what you are talking about, doing the value-added industries that you will be making in that, but they are very interested in investing in Nunavut, and I will be continuing those discussions with them and see where that goes.

The deal that Tahera has now with Tiffany's is a very interesting one. I thought one of your people in the Kitikmeot may have been involved in that, and from what I have seen so far, the sales there are actually interesting, they are actually coming out with some interesting numbers right now.

So, yeah, that's a very serious industry that we are very interested and the department is very interested in, and we will be doing whatever we can to help the industry develop. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Yes, the jewelry manufacturing, diamond manufacturing opportunity is a joint venture between Laurelton Diamonds, which is a subsidiary of Tiffany's, the Kitikmeot Corporation and the Deh Cho out of Yellowknife.

We met with the Tiffany's folks in New York. If you ever get a chance to tour their store, you would be quite amazed. I just can't believe how people can afford the diamonds that they have for sale down there. I saw a diamond engagement ring that was \$1.3 million USD.

It's a very expensive boutique. There are also engagement rings that are \$970.00 USD. It would nice for people in Nunavut or in the North to be able to have an opportunity go to these places and see where the diamonds that come out of the ground eventually end up. It gives you a whole new appreciation for the world of diamonds and jewelry.

I wanted to ask about the economic development agreement. A few years ago when I was lobbying for the Nunavut Association for Municipalities for an EDA for the North, there were politicians and senior officials in Ottawa who were telling me that Ottawa supported an EDA. There is some sort of stigma attached to an EDA. They would rather call it something else, or use another term to describe it then it might be easier in the political circles in Ottawa.

I'm wondering if the Minister could comment on whether the term Economic Development being is a term that we should stop using and come up with another term that means the same thing but describes it in a different way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated to come up with some names, or titles.

I've had a number of meetings now with Ethel Blondin-Andrew and also with Andy Scott and they were both very interested and committed to developing Nunavut, and the north. Those discussions will continue. In fact I will be meeting with both of them this Friday when they're in town and I'm sure that discussion will come up again.

We are working towards negotiations some time in the near future. I think the commitment is there now in Ottawa to do something. Certainly the two ministers that I deal with are very committed to doing something. So, the commitment is there and I

think it's a matter now of getting the staff to start talking between themselves. I'm sure we will do something with that, I'm hoping in the near future; at least get started on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. That's good to know that there is still some support in Ottawa. I think one of the issues is that a lot of folks in Ottawa and Southern Canadians think that the north and Nunavut are drains on Southern taxpayers. We must put the spin on it that, invest in the north because if you invest and we develop our economy then we can put people to work.

Companies can participate and when you start adding value, then you contribute more to the economy of Canada, so it's not a drain. We proved a few years ago through a report that the money that Ottawa sends to the north, a lot of it flows back south. It supports between 4,000 and 9,000 jobs in the south and we add value to what they send north in the hundreds of millions.

If the government invests and develop our economy, we could probably contribute more to the provincial economies down south like Alberta and Ontario and other provinces. So, I think one of the other obstacles you run into with an EDA, is although the two minister's you mentioned are in support, they have to convince all their other Cabinet colleagues. The Cabinet colleagues have probably 200 or 300 priority areas across Canada and everybody is looking for help somewhere.

The interesting thing is that we have regional development agencies across Canada, Western Diversification, Atlantic Opportunities Fund and FedNor in Northern Ontario. Those are designed to provide money to develop the economy. I've pointed this out before but there are only two jurisdictions in Canada that don't have these kinds of agencies. They are southern Ontario, where it's still manufacturing, and northern Canada.

So, I'm wondering, if the minister could comment on what his discussions are with his federal colleagues in that regards. Do they understand that there is this disparity in Canada? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I've had that discussion with both Mr. Scott and Ms. Blondin-Andrew. In fact it was Scott that suggested very strongly that we need to set up such an agency in Nunavut, in the north for Nunavut especially.

So, there is a commitment there. There is support there. I think we'll be working as quickly as we can to set up such an agency. In fact, I've had discussions with Ms. Blondin-Andrew and with Mr. Scott about setting up a partnership which could lead towards becoming an agency. So, those discussions are ongoing right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Peterson, your time is up at the moment but I have no one else on my list, so please proceed if you have any more questions.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I think it was a couple of years ago, it might have been in June 2002, there was a Western Premier's Meeting in Dawson City, Yukon.

Our Premier was in attendance and lobbied for EDA and a Regional Development Agency. He got a lot of support. I think the western Premiers all supported the EDA and a Regional Development Agency. There was some discussion of Western Diversification folks taking that responsibility on behalf of the North.

I don't know if we necessarily want that. I also don't know if it would be wise to have one Regional Development Agency for just Nunavut or just one for the entire North. Base it somewhere in the North, whether it is in Nunavut or the Northwest Territories or the Yukon, but somewhere in the North. And then they have a Board from across the North that would deal with all these issues. It would be a very complicated political struggle for you to get that in place.

It would not be an EDA type mechanism. We have never had a Regional Development Agency. The last time we had an EDA, Economic Development Agreement in the North was 1996. That was nine years ago.

My concern is that we keep getting these little pockets of money, the Northern Strategy, the Northern Economic Development Strategy. We don't have a pot of money that we can draw on to target priority areas to invest in and develop. We just get a chunk of money here a chunk of money there and then we have to spend a year or two consulting with Ottawa and amongst ourselves to develop the criteria and policies before the money starts flowing into these priority areas. In the term of a government, like ourselves, we are already into our second year.

Economic Development is a key priority for Nunavut for this government by the end of our term. So we are already into our second year. I can see another year slipping by quite quickly. Will we ever see any money flowing into these areas that we are targeting for development through our various strategies and options papers and other consultations.

I know the minister was in Cambridge Bay in February during the Kitikmeot trade show. He made a lot of very good statements. It was very encouraging to everybody there. I know that you signed a MOU with Nunavut Tourism, which holds great potential for Nunavut.

Ultimately it comes down to how much money we can put into investing in all these key sectors in Nunavut. That is where an EDA type mechanism for a program can be helpful to us because we can target arts and crafts; target construction; we can target mining; target different sectors. The money would be assured year after year that it is there to help

continue development instead of having to rely on the little chunks of money that we get. They are not little but they are \$10 million, \$20 million and then you don't know if you will get it after another five years, or after three years.

I think it is very important that we continue to lobby hard, long and strong at every opportunity. When I meet with the Minister of DIAND and Ms. Blondin-Andrew tomorrow, I am going to, with my colleagues and neighbors, we are going to be making that argument. Then they come here and meet with you. I encourage in your meetings.

That is more of a general comment. I just wanted to reiterate for the record that we have to keep working really hard on our economy. I think that that is going to be one of the ways we progress, evolve as a territory and strengthen our arguments for devolution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We are on K-5. Corporate Management. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. \$3,785,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. K-6, Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Economic Development, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to go back quickly to a couple of questions on K-5. One of the things that was brought up by a couple of my colleagues was on some of the overall direction of NNI and everything else that the department is doing.

A question for policy reasons, when you look at some of the overall direction of the department and the priorities that it wants take on this year, and the Minister highlighted a number of them in his opening comments and it might be more of a policy question, so I'm asking it here, is, in the Minister of Finance's budget address, there was an indication one of the top two priorities of this department was going to be to begin to implement the Transportation Strategy and there was no mention of that in the Minister's opening comments.

I'm just wondering if I could get an idea of why that is the case and what the, without getting into the details of the transportation stuff which we'll get to later on, why that's the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Why I didn't mention it in my opening remarks, I guess I just thought it was a given that implementing the Nunavut Transportation Strategy is priority of this government as was mentioned by the Finance Minister in her Address. That's all I can say right now is that it is a priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make sure that's on the record. I'll ask him some questions about that more specifically on transportation.

Under Corporate Management, there is \$243,000 for Contract Services. That's up from \$165,000 from last year. I'm just wondering if the Minister could give us an indication of what those Contract Services are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The increases have a lot to do with our new NNI Initiative. There is also a 2 percent increase in expenditures in the department program reorganization. That's basically what it is, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if the department or the minister has in these Contract Services any contracts with any firms to do consulting work for them outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get my Deputy Minister to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Campbell

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is simply yes. There are times that the department is required to do certain consulting work for the government. At the present time we have at least two consulting contracts outside of the territory for Advisory Services as well as dealing with our Inuit Employment Plan. There are also other initiatives that the department is going to be undertaking.

One of them is this project that we're going to be doing this year on the barriers to business development impediments to that process. We're going to be looking at the regulatory processes of the government and what amendments would be required to help the business community to access more of our programs and to streamline some of the process.

We will also be doing a departmental program review as suggested by one of the members earlier. I would be looking at economic development funding and see what impacts it has in the communities over the last five years and what changes and improvements would be required.

So that kind of work would require consulting services either within Nunavut, within Iqaluit, and we can't find anybody from Nunavut, we usually retain people from outside the territory, and again, on a competitive process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the companies that the deputy indicated that has at least two outside of the territories, one of them, Earnscliff Strategy Group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was relieved to hear that. Mr. Chairman, also on that page is about a \$70,000 increase on fees and payments. I am just wondering if that increase is a result of the restructuring of the departments or if there's another reason why there are increases there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That has partly to do with departmental program, the organization, but most of it has to do with the NNI Policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Are you done? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question, Mr. Chairman, to the minister is some of the questions, a follow-up to the member's question from Cambridge Bay, there doesn't seem to be any progress at all in regards to the \$90 million EDA. There has been an agreement in the amount of \$90 million by the federal government for the three territories; Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut.

To date, there doesn't seem to be any progress in negotiations because the minister and his officials met with the federal counterparts, but there hasn't been any progress that I have seen so far. Why isn't there any progress at all because as ordinary members, there's nothing happening and there are a lot of businesses in Nunavut, and they need to get some funding from that EDA agreement. Why isn't there any progress being made?

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was done by the federal government in the first year; it's called the northern economic development fund.



I think it was going to be coordinated by the Indian and Northern Affairs, which is the case right now.

But the federal government and Minister Blondin-Andrew and Mr. Scott have been meeting with me and my staff, and I have asked them the northern economic development fund, I think it's going to be about \$30 million that the Government of Nunavut will be getting.

We have to put in our share as the Government of Nunavut and we talked about like if it would help out if we put in so much money and it would be at least \$86 million altogether to help out the people of Nunavut and all of the businesses. We would put in some money and the mining sector would put in so much, and the federal government would put in so much.

Like Mr. Peterson asked that similar question, and that's what I have been trying to talk them into doing. They have been asking us quite a bit about that, and it's in the federal government's hands right now.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While you're thinking about doing that, to put money together, as you stated, there's about \$30 million at the present time.

Will you be able to give us some information on the projects? I wonder if you could request the federal government and if we were to reach the \$80 million, it would be better if it wasn't in the hands of the federal government, if they could transfer to the Nunavut government.

**Chairman**: Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indian Affairs has stated how the money will be spent. They'll be telling us how the money will be spent through Economic Development, and it will be public information soon.

Like I said, we wanted to put so much money in the mining sector and the federal government, they would have to establish some kind of committee from the federal government, the mining sector and the Nunavut government and it would be coordinated by that committee. The federal government would not be the only people that have the money.

**Chairman**: Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll probably get more information on this as they progress. My other question is, we always feel the policy should be reviewed. There are a lot of people that want to some inland fishing and to sell

the fish commercially and they have to go to follow the guidelines and they have to have quota.

I wonder if your department and the other ministers have had any discussions on primary progress to program, so that the money can be given to the local communities. Sometimes, they go through development corporations. Had there been any discussion on assisting those commercial fishermen, and will you be reporting back to us on anything that comes up?

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the way it is right now. My staff has been having discussions on the assistance that could be provided to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): were on K-6. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On K-5, there's an NNI secretariat, and I know there's been a lot of discussions on that over the years. My question is, one of the things that secretariat is going to be looking at doing is to try and tighten up the guidelines around what's considered Nunavut based suppliers or retailers, or whole sellers.

There's a lot of concerns that have been raised to me and I'm sure by other members of the House, you had someone that has an apartment with a fax number, something in it being considered a supplier, and meanwhile someone who's made the investment of having the infrastructure here, in any of our communities, to be able to provide those goods or services that seem to lose out because they have the additional overhead cost and there not just dealing straight from a southern supplier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Was that a question or a comment?

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess my question was is that one of the things that the NNI Secretariat will be looking at tightening up and reviewing those guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that exact same concern has been raised to me personally a number of times now from businesses across Nunavut. They are very concerned with that problem, and that would be one of the areas that the secretariat will be looking at, and I'm sure those businesses will be raising it with the staff when they do their community consultations. I would hope that many of the businesses will raise that exact issue with the staff during their community consultations.

It is something that needs to be tightened up, as you suggested, and I agree totally with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I figured it was something that the Minister would be aware of; I just wanted to get it on the record.

Also, one of things that has been a concern over the years and more so in some of the larger construction projects is the concern where you have some times, I call it a seat of the pants or a fly by night joint venture with a southern company just using a northern company's name or including them in their name for certain projects to be able to obtain the preferential treatment under the policy.

Is that also something that they would look at where they would implementing some type of criteria for companies that would have to be in force for a certain length of time for project, all of a sudden a tender goes out and a joint venture company pops up after the tender goes out and is awarded to that company.

I know that that's something else that has been brought to my attention on a number of occasions so I'm just wondering if that too is something that the Secretariat will be looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That again is an area that I would urge industry to raise with the NNI staff when they're doing their community consultations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are you done. We agreed with K-5 already. Are there any other questions. We already agreed with that section and that's why we keep going back. Are there any other questions under K-5? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I would then ask my colleagues to go back to K-5 because I wasn't aware that we had passed this part already. So, I'll seek consensus.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Yes, I do have a question with respect to the NNI policy, mainly that it is important to have a clear guideline and policy as well as how the actual implementation of that policy works.

As far as I'm concerned the implementation of the policy seems to be Community and Government Services when actually awarding contracts, that they do apply the criteria and those to the vendors and the contractors and so on.

So, you are just looking at or administering the policy itself, whether it works or not, and implementation is a contractors or various government agencies, you don't look at the

vendors out there and actually evaluate contracts. That is done by the operating or the issuer of the tender and contract. Is that how it works.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Yes, that's how it works, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Yes, thank you. Eventually I think we're going to have to get some answers from the government of exactly who and how they interpret those sets of criteria because there are a number of statuses for Inuit businesses, it states there's a Nunavut firm, there's Inuit firm and there's a local business status.

I am not 100 percent sure exactly whether an Inuit firm is also qualified as a Nunavut firm, but if they are only recognizing Nunavut firm status or Inuit firm status or if the two just cancel each other out when bidding for contracts.

So does the minister or deputy know of whether or not an Inuit firm gets an additional seven points along with the Nunavut firm status; is that how it works? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is how it works; seven percent if you are an Inuit firm and seven percent if you are Nunavut based, and then again for the seven percent for being a local company. So, yes, that's how it works. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have any more questions on K-6. Thank you.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Any other questions on K-5? Are you going to agree to it again? K-6. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question, Community Futures, it's quite a bit for three regions. I am just wondering if this is outdated because business corporation; they seem to be running smoothly, they have standards, and they can be audited. But Community Futures, are they audited as well?

I wonder where their funding regulations come from and I wonder if that can be tabled. Maybe the department just incorporates them into that business. I wonder which way would be easier.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my Deputy Minister to answer that one. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do have three Community Futures organizations in Nunavut. The one in the Baffin works very well. We are having some issues in getting the one in the Kitikmeot reestablished. We have an organization as well in the Kivalliq that's in the process of getting it going again.

These Community Futures organizations, we took over as part of a transfer of the Northwest Territories Government to Nunavut a few years ago, before division.

So, we do have an agreement that we are working with. I saw a copy of it a couple of weeks ago. We also were asking for the background of community futures and what the liabilities associated with that to the government.

We are working through that process, and once we have some recommendations that we are going to put to the minister for his review and recommendations to Cabinet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Campbell. I appreciate that response. I noted that you are very careful in giving the status of Kivalliq. Why isn't it very well compared to the Baffin region? Maybe if I could ask the deputy.

**Chairman:** Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, the answer is simply that we tried to initiate that process last April. It was slow getting it going. It's slow as well trying to find the right staff in the organization that's compatible to the priorities and the initiatives of the region. That's one of the issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I think it is for the good. I appreciate the reviews that are going on. We look forward to seeing those. I do know that regions like the Kivalliq are so much more, in my view, dependent on the private market for funding. Sources like the financial markets. They play quite an active role in that way of Food Banks in the Kivalliq region.

From my perspective having an additional loan program without a real clear set of guidelines, like Community Futures, confuses a lot of people. Therefore, people that would qualify through the Business Credit Corporation, where they have excellent staff.

They do quite good consultations with the applicants, whether they are from outlying communities. I know that they do that.

This program, Community Futures, we don't know what their rule are. What kind of interest rates that they have. It concerns me when the Community Futures like in the Kivalliq when it has a mandate to issue up to \$75,000 loans to some businesses. They sometimes have a political representative on their Board, like the Mayors around some of these groups. It really is a tricky situation.

I am raising that because at one point the councilor there gave one applicant when they failed to receive any support from that group trying to establish a taxi, for a second vehicle in my home community was given a quote that they are going to have to pay \$17,000 insurance. There is no such thing in the world, unless you are living in the Communist world, that you would pay \$17,000 insurance. They already had a quote from the insurance company and they had the business plan in place and they were trying to get support.

Even up to now they have not received any help from that group. To me that group is probably out of reality in the Kivalliq region. I urge the minister to treat this, without compromising the other two regions that seems to be working well, that you take a good close look at this situation and treat it as one of the priorities. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is one area that we will be taking a very close look at in our departmental review that is going on right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Is that it? Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is almost fishing season time. The minister and I like to go out fishing so I will be asking question. I brought this up earlier in regards to fishing.

We know, as Keewatin residents that in some communities like Fish Plants, Meat Plants, they have existed before but they are no longer operating because there is no market for it outside of Nunavut. Within Nunavut they still can run those, especially if they are going to use renewable resource like fish and caribou, but looking at the figures there doesn't seem to be too much where they are made available to those companies, where in the 1970s, when it was at its peak, there was lots of funding available for that.

I would like to ask how, in the short term, they can be assisted towards that. Has it been considered? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be looked at further by the Nunavut Development Corporation how we can further assist especially those smaller communities because they're the ones who focused on those.

But, as a department we are looking at ways of how we can re-introduce them through Community Initiatives Program. Yes, at this time, we are trying to explore how we can introduce this especially to the smaller communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realized that the Nunavut Development Corporation is also working on this issue but they are doing it for their own.

They have bad fish, Chesterfield Inlet, about 10 thousand lbs. They can't go over that weight because the quota system that is set for Chesterfield Inlet. I'm not concerned about those. There is not that much complaining from that department but what I am looking at is the other communities.

I'm looking more at a Nunavut-wide program. Rankin Inlet has a license and it's well established. If you're going to try and obtain a license to harvest some meat that would be sold just within Nunavut, and if somebody would like to start a processing plant, who is responsible for the establishment, for the issuing of a license because there is two. There is the license where you can only sell the meat just within Nunavut and then there is another license where you can sell the meat outside of Nunavut. Who is responsible for that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned the Nunavut Development Corporation. I wasn't talking only about Rankin Inlet.

The NDC can help anyone through a partnership or otherwise to start a venture. That is why I mentioned that. I wasn't only talking about Rankin Inlet; I was also talking about the other communities that would like to establish any type of these ventures. In regards to the issuance of a license, the Department of Economic Development can help if someone would like to establish a processing plant or some kind of venture in Nunavut.

We're there to give support to look for whatever is required to get everything off the ground. Our staff is here to help those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier, there were quite a number of people who wanted to start those types of ventures and they request for support from the Nunavut Development Corporation.

I said I wasn't only concerned about that, but I would like to thank the Minister anyway. If somebody would like to start up a venture or would like further information on how to start, or where to access what's required, and to make sure that everything is in sanitary conditions, as required by law, is there information available from your department that doesn't require researching.

Is the information available from your department, that doesn't require researching? Are they available to the potential clients? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): It's part of our mandate, as the Department Economic Development, I know I don't have any potential clients but we can give the information out to the potential. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, if you don't have the information readily available, I'm sure it's going to take quite a while to put it together. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, there are a lot of people from Nunavut who talk to their member of the Legislative Assembly in regards to information that they might access from anyone in the Government of Nunavut's departments.

Do you have a process policy that can be followed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. I'll hand them out to the members once they're ready. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my two communities, both communities in my riding don't have soapstone that's easily accessible. What the people over there have been asking about is, where they can buy and ship soapstone to the communities? I'm sure there is a pot of money available from your department, but could you also have that support to the small communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): This coming spring and summer, we're going to be asking the communities about how much soapstone is available in their communities.

We'll be asking every community during the spring and summer season, and with those communities that don't have access or the soapstone is not accessible, they could go



through the Community Initiatives Programs to leverage some funds and find some soapstone.

We'll be bringing that this spring and summer. We'll find out which community needs the soapstone the most, and we'll see where we can get some for that community.

The Community Initiatives Program is available for that type of project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's good to hear. I'm glad that your department will be asking the questions. So what do we do in the interim before you reveal and assess what is needed at the community level?

What can we do in the interim to buy and ship quarried stones to our communities, because of course, this program will probably not get off the ground till fall or winter.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you. In the new fiscal year starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, each community will be given \$100,000 through the initiatives program. These funds will be available to quarry or to deal with the soapstone issue. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask the minister on page K-7, on Prospector's Assistance Program. Could the minister tell us how many prospectors we have in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that number right now, but we could certainly see if we could get an idea of how many prospectors there are in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Perhaps the Minister could tell us how much each prospector is eligible for to assist with their prospecting and is it an annual application that they can apply for. I hope it's not just one time but maybe you could clarify that for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have a policy right now that each prospector can apply for up to \$5 thousand per year but because of the high costs of doing work in Nunavut, we're looking at increasing that up to \$7 thousand per year per prospector. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to confirm, can they apply every year? It's not a one time application, if they apply in 2005. Then next year, can they apply again? Can you just confirm that Mr. Minister. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. They can apply each fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Then on the same page, the Nunavut Business.

**Chairman:** We're back again. Go ahead Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, page K-7, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, could the Minister tell us how many staff work for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and where those staff are located. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): We have a staff of four Mr. Chairman, and they work out of Cape Dorset. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Could the Minister explain to us how the staff of four working out of Cape Dorset provides services to each community in Nunavut?

Who are their contact people? Who does their loan applications, analysis, and the legal work and possibly collections work in administering the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation portfolio? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The four staff members in Cape Dorset are primarily responsible for all of that but they do work closely with the economic development officers in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are all the community economic development officers, are they all trained and qualified to help business applicants prepare their loan packages and proceed through the entire documentation process from start to finish. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the staff at the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation are visiting communities right now, and are training the economic development officers as they travel around. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. That's good to know because I've heard some concerns in out in various communities that there are communities who don't have staffed community economic development officers or some of the folks are lacking in those lending skills to help them to prepare business plans and proper documentation.

Having sat on a Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation for a few years and then one year with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, it's very important that when a person puts in their application that it's fully documented so that it gets to a decision point and all the paper work is there. You don't have to go back two or three times to get additional paper work.

You also have to be careful, if the person is fortunate enough to receive a loan, that it's properly documented for lending purposes of security. I encourage the minister's Business Credit Corporation to continue to train because there's a high turnover at the community levels with the economic development officers for a number of reasons.

Some of them may find that they don't like that type of work because there could be a lot of pressure off them if people don't get their loans or grants. Then they go find another job. It creates a lot of grief at the community level when there are vacancies and delays in processing loans or applications.

I wanted to just go on to page K-8, they talk about community futures. Mr. Campbell mentioned there were problems with the Kitikmeot community futures. I know we did have an operational Community Futures probably four or five years ago and it has been a real struggle to get the Community Futures up and operational again in the Kitikmeot. I

wonder if the minister or Mr. Campbell could shed some light on that problem for me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just go back for a second to the community economic development officers. I promise my colleague to get more information.

In terms of training the economic development officers, we also provide \$100,000 per year to the municipal training organization for them to train the economic development officers. So all of that training is always ongoing, it should be ongoing, but I would hope that this...so yes, the economic development officers are being trained as much as possible.

And also the Business Credit Corporation has already streamlined their application process to a point now where it takes them a maximum of eight weeks, they tell now, to process an application and have the money in the hands of the business.

So the credit corporation has been very proactive in streamlining their process season in working with the economic development officers.

In terms of Community Futures, I will have my deputy respond to that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The problem, basically, in the Kitikmeot is that we have not been able to somebody there in the regions to spearhead that Community Futures movement.

There have been several people interested in getting their Community Futures organizations going, but for various reasons, they either move or are not interested, and that process continues.

In the meantime, we do have capital sitting there that should be moving, and issuing some loans and, as the minister indicated, that's one of the reasons why we want to review that process and see how we can facilitate and how we can either reallocate some of that funding into other areas of the department. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Minister and Mr. Campbell. I just want to go back on the community economic development as well.

I am glad to hear that your staff is streamlining the process, but eight weeks still seems like a long time. Those are eight weeks, that's five-day weeks or work weeks, so that's still a long time. I know the business credit corporation is a fund of last resort.

When I was working at the Nunavut CEDO, the Nunavut CEDO worked with Kakivak Association. We developed six training modules that we made available, and the Nunavut CEDO holds the copyright to the Nunavut Economic Development Association.

There are six modules that each economic development officer in a community can learn at their own pace. I believe, if memory serves me correct, we also developed a complete set for each economic development officer and provided it to them. So that material is available.

Perhaps your officials might want to follow up because they probably need to be updated or maybe some of it has gone missing. We worked with a consulting firm and used real-life Nunavut examples in the communities how to do bookkeeping, how to develop small projects and how to develop applications. So it's very good information.

In terms of the Community Futures in the Kitikmeot, I'm not sure what the issue is there. I know there's an organization there, Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission that has expressed interest over the last few years. I believe we met with the Executive Director of that organization last September. He expressed some interest. I'll see those folks this week and I'll follow up to see if there's still interest on their part to pursue the Community Futures. They've told me that there's a pressing need for the loans under \$75,000 that's mentioned in your Main Estimates.

Not all the applicants in the Kitikmeot necessarily want to go to the Business Credit Corporation. It takes eight weeks for the Business Credit Corporation to process a loan. It is probably half that, or maybe less for Community Futures.

The funding is there every year. I think because it links with the Business Credit Corporation, who can also help with some funds. Does some funding come from Credit Corporation to help fund Community Futures loans? Can Mr. Campbell or the minister can clarify that for me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were changes made to the Nunavut Business Credit Corporations Act a couple of years ago. Community Futures organizations can now access up to \$1 million each from the Business Credit Corporation for small business loans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that clarification. Something struck me that there was a link to the credit corporation, it's not just small

and/or an under capitalized organization. They can draw on a substantial amount of money and bring it to the community or into the region.

The people that sit on the Community Futures board are drawn from the region, so they have hands on practical advice and knowledge of the region.

On page K-9, Nunavut Broadband Building Corporation, we were anxiously awaiting broadband to arrive in Nunavut. Once it arrives, it seems to me that somehow we're going to need that organization to remain around for the next few years, while we roll out the broadband.

With an annual contribution of only \$50,000, how is that help them to continue to operate to provide broadband services to Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my Assistant Deputy Minister answer that question. Thank you

**Chairman:** Ms. Keenainak.

**Ms. Keenainak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, yes, we're about to have a discussion within the fiscal year 2005/06. In regards to the operation, that \$50,000 was an initial start up last year, just to give support and they will be able to give us the information as to how much they had expended from last year. In the fiscal year of 2006/07, we'll have a better idea, whether they need to increase the funding for this line item.

(interpretation ends) We've had some initial discussions with the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, they've indicated that the O&M costs will be increasing and they are not being funded by the federal funding that they are getting.

So, initial discussions are that we will be working with them in the upcoming year, for 2006/07 budget year, take a look at what their needs are and what we are able to submit to the minister and the Cabinet for 2006/07. Thank you

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister and the Assistant Deputy Minister for that response. Yes it would be very unfortunate or disappointing to be on the verge of rolling out this, I'm not sure how many millions it is but it's quite an expensive undertaking and it's going to contribute a lot to the information technology in Nunavut in all of our communities, and not have the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation well funded.

We've got a lot of people out there waiting anxiously to have the switch turned on. I'm not sure if it will be turned on this month or next month but nevertheless, they are waiting. I know that technology is subject to change every 3 to 6 months so you have to have people in place to be on top of that technology we need. People that have to be able to work with failures in technology and deal with the various levels of government.

I believe in Nunavut, the Broadband Development Corporation deals with the Treasury Board in Ottawa, they deal with Infrastructure Canada, they deal with Telesat, they deal with the Government of Nunavut and who knows who else. You need those people in place who have that knowledge, experience, the technical capacity and political savvy to make sure this broadband initiative unfolds without too many more delays and that it continues to serve us well in the next, like, forever so to speak, because I don't think it's going away.

We'll be very dependant on it, so I would like to see your department take a serious look at helping them out when they do approach you for financial assistance in the coming fiscal year. That's more of a comment, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Yes, thank you. Your time is up too anyway, Mr. Peterson. So, we're going to go for a fifteen minute break before we proceed onto the next question with the next person. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 15:07 and resumed at 15: 39*

**Chairman:** We will resume. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My first question and it is going through the Grants and Contributions. My colleague earlier asked about the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation and the role four staff play in Cape Dorset.

The minister had indicated that they are pretty much all encompassing the staff. I must say that I know that recently here in Iqaluit that they did some good work for some of the businesses and I commend them for that.

Under the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, does the department or does the ministry have any role in identifying or working on one of the areas that my colleague mentioned earlier and that's in the collections where they may have problem in the collections of loans from clients. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Just for the members information, we're on K-7, 8, 9, 10 and K-11. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, neither I nor my department is involved in any of that. The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation handles all that themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In cases, and I'm sure there are some out there that legal action is being looked at, but when the Credit Corporation is pursuing legal action on a client for non-payment, or whatever, do they engage their own lawyers for that, or do they use any lawyers from the department, or any other departments, like the Department of Justice or do they get a separate thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, they have to go through our Department of Justice first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation aware or made aware of any actions where the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation has to go through the Department of Justice for legal advice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I am normally advised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When looking at this whole scenario of court and legal action and that, I know at times it can get very expensive to do that. I'm just wondering if there's at any point, some rationale or some thought at looking if we're going to be spending at maybe \$200,000 in legal fees to try and collect \$90,000 of debt. Is that something that's taken into consideration when these actions are pursued? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's normally taken into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If that is taken into consideration and say it's going to cost 2 or 3 times more than what they are after. Is that something because it is taken into consideration? At what point do they ask if it's really worth it to try and pursue that. Are we going to spend more of our limited resources trying to collect something that is half or whatever of what it's going to cost us even to just and try and pursue it and not



necessarily end up the fact that you're going to end up being able to get that money back?  
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** I'll get my Deputy Minister to answer that please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Normally the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is independent of these processes. At some point in time when there is an issue as the member raised that there is an outstanding loan and is not collectable, at some point in time there is recommendations made by the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to government to write off some of those accounts.

That is where decisions are made as to whether recommendations are made through the minister, who is also responsible for the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation to advance that recommendation on their behalf. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that is often a touchy situation for both parties involved. In any case, where there is a loan made and there are assets that are out there. Is one of the steps if the Credit Corporation is not getting repayment on the loan where they would have opportunity to take possession of any of the assets?

Like if someone that got a loan to start up a business and part of that was to build a building or some vehicles, that the Credit Corporation would be able to take those assets and sell those. Would that be something that would be done prior to any legal action being taken? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as a normal course of business that is the way it's done. The Credit Corporation would seize assets and try to sell them to recover some of their money. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to ask for any names but is the minister aware of any cases where this has happened, or is going to be happening? Just to get an idea of how many loans out there are we looking at that are in arrears enough to be able to pursue this type of action? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The last time something like that happened would have been about three years ago now. In terms of the Corporation's allowance for doubtful accounts is actually less than five percent of the total loan's portfolio, which by the end of this month that total would approximately \$18.5 million worth of loans out there, and the allowance for doubtful accounts is less than five percent of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is good to hear that and hopefully that all the steps are taken to stay out of the courts and try to minimize the impacts on people.

One of the things that have been mentioned before in the past and I know that the minister said something that the minister is aware a lot of businesses were given loans and given money and then just left. In a lot of cases some of those businesses ran into problems because there wasn't any ongoing support. That was a different shift that came in after a few years later that they realized that this is what was happening.

It is good to hear that it is improving. It is getting better and there was only one case that he mentioned maybe three years ago in that. That is good to hear. All efforts are being taken, whether it's repossessed or seize assets to pay down those loans.

I think that it is good to that those clauses and could be invoked. I am sure that most of the people that are in arrears but don't want to be but are kind of stuck in a situation where they don't have much of a choice. They probably don't have any problems handing over the assets to help pay down the debt and any other outstanding amount besides that. Maybe an amount that is something that they could work on repaying. I think that that is a good positive direction that they are going.

My next question deals with K-8 with Nunavut Tourism. I know that in the department's Business Plan, they refer to the tourism sector as one that generates external capital, promotes Inuit culture, and the territory's natural resources, and they acknowledged that this industry has great potential in Nunavut and it's growing very rapidly.

And yet if you look over the years, they are not provided, I don't think adequate financial support for the industry to be able to take advantage of those opportunities. In fact, in the last two years, the Nunavut Tourism budget has been lower than it was three years ago in 2002/03 and in 2002/03 it was \$2.364 million; in 2003/04 it was the same; in 2004/05 it was lowered to \$2.175 million; and this year in the Main Estimates here was saying they are again getting the same amount that they did last year.

So I guess my question to the minister is: when and how is the department going to look at funding Nunavut Tourism and providing it that the level of funding that it needs in order to be able to really help tap into and develop that budding industry that has so much

potential here in Nunavut. I think if any one industry has the potential of gaining 100 percent Inuit employment in 26 communities across Nunavut is tourism.

So my question to the minister is when and how are they going to be looking at funding them adequately to be able to tap into that untapped market? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Over the last year, my department has been working very closely with Nunavut Tourism and all of that work resulted in us signing a memorandum of understanding between ourselves and Nunavut Tourism when I was in Cambridge Bay the last time.

And through that MOU, Nunavut Tourism is now much more focused. We have working with them over the long-term to identify areas where they need more help. Now they are going to be accessing other sources of funding albeit the federal government or others.

So they are using the money that we provide them to leverage other sources of funding from outside of our government and because they are much more focused now in terms of the work they are doing, they might be able to do that much more easily now.

So, yeah, we do provide them base funding, but then they leverage that to start to tap to other sources of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Tootoo your time has expired, so if you have any further questions, I will put your name on the list. There are a couple of names; Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Nunavut Development Corporation, I would like to ask the minister how much funding they provide for the caribou hunt in Coral Harbour in the last two years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Mr. Chairman, I will have my Assistant Deputy Minister to answer that, please. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Ms. Keenainak.

**Ms. Keenainak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will find out because the information that the member is requesting I don't have with me but 2003/04, there was \$300,000. In 2004/05 there is \$300,000 we're expected to give for the caribou harvest in Coral Harbour.

I don't have the information that he's requested right now, but I will provide it to the member. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Keenainak. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could you repeat the figure again? I didn't quite understand her so can she repeat the figure. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Ms. Keenainak.

**Ms. Keenainak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry I was in a rush. In 2003/04 there was \$300,000 from Economic Development and Transportation that was given to the caribou harvest in Coral Harbour. But the information that he is requesting, I will give it to the minister who can then provide it to him. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Keenainak. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much funding has Economic Development provided to the Rankin Inlet Meat Processing Plant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Ms. Keenainak.

**Ms. Keenainak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have the information with me at the moment but I will look into that. What they do is they get money from the Nunavut Development Corporation in the amount of \$2.3 million. NDC distributes them or splits them up in between nine companies. I will be able to provide the member with that as soon as I get the information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Keenainak. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So could I ask the minister then if he has given any consideration to the Coral Harbour Meat Plant?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This winter they are hunting caribou and they are presently doing that and we want to see this continue. There has been a growing concern that we're spending a lot of money to that Meat Plant. Maybe the Coral Harbour Development Cooperation can start funding this maybe through loans if it would be possible.

My staff will be having meetings on how we can cooperate better and not just for us to provide the funding because they have a development corporation and they have to be able to stand on their own in the near future. Maybe they should start thinking about doing that and give this more consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How about the Rankin Inlet meat plant? How is it operated if it doesn't get it from Coral Harbour?

**Chairman:** Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The meat plant in Rankin Inlet processes caribou, muskox and fish, and that's how it's running. Thank you

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser:** (interpretation): Where do they get the musk ox and how many? Thank you

**Mr. Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Netser. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry, it's just caribou and fish, not musk ox. Thank you

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What's the poundage of the fish they get there? Thank you

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

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): At this time, we are not sure as to how much fish they get. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everybody knows that it's operating because of the caribou harvest in Coral Harbour. The hunters in Coral Harbour are saying that the number is decreasing because they're running further away. If they're going to catch 4,000 caribou, will the population be able to withstand the demand? Thank you

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just recently the Minister of Environment, I believe that there will be research as to how many there are, and at that time, they will be able to determine as to how many caribou they should get in a year. Thank you

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They were told that they were allowed 4,000 and we hear that at the Meat Plant, by the time one caribou is butchered and everything, it comes to \$500 per caribou, so they make about \$2 million, that comes from Coral Harbour, and the hunters in Coral Harbour are assisted about \$700,000.

Their account is increasing from the interest and their earning money and they ask for quite a bit of money for the operation. I wonder if the minister could look into this further and make improvements, maybe start catering to sport hunters, because it's clear that the demand might not withstand the population.

Because about 6,000 killed every year and we hear that the number of calving females are decreasing, there was 90 percent, but now this winter it's only at 30 percent and if that trend keeps up, then there will be a concern.

Maybe they can go towards catering to sport hunters? I'm asking the minister about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I have heard at this time the meat that is being processed in Rankin Inlet, they will have to be an increase in the price to process the meat this winter. They say that they are not sure if there will be a market for it because they figure it might be too expensive. We can work with the Department of Environment to see if we can use sport hunters instead. We can look into this along with the Department of Environment. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With those kinds of discussions it is good to participate, especially when it concerns our community. The residents of Coral Harbour have been requesting to get a meat plant and the obstacles that we encounter is because there is already a meat plant in Rankin Inlet. I am not opposed to that.

If there was to be a meat plant in Coral Harbour, more of the money would be able to stay within the community. I truly believe that if there was a meat plant, when they harvest the 4,000, they use Hercules aircraft. That is where it gets quite expensive. If we had a meat plant in our community, then we can have more direct international markets because that transportation cost from Coral Harbour to Rankin Inlet wouldn't be there and the government and Nunavut Development Corporation wouldn't spend so much money.

If it was like that, it would be a lot better. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Do you want the minister to respond? Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand where the member is coming from. We will look at this alternative to see if it would be feasible to have a meat plant in the community. It would start out small, just locally, but it can go externally. He has brought this up quite a few times and we can certainly check into this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Netser (interpretation):** Thank you. We don't want just a small meat plant. The HTO in Coral Harbour can look into this and check into this. So I am asking the government to see if it can check into getting a meat plant and also with sport hunters for caribou. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak (interpretation):** Thank you. We will check into this. We will definitely check into this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am compelled to say something. When they first started building the meat plant in Rankin Inlet, I don't remember anybody saying that they can only use caribou from Coral Harbour, but if it is not too economical now, would the caribou be marketable? If they can transfer to Rankin Inlet or Baker Lake, you can transfer that operation to Coral Harbour because it is not Rankin Inlet and we shouldn't be talking about meat like that. I don't believe in that sort of argument.

The assistant deputy minister's responsibilities and it's the \$23 million here and her main responsibility is promotion of economic development, and if it's just that, how many staff are there in the three regions? Thank you. What is the average? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak (interpretation):** The first comment he made, I have heard that the meat plant has its own board of directors and they are considering to see if they can harvest caribou from the Rankin Inlet area by the board of directors there.

The sewing centre in Rankin Inlet was the decision by the Nunavut Development Corporation to move it to Baker Lake. That was before I became the minister and my assistant will respond to how many staff she has.

**Chairman (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Ms. Keenainak.

**Ms. Keenainak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's indicated under K-2 as to how many staff we have in the regions. It indicates seven in the Baffin Region, eight in the Kivalliq, eight in the Kitikmeot.

Regional transportation would increase up to three in the Baffin, so that would make it ten, and an increase of three, which would make it 11 in the Kivalliq, and in the Kitikmeot, two more, so that would make it ten. So in total, there would be 31 employees in the regions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Keenainak. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank assistant deputy minister for responding. The reason why I am asking those questions is because not all of the communities have economic development officers.

If we are only going to be focusing on promotion, it seems like it's more geared towards the smaller communities, but in those communities where they have economic development officers, are they going to be getting any support promotion-wise for those communities that do have EDO's?

I would like to know exactly what it means when we are talking about promoting the operations and stuff. There's the tourist groups that's in a different sector. So exactly what does that division do? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): The deputy minister will respond. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on the community economic development officers, there's an allowance in our budget to the communities to access up to \$90,000 annually for community economic development officers. So, each of the municipalities are eligible for that funding. The municipalities can have an employee working as the Economic Development Officer.

The other part of the question is that the department, when we say promotion, it includes training and supporting the grants and contributions program that we do have. The Community Initiatives Program that we have as well in the department. Our mandate as a department is to facilitate a process where we transfer some of that knowledge to the local business community as well as the hamlet councils where the CEDO's are involved as well. So, it's not just promotion, it is as well advisory and training.

We're trying to work with our partners in various agencies to assist with that including Nunavut Tourism, including the Municipal Training Organization. We do have Program Officers as well that are supposed to be doing some after care and some of the program



funding that we deliver at the community level. So, those are just some of the few things that the department does from the regional level.

What Madame Keenainak didn't mention was that we do have a headquarters function as well that is based out of Panniqtuuq. They have a staff of nine people as well. They are the people that review policies and make recommendations to the department and the minister on initiatives that do come to the department and recommendations from the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response. I consider this department to be one of the more important departments.

At the same time, it appears to be overloaded with a lot of sounding words and catch phrases about economic development but we really don't have. When you get down to communities, what kind of training of criteria do these Community Economic Development Officer supposed to possess, or what not, because in many communities, they're not really equipped to address the small business applicants or whatever those interested in developing something are looking for.

So, could you explain to us what criteria or conditions are put into the Contribution Agreement or anybody qualified to be a Development Officer once that funding is transferred to the community or hamlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's exactly why we're now providing, as I mentioned earlier in the day, \$100,000 per year to the municipal training organization so that they can provide necessary training to the Community Economic Development Officers.

So, hopefully through that, the communities themselves will have qualified Community Economic Development Officers that are able to work in the community and do their jobs properly.

The other thing that we have is we have regional staff in each of the three regions that are there to support the Community Economic Development Officers in any support that the CEDO's need and require in order to do their work.

In terms of what's in the Contribution Agreement, I'll get my Assistant Deputy Minister to deal with that specific item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Ms. Keenainak.

**Ms. Keenainak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't remember the details but we do see what they do at the community level. We also have the community planning. I can't remember all the details but we can give you a sample Contribution Agreement some time later. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Ms. Keenainak. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** I'm not all that interested in the contribution agreement. I just want to be convinced that the conditions that are put in, really, ...you would indicate what kind of abilities or what not the communities or hamlets are supposed to use that funding for because nowadays I think we have tremendous movements in counseling business and actually developing business plans as well as feasibility studies or market studies for all that matter.

The community harvesting stuff, we can't get plans if something is not getting marketed, but I know Rankin Inlet does not have a chance if it's solely based on own source because they have to have various kinds of abilities.

So what I am trying to say is, do they have the basic skills needed or do they go on the job training for a number of years before they actually allowed to operate independently? I just want a bit of a convincing arguments from your side on the presentation that they are actually serving the communities, to work intensively with the government. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That lack of training was something that was identified and not just why they made an effort to start the municipal training organization to provide the necessary training to the CEDO's.

The economic development officers also have their association now, but they are on themselves and through that they are also now trying to identify the specific training they need and they are accessing monies either through the municipal training organization or through other contributions.

So that was the weakness that was identified and we are trying to rectify that now by using municipal training organizations to provide the necessary training to the CEDO's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** The minister will recall that I relate it to the two questions, the regional staff and exactly what they do. My thinking is, if all of this economic planning and responsibilities for developing local strategies are offloaded to local organizations, the community or hamlets, why not also do the same thing with the regional staff and transfer some of these regional operation staff directly with municipal organizations somewhere

so that they do have direct supervision in contact and advise that they need to carry their mandate?

You notice a significant difference in professional staff somewhere isolated and not close enough to the community. You can't really do a proper business plan or whatever developed for the community without having some other professional advise you.

So has that concept been considered? If not, and I think that you should also consider that because you can't really just offload at one huge responsibility to junior officer in the community and hope that the municipal council will eventually have a good economic plan. Has that been considered at all that they do need more help? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I mentioned following that weakness that was identified, and we are trying to rectify that now by providing the necessary training to the community economic development officers.

In terms of the more specific jobs such as developing a community business plan or others, communities are able to access their community initiatives programs to hire the necessary consultants and necessary experts to do those specific one-time job sort of things.

But in terms of transferring regional staff, I am not sure who to transfer them to, but if we were to look at transferring our regional staff because the way the system is set up now, we are starting to find more and more that the CEDO's, the community economic development officers, are working more and more closely with our regional staff the necessary advice, or support, or whatever it is that the CEDO's need in terms of getting support to do their jobs in the communities.

It's an ongoing development. We're still working with the CEDO's themselves and also with their territorial organizations, the Nunavut Economic Development Association to allow the CEDO's to come to a point where they are able to work professionally. And that is something we will continue to strive to do. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** I appreciate the attempt to explain, because it is important. I am not 100% sure myself, you know, the best training mode is through the municipal training organizations, because again the municipal training organizations responsible for fire fighter training and everything and all the other municipal infrastructure expertise that they need.

Are you not again putting that money into that group and hope that it will really serve the community economic development groups or officers? So, that's what I am trying to get at, because I am not 100% convinced that dedication and commitment and really the

drive to get community groups established in the spirit of free enterprise is going to be done through municipal training groups.

So, for that reason, I am not asking for the solutions now, but I like you to think it over further and announce somewhere that they will put in place the proper mechanisms to get those skills needed, and transferred directly to the community economic officers. Could you do that? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Yes, like I mentioned, this is ongoing work. It's work in progress, it's something that we will continue to monitor. If it turns out that the municipal training organization is not using our money properly, although it is given to them specifically to train Community Economic Development Officers. If, over time, we find out it's not the best way to do it, we will certainly look at other options to provide the necessary training to the CEDO's. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, I am going to back to where I left off on tourism. I think that over the years, it's an area that has always addressed needs and attention and development. It's an untapped industry as far as I see it and it uses our natural resources and it doesn't use up anything, it's not a non-renewable resource and it provides employment opportunities for Inuit and all the communities to do what they love to do.

They don't need any doctor degree or specialized training to do that. It's something that Inuit do every day. They can bring someone along with them and get paid for it. I think the potential is great there, and I will always say that we need to build on, for anywhere to be successful, you need to build on the strengths and I really believe that one of the strengths of our territory is our people.

We need to find ways to capitalize and build on those strengths and I really believe that this area of economy is one way it can do that. I think if you look at the tourism industry worldwide, it's tripled in the last 50 years and it's expected to triple again in the next 20 years or so. It's an industry that is very resilient and it has survived through all the different economic climates that is out there. If you look at places like the Yukon, born on mining and other areas that depended on non renewable resources, they're switching to tourism.

We have an opportunity here in Nunavut to get into tourism, before we get deplete our non-renewable resources. Like I said earlier, with funding that's in there, the minister indicated earlier that there's core funding and it's been the same for the last number of years.

So there's not really any perception if you look at the numbers, or room for growth, you're saying one thing, and yet you're providing the resources for that area to grow. The

minister indicated that they are allowed to leverage federal dollars, if that's out of the core funding or do they have a separate pot of money that they could tap into to be able to do that.

Because if they use their core funding dollars as leverage funding for other programs, then they got to look at downsizing the programs and services that they do offer. I guess my question is, would the minister commit, I know it's too late in this year's budget, then one of the priorities this government is economic development.

The potential is great in that area, so would you commit to revisiting the whole tourism section, sector of our territory and look at some, putting forward some strategy and funding to try and develop that more aggressively in next year's budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is something that we will have to be looking at, and starting looking at already. As I mentioned earlier, we have not, with a MOU with Nunavut Tourism. Through that, we are able to work much more clearly, and much closer together in terms of developing the tourism industry in Nunavut.

And so we will be working much closely with Nunavut Tourism, an organization that, the industry themselves demanded be set up some years ago and not have government run tourism, they wanted to be in a much better position to run the tourism industry in Nunavut.

We've now more than doubled our contribution to Nunavut Tourism just in the last three years. Three years ago, our contribution to Nunavut Tourism was only \$1 million, it's a little over \$2 million now and no doubt will continue to grow as they themselves, Nunavut Tourism, continue to grow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that the people from Nunavut Tourism will be happy to hear that, because I'm sure they're in the best position to deal with that. Right now I believe they're limited to what they can do with the funding that they have available to them.

One of the other areas in here, on K-10, dealing with Nunavut visitor's centers, there again it's good to see that there's some funding in the budget for that, it wasn't there before, that's something that's completely new funding, is that transferred from somewhere else and where are those dollars ear marked for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll have my assistant deputy minister answer that question please. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Miss. Keenainak.

**Miss. Keenainak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This particular one is specifically for the Pond Inlet facility, Nattinnaq Visitor's Center. There's also some funding provided to the Baker Lake Visitor's Centre, the Margaret Aniksak Visitor's Centre in Arviat. There are a number of facilities like that.

Previously that was listed under other contribution agreements, one time contribution agreements. For next year we decided to put that as a separate line item because those contributions were being provided annually. So presented as new, but we are describing it in more detail so that is clearly in the main estimates for those visitor's centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Keenainak. I think it is good again that we are seeing some dollars getting put out there to those. I have been to two of those three visitor's centres that you talked about and they are quite nice. It is good to see funding going in there because there are people that go to those communities. It has been a gateway community to different parks and things like that and it is important that we have a good presence there.

One other area that I wanted to ask is on K-11. It is on Economic Development Initiatives, there is \$4 million there. I am just wondering if there is anything specific that those dollars are targeted to, any projects. Or is that going to be basically a pool for groups or hamlets or municipalities to be able to tap into to use as leverage funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This money that we are looking at is there to support capital infrastructure priorities. It's not so much individual contributions to communities. It's something that we are looking at doing, mostly ourselves, as a department.

Potential investments could be natural capital; it should be stuff like building the knowledge base of Nunavut. Physical capital although this is O&M money it will not be so much for actual physical capital. There is human capital, organizational capital. Different areas that we are looking at to support the necessary capital infrastructure that we need in Nunavut to promote business development in the north, to promote industry in the north.

So that \$4 million we are looking right now at administering that ourselves, as a department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you are going to administer that out, to who? To yourself? Is that what the minister is indicating? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** I will get my Deputy Minister to answer that. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In addition to the minister's response, we have prepared an Economic Development Fund proposal that has been approved in principle by Cabinet. We have identified priority areas, mining, fisheries, arts and crafts and tourism are the priority areas that the Government of Nunavut would looking at investing the \$4 million.

We are also anticipating and proposing to use the \$4 million as our leverage to again whatever Economic Development funding we get from the \$90 million that has been announced by INAC. So it is our leverage as well toward some of those initiatives that have been identified under that proposal.

The minister indicated earlier that we have been having meeting both at his level, the minister level, and the Deputy Minister level to try and come up with a common approach to delivering the economic development initiatives in Nunavut. This \$4 million will go towards that as well as a primary focus. Again, there was a letter that was written to the Members of the Legislative Assembly by our Minister advising them of this proposal and requesting comments on it earlier in January.

So, that's the same one that we're advancing and there was a listing of projects there identified. Some of them would be ready to go. Some of them would have to go through feasibility and studies like that being we entertain some of those projects. Some of the concerns that INAC had was they didn't want to go into fiscal capital inequities because some of the projects, as I said would require some feasibility studies, some would require engineering studies and some require environmental studies.

So, we have to be in a meeting with the INAC officials in the next two weeks to determine what those priorities are. They would work together on with the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Deputy Minister for clarifying that. I just want to ask, as he indicated this \$4 million is going to tie into leverage funding for \$90 million that we're getting from the federal government. Out of this \$4 million is he indicating that the majority of this they want to use towards things like feasibility studies and engineering studies or was it the opposite. I'd like to get that clarified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** I'd like to have my Deputy Minister answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Campbell.

**Mr. Campbell:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What I was suggesting was the list that we provided to INAC includes some Capital Infrastructure Projects in there.

Their concern was some of those projects may not be doable next year or within the next four years because of the requirements that feasibility studies have to be done or engineering studies have to be done or environmental assessments have to be done.

So, putting that aside, on that list, there is some projects there that might be doable next year or within the next two years or four years that we can certainly discuss and do an implementation plan on those projects is what they're suggesting. Those are the discussions that we're having right now with INAC officials.

The proposal that the Minister has been advancing is a total investment of \$60 million by the Government of Nunavut over 4 years but we can only speak for \$4 million because that's what's being discussed here.

Any additional money towards the proposal would have to go through this process again next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank Mr. Campbell for clarifying that. My next question deals with economic development and one of the things that the minister had indicated that they want to be doing or working on doing is implementing Economic Development Strategy that joint strategy between the government and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc and some of the initiatives identified in there. As you know and I know the minister knows that for many years now I've been involved in a push to try and get community financial institutions in place in Nunavut communities.

I really believe this has to happen. We're not going to see, I don't believe any of the major chartered banks going into communities. It's not worth it for them. They don't care



about, their corporate culture is centred in Toronto and they just look at numbers and the Bank of Montreal is a perfect example of that.

They pulled out of here because they weren't making enough money. I know, I asked the Minister earlier on about the progress that the department is making in looking at community based financial institutions. Could you further clarify where things are at with that in that division in his department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. In terms of advancing this idea, as a department, as a minister, as I mentioned in the House, a number days ago, it's something that's one of my own personal priorities. As you say it's something that's drastically needed in Nunavut. As mentioned in the House number of days ago, it's something that I've been working on, aside from the work that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is doing with Atuqtuarvik, they are doing their own work on the file.

I have been meeting with people in Toronto, Credit Union, Central Ontario, in fact they're interested in coming up here again to meet with me and also to meet with some local people that are interested in starting up a Credit Union movement in Nunavut.

So they're very interested in coming up here and will be coming up very soon. So hopefully that will lead to more discussions with those local groups and with other groups across Nunavut that is interested as well. So hopefully that their trip up here will result in movement on the file. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased to hear that and you know I think as a minister's predecessor in this Assembly would always used to say is that it's no secret that the banks are making millions of dollars. A community, Nunavut based Credit Union system. We can make that money and keep that money in Nunavut.

I think that's one thing that we always try and strive for, try and find ways to keep those dollars as much, as many times in Nunavut, it could be an organization that is owned by Nunavummiut whether they are by Inuit or non-Inuit, everyone's a member. So I think that's another big plus for that.

My question to the minister is if they come and they are very interested and the local groups meet with them and they're looking at things. Would the minister commit to doing what he can within the fiscal restraints of his department and staff to try and help facilitate and ensure you, that if the goal is there, the desire is there from all sides to do what he can to make it happen so that we can finally see community-owned financial institutions in Nunavut, Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would depend entirely on how those discussions go, between myself and the group and also between the group and the local interest group and also with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Who knows maybe it's something that's very doable. Maybe it's something that Credit Union Central Ontario would want to do on their own with a north, Nunavut group or maybe with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated or Atuqtuarvik or local groups, I don't know what the make up would be. My department would certainly do whatever it can to support those developments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**(interpretation): Mr. Tootoo you have no more time, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to speak on that as well. I just want to at least also bring a word of caution of the commitment that may be hard to really put into place. If you look at the financial markets, the profit criteria /goal of these financial institution is obviously to transfer the shareholders to the Nunavut, and I'm not hundred percent sure it's all that easy to establish a Credit Union because it's not only about lending and earning interest, you have to set up an insurance fund probably double the size of your portfolio and who is going to invest into that insurance fund.

That was the reason why many of the groups like NTI, and the Credit Union that are prepared to take on the existing one, because the market for establishing customers up here is still quite low in that respect. You have an institution is providing that service, eventually we'll catch up with the market, but our market is still quite small. I want to put a word of caution into this thing, because we can be appearing to say yes we will have a Credit Union but at the same time, who is going to put up the risk and set up an insurance fund that is required by the federal regulations. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. And yes, that's exactly why it would be the experts, the credit unions centrals themselves that would be the lead on this file. My department will be there just to provide whatever support we can, if that file is to move forward. They're the experts, I'm not. They're the bankers, I'm not, and so it would be their call really, whether they can see a market up here and if it's something that they can do. That's their call, it's certainly not mine. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We don't have a quorum right now. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list. Thank you. Mr. Kilabuk.

Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Economic Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$23,995,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Going to page 12. We are dealing on transportation now. Economic Development and Transportation. Branch Summary. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. We briefly talked about some of the stuff that we wanted to talk about, such as CARS, because sometimes there are getting away from the communities. I think there are quite a few communities that have broken away from doing contracts with CARS and the officials told us they wanted to try and get long-term funding agreement.

Is there anything new that you can tell us Mr. Minister in that regard? The people that work at the communications building of the terminal, I would like to get a bit of information again because the department has offloaded those CARS to the hamlets and some of them were in a bad situation.

So for that reason, maybe the minister can provide us with further information about what their negotiations are with NavCanada. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Curley. For the record, could you please introduce your witnesses, Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Methuselak Kunuk, Assistant Deputy Minister of transportation, in regards to the CARS program in the communities, those observer communicators, presently the NavCanada's Executive were just awaiting there, waiting for them at this time whether there is an agreement in place or not, after we have the negotiations.

We are just awaiting on the NavCanada group, after negotiations were done, where just waiting to hear from them now. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): That's very important information that we wanted to hear, because some of the communities have a separate contract, perhaps if the department could give us information about which communities have a contract? Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify that, I think there are four communities that have contractors. But we will look at it to see if that number is correct. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Yes that's good to hear. To the next one, Access Roads, there use to be a section here on Access Roads and is this under the municipalities. During the Committee meeting we touched upon this a bit, some bridges were a bit too big, I just want the minister to elaborate more on this. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes that is under capital.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Under transportation, there are long term strategies, and we talked a bit about medical travel, and how we can change some of the policies under the medical medivac travel.

We asked them to be a bit more cautious, because it's not just passengers, there's a lot of cargo coming in and out of Kivalliq, and we didn't want them to jump in and sign the agreement.

This is mainly a comment but I'd like to ask maybe your deputy or your assistant in regards to marine transportation, the new contract. How many contracts are there, and when does it terminate. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contracts are under Community and Government Services. We are not responsible for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): They didn't have a transportation section and we somehow failed to skip that section. Under Transportation Strategy, you probably include Marine Transportation. After there have been some changes from Montreal, the cost of living impact is quite high.

I wonder if this was taken into consideration when you were negotiating with the marine strategy because you have to consider Manitoba and Kivalliq region, that's their supply route and it will never really go to Quebec.

I wonder if this can be considered this way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): The Community and Government Services, we can assist them in having discussions with those but at this time, this is under the responsibility of Community and Government Services when it comes to contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The marine transportation is our main transportation because the air transportation, if it was under one of the recommendations, even though you don't provide the contracts, I think you make the policies, which includes marine, doesn't really involve highways because we don't have any, so it's either going to be marine or air transportation. Maybe if I ask the minister, what is the purpose of the Marine Transportation Strategy.

**Chairman**: Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With transportation, we mainly deal with break waters, roads, access roads, and if we get fortunate enough to get highways, the highway to Montreal and the airstrip, those are the main ones that we deal with in transportation.

**Chairman**: Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under minor works, Coast Guard, I know it's under third parties; it deals with marine re-supply facilities.

Will the transportation part always be with Economic Development or will it be moved under Community and Government Services. The third party funding that was received last year, \$368,000. The marine service fees, the price went up. Has anybody ever complained from shipping companies because it is too costly for the Eastern Arctic. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kunuk can respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The marine services, ice-breaking services are combined together under the federal government. Even though we don't really have the power but through discussions, some of the ships that come into our communities, how and why they are charged for fees, even though there is a provision there that it shouldn't apply to north of sixty? It's because they depart from down south and come up and they have to go down south.

We asked if they could be exempted but the way the federal government looks at it is different. Maybe it is too technical. It is depending on what the supplies are that are on the ships. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I wonder if the transportation have heard the marine services fees costs quite a bit. The construction companies and Northern Stores charge back to the operators to pay the Coast Guard for the icebreaking services. (interpretation ends) The Marine Transportation companies pass it on to either government and then it goes to the consumer one way or the other. (interpretation) The freight costs go up.

Have you raised this concern to the federal government? In that regard that it should be exempt for the shipping services in the Eastern Arctic. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you. I received correspondence from the shipping company that comes to the Nunavut. They are charged with the fees that they have to pay.

I raised a concern that that was one of the reasons why the prices are going up and I have written a letter to the Minister of Transportation. I expect that he will respond and I will be meeting with the minister this spring and I will discuss again that this is not acceptable to Nunavummiut. The federal minister and I are working on this. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): So I would just tell the minister that the Coast Guards, their agent...When the cost of living is too high the homeowners and businesses the price of a house, 33 percent of it is just transportation costs.

For that reason I wonder if the Indian Affairs Minister, since he will be coming up to see, they say that that they can't have it exempted but in the Great Lakes they are exempt. So I feel that we should be exempt of taxing with the marine ships that come up from Montreal. I wonder if the minister can bring this to his federal counterpart. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you. That is one of the things that I am willing to discuss with the minister that we should also be exempt from that fee. To make him understand to see if anything can be done about that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. We know that they are very stubborn but even if they don't agree right away in the Great Lakes the shipping companies are exempted and around Hay River, NTCL up towards north of sixty.

For the ships that come up to the Eastern Arctic, the fees are skyrocketing, so I would urge the Minister to always bring this up and I want our colleagues, Community and

Government Services to bring this up because everything costs so much more up here. Thank you.

**Chairman:** I didn't hear a question. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under K-14, (interpretation ends): Nanisivik Polaris Social Economic Study in colored gemstone project (interpretation): was funded in 2004/05 and this year there is nothing budgeted. Is it because the project is completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We were given \$55 thousand in 2004 from INAC and that was to conclude to the closure of the Nanisivik Polaris Mine.

There was also a discovery around Kimmirut on gemstones and they were going to do more exploring. It was to initiate to start exploring on gemstones and this funding was already used up because the purpose of it is completed for that, so that's why there is no further funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The standing committee raised a concern yesterday, in regards to the airstrips. The smaller communities are left out when it comes to the ports facilities. Thank you.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fisheries and Oceans, we want to work with them and we have requested funding to improve the ports in seven communities. Last summer there was a consultation with the communities and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans identified seven communities that they would consider building ports for.

The report has been given to the Minister but the Minister has not responded to see if those seven communities were identified, are going to receive ports. We expect to hear from the Minister very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wrote a letter to you because this was a concern from my constituents in regards to access roads. There used to be funding provided for access roads but now we don't see it on paper any more so can he update us on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community access roads is under capital, and it was already approved. \$150 thousand has been identified to the communities to build access roads. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you. We haven't had an update on the Manitoba - Kivalliq highway, could you give us an update on that issue? Thank you. Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you. We are helping financially, but it's mostly being worked on by the Inuit associations. We have identified who is going to be doing the study. The company is called Essency-Lavolin, and they'll be doing a study on the highway that is being proposed between Manitoba and Kivalliq. It's Essency-Lavolin, they're going to do a study where or how it's going to be constructed and all the other logistics. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to ask some questions on the transportation end of things, but before I do, I'd just like to beg your members or acknowledge Mike Ilnik in the gallery here. Mike is well known to many members of this House and he's also known to me as a defend, and he's laughing over there because he knows what that means. I would like to welcome him to the gallery, and it's good to see him around. And, also understand Mr. Chairman, he just celebrated his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday about a week and a half ago, so I'd like to wish him a happy belated birthday.

Mr. Chairman, on the transportation end of things, my colleague from Rankin brought up a very excellent point on an issue I raised with the Minister earlier during the session, and he had committed to contacting the shipping companies that have to pay those onerous fees and tariffs set forth by the federal government.

And, you know, to me, what my colleague from Rankin Inlet indicated, they gave themselves an exemption for the Great Lakes, well you know, another perfect example, if you want to call it of urban rule, where they look after themselves, and that's where most of those companies are based, they don't have to worry about it.

You know, I think, to me, it's just another pathetic excuse of a decision made by the federal government that they look after their majority big urban centres and industry in that area, but you know, a decision like that, without realizing, maybe it's just ignorance, let's hope it is, that the impact that it has on a territory like ours and you know, and with the limited resources we do have to spend on construction on anything, everything we get from the south comes by ship, and that cost has gone up because of these fees and tariffs.



I know I asked the Minister on this earlier and I just had to, it burns me to see stuff like that going on, and again offer the Minister anything that I can do, or we can do as Members of this Assembly to assist him in trying to convince the federal government to wake up and smell the coffee on some of these things, the impact that it does have on us, we will do what we can. I had to get that out of my system. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman, on the transportation end of things, one question I have for the Minister, has to deal with the airport here. And it's my understanding that the airport here in Iqaluit, when being looked at, is being officially designated as an International airport and I am just wondering if that's something that designation is in fact in place, or are they looking at it, or where are we at. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Tootoo, and if he's a Leaf fan, I wish him my condolences. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** I'm told that the Iqaluit airport has always been an international airport. That's what I'm told. I'm so sorry.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a good thing we have a minister of immigration here. As a result of Iqaluit being an international airport, and given the changes that have been forced on the whole air industry as a result of 9/11 and other events since then. Are there any additional criteria that the airport has to meet in order to maintain that designation? Are there any specific changes or improvements or security issues that have to get looked at as a result of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My assistant deputy minister is in a much better position to answer that. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): In regards to the Iqaluit airport, we are looking at the security aspects of the airport because of the land limit issue; it doesn't have much, in fact, because it's designated as an international airport, but it's a capital city, we do get a lot of aircraft from all over the world and it's more on 9/11, more so than being designated. We have to look at the security aspects and putting detectors and so on. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those changes, is that something we're going to be getting federal assistance on, or again, are those things that are pretty much being

forced on us by the federal regulation. I'm just wondering if we're going to be getting any funding from them to comply with their regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Canadian Air transport security authority is finding the necessary funding for us, for the necessary security measures in the Iqaluit airport. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was good to hear that. Are there any other issues around safety other than the security issues, I know at that time they were looking at, I think it was the maximum number of planes that they could set down here, it was about 17, and be able to put there on the ground, 11, or 17 or 14 planes that they were looking at, they were all getting diverted.

That day, we didn't end up with any here, but that was the plan, the maximum that we could take.

Are there any, and also the fact if you look at the airport here, it is a very busy airport and are there any other safety issues around that the department is looking at with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Mr. Kunuk.

**Mr. Kunuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because of the small size of the terminal, that is why we only had a limited number of aircraft that could come in since 9/11. And, because of the Canadian regulations and CARS, we have to make changes to the airport.

It is in the plans because we have to comply with the standards that are set up by the federal government and we'll be getting funding from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have any indication on when that is going to be? I remember asking that question last year and there were indications then that it was going in this year's plan to the federal government, as a priority of this government for consideration.

I'm just wondering if it was something that was approved through that funding or has it been put on hold again for yet another year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Iqaluit Airports is one of the issues I discussed with the federal Transport Minister when I was in Ottawa a few months ago now. I outlined to him the security issues, safety issues that we have here.

I still haven't received an answer from him as to where he's gone with it. It is something that I will be raising with him again the next time I meet with him which will certainly be within the next couple of months. I will be asking him for an update on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On K-14, the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program, the ship, for the last few years has come in but this year there isn't anything there. So, I'm just wondering if the ship sank or what happened to the funding there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That program right now is on hold. Transport Canada wanted to wait until the three air terminal buildings that we're building in Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven and Pond Inlet are completed before they look at more ship funding. That ship is in dock somewhere. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When does the Minister anticipate that those projects will be finished so that other projects that have been identified by the government will be able to be brought forward and identified. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ATBs in Pond Inlet and Coral Harbour are basically finished. There is still a bit of minor work to be done on the both of them. The construction on the Gjoa Haven one was stopped for the winter. The work on that one will begin again very soon. We're hoping that that one will be completed this spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can one anticipate that maybe by this fall, when we look at the Capital Budget that there will be ship building dollars in the budget again for other identified priorities, identified by this department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Minister.

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, my department will be negotiating with Transport Canada as soon as the three ATBs are completed. So, hopefully we will be able to get some more money from Transport Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again there was, if we could go back a page, on to K-13 on the Community Aerodrome Radio Stations, and there was \$4.6 million for last year, a little bit more than that for the year before, nothing for this year.

I'm just wondering at that, looks like everything else that the federal government gave us money to do things for us is gone. I'm just wondering if you have an explanation on that from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier in the day, that most negotiations with NavCanada are basically completed, a final proposal has been submitted to the Chief Executive Officer of NavCanada. He has taken it to his Board of Directors, and were hoping to have an answer for that pretty well any day now.

But it would be new money, it would be 2005/06 money from NavCanada, which is why there's no amount in there right now, if those negotiations are successful, then they would show up April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I note that looking at the numbers from previous years were \$4.619 million and last year \$4.678 million were the actual from the year before, hopefully it will be higher than that, because I'm sure that cost of delivering services has gone up and not down over the years.

So hopefully that's something, again were taking on through the negotiations with the attitude that we'll do something if we give us the appropriate resources, to do it properly. Just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman:** Thank you. That was just a comment, your time is up. Mr. Evygotailak.

**Mr. Evygotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question to the minister, apart from that, I wanted to comment on the harbor, when the ship came in the dock, it wasn't ready, at the time the contract wasn't completed because of the fact the route they were taking to another community, the weather wasn't good for sailing, they harbored into Kugluktuk and apparently then they finished the dock.

During the spring time, the people have complaints about the breakwater because of the fact it wasn't completed, the standards.

As we know, when you have ice roads along the shore, the ice tend to brake up faster without snow, and this was back when an individual went through the ice in the spring.

And there were complaints and concerns about the ice roads, when they put ice roads along the shore, they should complete the roads with snow over them, so that they have a more solid access to cross over by skidoo, because of the fact that when the Kugluktuk river froze down, it tends to break up the ice rapidly. My question would be can you ask the contractors to do a good job of completing the ice roads and cover the ice roads with snow so that during the spring time it's not so dangerous for individuals to cross over.

That's a long the dock and that's a question for the Transportation Department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my Deputy Minister look into that and once he finds out, he will inform the members of the legislature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister for your reply. I would like to meet with you once again on this matter. I thank you for your reply. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, though I spoke about this issue earlier, the operator has given an information sheet. The cost of living is quite high. We might have a motion in the house, I think would be ideal. So, I'll be reading in English very briefly in regards to that information that was provided to us.

The Government of Canada in 1996/97 introduced user fees as a cost recovery mechanism, for the provision of marine service by the Canadian Coast Guard including H Navigation and ice breaking. I'm just going to skip down a bit.

In 1997, after the Marine Service Fees Policy was implemented, the Canadian Coast Guard Officials realized that vessels that service communities in the Eastern Arctic depart from locations South of 60. Consequently, it was proposed by the Canadian Coast Guard in consultation with industry that vessels with container plans would be charged for marine services fees at lower ton/Km rate.

In 2000, breaking with the conventional accepted practice, the Canadian Coast Guard redefined the definition of container vessel, thereby increasing the marine service fee rates charged by more than 10 times against the vessels inclusively servicing the Eastern Arctic. This fee increase occurred at a time the Canadian Coast Guard was under a moratorium on fee increases. I am going to skip further.

The Canadian Coast Guard claims no single adjustment to the marine services fees are possible at this time. This, however, is not consistent with recent facts. For example, on December 17, 2004, the Canadian Coast Guard gave notice it is pursuing the single adjustment to the fee structure for a select group of shippers in the Great Lakes, hence not only single adjustments possible, they are being pursued right now by Canadian Coast Guard for select shippers in the south.

So, Mr. Chairman, what these groups of operators are looking for is that the fees be disallowed and be retroactive. So, I'm proposing if the members can agree that we can introduce a motion to disallow this it would be important tool for you as the Minister when you're speaking with the Minister.

I just wanted to put those on the record, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. That was not a question. I have no more names on my list. We are on page 12. Economic Development and Transportation Branch Summary. Total operations and maintenance, \$16,884,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** K-13, 14. Page 4, Economic Development and Transportation. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance, \$44,664,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are we agreed that Economic Development and Transportation is completed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister. Do you have any last comments on your budget or department; you have a couple of minutes. Thank you.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. The questions that were posed and the comments that were made have been recorded and taken by my officials. I am sure that I will look into them and improve, and your comments are very well taken. I thank the members for their questions and I thank my officials for assisting me while I sit at this table answering questions. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you Minister. I would like to thank your officials as well. I would ask Minister Tapardjuk, of Human Resources to make his opening remarks.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to present the proposed Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Human Resources for 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Human Resources has been allocated of \$19.4 million which represents an increase of 7.6 percent of \$1.9 million over last year's budget. We have a compliment of 87.5 staff, which includes 14 management intern positions that are assigned across most government departments.

Our goal is to develop programs and services that will produce long-term benefits to Nunavummiut. At the same time, we will increase the representation of Inuit in the Government of Nunavut. We will continue to lead the implementation of the Inuit Employment Plan, by working closely with all departments to develop a more defined plan, targets and shared accountability. We will establish and implement the communication strategy and peer group programs to promote employment and training opportunities to beneficiaries. With this increase, awareness and improved communication, the Department will ensure all government opportunities are known to beneficiaries. About 29 percent or \$5.6 million of the department's budget is allotted for Inuit Employment initiatives.

Almost half or \$9.3 million of the department's budget is allotted for the effective management of its recruitment and retention programs. We will continue to look for new ways to improve our centralized recruitment services. The new standards of service have been introduced to provide more responses and to improve service delivery.

The department is continuously enhancing the staffing process and guidelines to provide a responsive and transparent recruitment process to all government departments, and to ensure the consistent application of the priority hiring policy which provides employment priority to beneficiaries.

The funding for summer student employment program is increased by \$250,000. Cabinet has approved recommendations for the changes to the program regarding eligibility and administration.

With the additional funding, new terms of reference, we will continue to provide training and employment opportunities to the young people of Nunavut. The remaining \$4.5 million or 23 percent of the total budget is allocated for employee wellness, employee relations, and job evaluation programs.

The department will continue to provide wellness programs by delivering year round courses and workshops designed to improve the well being of employees, and to ensure safe working conditions.

In the next fiscal year, the department will start negotiations for the new collective agreement with the federation of Nunavut teachers as its present agreement expires on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The review of the public service act will be completed in 2005/06 which will reflect the objectives, policies and practices of the Nunavut government. We will also continue to audit job descriptions to eliminate artificial and inflated barriers and will increase efforts to include Inuit culture and language components in government positions.

Mr. Chairman, the programs and services of the department are fully supportive of the goals and priorities that are outlined in *Pinasuaqtavut*, and are culturally sensitive to Inuit society values through the principles of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, to enable us to carry out our task in leading and developing the governments public service and provide human resource management support to Government of Nunavut departments and agencies.

We will need the resources identified in the draft main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer your questions. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have comments? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to provide the committee's comments on the 2005/06 main estimates and business plans for the Department of Human Resources.

The committee notes that the proposed 2005/06 budget for the department is \$19,396,000. This represents a 79 percent increase over the department's initial 1999/2000 budget allocation of \$10,836,000, and a seven percent increase over the 2004/05 main estimates for the department.

The committee has noted that the Government of Nunavut's overall vacancy rate remains at almost 20 percent. In other words, almost one out of every 5 full-time positions in the Government of Nunavut stands vacant. Approximately 42 percent of the vacant positions are located in Iqaluit, where there are approximately 240 vacancies. Half a decade ago, in January of 2000, the Government of Nunavut-wide vacancy rate was approximately 25 percent. It remains unclear to the committee as to whether reducing the government's overall vacancy rate to 10 percent is a realistic goal in the short or even medium-term.

The committee has noted that almost all Government of Nunavut departments added PYs to their organizational structures in their 2005/06 business plans, despite being largely unable to fill all or most of their existing positions.

Members are aware that departments develop their annual budgets on the assumption that all positions are filled. Indeed, the vacancy rate continues to serve as an informal contingency fund for the Government of Nunavut.



The committee is aware that the department has Government of Nunavut-wide responsibilities in relation to job evaluation and classification. The committee is concerned by what appears to be an inordinately high rate of growth in the number of Government of Nunavut positions classified as being in the management category, as opposed to the number of non-management, front-line positions.

For example, according to the department's own quarterly IEP reports, in January of 2000, there were 233 positions classified as middle management. That number has since grown to approximately 410 positions, an increase of over 75 percent. By contrast, the number of administrative support positions has actually decreased by almost 20 percent. Indeed, from September 30 to December 31 of 2004, the number of middle management positions jumped from 380 to 410 – an increase of almost eight percent in just one fiscal quarter.

In the past, concerns were raised with respect to the excessive use of casuals to fill positions on a long-term basis. In its recent response to a Written Question posed in the House by a committee member, the department indicated that the total number of casuals has decreased from 476 in September of 2002 to 331 in September of 2004. The committee is supportive of efforts to ensure that casual hiring concentrates on bringing Inuit into the Government of Nunavut's workforce.

Members note that the Inuit employment rate remains static at approximately 45 percent. Members note with particular concern that the Inuit employment rate for headquarters positions in Iqaluit is just over 30 percent. In other words, only 3 out of every 10 Government of Nunavut jobs in Iqaluit is filled with a beneficiary.

Members noted that the department's business plan indicates that work is being undertaken to review the *Public Service Act* and bring forward amendments to the statute. The Committee does not want to see this undertaking be a consultant-driven process, and would wish to see the Nunavut Employees Union and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers have a meaningful involvement in the process. The idea of re-introducing binding arbitration into the GN's collective bargaining regime is one worth considering.

The Committee noted that the department's business plan indicates that reviews of the GN's Priority Hiring Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Anti-Harassment Policy, Language Incentive Policy and Code of Conduct continue to be at various stages of development.

In the case of the Language Incentive Policy, which would apply to bilingual bonuses for employees, the Committee notes that this policy has been under review for a number of years now without apparent resolution. The Committee would wish to see such a policy encourage the use of Inuit languages in the workplace, especially with respect to front-line positions that directly serve the public.

In many cases, Inuktitut proficiency should be a job requirement. It is also worth considering providing incentives for employees who bring recognized knowledge of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit practices to the workplace. The Committee would also wish to see the department give consideration to modifying the Priority Hiring Policy with respect to long-term Northerners and the disabled. The Committee looks forward to these revised policies being provided to the Committee for comment prior to their being finalized and tabled in the House.

The Committee has noted with concern that a clear system for whistleblower protection for members of our public service is not in place. At the national level, Bill C-11, the new public servants disclosure protection legislation, was introduced last fall in the House of Commons. The Committee urges the GN to give serious consideration to developing similar legislation during the life of this Legislative Assembly's mandate, including the establishment of some form of ombudsman position from whom employees could seek advice and assistance.

The issue of workforce morale is important. Although the Committee has noted with approval that the GN's turnover rate decreased from 31% in 2000 to 18% in 2003-2004, the issue of workplace absenteeism is clearly a problem. The recent response to a Written Question posed in the House by a Committee Member revealed that the absenteeism rate across the GN doubled between 2002-03 and 2003-04, and increased again in the first six months of 2004-05. The number of active grievances increased from 96 in March of 2003 to 116 in March of 2004.

Members would caution the Minister with respect to the risk of public confidence in the fairness of the government's employment practices being undermined by perceptions of favouritism, especially with respect to the hiring of employees' spouses or partners. At the same time, it is incumbent on the government to ensure that its hiring practices are rules-based, and not influenced by unsubstantiated rumours regarding individuals. The Committee would also wish to see the GN's practices in such areas as overtime and educational leave applied consistently, fairly and responsibly.

Members continue to note with concern the striking gap between the number of beneficiary males and the number of beneficiary females employed by the GN. According to the 2003-2004 Public Service Annual Report, although almost 800 female beneficiaries were employed as of March 2004, the number for male beneficiaries was only around 300. It is disturbing that so few male beneficiaries are having success entering and staying in the public service. Members have noted the department's intention to consider actions to address this issue with revisions to the Priority Hiring Policy.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee has noted with approval the departmental business plan's focus on the Inuit Employment Plan. Members await with interest the formal tabling of the "Seeking Balance" IEP strategy document. Members are aware that the GN has set a target date of 2008 for 50 percent or more of all positions across all occupational categories to be filled by Inuit. This is an ambitious goal, given that almost 400 new Inuit

employees will need to be hired in order to achieve it. Members urge the department to continue its efforts to work in partnership with other entities to secure training investments from the federal government in order to help us achieve our long-term Article 23 goals, and build a representative and professional public service.

On a related issue, the Committee noted with interest that a training audit has been undertaken with respect to quantifying the amount of investment in training across the public service. Members look forward to that audit providing sound information on which to build meaningful training initiatives that enable our employees to succeed and grow. Members would wish to see training opportunities to be designed and delivered in Nunavut, in order to minimize the costs associated with sending our employees out of the territory for courses, and to maximize the relevancy of the training for our circumstances.

Mr. Chairman, the Committee supports such valuable initiatives as the Summer Student Employment Program. However, concerns have been raised in the past with respect to the issue of fairness in respect to the treatment of some categories of students under this program. The Committee is pleased that the 2005 program will address these inequities, while retaining as its core focus the need to provide meaningful training and work experience opportunities for Inuit students. Members also look to such excellent programs as Nunavut Youth Abroad and Nunavut Sivuniksavut as being the source of many of our future employees.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual Members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you. I would like to recognize the clock and move to rise to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We have a motion on the Floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. Those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Chairman Evyagotailak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your committee has been considering Bill 8 and the Main Estimates, I would like to report progress. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of this Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor. Who seconds it. Mr. Barnabas. The motion is in order, all those in favor. Opposed. Abstained. 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. An announcement for tomorrow, meeting of the Regular Caucus at 10 o'clock in the morning in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for Thursday, March 17, 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. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of 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 of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 17, 2005 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-arms

>>*House adjourned at 18:07*

