



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**2nd Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 28**

**Thursday March 17, 2005**

**Pages 1908 – 1964**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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(Tununiq)

**Steve Mapsalak**  
(Akulliq)

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**  
(Amittuq)  
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Elders and Youth; Minister of  
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Minister Responsible for  
Sport Nunavut*

**David Alagalak**  
(Arviat)

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**  
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Liquor Licensing Board  
Crown Agency Council*

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Nunavut Development  
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**Keith Peterson**  
(Cambridge Bay)

**Peter Kattuk**  
(Hudson Bay)

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)

**Hon. Ed Picco**  
(Iqaluit East)  
*Minister of Education; Minister  
of Energy; Minister Responsible  
for Qulliq Energy Corporation  
Minister Responsible for Nunavut  
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Responsible, Homelessness and  
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Minister of Executive and  
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Utility Rates Review Council*

**Joe Allen Evyagotailak**  
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**Patterk Netser**  
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**Hon. Peter Kilabuk**  
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(Rankin Inlet North)

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

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

**James Arreak**  
(Uqqurmiut)

**Levi Barnabas**  
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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, March 17, 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. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Members absent:**

Mr. Keith Peterson

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 089 – 2(2): Workers' Compensation Board – Nunavut Operations**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good day. I rise today to recognize the Nunavut operations of the Workers' Compensation Board. The Workers' Compensation Board has offices in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit, which delivers safety and training programs, workers' claims services and employer services, as well as the associated support functions.

Workers' Compensation Board Nunavut operations has been very successful in attracting and retaining well qualified and committed staff. I am pleased to announce that Nunavut's Workers' Compensation Board offices are currently fully staffed, with 44 percent Inuit employment.

As a result of its qualified and committed staff, Workers' Compensation Board Nunavut Operations is able to provide services to all communities in Nunavut in a timely fashion. I would like to share two of these highlights:

- Worker claims are being processed more quickly. In 2005, 93 percent of all claimants received a first payment within 25 days. This is up from 35 percent in 2004. This means that injured workers can focus on recovery, instead of worrying about finances.

- Training programs and safety inspections have increased significantly. Nine communities have already been visited in the first two months of 2005. These programs help to prevent accidents from occurring. As a result, the number of worker injuries has decreased by 17 percent even while the Nunavut workforce continues to grow.

More interactions with workers and employers, and partnerships with industry and Government Departments will continue throughout 2005 as the Workers' Compensation Board initiates a number of new initiatives, which include the new rate classification system, a strategic safety plan and legislative changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Going to the orders of the day. Item 3. Members' statements. Mr. Okalik.

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

#### **Member's Statement 231 – 2(2): Recognition of Elders**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not exactly how to say it, but I am very pleased that the elders are here. I was extremely proud last night when I was able to meet with the elders and watch the entertainment. I now know that there is a vast amount of wisdom and I felt like a little child when we had our banquet.

I would like to thank every elder, who are sitting in the House, for their contributions. It was very significant and it shows that they are proud to be an Inuk and they are proud of the government, and they want to be closer to their government. That was obvious last night at our function.

I thank you very, very much, I am extremely proud of every single one of you. I was there with my children and they saw the significance of being Inuit. They are very young but they saw the significance of being with the elders. I asked how it felt and they said that it gave them a true meaning of who they are. With all the work that you are doing, we will carry it on through the appropriate minister.

Thank you very much for being able to get together with us last night. We will move forward with your wisdom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 232 – 2(2): Wildlife Act Regulations**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my concern with respect to the development of regulations under the new *Wildlife Act*. This new legislation was passed by the first Legislative Assembly; however, we know that the regulations that are made under the Act will have a significant impact on how this new law will affect our hunters and our trappers.

In a letter dated January 10 of this year, the Minister of Environment advised the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit, that he would be shortly taking the draft regulations to Cabinet for approval before going to communities for consultations, before consulting with the hunters and trappers and the affected stakeholders.

I know that the minister is a hunter himself and I am certain that he will agree with me, as being a hunter himself, when I say that the hunters who will be most affected by the regulations need to have the opportunity to have a say in the development of these regulations.

There will have to be consultations with the Members of the Legislative Assembly, with affected hunters and trappers and with Inuit in all communities, because it will have a very long term affect on them.

I will speak in English. (interpretation ends) Hunting is the foundation of our culture as Inuit. The regulations of the *Wildlife Act* need to be well thought out. (interpretation): It will have to be well thought out. I am urging the government....

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking consent to conclude his statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said there will have to be a thorough scrutiny by the affected stakeholders like the hunters and trappers throughout. I am very proud of our elders in Nunavut and I do not want the regulations to go through without the scrutiny of those affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 233 – 2(2): Elders Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Meeting**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The elders are here through Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. For some of the elders, this is the first time that they are here and so I would like them to be welcomed. I think that they are in their proper places because the House was designed so that the elders would be in the actual House.



They are here on a conference and it boosts our energy when we see the elders. They have made a huge contribution. When we first became a government, we stated that we would incorporate Inuit Qaujimagatuuqangit into the government system.

At the appropriate time I will take the opportunity to recognize the elder who are here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 234 – 2(2): Sixty Year Wedding Anniversary – Robert and Annie Tatty**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today and we will have an opportunity to shake hands with the elders sitting around here.

I would like to focus on one couple from Rankin Inlet in particular. They will be celebrating their wedding anniversary – Robert and Annie Tatty, on March 23. Those two will have been married for 60 years on that date.

If you would like to send a wedding gift to Mr. and Mrs. Tatty, the minister sitting over there, the Minister of Health and other ministers might want to send wedding gifts to those two.

Their extended family is very large. I asked how many grandchildren they have and the reply was, I think, over 50. A long time ago when I was very little in Coral Harbour, they used to go hunting by dogteam., but I don't believe that he has dogs anymore. He does still go out on the land. If possible, and so that you don't have any excuses, this is their telephone number: 867-645-2617.

I am sure they are watching the proceedings here and we wish them 60 more years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 235 – 2(2): Education in Nunavut**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about something that we have been discussing for many, many hours in the House.

I know that the Members of the Legislature will agree that life-long learning is very important to the future of Nunavut. We have worked for a long time to improve our

student in the schools. We have worked to improve adult learning and to do capacity building and to train them with job opportunities and we are working very hard for students to complete their grade 12 to get their certification and to become qualified.

(interpretation ends) I agree that encouraging our student and adults to continue with their learning is important to the future of Nunavut. I agree that we want to promote self-reliance and we need to learn the skills to do the job that right now are being fulfilled and trained by southern professionals.

I agree that we should support Nunavummiut in their goals to become trained and educated professionals. I don't agree that we should encourage our children to follow their dreams and to get good education and then once we have them set on the path of professional cut off their support and financial assistance.

Nunavut does have a financial aid system for Nunavut students. Some of the students manage to do well. They succeed in getting university degrees and they continue with post-graduate studies.

When you are training to becoming a doctor, or an engineer in a highly specialized profession, it requires a number of years of study.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues for letting me conclude my statements. (interpretation ends) I urge the government to ensure that adequate funding is available to the students while they are working toward higher degrees and qualifications because sometimes, it takes a number of years to fulfill a requirement on some of the programs.

We need qualified professionals from Nunavut in Nunavut. We need to support those individuals from Nunavut who are trying to get those qualifications. To cut off a student's funding because of an arbitrary policy on the length of time a student can receive funding is short-sighted and counter-productive.

We need to encourage and support our young academics, and not leave them high and dry.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker I will ask questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 236 – 2(2): Recognition of Rangers in Nunavut**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in this House to recognize recent events in Kugluktuk. The Kugluktuk Ranger Patrol provides valuable service to the community. Rangers are essential to search and rescue efforts and provide other important services.

There will be a parade and graduation ceremony tonight at 7 p.m. in Kugluktuk, 9 p.m. Iqaluit time. The ceremony will also involve opportunities for the community to recognize the recent sacrifice of the four RCMP officers.

I ask all members to join me in saluting Rangers across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 237 – 2(2): Housing Shortage in Nunavut**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At times, we get nervous, especially today. It is no secret that a major crisis facing us today in Nunavut is the shortage of housing. Many of my colleagues have spoken on both sides of this House on this issue.

(Interpretation ends) Members of this House have shown frustration with respect to the lack of housing in Nunavut, especially members are frustrated by the seeming lack of understanding by the federal government.

On Tuesday night, CBC National News aired a program highlighting the housing situation in Nunavut for a southern audience. I only hope that this lends understanding to our dilemma.

I know the 3<sup>rd</sup> 2004-2005 Capital Supplementary Appropriation Act includes \$490,000 for the purchase of three properties in Gjoa Haven, to be used as staff housing for Government of Nunavut employees.

Gjoa Haven is not the only community with existing housing available for purchase. There are two units for sale in Chesterfield Inlet that are vacant, due to the inability by the owner to meet mortgage requirements.

It is shameful that these units are being allowed to sit empty and become run down while there is such a great need for housing in our communities. I urge the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to investigate the possibility of purchasing these units, and similar units across Nunavut to include them in the Housing portfolio.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite my colleagues to join me to thanking the CBC for calling national attention to the housing tragedy in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 238 – 2(2): Federal Responsibilities in the North**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I go into my Member's statement, I just want to say I feel very tiny, the same way I feel when I go out onto the land and feel very small. Knowledge wise, I feel that way today with the tremendous knowledge-base that is surrounding us here in the Assembly. I really want to acknowledge their presence. They remind me of where we came from and it makes me appreciate where we are and reaffirm where we want to go.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the issue of federal responsibilities in the north. Mr. Speaker, since we are getting close to Good Friday, I would offer the observation that you know the federal Easter Bunny is coming to town, and we get not one, but two federal press releases on the very same day announcing funding for new projects.

Yesterday in this House, my colleague from the High Arctic made reference to a town hall meeting that the Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs held earlier this week in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I've seen some notices in town announcing that the federal minister will be at a breakfast tomorrow for members of his own political party, but I haven't seen any opportunities for the general public to speak directly to him. This is certainly a disappointment, as I know people in Iqaluit have a lot to say about such issues as housing and health care.

Mr. Speaker, a little over a year ago, the Auditor General reported to Parliament on the issue of transferring federal responsibilities to the North. One of her observations was, and I quote, "The audit found that Indian and Northern Affairs Canada ... does not measure its performance in achieving the objectives that were agreed upon by the federal and territorial governments and Aboriginal groups."

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee will be holding hearings in Iqaluit next month on the issue of federal performance in this area. These ought to be worth attending.

There are a number of federal shortfalls that need to be addressed. The lack of a public commitment to date on acting on the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated's 10-year action plan for housing.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. The lack of a new implementation contract, the lack of action in addressing concerns related to contracting practices.

Mr. Speaker, I've written letters to the appropriate officials on such issues as the need to hire locally on North Warning System summer projects.

Despite the two Easter eggs we found this morning, we want a full loaf of bread, not just crumbs. I think that we the people of Nunavut deserve at least that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 239 – 2(2): Birthday Wishes**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to welcome the visitors in the Gallery, they are the leaders of Nunavut.

This month of March, there are many people who have their birthdays in the month of March, and if there is anyone enjoying their birthday today, I give them my best wishes. I didn't get on the greeting lines on CBC today, so therefore I wish everyone a happy birthday. My aunt, Meeka Kilabuk, my cousin Jonah Kilabuk, my brother-in-law Timothy Dialla, and also our very own Mr. Mapsalak, and our premier's employee, Peter Ma, I wish them all a happy birthday.

At least, they will be able to tell me where they were born and what time they were born, and some of them, I am sure, were born literally at the same time, no matter where you were born, whether in a tent or a house, I will be able to tell them that I wish them happy birthday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Happy birthday, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

#### **Member's Statement 240 – 2(2): Income Taxes**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): I would like to welcome the elders and I feel comfortable around them and it reminds me of my grandparents. Well, actually, I was raised by my grandmother so therefore it reminds me of that time. I will try to obtain your knowledge and your wisdom so that I could become wise like you, that is if I don't die before you do.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the issue of income taxes. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the house, I posed some questions on this issue. (interpretation ends) I went down to the post office this morning to pick up my tax forms, and I want to quote one section of the income tax guide:

“The maximum you can deduct on line 208, whichever of the following amounts is less: the unused RRSP contributions shown on your Notice of Assessment or Notice of Reassessment for 2003, plus the total of your RRSP contributions made from March 2, 2004, to March 1, 2005, not including amounts you designate as HBP or LLP repayments, see Lines 6 and 7”.

Mr. Speaker, I doubt that many English-speakers understood that at all. Just think about what it's like for a unilingual Inuktitut-speaker. I then picked up the phone and called the Northern Store in Sanikiluaq. They told me that they do not have an H&R Block service at the store.

I asked if they would take my form, and send it to Iqaluit, where the Northern store does provide the service. Mr. Speaker, again, they said no.

Almost two years ago to this day, on March 19, 2003, the former Minister of Finance made a Minister's Statement about how the Department of Finance was working with the federal government on the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk, your time is over.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, almost two years ago to this day, on March 19, 2003, the former Minister of Finance made a Minister's Statement about how the Department of Finance was working with the federal government on the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program.

I know that income taxes are primarily a federal responsibility. I hope that our ministers will raise this issue with the federal ministers who are in town this week. If the federal government wants our tax money so much, maybe the federal government could provide Inuktitut-speakers to help on their 1-800 number. However, our income tax

forms also include Nunavut's portion of income taxes. I see from the tax form that the only Inuktitut word is "Nunavut". (interpretation) That's the only the only word in Inuktitut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I want to see the GN do better in working with communities to help provide assistance to our constituents. Perhaps, Government of Nunavut staff in smaller communities could be granted permission to spend some time away from their desks helping elders and others with these forms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 241 – 2(2): Locating Biological Fathers**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome our leaders, the elders.

I would like to make a member's statement. Perhaps, I will be nervous. What I want to talk about is something that happened years ago, perhaps around the early 1900's, when Europeans started coming in to Nunavut.

The Europeans started coming into Nunavut and have children here. I am not against anybody and I want to work with everybody, whatever religion or colour they may have. There are a lot of people in Nunavut with non-native parents or fathers and a lot of them don't know who their real fathers are. They don't know who to turn to when they are looking for their natural fathers. I just want to assure them that they are residents of Nunavut, just like everybody else.

Some of the people know who their parents are, but sometimes they probably feel depressed and out of place. They start to be unhappy with other people and want to commit suicide because of that.

I would like the Government of Nunavut to be able to help those people that are trying to find their real fathers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Members' Statements. Orders of the Day. Item 4. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This week here in Iqaluit, a lot of people are here for a meeting, and also, I am very proud to introduce the elders that are here for that meeting.

I have seen many of them, I have worked with a lot of them, and I have talked to a lot of them. I will be naming them, and I know that there are more elders out there not here today.

First of all, I would like to recognize Rhoda Karetak, I would like to welcome her. Mary Avaalaaq, Aatsia Alaasuaq from Cape Dorset, Peter Ningiutsiaq from Cape Dorset, Jacopie Iqalukjuaq from Clyde River, as well as Mikijjuq and Kanajuq Bruce of Coral Harbour. Also, Joanna Qamaniq from Iglulik, if you would stand up. And, Kunuk and Leoni from Iglulik. Simon Nattaq and his wife from Iqaluit. Inga Alainga, also from Iqaluit.

Martha Michael from Iqaluit. Inuapik Sageaktuq from Iqaluit. Lucienne Ukalianuk, who works for justice. Simeonie Aqpik from Kimmirut, over there. Alice Ayalik from Kugluktuk. Joe Angutingungniq from Kugaaruk. Leana Arnaqaq and Simeonie Keenainak from Pannirtuuq. Elisapi Ootoovak from Pond Inlet. Emileen Kowmuk from Rankin Inlet. Aupilardjuk from Rankin Inlet and his son who escorts him is Pierre Aupilardjuk. Peter Kattuqaq from Repulse Bay and David Igutaq from Taloyoak.

I would like welcome them to the house and to our work place. Those are the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimaajit and their chair person is Miriam. These people are Miriam Aglukkaq who is the chair and Kananginak Pootogook, co-chair, Henry Isluanik, Jackie Napayok, Rynie Audla, Attima Hadlari, Mary Ann Tattuinie, and Josie Peter.

Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Board members who are here today as well, they work very hard. To assist the Government of Nunavut, Joanna Nutarak, David Mablick, Pelagie Owljoot, Jonah Kelly, Annie Gordon, Mary Wilman, Solomon Awa and Andrew Tagak Sr. and Toomasie Panikpak.

The people that are here too as well, Elijah Erkloo and our employee Shuvina Mike. I would like to welcome them all to this house. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the board members for climate change adaptation in Nunavut: Gino Akkak, Bob Konana, Jerome Tattuinie, Apak Qaqqasiq, Jamesie Mike, John Kaunaq, Nathan Qamaniq, Lisa Siarnut, Joanasi Akumalik, Lucassie Ajagutainnaq, Willie Nakulaaq and Kunuk Ujukuluk.



Those are the people who are here for a meeting on climate change. I would also like to recognize Manito Thompson who is here with us today as well in the gallery. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome to the gallery some of my constituents who are with us and joining the elders' meetings.

First of all, Simon and Annie Nattaq, who I just recognized earlier. Also Martha Michael and Inga Alainga. A respected elder sitting behind the Mr. and Mrs. Bruce, a respected elder and employee of the Department of Education, Ms. Elder Manito Thompson, and Manito will be beginning the education tour for the Education Act, and I am sure all of the members here wish her well on that.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity welcome some of the staff members also to Cathy Burke, Naullaq Arnaquq, Tony Rose, sitting behind me Annie Gordon, also Eva Onalik from Canadian Airlines.

And Mr. Speaker, from Ottawa, we are very pleased, Mr. Speaker, the last several days here in Iqaluit to have from Ottawa a well-known recognized Nunavut resident, a guy I bought the speakers off of in 1984 and I still use them, Mr. Joanasie Akumalik.

And Mr. Speaker, over there as she's looking straight at me, Mr. Speaker, she's probably the most recognized person in Nunavut, she has a show now that has gone national, and by that light, picking it up in Florida. I understand, Mr. Speaker, right now in Singapore it's number one on the hit parade after American Idol, our very own Rebecca Veevee. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We agreed earlier that we were able to greet them.

I just want to welcome everybody and somebody across...like I made in my member's statement that my uncle and my brother-in-law, and I would like to welcome Paul from Rankin Inlet, who is Aupilardjuk's son because when we see people from our community, you give us strength, please come to the Assembly.

I would also like to welcome John Qaunnaq, he will be the captain during the bowhead hunt and I am very proud of him because he is quite initiative and quite creative, and there's also a visitor, when I was a minister, Kelly Kalo and beside her Eva Onalik,

welcome. I would also like to welcome Annie Gordon. I have two sisters so be nice to me.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we already had somebody recognized and I am happy to recognize first of all Simeonie Keenainak, I would like to recognize him that when he was playing the accordion last night, I finally danced, Mr. Speaker, and my colleague also recognized Alice Ayalik, my partner. Leena Arnaquq who is from Panniqtuuq, and behind me Jamesie Mike, I would like to welcome him and recognize him, and Aapak Qaqqasiq, who used to live in Panniqtuuq but now lives in Clyde River, and I want to welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. I am going to recognize my wiffee, Joanna Nutarak. Welcome to the Gallery. We don't want our elders to get too tired, so that will be it for Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. We will take a 15 minute break to socialize with them a bit. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>> *House recessed at 14:20 and resumed at 14:41*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Item 6. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Center, Mr. Tootoo.

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

#### **Question 305 – 2(2): Update on the Five Year Capital Plan**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation.

I would like to ask the minister, I know I asked him on February 28, March 1, and then March 9, for a five-year capital plan, and I would just like to ask the minister if he's seen that capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Subsequent to the member's asking me, I think in another response, in the Hansard, I said that the capital plan has been tabled and it's actually in the Utility Rate Review Council report.

Mr. Speaker, the plan for 2005-06 will be authorized and okayed through the board of directors of the corporation. They're actually having a teleconference today and I understand that there is a letter to all members outlining the capital plan, as asked by the

member. That should have been received by the members, if they haven't already got it, over the next 24 hours.

So, the capital plan is actually in the URRC report, in one of the appendices. It has been tabled. The 2005-06 has not. That should be authorized and okayed by the board of directors over the next 48 hours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it's reassuring to know that members on this side of the House aren't the only ones in the dark as to the corporation's five-year capital plan.

Mr. Speaker, on February 28, and I'll refresh the minister's memory, I asked if the minister would table a detailed five-year capital plan. I'll quote him: "I have no problem complying with the member's request." Mr. Speaker, on March 1, he had indicated that they had approved the 2005-06 one and he would make that capital budget and everything available to the members. On March 9... I believe it was on one of those earlier two days that he had indicated he would do that within 48 hours.

I know I've checked those appendices in the URRC report and the submission on the GRA to the URRC and it only talks about the capital plan for this fiscal year. We know what that is already. What I'm asking for is a five-year capital plan. In 13 days it's going to be the new fiscal year. The minister, on March 9, indicated that there was a capital plan that was approved already, on top of that, and there is an interim capital plan that had been approved by the board, and now I'm hearing him say that they're going to be meeting to talk about yet another one.

How many capital plans do they have, and when will he follow through on his commitment to table the five-year capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the members' question, again, on the asking of the capital plan for the corporation: the corporation is a corporation. Their capital plan is in a different structure, as the members know, because the annual reports and everything have been filed in this House in the past, in the case of what the capital expenditures are.

Two things have occurred. One is that the URRC has come back with its rate amount, and as the members know, what the Power Corporation had asked for and what the URRC recommended left a difference of about \$4 million.

The capital plan that I have spoken about was the capital plan that had been approved in principle. The URRC report has come out and that is the plan for 2005-06 that the members of the corporation, via teleconference, are looking at today. That plan will be

looked at, because they have scaled it back based on the revenue requirements and so on. The power corporation's capital plan is financed by the corporation, it is not voted, per se, as we do in the House for other capital for the government. So, that is the clarification.

The URRC, in the appendix, and the member is correct, there was a little over \$11 million worth of capital plans there, the corporation spent over \$11 million on capital. The 2005-06 capital plan would be considerably less than that.

The corporation does a projection on the capital requirements for the corporation. Most of those projections are based on the need for larger items, for example, for generators, and those replacement values are based on the terms and conditions for the generator itself, for example, when the generator would become redundant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that wonderful explanation, but again, I would like to ask him when is he planning on following through with his commitment to table the five-year capital plan for the Qulliq Energy Corporation, whatever he wants to call it. It is something that he said he would have no problem complying with, and later on he said, about two weeks ago, that he would do that within 48 hours.

So, I'd like to, again, ask him: when will he follow through on that commitment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I just pointed out, the corporation has plans in place to replace equipment. They finance their capital plan not by votes in the House, so their capital planning structure is different than the capital planning structure of government where a supplemental plan and a five-year capital plan for each department is in place. They base theirs on a year-to-year basis. So, they have a projection of what needs to be replaced over a certain period of time. It is based on revenue flow out of the cash resources and so on. That is the work that the corporation does.

The 2004-05 capital plan has already been tabled. The 2005-06 capital plan, which will be considerably less than \$11 million, should be finalized today on the conference call, based on the other information that I explained. I would be able to bring that forward as soon as it is approved by the board. That will be today, so I will probably be in a position to table that on Monday. That will take care of those two years and then I could ask the corporation to list off the following three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister indicating that he didn't really follow up on that request and that commitment that he made earlier, by not asking? He just indicated that he would ask them to follow up with those other years; his commitment was to comply with my request, which was the five-year capital plan.

Is the minister indicating that he did not follow through with the officials of the power corporation to provide that information until, probably, tomorrow? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, that's not what I said. I said that on the request for the capital plan for the corporation: it was in the URRC, so it had already been tabled, 2004-05. Subsequent to that, the 2005-06 capital plan is impacted by what the URRC decided, and as members know, there are some issues around the way that the corporation finances its capital plan.

So, the 2004-05 is done, the 2005-06 will be completed, I hope, today during the conference call, by the board of directors, today. I'll ratify it and will bring that to the House, and ask them to provide projections for the next three years.

So, the information, the members will see. But again, it will be based on the issues around cash flowing in the corporation, some of the other issues, as the member knows, the corporation has to come forward within 90 days with a plan for a capital rider. And again, that has to be looked at, and that will impact the capital plan of the corporation. Because of those issues, subsequent to some of the discussions in the House, that's part of the delay in some of the information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 306 – 2(2): Update on the Environmental Technology Program**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll follow up on the questions I posed two, three weeks ago on the environmental technology program, regarding the students that aren't allowed to have rifles.

Has the minister followed up on the issue? I know he said he was going to talk to the president of Arctic College; I'd like to be updated on this issue, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** After the discussion and the question raised by the member in the House, indeed we had an opportunity to speak to the president of the college, Mr. Clendenning. The president of the college has followed up on the questions in the House, as well as a formal letter that I received, and I believe the members got a copy of that, about the concerns in the environmental tech program.

The concerns raised by the member were correct, indeed the students did not have guns available in their tents; that seems to be an issue around liability. So, I've had discussions with the president to have that reviewed and formally respond to me, in a formal letter that I will be able to copy the member on.

This morning, as another follow up by e-mail, the president actually said that they're following up on the issue of liability as well on how they could facilitate the issue with the guns and so on, especially during the winter camp. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, the liabilities... . What they're saying, then, is if it's not settled and a polar bear should happen to walk there and the students would get mauled because the Arctic College doesn't want to be liable for it, the instructor would just watch the bear or the wolf eat the student? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The policy that has been in place and is still in place is that during winter camp exercises for the environmental tech students, the instructors of the camp have rifles and ammunitions in case those types of issues occur.

I would agree with the member, that there should be some type of process, maybe, where each tent actually has a rifle available for the members in that tent. There are some concerns with having the rifle, during a training exercise, with the students having equipment like rifles, ammunition, and so on in the tent with them, that's just been the policy in the past.

I understand from speaking to the president about it, that should be reviewed to ensure, at the end of the day, that the students participating in this type of program are protected and have that type of security. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to make a suggestion to the minister. If the student has a valid hunting licence and the other expensive federal program, the FAC certificate, would he consider the students bringing their own rifles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I think that's a good suggestion by the member. It will have to be looked at in the contingencies of the camp, itself, and the way the camp has been situated. For example, the formal letter that we received indicated that the tents were actually quite some distance apart, where the head instructors might be as much as a kilometer or half a kilometer away from the other camping area. So, that is an

area of concern because if that is the case, if there were a bear that wandered into the camp, the reaction time would be too slow.

So, that is something that we are looking at. I don't know if it has been raised in the past. The member has raised it in the House and we are looking at it seriously. The president is looking at it with the instructor to see what the issues around it are. The suggestion that the member has just made is a suggestion that has been made to the president and to the instructor of the program. That is something that they are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They will be going out in a few days and I would like to see this issue resolved before they go out on the land, as polar bears are starting to walk, now, out of their dens with their cubs. We would like to see something done before they go out on the land. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would agree with the member. Again, from the e-mail this morning that I received from the president of the college, they are working on the response right now. Once I receive that response I will share it with the member. Hopefully, that will rectify the situation in time for the camp. I think that is the date that the college and the instructor are working towards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 307 – 2(2): Status of Draft Regulations on the Wildlife Act**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Environment.

In my member's statement, I raised the issue of the development of regulations under the Wildlife Act. My question for the minister is, as of today, what is the status of the new draft regulations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently working on getting it translated. The draft will be sent to the HTOs and the RWOs. We will also give a copy to the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been hearing about this issue from the hunters and trappers and we keep getting told by the government that the drafts will be reviewed. When are you going to do the community consultations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the drafts have been completed and translated, we will be going to the communities. We would like to have it in both Inuktitut and English prior to visiting the communities. Once the translations are completed, we'll do the visits, and that is very likely going to be this month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just recently, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated raised concerns about some of the new regulations. Have the Government of Nunavut and NTI resolved their disagreement and if not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Just recently, as of March 15, we have not come to an agreement yet on the issue of regulations. We agree in principle to most regulations, enough that we are able to work on the Inuktitut translations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm still concerned about the regulations. Once they're translated into Inuktitut, are you going to provide a copy of the draft prior to visiting the communities?

Usually what happens is the officials arrive in the communities and start handing out the drafts, and that doesn't give an opportunity to the people to review it prior to their arrival. How are you going to handle that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will take that into consideration and we will make sure that copies are sent out so that they will be reviewed prior to their arrival. We would like to go to the communities around April or May and we'll take your suggestion seriously. Thank you.

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



**Question 308 – 2(2): Post Secondary Student Funding**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Education.

(interpretation ends) I'm sure the minister will agree with me that supporting post-secondary education is important for the future of Nunavut. Can the minister tell this House why the financial assistance program for Nunavut students imposes a time limit on the length of time a post-graduate student can receive funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the FANS program, there are different components to it. There are basic grants and supplementary grants and so on, and there is also the opportunity for students to receive bursaries and so on.

I'm just going to get the exact number. I believe, if you had a basic grant, you are entitled to \$26,000 in forgivable loans and if you did not have the basic grant, then you are eligible for \$36,000 in forgivable loans.

This means, as the member said in his member's statement, that when people come back to Nunavut to work, they don't have to pay back that money. It's a forgivable loan and it's one of the best, actually, in the country of Canada. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, living allowances are available also.

If the student has a loan, the length of time of post graduate student studies are included in that forgivable amount. So, it's actually covered. I think the issue that the member is talking about is on the basic grant and the supplementary grant if they're in post graduate studies, and that's where they would go on to a doctoral thesis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister confirm for this House whether he supports the concept of Nunavutmiut training and qualifying to be professionals such as doctors and engineers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. I know of one instance right now where there is a former Nunavut student who is just going to the Ottawa Civic Hospital, and she is probably going to be the first person who graduated from Inukshuk High School, raised from K-6 in Kimmirut. She is doing her doctoral studies to be a family doctor in the Ottawa Civic Hospital, so that she can actually come back here on a work term. Mr. Speaker, there are quite a few students as the member has indicated. So, yes, we support that.

There seems to be an issue on the post-graduate studies, and that's something the department is looking into. At the same time, the rates that are paid to our students in the South are well compensated, especially on the supplementary and the living allowances because we are actually based on northern numbers, and that helps a lot of our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister commit to reviewing the policy under the FANS program, to allow students pursuing higher qualifications such as post-graduate degrees to be able to get assistance for an adequate period of time to complete their studies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, when you have an opportunity to have up to \$36,000 in loans in a basic grant, and on top of that, when you look at the issues around tuition and books that are reciprocated under the FANS program, that's an excellent boost to our students.

The member has raised a point on the PhD, which is a post-graduate, a post-doctoral amount. The government, in the budget, actually announced that we have targeted funds for any Inuk from Nunavut who moves forward to get their medical doctor degree and we would be able to move forward on that.

Mr. Speaker, again, the member has raised an issue on the post-graduates, and that's something we can look into. But again, I want to say that the student loans and the FANS program itself is a pretty good program. There was a review done on it in 2002 and I would suggest that it's probably time to do another review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Could the minister tell us the number of applicants that were approved, that were not approved, and could he table those numbers in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the member clarify what exactly he would like to have tabled in the House or what information he's requesting? Is he asking for the number of applicants of FANS for 2004-05 and 2005-06? Is he asking for the successful applicants, because some people do apply and then withdraw. So, if the member could clarify that, then we can look at what the answer may be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please clarify your question, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to know exactly how the money is being used; we have to be accountable. The people who are doing their doctorate down South or who have to further their education... I would like to know how many applicants there were and how many dollars were given to the students. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has the information on the dollar values because that was in the main estimates in the budget. On the applicants, I will just do 2003-04, but I can also read out 2002 for him. So I will read it into the record.

Mr. Speaker, in the fall term of 2003-04, there were 628 applicants for FANS: 346 were Inuit, 78 were non-Inuit, for a total of 424 enrollments out of 628 applicants. In the winter term, there were 445 applicants: 336 were Inuit, 80 were non-Inuit, and 416 enrollments. For 2004-05, in the fall term, we had 585 applications with 376 enrollments: 296 Inuit, 94 non-Inuit. So, I hope that helps answer and clarify the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 309 – 2(2): Marketing of Other Seal Products**

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

It seems like the market for sealskin pelts is going down, especially in Canada and Nunavut. If the market for sealskin pelts goes down, would the minister consider selling other by-products of the seal, other than the sealskin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can look into that. Quite a few years ago, there was some selling of by-products by QIA. We will look into the results and whether we can sell by-products. We have to keep in mind that by-products would have to go through the Canadian food inspection though. So, we'd have to deal with these types of barriers.

I, myself, will work harder when the sealskin market goes down to make sure that we can sell seal by-products.

The Nunavut Sivuniksavut students in Ottawa helped to make sure that the protesters know about us. They helped us get the international community to understand how we

use the sealskins. And in regard to your question on seal oil capsules, whether we can market them or not, yes, we'll consider that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister and thank the Sivuniksavut students for assisting us down in Ottawa. Although the price for seals is not going down yet, perhaps your department should have a backup plan to make sure that we have something to fall back on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, at the Department of Environment we are now drafting a sealing strategy. By this fall we will be able to publish the sealing strategy. We're drafting it at this stage and I will table it in the House once it's completed. Thank you.

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

### **Question 310 – 2(2): Assistance and Support for Marine Service Fees**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister Responsible for Transportation.

Because we live in the far North, we don't have railways or highways and it's very expensive to ship goods and supplies to the North. It's very expensive to order capital items, and so maintaining buildings is very expensive.

The Canadian Coastguard, through the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' regulations back in 1997, were authorized to charge tariffs and fees. That is why by sea it is very expensive to ship goods to the North. Perhaps the minister could tell us... . Since the federal Indian affairs minister is coming up, we need assistance and support. Will you be able to do that? Thank you

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Transportation, Minister Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Yes, I will be meeting with the INAC minister tomorrow morning. Yes, this is going to be part of my agenda, to discuss this with my counterpart, and I will ask for his assistance and support with the federal minister for transportation; I will also work with him.

Yesterday, I made a mistake when I stated that I had written some correspondence to the federal minister of transportation: it was for the coast guard, so I just wanted to clarify that.

The Minister of INAC will be supporting us, and I'm sure I will be seeking support from him.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will you be able to relay all the information to the minister, because this is quite a huge task, the coast guard marine service fee. I'm sure they will say, "We can't do that, we can't make amendments."

Even if he states that, you could respond to him by saying the high latitudes are exempted. Even though they are above north of 60, would you be able to include these and state that the North is part of the Canadian sovereignty? If you could relay these messages and implement them as soon as possible.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is part of our goal, to make sure that they amend that. We are in support of the amendment. We will do our best to remove the marine service fee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker** (interpretation): Oral questions. Member for Tasiujarjuaq, Mr. Kattuk.

### **Question 311 – 2(2): Support for Filing of Income Tax Returns**

**Mr. Kattuk**: My question is to the minister of finance. Two years ago, on March 19, 2003, the former minister made a statement about how the Department of Finance was working with the federal government on community volunteers for income tax forms. (interpretation) Mr. Speaker, my question is, how does this program work in smaller communities such as Sanikiluaq? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister's statement that the member was referring to talked about the community volunteer income tax program initiative that the Department of Finance was involved in 2002. From what I understand, there are federal employees from the Canadian revenue agency that traveled through the communities to try and train individuals to volunteer in completing income taxes in various communities. At that time, there were over 50 volunteers in a number of communities, but mainly those were in the bigger centres like Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and here.

The Department of Finance staff themselves had also volunteered their time to complete income taxes, but that's the extent of the initiative that I'm aware of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister commit to working with her colleagues in Community and Government Services and Human Resources, to be flexible to allow Government of Nunavut staff to take time off to volunteer in communities to help people with these forms? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certainly in support of staff volunteering their time to do that initiative, but I'd have to look into that a bit further. I know in the past, Department of Finance employees or employees from any department volunteered their time, which meant that it was after working hours. So, I will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister raise this issue to her federal counterparts and try to get Inuktitut services for unilingual people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue that the member has raised is very real to us in the North. We know that there's a lack of services from the federal government on federal programs to Inuktitut-speaking unilingual individuals. It's not only around the issue of income taxes, it's around the issue of child tax credits or application for old-age pension, a number of things, UIC initiatives.

So, the issue around the federal government providing Inuktitut services in Nunavut has been a concern that we have brought forward on many occasions around language services. We have raised that in the past, and I will continue to raise that issue with the federal government. It's unfortunate that we have to continually lobby the federal government to provide those services to Nunavutmiut in this day and age, but we will continue to lobby. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 312 – 2(2): Tabling of Five-Year Capital Plan**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My follow-up question has to go back to the minister responsible for energy, the Qulliq Energy Corporation, and the power corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I am confused; it seems to me that it would look like either the minister is being liberal with the facts or either is a stranger to them or he's being kept in the dark on

him. On February 28, he said there was a five-year capital plan and he would table it. On March 1, he indicated that the board of directors met the week before and approved it. On March 9, he again said there was a capital plan that was approved, and he said there, earlier, that there's also an interim capital plan that had been approved by the board.

Back then, he said that he had to check with the board. This time, today, when I asked him about it earlier, he said he had to check with the board. And on March 9 he said he would be able to table that information, and on March 9, he indicated that he would have to go to cabinet to find out whether he could table it or not.

So, I would like to ask the minister again: when will he table it and does he even know about it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't have an opportunity to go through some of the Hansards. Just for the record, I think it's important: sometimes when you're answering questions and questions are being asked, and you are referring back to what I said on February 28, you are trying to keep everything together.

I think the member is making a good point. I have committed to tabling the capital plan of the power corporation, and that's what I will do. The member is quoting literally from Hansard, so maybe I would have an opportunity, too, to liberally quote from Hansard.

I'll quote: on Monday, February 28, the member asked me about the capital plan. The member says, verbatim, "Will you table the five-year capital plan or any capital plan?", and my response was, "Yes, I will try to meet the member's request," that I would table a five-year capital plan or a capital plan.

Subsequent to that, the member asked me another question on the capital plan, and I responded that the capital plan was in the URRC report and was found in Appendix D, I think it is, in the report. So, actually it was tabled.

The member came back and asked me another question on the capital plan of the corporation and I said at that time, Mr. Speaker, that the 2005-06 capital plan, because that's the next budget cycle, the board of directors had to look at it. And subsequent to that, because the URRC came forward they said the capital stabilization rider was there, so they had to review their budget. They never got their revenue requirement that they needed, so they actually looked at reviewing the capital plan and it had been approved in principle.

Before capital plans are tabled, the process has been in the past, as I said in the House, that they usually go before the cabinet or the Financial Management Board to be approved, like the other departments and so on. So, that's why I said that.

So, I hope that clarifies it for the member. In answer to the member's question, I will be able to table the 2005-06 capital plan. It's my understanding that they're looking at the budget. If that's what is requested by the member, then we will try to meet that time frame. I hope that helps clarify some of the things that have been said.

If the information I gave to the member caused some confusion, then I would apologize for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response and commend him on the speed-reading ability that he seems to have for reviewing the Hansard, very quickly, since my last question.

Mr. Speaker, on the March 9 response from the minister, he had indicated that there was a capital plan that was approved and there was also an interim capital plan that had been approved by the board. Maybe he can check it out, it's on page 13, Mr. Minister, on March 9.

Again, he said he had no problem with complying with my request for a five-year capital plan or any other capital plan. He said he'd have no problem complying with that. So, is he indicating today that the corporation does not have a five-year capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the member is liberally quoting from the Hansard, so let me try again. The member is correct, I'm at a bit of a disadvantage, I'm only able to read 300 words a minute.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, just let me say, here's what the member said, "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if and when the minister will be tabling the detailed five-year capital plan or any capital plan that the Qulliq Energy Corporation has so that all nineteen members of this Assembly can review it..."

Mr. Speaker, what does the minister, Mr. Picco, respond? He says, "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no problem in complying with the member's request..." the five-year capital plan or any capital plan. Mr. Speaker, the member is quoting now from 2005/03/09; thank you very much to the staff upstairs.

>>*Laughter*

"Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College. We all know, based on the executive summary of the report..." is the question that the member is referring to. That's his question. Mr. Speaker, the member keeps



questioning, on supplementary, on Arctic College and charters and contracts and finally he asks me, “Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When he’s looking into it, if he can look...”, this is Mr. Tootoo. “When he’s looking into it, if he can look into those particular cases, and I think the carrier was Kivalliq Air, and ensure that the proper policies and procedures were followed and report that back to the House.” It’s the Honorable Ed Picco speaking: “Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to the member and to the House to follow up on those two specific issues...” and, final supplementary... .

By the way, Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, we’ve found out that the charter that the member talked about was not the Department of Health, not the Department of Education, or Nunavut Arctic College: it was another department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, so I committed to that.

“Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the minister has made commitments for things in the past like tabling the power corporation’s capital plan, and that was supposed to be in the next 48 hours, and I think that was over 48 hours ago. So, I’m going to ask him: does he have a specific time in which he will get back to the members of this House with that information?”

So, is it the Nunavut Arctic College charter that he is asking about? And now he has gone to the power corporation in his question. It is very easy for any minister to be confused.

The Minister Picco responds and says, “Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the capital plan, as the member knows, the capital plan has been tabled; it’s in the Utility Rate Review Council document that’s also been tabled. There is the capital plan that was approved, on top of that, as I said earlier, there is an interim capital plan that had been approved by the board...,” in principle, before they had the numbers for the rates and so on.

Now, this week the interim approval board, as I said in my answer to the member’s question... . My understanding is they’re approving that today and that is the 2005-06 capital plan that I have committed to tabling.

So, I hope with this 300 words a minute speed-reading ability, that we were able to ascertain some of the suggestions that had been made by the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you, audience.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It certainly feels like a Friday today. I know that the minister had indicated that it is very easy for some ministers to get confused and I can certainly acknowledge that fact as he himself admitted.

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to figure out I was using that as an example, that I didn’t want to have to be waiting and waiting and waiting for an answer. Despite that fine speed-reading ability of the minister, he still never answered my last question. Does the corporation have a five-year capital plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I responded to that question. What I said is that unlike the Government of Nunavut, which has a five-year capital plan and a supplemental plan, the corporation's plans are based on the usage of the equipment, the generators and so on, is based on the cash flow abilities to actually finance a capital plan.

The quick answer is that the corporation does have a capital plan. Does it project five years ahead, or does it do it a ten-year projection? For the record, I will ascertain that information and I am sure the member will ask me about it tomorrow, so, I will have that answer for him tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will still go back to my first question. I asked him about that then and he said he would. I am still waiting to find out if they actually do have one.

I know we approve and look at the housing corporation's capital plan, and our capital plan for the capital projects for Nunavut Arctic College, as the minister is very well aware of. Why is it that we don't have the ability to see what the power corporation's capital plans are? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the member is correct. The corporation is a corporation. That is the difference between a government department, or even in the case of the college, a Crown corporation, which has a different set of parameters to work in.

However, because of the recommendations of the URRRC, the power corporation, because of the capital stabilization rider, which, as I said earlier, and I go to Hansard and see it... . It has not been determined what that amount is or how that structure will be, because the corporation has 90 days to respond back to the minister. From that point on there will be a public process where the public and indeed the members would see what the capital plan of the corporation is, because they have to bring forward a rider to finance that plan.

So, the quick answer for the member is that the plan will, from April 1 onward, become public, because of the process under the stabilization rider. That's my understanding of that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 313 – 2(2): Update on the Shipment of Fuel**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the question to the minister of transportation.

Many people in the Kivalliq region have small boats, but after an accident that happened a few years ago, inspections have been made mandatory, which I believe are carried out by Transport Canada. This has caused some concern. I would like to ask the minister what stage this is in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of transportation, Mr. Simailak

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no knowledge right now, at the present time, of what has been done, but I will look into the member's question and get back to him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the minister for his response. I have a little bit of knowledge of this: in Winnipeg there are officials that I've talked to, and they gave me a brief explanation of their rules. Perhaps, after the minister gets some information from the federal government, he can get back to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the member's question and find out what their answers are. Thank you

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

### **Question 314 – 2(2): Update on the Additive for Bad Gasoline**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address the minister responsible for bad gasoline. In my constituency of Sanikiluaq, the people have informed me of their concerns. There are about 21 of them with four-wheelers that have had problems with their machines because of the gasoline. Has there been anything done to bring those additives to the retail outlets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): There has not been anything done to date because of the weather in the Kivalliq region; they couldn't deliver those additives for the gasoline. They have not made any deliveries. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the minister can inform me when these products will be delivered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, yes, I would like to smile at the member because he was the previous bad gasoline minister. I'm sorry that they have delayed this delivery of those additives for the gasoline, but perhaps they were supposed to be finished at the end of this month. This is what the Kivalliq officer has told me. I'd like to tell the member that it's about a week late, but they'll make the delivery soon.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps the two Peters can't agree with each other. Will the government be doing a study or some research on the machine breakdowns in the communities?

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

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I informed the House that I will be going to the communities to find out which machinery had broken down, but I don't want to leave out anybody; I want to include everybody. We would like to travel to the communities and ask how many people have had their machinery break down. There was supposed to be some research, and the people that are doing the research have not got back to me yet.

What I have to do is find out from each community what machinery has broken down. After that I will find out whether there is going to be any compensation or not. I have not received the information that I have requested yet. I have no answer for that right now. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Question period is over. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 13: Tabled Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 104 – 2(2): Petition 4-2(2) Co-op Refunds and Income Support**

**Clerk**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the response to Petition 4-2(2), on behalf of the Minister of Education, Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motion. Mr. Curley.

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

**Motion 017 – 2(2): Marine Service Fees – Notice**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker: I'd like to give notice that on March 21, 2005, I will be making a motion. I will read it in English. (interpretation ends) I give notice that on Monday, March 21, 2005, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government of Nunavut to lobby the federal government to exempt all vessels providing sealift services operating North of 60°, and to provide retroactive reimbursement of fees charged to the Canadian Coast Guard and paid to date.

Mr. Speaker, I will be asking for unanimous consent to deal with the motion today. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Notices of Motions. Item 15. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Curley.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to deal with my motion today because the Minister for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs will be coming up soon. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The member is asking to deal with this motion today. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Mr. Curley.

**Motion 017 – 2(2): Marine Service Fees**

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

WHEREAS the annual sealift is a lifeline for Nunavut's communities;

AND WHEREAS the Marine Service Fees collected by the Canadian Coast Guard are applied unfairly;

AND WHEREAS this inequity results in increased costs of providing sealift service and those costs, in turn, are passed on to consumers;

AND WHEREAS the cost of living in Nunavut is the highest in Canada;

AND WHEREAS the federal government depends on the communities and residents of Nunavut to maintain and exert Arctic sovereignty;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that the Legislative Assembly call on the Government of Nunavut to lobby the federal government to exempt all vessels providing sealift services operating North of 60°, and to provide retroactive reimbursement of fees charged by the Canadian Coast Guard and paid to date.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker, we were discussing this during the committee that the Canadian Coast Guard, in the 1970's, established fees to vessels who have to use Coast Guard icebreakers around the St. Lawrence Seaway and the Great Lakes, and those fees were to be renewed in 1997. But, around 2000, it was determined that vessels to north of 60° are to be exempt from the fee.

The problem, however, is that some vessels ply in waters both north of 60° and south of 60°, so they extended the exemption to vessels around the Great Lakes. They then claimed those vessels in the north of 60° don't leave from the north, so Nunavut doesn't apply. Now, the Canadian Coast Guard is saying that they can't do too much, but they had offered the Great Lakes that they are exempt from this service fee.

Yet, they say they can't apply that to Nunavut so, that is not fair and so the Indian and Northern Affairs Minister definitely have to be told about this. We don't have any other alternative, but around the Great Lakes, they have highways, they have alternatives. This is getting too hard on the vessels and the high cost of construction and for major assets like vehicles.

We will be asking for support from the members and I want a recorded vote so the message will get across to the Canadian Coast Guard. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to speak to this motion. Over the years, I've always been an advocate that we are treated unfairly and we pay more than our fair share, as I had indicated yesterday, on the GST tax. We all know that the federal government is sitting around trying to figure out how to spend it's huge surplus and that the Canadian Coast Guard, due to the cuts that it faced, is charging us fees for services that are going to impact us in Nunavut, again unfairly, something that does not affect southern Canadians.

They get all their stuff on the road for most part, or by plane. To me, it's another example of urban rule where the larger legislation and regulations and things are done for the larger urban centers, much like the Gun Control Bill, without thinking about or caring about the impact that it has on other jurisdictions like ourselves that has a huge detrimental impact.

The people in Nunavut, for the most part, are the people that can afford it the least. This government is doing the best that we can to try and provide the services and programs that Nunavutmiut need with the limited resources again that we get from the federal government and yet here's another way where they're taking more of that back from us.

I urge all members to support this motion and call on again the federal government to show a little more acknowledgement and responsibility to the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to acknowledge that we have been trying to address this. I've written to two different Prime Ministers on this matter and my colleagues have written to their respective ministers as well. We will continue to press this matter, but I appreciate the support that we'll get from the House so that when we write to our colleagues that this issue is not just a government issue, but is for all of Nunavut.

So, I appreciate the support that we'll be getting from our colleagues on this matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. The mover, you have the final closing comments. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important to make a statement to the federal government. I know that they recently, even as early as today made a series of announcements. I consider them to be just dipping into the cookie jar and saying how good a cookie it is. They talk about the \$90 million, and so on.

I would like to say to the Minister of Indian Affairs who is coming up here, including our MP, Nancy Karetak-Lindell, now here is an opportunity to make a statement, to make an announcement that the Marine Services Fee are creating exorbitant prices that we don't need.

The Canadian Coast Guard must provide a service to this part of the world because we are after all Canadians without alternative transportation. I would like you all to support this motion because it is important statement to the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Order. There is a motion on the floor and we have to vote on it.

For those who are in favour, you will rise. When I say your name, please sit down. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Akesuk.

Ms. Aglukkaq.

Mr. Okalik.

Ms. Brown.

Mr. Picco.

Mr. Simailak.

Mr. Netser.

Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Evygotailak.

Mr. Barnabas.

The Motion is carried.

Motions. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole in Bills and Other Matters. Tabled documents 52-2(2). Bill 8, Bill 9, Bill 10, Bill 11, Bill 12, Bill 13 and Bill 14.

With Mr. Evygotailak in the chair.

We'll take a 20 minute break.



Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:56 and resumed at 16:33*

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

**Chairman:** I would like to call the Committee to order. In Committee of the Whole 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 commence the review of the Main Estimates for Human Resources. We will do this review concurrently with Tabled Document 52 – 2(2) and the appropriate Hansard. If time permits, we will proceed to review the Department of Environment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Tapardjuk, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk welcome. Minister Tapardjuk please introduce your witnesses.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Kathy Okpik, the Deputy Minister for the Department of Human Resources. Tom Thompson, who is the Assistant Deputy Minister. They'll be here with me.

**Chairman:** Ms. Okpik, Mr. Thompson, welcome. Members, please note on the desk is a grey folder marked Tabled Document 52-2(2), also in the folder is an extract from the December 1<sup>st</sup> Hansard. As we proceed with Mr. Tapardjuk you can refer to those documents at the same time.

According to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak, and according to rule 77(2), subject to discretion of the chair. A member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion, but not until every member who wishes to speak has spoken. I suggest to the members, that wherever possible you ask your detailed question during the page by page review of the departmental estimates.

General comments. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe I touched on a lot of issues on my opening comments as a chair for the committee yesterday. There were some comments in the minister's opening comments on some of the progresses that they have been making.

As we go through it, I will be having questions on all three or four if you count the Business Plan documents that are here before us and to try and identify strengths and weaknesses that may or may not be within the department to try and find ways that we can help to improve the delivery of service in that department.

For myself, I have heard numerous complaints over the years on the timing that it takes to go through the whole process in when someone puts in an application in a year. I know cases where people have waited months and never got a response at all, and when they finally did get back to them they said I don't want to work for an organization that takes that long to get back to me.

I think that it's imperative that we can identify these areas where they may be problems so that good people that do want to work for the government get the opportunity to. We're not scaring them off by some of the things that they've encountered through out the whole recruitment process.

With that type of methodology in thinking in mind is how I'll be approaching my questioning during the department. I just wanted to let the members and minister and the staff be aware of that, what we want to do is improve, do what we can to improve the service delivery of the department of this government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister, the deputy minister, and the assistant deputy minister.

I just wanted to make a comment. Well, we are improving on the issue of the Land Claims Agreement and Article 23, and I realize the government is working hard to meet their obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and Article 23.

In Rankin Inlet, I went to tell the minister that there are quite a number of people and there has been an increase in the Inuit hire; it's approximately 51 percent in Rankin Inlet and I hope to see an increase in the numbers over the years.

I would like to congratulate you on the Inuit hire percentage. I will be identifying the concerns we have when we go page-by-page.

I would also like to urge the minister and his staff to work on those and to make improvements, and if possible, we don't want to get into the details, but we do have to tow the line. I have seen a lot of managers who are not towing the line. There's no teamwork in some areas, but if everybody towed the line, there would be strong movement.

I would like to tell the minister and his staff that there has to be an improvement in the teamwork within the department. I identified that as one of the priorities this summer when an individual almost resigned from his or her position because of those challenges.

I thank the department and the manager. What I am trying to say is that there's an Inuk and a Qallunaaq, I think it was Article 41 in the Collective Agreement, I am not sure what you call it, it was in the issue of assault.

(interpretation ends) Well, it's not only teamwork, its building trust and respecting one another because, of course, we can't figure everything out with criteria. So it needs work.

I would like to urge the minister and the staff to work towards those and I do know that the minister is working very hard on those issues and the staffs are diligent about meeting their needs. I think that there should be meetings with the regions to find out what the concerns are.

As Members of the Legislative Assembly we were contacted by the public. We are not in any particular department and sometimes it's quite hard when we talk with the supervisors and they say they will look into it. Of course, you don't want to interfere as a politician. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to see the Department of Human Resources here.

One thing I realized that just about every recommendation in the Footprints I and II have been implemented. The departments have been established, and the decentralization has been completed. We've implemented all of these so far from the Footprints I and II. I'd like to keep it like that.

As such, today, and I'm very pleased that they have been implemented. Footprints identified which departments were going to be decentralized and because we're a new government, we can't implement everything all at the same time. There are the regulations and the policies that had to be established. Under the Footprints, the whole Government of Nunavut would be completely established within 15 years.

So, we have quite a leeway to work with. But, I'm a bit concerned and something that is not fully understood is that the Collective Agreement is an agreement for the public servants and then there's the Nunavut Teacher's Association where there is an agreement among the educators.

So, that's the difference between these two. There is the public servants who are trying to adhere to the rules that apply to them and doing the best they can to conduct themselves properly in the work place. We hear about the teachers, who abuse or threaten children

and then they have to go through the whole court process and disciplinary action. It doesn't quite make sense if we have to follow the regulations and the policies.

We hear of teachers and because of course they deal with children every day. In different behavioural patterns they can't scold the children, they can't yell at the children because of course it's in the policies and the employees have to adhere to those, so there is a difference.

There is the Public Service Agreement and then there are the rules that are applied. Possibly the Minister of Human Resources and the Minister of Education should get together and iron out those problems. Looking at the whole picture and while we're preparing for the future, and working towards the goal of a fully established, I think we are on target in the process point of view.

That's from my personal point of view. I'm pleased that we are on target. The Inuit didn't have anything 50 years ago but we have progressed so much over the years and we have promised to have a government that is fully established and functioning within 15 years.

I wanted to make that comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. We're on page D-5, Human Resources Branch Summary. Directorate. Total. Operations and Maintenance, \$2,067,000. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that I look at in a lot of the departments and I know I've raised it in the past is the increase in PY's in departments.

The Directorate Division has remained stable since last year. There are 13 PY's, they're the three at the Deputy Minister's office, eight in Corporate Services and two in Policy and Planning. I am just wondering if the minister can give us an outline of what those positions do for the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My Deputy Minister will respond to that, Ms. Okpik.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will talk about the number of PY's at the headquarters. Within the Deputy Minister's office, there is myself and our receptionist. In the Finance part, there are six PY's, with the Manager and Finance Comptroller, and there are four other finance officers, for example, when they first get a government job, they have to be moved, so these two individuals are responsible for transportation and moving of new staff.

Also we have a Human Resource Coordinator dealing with employment. The two positions are going to work with P2K. Also in Policy and Planning we have three PY's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Main Estimates on D-5, it says the Director is responsible for the overall direction of the department and for the monitoring and reporting on the government's initiatives related to Article 23. It provides the leadership and carries including policy research and development, financial management and the human resource system.

When they are looking at policy development, are there any issues that arise that any department has to come to the Department of Human Resources for advice on, or anything like that. Does that flow through up to this position within the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the department, each department has their own policies. Each department is responsible for their own policies. When the departments have a particular request for assistance then as a department, we provide support and assistance to the other departments in that way. That is when we work with the other departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister had indicated that each of the departments has their own policies. It is my understanding that Department of Human Resources has developed guidelines and processes to ensure consistency and fairness throughout the whole staffing process, and that managers in the department are required to comply with those policies and procedures. That would be looking at all government departments.

My question is aside from the policies and procedures that are developed within the Department of Human Resources. Do the departments have other hiring policies and practices that they follow aside from that one? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try and make it clear.

It states in the Public Service Act that the public service for the government...like for example, the minister's authority has been given to the deputy minister, and it states in

the Public Service Act that the minister's authority on employment has been given to the Department of Health and to the Department of Education.

Having said that, the departments do the hiring themselves because the authority has been given to the Department of Education and also in the other departments that authority is given to the deputy ministers.

In spite of that, our department, when the other departments ask for assistance from other departments in any way or form, we are asked to make sure that they comply with the Act or the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that clarifies. So any department other than the Department of Education and the Department of Health have to or is required to follow the policies and procedures for staffing set out by the Department of Human Resources. Is that correct?

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes. When they are in the process of hiring staff, there's a guideline and there's a policy that has to be followed by all of the departments.

At this time, we are still working on the guidelines. Once we amend the...I believe that all of the departments that operate within the government's funding, whether it be the Department of Health or Education that they would follow the new amended guidelines and processes. I believe as a Human Resources Department I believe that all of the departments have to have the same policy and procedures.

So we are going to amend the guidelines. Once they are completed, we expect that those two departments will also be together with the rest of the departments. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister or his staff have any idea of when these new guidelines are going to be in place and if you could outline any specific changes that the things they have identified that need addressing under the current policies and procedures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, though we have a policy and procedures, but they need to be worked on and amended again.

Just to update them, we have to comply with the Land Claims' Article 23 and it states that we have to treat all employees of government equally and fairly. What I stated was that...like for example, if I am trying to get a job, the departments have guidelines. Those guidelines were inherited from Government of the Northwest Territories.

Since we did not make those guidelines ourselves, although there's a guideline there, we need to make improvements and Nunavutize it, so therefore we will have to consider this since there not included, since Article 23 is not included in the guideline and the policies, they don't include anything new. We need to make amendments, though we have guidelines and policies, they are outdated so were just going to update it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the minister's response, he indicated that they're mostly changing things, that there is policies that we inherited from the Northwest Territories and changing them to conform with Nunavut and with our obligations with our land claim agreement's Article 23.

Just to ask the minister, are these policies and procedures that there reviewing right now, is that what is considered to be the human resource manual for the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, you are correct; yes that's what it is. The human resource manual, it states what we're suppose to do, almost like a manual for snowmobiles. In particular, we have to deal with non-union staff, those outside of Nunavut Employees' Union, so we also have to consider that starting April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that as a result of Article 23, that the government of Nunavut has a priority hiring policy and I'd like to just ask the minister if that is included in this human resources manual, or if it's a separate policy outside of that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, it's separate, it states that it will have to be applied. Article 23 of Nunavut land claims, although it's separate, we're trying to work to make it seamless so those two don't conflict with each other. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister's got his work cut out for him, if his going to try and do that and I wish him the best of luck, it could take some time and I look forward to that.

Hopefully, the minister will invite the members of this Assembly to have some input into that at some stage in the game, if not all the members here, but certainly, the standing committee on that.

Would the minister commit to coming forward with any changes prior to them being approved by cabinet to the standing committee for the comments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): yes very much, I agree with you wholeheartedly, they are different, the manual. It states in there what you're suppose to do when you're going to do any hiring and also when you hire an individual there's another guideline, so there's two.

In regards to the members question, before we finalize it, we will get the input from the members and I will have to provide the new one to the Cabinet members. They're the ones that will have to approve it, but, I'm sure that we'll get input from all the stakeholders. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. Does the minister have an idea, I don't know if it was an RFP or Expression of Interest or whatever it was, I remembers seeing something put out some time ago, to review, Human Resources Manual. I was wondering if the minister can indicate who's doing that review and when does he expect it to be completed. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, Thank you Mr. Chairman, that contract is done by Millenium Partners, and it's been completed. They were the ones that did the reviewing of the manual. And it's being, or it's being reviewed by the employees right now.

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

**Mr. Tootoo.** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I wish the minister luck in being able to accomplish what he said he was going to do, and it sounds it's done already. Is the minister confident that this review and recommendations, I would assume that are in there, do what he had hoped they indicated, what they would do is create basically a one



policy, seeing this address a governments obligations under Article 23 as well as the fairness and equality for all the government employees. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation); Like I said, that, what we're trying to do is, we're reviewing those manuals and guidelines. So, we're looking, reviewing them now, as well after the Millenium Partners did their reviewing. I will get Ms. Okpik to answer what they have been doing.

**Mr. Chairman,** Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman. They're not quite done yet. Even though the contract has been completed, the human resource staff is reviewing the documents right now. Even though Millenium Partners did the contract, we worked with them at the time. Looking at the Article 23, we just have to change the wording from the Northwest Territories days.

There's about 1,000 or so pages that we have to review. We wanted the wording to be similar. The Excluded Managers' Handbooks and the Human Resources Manual, we wanted the wording to be sort of similar. So, that's what we're reviewing right now.

Also we looked at all the differences in the manual and in the other manual. It is one person so they don't confuse them between the manuals and interpret them differently. We didn't want them to do that. That is what the review is all about right now at the Human Resources level. For example, we are reviewing the educational guidelines as well

Although we are not finished yet with the review we are letting the Deputy Ministers take a look at it to make sure that they know what's being done by our department. There are many things that we are doing. I think that there are about 26 clauses that we have to look at before we're done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that the minister and his deputy had indicated that they're reviewed by Millenium Partners, is done in the Human Resources Manual. Now that that review is done they are comparing the Human Resource Manual for all the Nunavut Employees' Union positions, that they are comparing it to the exclude members handbook.

In the review by Millenium Partners on the actual Human Resource Manual, how many recommendations other than changing Government of the Northwest Territories to Nunavut type changes that they made? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my deputy to respond to that question. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were no recommendations. The contractors worked with the Human Resources staff at that time. What we did is we just did the word changing. That is what we did. We talked about the employee relations with the Directors of the each department to find from them which ones should be changed in the manual and then we would work together to change the wording. There were no recommendations.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How much was that contract worth?

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have how much it cost for that contract but I will provide it to you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It would be interesting to see how much that cost. The Millenium Partners, where are they from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are from outside of Ottawa.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I understood the deputy's response earlier, that all they did was go through the report and change the name from Northwest Territories to Nunavut and there were no recommendations made for the whole manual; it was just a matter of switching over, probably renumbering, and changing to relevant territories or places.

It seems like that is something that someone here in Nunavut could have done. I am just wondering, if that's all that was done, why they went to an outside source to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The Human Resources Manual, if I remember correctly, there was an agreement between Nunavut Employees' Union and the Public Service.

Inside the agreement the wording had to be clear, and we had to do some changes with some sensitive parts and the changes that we had to make were for them to conform into Nunavut.

I think we have to take a look at them again. We are looking at them right now, we are reviewing them right now, and we had to do some changes for them to conform to the Nunavut Employees' Union's Manual.

We could not find anybody to do it here in Nunavut because we had to be able to have our full staff in place, and so we had to contract it out, but at the same time they had to work with the contractor because it had to be changed since 1999.

It was quite a bit of hard work. It had to conform to the way each department is set up. The management had to be changed, we had to look at the Priority Hiring Policy as well and how they could look at the grievances. There were different things that we had to look at or to do in that manual. We had to look at the Public Service Act as well.

So in 2002 when they had a meeting in Coral Harbour, they made an agreement to do some changes and it was supposed to be finished in 2005. So this spring and next year, we will also be looking at some changes.

The member asked about how much those contractors were paid; I could say approximately less than \$45,000. Yes you are right; we did have an RFP out there. There was about over 1,000 pages, and we didn't want to be short staffed, but because it was such a hard work, and we wanted to get it done right away, that's why we had to hire a contractor to work with human resources staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It feels like there was a lot more done there than the minister had indicated earlier, rather than changing Northwest Territories to Nunavut. He had indicated here also that there was a meeting in Coral Harbour and they had agreed to some changes for 2005. I'm wondering if he could be able to let us know what they are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I believe it was in 2000, the ministers met in Coral Harbour, and at that meeting we were given a directive to look at the Human Resources Manual and they had indicated that this manual had to be completed by 2005/06. This directive was given in 2002, when the Cabinet had their meeting in Coral Harbour, and it's following what the directive was. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm still wondering what specific directives or changes were outlined at that time. Also the minister indicated that there was an RFP put out and I'm just wondering if they did get any proposals from within Nunavut.

Did they only advertise in Nunavut, or did they advertise outside of Nunavut simultaneously? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I am not aware exactly if it was made available for Nunavut or outside, but we can get back to him. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I don't see any hands raised. Mr. Tootoo, you have a few more minutes.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, it all depends on the answers I get, how many RFP's were received on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We don't have that information in front of us, but I certainly can get back to the member on how many there were and if they were from Nunavut or outside. We probably have those and once we have that information, I can certainly pass them on to the member. Thank you

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although the minister's looking at that, if there were proposals from within Nunavut, I wouldn't mind finding out why they chose not to go with someone from Nunavut to do that.

The whole idea behind the process seems to be to Nunavutize the manual. If they chose to go with someone outside of Nunavut, I wouldn't mind getting a very good explanation as to why that happened. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): This is not confidential and we can certainly give you who put in for the RFP's, but I would just like to say the contractors worked with our staff, and after I get that information, I certainly can give the member the information that he just requested. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, here the directorate is responsible for the overall direction and policy of the department, and one of the things that I know that was being worked on was a code of conduct and the conflict of interest policy for employees. I am just wondering if that has been finalized yet or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, it's not completed and once it's completed, I will have to present it to the Cabinet. It states, in regards to code of conduct, and we tried to indicate if it would create problems or it would have a conflict of interest.

Those things still have to be looked at, and there are other things to consider like the Public Service Act and what is expected of the employees' code of conduct, but those are not completed; they are currently being worked on. So that's why we can't say that it will be like this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister have any idea of when they expect that to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We are aiming for this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As all members of this Assembly know that we have a very good Integrity Commissioner, and I am just wondering if the department is planning on consulting with him in the development of the conflict of interest policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, this has been raised and we want to go through that. We are seeking for people who can assist us. The question that he posed, yes, very much.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that they are also developing a new anti-harassment and prevention of violence in the workplace policy. Can the minister update us as to where those are at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy has been drafted. The assistant deputy ministers and deputy ministers, it's currently being worked on and we will present that and once we consult with the deputy ministers and the assistant deputy ministers, then we will re-examine it before we proceed with that.

We have to keep in mind that we have to include Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, that it should be that we can never forget. Maybe that's why it's taking a bit longer, but we are working on it diligently.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated in my opening comments, one of the things that the Committee felt that should be looked at is some type of a whistle-blower legislation. Can the minister give us an indication if and when they plan on bringing something like that forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We just heard about it not too long ago. I wonder what the terminology is in Inuktitut. Yes, we are considering this and I can say that we are wondering how it can be best worded the Inuit way.

I wonder if we would be breaking the Inuit values and those are the things that we will have to monitor very closely. I have told my staff to make sure that how we can improve and use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. It's aimed at more southern ways, but we realize that there's a need for it. So we have to consider this more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the minister's new deputy is fairly new. I know the assistant deputy and the minutes of the Standing Committee reports and other meetings with the department and the Standing Committee that has been raised in the past. So maybe just advise the minister to go back and take a look at some of the old stuff; that this is something that is not new, it has been brought up before and to look at doing it.

As I indicate on the federal scene, they have brought forward a policy like that. I would strongly encourage the minister to maybe get a hold of that piece of legislation and then use that as a starting point and Nunavutize it because this is a very small jurisdiction.

I know in cases in the past where I just sat down to have coffee and chat about the old times with someone that I used to work with in the Public Service since 1999 and it got back to that person that he was feeding me inside information because it's totally absurd.

So that just gives you an example, that it is necessary for something like that to come up to protect our employees. They don't need to have one of those supervisors or someone that works above them to work in fear of their job, hopefully it never happens and hopefully we never need it, but in the event that something does get brought out or happens that that would cause someone to feel uncomfortable enough to bring something forward that they may feel that there may be some retribution against them.

There have been cases since 1999 that have led to dismissals of employees both within the Union and outside the Union. You could look at it right from the senior management, the deputy minister level, and then probably cases right down to the clerks and everywhere in between.

So there is a requirement for that. Inuit don't like to say something when they see something wrong, but for how many years, I've been sitting by idly and afraid to say something, when they see something happening, that they feel intimidated, they feel if they say something that there going to lose there jobs, it'll hurt there advancement in their career within a public service.

I think we need to give those people some level of comfort, if they have the courage to come forward and speak on something that shouldn't be happening within the public services, that there is some protection for them.

And for some members, I really strongly urge the department to work on something, some type of legislation like that for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a general comment, Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Did you wish to respond minister?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): This is the opportune time to say something, even though it was just a comment, the Public Service Act.

Those are the things that we want to be sensitive to, the things that he talked about, if they say something suspicious or is aware within the work place and I'd like to state, Mr. Chairman, what were trying to do is examine if there is a problem or grievances then how can we deal with it, conflict resolutions, were examining those things.

If there's a problem between co-workers, or between an employee and a supervisor, how can we resolve it within the work place? We're looking at it that way for two reasons, firstly, we want to retain our employees, and we want to keep our Inuit employees, and the other being in Article 23, and if we are to go by that, and if our Inuit employees have problems, there should be a resolution where it's based on more on feelings. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you Minister. Page D-5, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to go back to the priority hiring policy and the minister indicated that there was a directive from Cabinet to review that policy.

I'm just wondering if he can indicate any specific direction, were there any specific directives that Cabinet gave the department with respect to reviewing the policy and what provision of the policy are we seeing some changes in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It was agreed to in August 2000, and the deadline would be 2001.

As a background, when it was still in Northwest Territories, there was an affirmative action policy which is geared towards that original paper.

But then again under the agreement, under Article 23, we had to make a change to the policy in 2000, and because of the involvement and the low numbers, we have agreed to 2006 as the deadline, but then again, we are reconsidering.

In regards to the priority hiring policy, we are going to keep working on it. We are going to be using it for now as that's the case, we are reviewing it again and we will be deciding what we are going to be doing for the upcoming year.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo, I will give you some questions to ask until Mr. Curley comes back because I had his name on the list. Go ahead, Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will send you a note in a minute, but thank you. So, the minister is saying there is, other than just take a look at it and change it, there's no specific directives issued by Cabinet in relation to this policy; is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, but we have to do a thorough review this coming year. There's a clause in Article 23 that states that if the Inuit are a majority, then the government would have to hire, let's say if there are 85 percent in Nunavut, then they would have to be a representative number in the government.

So we are going to be reviewing that thoroughly this year and the main reason is are we getting a representative government and where can we make improvements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I recognize and acknowledge our obligations under Article 23 of the Land Claim Agreement, and I guess following in on that, I know that the minister indicated they are reviewing policies, but I understand it has been a while now since the review of the existing bilingual bonus policy has been taking place. I am just wondering why it's taking to be reviewed and when can we expect that to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, we were asked to do a review and we will give recommendations.

In regards to the bilingual bonus, whether there should be an increase or whatever. Looking at the bilingual bonus, I can say, Mr. Chairman, that we are looking at this coming August, where we'll be able to get something to the Cabinet for the review. The Cabinet has been discussing the issue of bilingual bonus and there has been a directive to do a review of this bilingual bonus policy, whether you're English/Inuktitut or English/French bilingual. Very briefly, I can respond by saying that we'll have something to give to the Cabinet this coming August, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I understand there's a draft new Language Incentive Policy that's in place. I'm just wondering if that's one of the same as bilingual bonus system. If it isn't, I guess they take it to Cabinet this summer.

When will it come into effect and will it be something that's looked at, going back retroactively or is going to be just from approval date forward? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Well, those two are different, there's the Language Incentive Policy where you have to speak more Inuktitut in the workplace, and we have said that our government has to be more people friendly.

This is being reviewed by the Department of Finance and the higher management of the government. It's being reviewed and the other one is the bilingual bonus where it's slightly different because it applies to all government employees and it's also in the Collective Agreement.

Those are two different things, they're not the same. There's one for using Inuktitut in the workplace and then there's a bilingual bonus where it applies to all employees within the government. And as I had made a mistake, I said 2006, it's actually August 2005 where we'll have done our review, Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. I shall give you one more question then next member. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the departments' Business Plan, one of the stated goals for 2005/2006 is to implement casual staffing guidelines consistent with Cabinet direction. My question is what direction has been given by Cabinet and what specific of changes are going to take place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy respond to your question, Ms. Okpik.

**Chairman** (interpretation) Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the directive, and in regards to the casual employees, we are reviewing the delegation of authority which identifies who would be eligible to fill a position.

The Human Resources Department do a lot of reviews to make sure that they will fit into the government if the two biggest ones is the casual policy and where they can make improvements.

For example, we had a meeting with the union on the issue of casual hires and see if we could come to an agreement. Very likely, we will set up a MOU, which will outline all casuals and their hire. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, what section are we at now? Where are we?

**Chairman:** D-5. Directorate. Page D-5. Directorate. Go ahead, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. (interpretation) We keep forgetting where we are when somebody speaks too long. Well, I first wanted to start off on the policies. As a Member of the Legislative Assembly, you get a lot of complaints from Government of Nunavut employees. Some of the issues that come up are confidential and I have had more than one meeting with an employee where it was confidential.

At times it creates a ripple effect when it's related to the harassment policy, that would be Article 41 in the Collective Agreement, which I am sure, is just for the employees, and I would believe that it's not for the managers.

There's harassment and prevention of violence in the workplace. It seems to be quite hard. I have not told this to anyone because of the sensitivity of the issue. Where do we go with an issue like this? You don't want to write about, and as politicians, we don't

want to interfere with employees and the problems. What would you do in those cases?  
Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes. We have a process whereby the staff can go to Employee Relations. We should approach that Employee Relations Officer because when we have problems occurring in our departments, it's uncomfortable. I will be able to explain who the Employee Relations Officer is and other matters.

In regards to the member's question, I really don't know how to specifically respond, but I will be able to provide you with more responses. Perhaps my deputy minister will respond to that question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The employees, if they think that they have been harassed, there's an avenue that they can go through. Perhaps they can tell the supervisor. If they think the supervisor is harassing them, they can go to the more superior people, and they can go through the Nunavut Employees' Union. They have that process where they can go complain to.

They could go to the workplace representatives and Nunavut is a vast territory but the employees have opportunities to make their complaints, there's an avenue and a process there already in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): This procedure is pretty straight forward, but I have asked the union representatives about that. They don't seem to really care and I know what the response is going to be because we don't deal with unions. The employee can't really discuss this matter.

Why don't they work closely together, because they're Inuit, or because they're non-natives? Why can't they have a close communication, it seems like they don't even communicate with their supervisor.

(interpretation ends) They have the attitude that you are Inuit so you get all the rights and benefits. You are a beneficiary.

They believe that the beneficiary is the answer to everyone's problem. They are naive, and sometimes appears to be deliberate, and putting down of Inuit employees.

Some respects it was frightening, and the person came down to me, with the employee relation problem, they couldn't speak to their supervisor, there were issues of racism involved in there, and there were issues about religious issues, all kinds of stress.

I believe we can establish a healthy workplaces. I think that should really be promoted. We can try and get all the report in problems in here corrected. I think the message should be that we need a team that works together. I sometimes think that message is not getting across to the supervisor and the employees.

And you're not going to get it through the consultants, it may make you try, right from the outset indicate that there are different group types of individuals or race is involved, or ethnic groups, they still have to be a team within the department. So that's what I'm getting at. The detail, I would like to be able to sit down with you and say my constituent is not going to be reprimanded for being found out that the situation has happened.

We know that there not going to be, like my colleagues, if they blow a whistle or something, do they have the confidence to trust in you that they will not be reprimanded. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes. It's evident that we need to work closely together along with Nunavut Employees' Union, although we work closely with them. When problems occur, and your telling the fact that as an Inuk, it's very difficult to go complain about an individual who's non-native.

So these feeling, their feelings like that, so those are some of the reasons why some of the Inuit employees don't know who to turn to.

Yes we can review this matter, but one thing I can agree to, that in Rankin Inlet all the employees can be provided with a workshop, especially when they are Inuit employees; this is how the complaint process is, this is how you can go complain. Inuit people, especially, should know their rights.

I agree to that, and I can ask my officials to look into that. If there were any problems with employees in Rankin Inlet to do a workshop, we hold workshops in Iqaluit with the Government of Nunavut employees. This needs to be expanded to the outside communities of Iqaluit and I can agree to that and commit to it.

The problems, at times, occur within the various departments. Each department have their own mandate and they are responsible for themselves. The Department of Human Resources, at times, work with the other departments, but when there are problems occurring in the other departments, like for example, Department of Health and Department of Education and various departments, your comment is well taken and in regards to holding a workshop with Inuit people to make them learn what their rights are. So we will do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I will now recognize the clock and we will report progress. I will note that Mr. Curley had five and a half minutes left and we will allow him to continue tomorrow.

Thank you, Mr. Minister and your staff. I will now report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Chairman Evyagotailak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your committee has been considering Tabled 52 – 2(2) and Bill 8, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of this Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor, who seconds the motion. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Mr. Clerk:** Orders of the Day for Friday, March 18, 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

- Motion 13
- Motion 14
- Motion 15, and
- Motion 16

## 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 we'll reconvene on Friday March 18, 10 o'clock in the morning.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:07*

