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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday, March 21, 2005**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good morning Mr. Premier, Ministers and Members. Going to the orders of the day for today. Item. 2. Ministers' statements. Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 095 – 2(2): Our Land – Peabody Essex Museum Exhibit

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to share with my colleagues and to all Nunavummiut the status of the art exhibit entitled, 'Our land; Contemporary Art from the Arctic.'

The exhibit was conceived at part of the broader Nunavut-New England economic development initiative involving the Government of Nunavut and Canada and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. Our contribution to the initiative was to showcase Nunavut's culture and heritage as expressed through traditional and contemporary Inuit art.

The successful exhibit, which took two years to organize was joint effort between Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, it features approximately 50 works of art from the Government of Nunavut collection.

The exhibit opened on November 26, 2004 and closed on January 30, 2005. During that period, the exhibit had wide media coverage and nearly 22,000 people had an opportunity to experience Inuit culture.

Currently, discussions are underway to possibly tour the exhibit in other locations in the United States and Europe.

All Nunavummiut share in the success of this initiative, and we look forward to the opportunities that it presents to continue to share our story with the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 096 – 2(2): Nunavut Offshore Fishing Training Plan

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fisheries industry offers immense potential to contribute to our economic independence. It faces many challenges, and I am pleased to advise that one of the major challenges, training, is being addressed.

The Baffin Fisheries Coalition, with the support of the Government of Nunavut, has accessed the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership Program of Human Resources and Skills Development Canada to support a three-year training plan for offshore fisheries. This program will contribute \$5.8 million in to fisheries training for Nunavut, with \$3.4 million coming from HRSDC and the remainder split by the Government of Nunavut, industry, and other supporters.

This training plan is a long-term initiative that includes a number of training elements such as basic upgrading and lessons on career opportunities; training for entry-level positions; a detailed technical certificate; diploma-based training for advanced positions in the fishing industry; and an at-sea mentorship support program for new employees.

This training is to be provided through a collaborative arrangement between the Marine Institute in Newfoundland and Labrador and the Nunavut Arctic College. Where possible, training will take place in Nunavut and if possible in the communities.

This program will increase the skills, employability and involvement of Inuit in Nunavut offshore fisheries. I would like to congratulate the Baffin Fisheries Coalition and other stakeholders who have supported this program. I look forward to the day when our offshore fisheries are fished 100 percent by the people of Nunavut and today we are a step closer to this reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 097 – 2(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Forecast Capital Expenditures Five Year Ending March 31, 2010

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time later today, I will table the document, the five year capital plan used the Qulliq Energy Corporation to develop and plan capital projects.

This material was most recently used at the Qulliq Energy Corporation Finance and Budget Committee meetings.

The year labeled “2004/05” has received Board approval and has been implemented.

The year “2005/06” has been “approved in principle” by the Board and final pricing is being solicited.

Later years are simply planning guides which the Board and the committees use as working documents. They should not be seen as approved capital commitments, of either the Corporation or the Government of Nunavut, as they are subject to change.

Only one year is approved at a time by the Board. At the appropriate time later today, I will table the document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers’ statements. Orders of the day for today. Item 3. Members’ statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 3: Members’ Statements

Member's Statement 252 – 2(2): Tourism in Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning and I hope you had a good weekend. I know I found that the Minister of Energy was busy this weekend tracking down some papers and I am glad to see that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the great potential of tourism in Nunavut. Mr. Speaker; tourism is an excellent way to share culture, values, and traditions with others. Tourism is also a good way to keep those traditions alive.

When people visit our communities, we have traditional feasts, performed throat singing and drum dancing, and make demonstrations of Igloo building and crafts. Mr. Speaker, we share our art, carvings, prints, and crafts for everyone to benefit and everyone does.

Tourism also provides the opportunity to take visitors on the land with dog teams. Mr. Speaker, tourism allows us to develop the potential of our renewable resources. Driven fosters understanding of our culture and traditions.

Mr. Speaker, I would say that some of those seal hunt protestors had visited Nunavut shared in our traditions and experienced our lives, they may have gained some much needed understanding. They may have gained the understanding of what it’s like to be outside in -40° with winds at 60 kilometres an hour or more in their ski jackets without

fur on their faces and they may not have been so energetic with their protest on Parliament Hill.

Mr. Speaker, there's a lot of potential of tourism in Nunavut. We have excellent heritage sites where our ancestors lived, beautiful land, lakes, and rivers. There are opportunities for equal tourism, sport hunting and fishing, and adventure tourism.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage all of the people who are engaged in tourism in Nunavut; I am talking about the community economic development officers, the staff of the visitors' centres, performers, artists and outfitters.

There are lots of hurdles facing tourism today. There are hurdles worth clearing, but cooperation between all levels of government will be necessary and I will be asking some questions to the minister responsible a little over on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 253 – 2(2): Congratulate Veronica Nirlungajuk

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Veronica Nirlungajuk from Rankin Inlet who has been living in Rankin Inlet for quite some time with her children and her husband. She did a drawing to be shown in the Northwestel's telephone book and I would like to thank the people of Northwestel for picking her. Her drawing will be in the 2005/06 Northwestel telephone directory. I would like to congratulate Veronica.

First of all, I would like to say that the government should support Nunavut artists. Looking at the walls here, there should be more artwork displayed in this House, and also over on this side.

I would like to tell the members that she was jumping and screaming and we should be doing that when we get our art selected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 254 – 2(2): Completion of Alcohol and Drug Treatment Program

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to rise today to update the House about the successful completion of the alcohol and drug treatment pilot projects that were announced in the House on February 28.

It has been noted many times by the members in this House that alcohol abuse is a very serious issue in our communities. Whether we realize it or not, alcohol issues affect us all directly, or indirectly.

Hardly a week goes by where we don't read or hear about alcohol abuse causing grief for an individual, family or community somewhere in our territory. Governments can't force people to overcome their alcohol problem. They must look within themselves and make a personal decision to help turn around their lives and lead us over life. Governments can help people by providing access to alcohol treatment program support services to help in their quest to improve their lives.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay developed the 28-day live-in program that was the first of its kind in Nunavut. It was a pilot program for women and 12 participants made a personal decision to take the program.

Mr. Speaker, on Saturday 19, nine women graduated from the 28-day live-in program. I would like the House to join me in congratulating the graduates. Mr. Speaker, one of the graduates wrote me a letter a few weeks ago to tell me the program had already given her a new outlook on more stronger and sober way of living.

Mr. Speaker, with the support of their families and communities, their dedication and commitment to overcome their problems with alcohol, these nine women are on a better path.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage the Government of Nunavut to support more programs like this across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 255 – 2(2): Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Songs and Hymns

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in regards to Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit songs. It seems that they are not very visible and we should make them more visible to the international community so that we can get more support.

There are a lot of people who want to show their talent and if they were assisted to be able to travel to other countries, and once the international community recognizes, they would be more encouraged.

There are people who can do traditional dances, drum dances, throat singing, and that can be one of the attractions for Nunavut. Our Nunavut government should make more funding accessible for those people who wish to come up to Nunavut and I just wanted to say this to show support that we should be encouraging this; that Inuit are very capable. We have various capabilities and we have to market them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 256 – 2(2): Inuit Dog Teams

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I am very proud that last week we all stood up in support of the sealing industry and the minister even stated that the animal rights activists didn't seem to oppose, but I have something else.

The Inuit culture, when the government or RCMP first started coming up, there was a slaughter against the dog teams. Mr. Speaker, the dog teams were used for hunting, to transport wildlife between outpost camps because what they used to do was they would go to an area where there was abundance of wildlife, and because there were different camps; spring camps, winter camps, summer camps, but nevertheless, Mr. Speaker, the dog teams helps our livelihood and we didn't have too much to worry about.

There were times when people might be hungry, but the dogs provided for us. They assisted us. And they can even smell and locate breathing holes, even if they were under the snow.

At the time we didn't have too much material things but sometimes very aggressive dogs, which in turn if their owners were like that.

I would like 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.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I can give you an example. One of my uncles, some of his dogs was quite aggressive because he didn't have any children to help him to raise the dogs. Once his dogs were full grown, some of them were quite aggressive so I would assist my uncle. What I would do is to help him to tame the aggressive ones, and to help him prepare to go out in the morning.

Back then the RCMP and the government, when they first started going to the camps, that was our only mode of transportation. It affected us greatly when they were slaughtered and we were not compensated. There were some skidoos but they didn't come up north until the 1960s and 1970s.

Once the government started ordering the people to the communities, I can give you an example, in my constituency one of the concerns is we had to travel to a central community because we were told that we were to settle in a community.

I was very proud of my father's dogs because I was going to take over the ownership over them. I went to school I would go out of school. We were in the process of me taking over the dog team when we had to relocate to a community and the dogs had to be slaughtered. We were not offered another mode of transportation.

According to Inuit knowledge, dogs should never be abandoned without people because they feared that they can become very aggressive, even becoming as wild as wolves.

A lot of those had to be slaughtered and we didn't get any kind of compensation for that. The sod houses and tents were abandoned without replacement. We were just asked to move. This created hardship among our people. I feel obligated that I should say what I feel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 257 – 2(2): First Air Jet Flight Services

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to my colleagues and I send greetings to my constituents.

I rise today in regards to First Air jet services to Nanisivik next month. This has been raised in this House as concern about patients travelling without washroom facilities on flights, even if the duration of the flight with small planes is about four to six hours. This is not acceptable.

Up to date, we have not heard, especially for the residents of Arctic Bay, what kind of services we will be getting. So for that reason, there are a lot of things that we have to plan. We have an inadequate airport because of the closure of the Nanisivik mine, but even up to date, we have not been told what kind of service we will be getting.

So for that reason, I will be asking questions to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 308 – 2(1): Post Secondary Student Funding

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Levi Barnabas on March 17, 2005.

In response to the member's question, I am pleased to provide the following information, and Mr. Speaker, I think there's some good news in the answer here.

The number of Nunavut residents receiving support through FANS to take graduate level courses, such as masters and doctorate programs for 2003/04 was eight; with five taking masters degrees and three pursuing their doctorates.

The figures for 2004/05 are 14, Mr. Speaker, 14 students in our masters program and three in the PhD program. The graduate level programs do take several years for a student to complete, some graduate and professional programs may have significant costs, however there are a lifetime limits on the amounts in grants and repayable, and a non-repayable loan that the student may receive through FANS.

They have committed, Mr. Speaker, to review those limits to see whether there may be additional assistance needed for students enrolled in those programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize one of my staff in my office, he has been here for quite a long time. This is his last day and he will be returning down south to pursue a career and I would like to thank him at this time for giving his support. Anthony Saez has assisted us and we appreciate his assistance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier that I wanted to recognize the people who work at Innirvik and I would like to welcome and recognize Eileen Kilabuk-Weber, who is one of the people who produce the Hansard. If Members recall, I previously recognized a former member for Panniqtuuq, she is his daughter.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Bear with me, I have to get my notepad ready. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Question 327 – 2(2): Fetal Alcohol Disorder**

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services and it concerns fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Mr. Speaker, it's not clear what specific work the Department of Health and Social Services has done on the FASD issue, other than the pilot project that we talked about during the Committee of the Whole.

The deputy minister's response during Committee of the Whole to my question seems to suggest that the diagnostic tool is still a work in progress. My question for the minister, Mr. Speaker, is: what is the status of the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder diagnostic tools specific to Inuit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This has been worked on by public health and it's a social concern, but on his question, it would probably be up to the nurses and doctors to diagnose fetal alcohol syndrome disorder.

(interpretation ends) The goals of the FASD program in Nunavut are to develop and promote a territorial approach for prevention, intervention, care, and support of the individuals and families affected by FASD, and also to create partnerships towards a comprehensive range of services to address the needs of children, families, and communities.

I am just speaking about the current status, and (interpretation) that's the information I have right now. If he can elaborate more on his question and what he is requesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson, if you would clarify your question.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding of the fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is that there's a need for a diagnostic tool. So, without a diagnostic tool, you can't label the people and you can't identify the problem and then you can't help the people. I am wondering if the minister could update us on the status of the diagnostic tool that the Department of Health and Social Services says that they are working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member that we can't do that. However, it's the medical profession that does the diagnosis, and other than that, we

don't want to label them, that's for sure, and I agree with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Could the minister tell me if the position of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder coordinator that was advertised in July 2004 has been filled? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently looking for individuals to fill that position. We are still looking for qualified individuals, but to date, I cannot state that it has been filled. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify, I think this is my second supplementary. I clarified an initial question for the minister. The supplementary question two that I have is: can the Minister of Health and Social Services tell us, is her department working with the Department of Education on the issue of assessment for fetal alcohol syndrome and how fetal alcohol affects children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are working with the Minister of Education and his department on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I think that I was going a little too fast. Your last supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Could the minister clarify for me and the House what the Department of Education is working on to provide support for childcare workers, teachers, and special needs assistants in providing care and education specifically for children with fetal alcohol spectrum disorders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe your question can be answered by the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco, did you want to respond?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member has raised a very important issue in our Nunavut schools. I have had several opportunities to meet, when I was minister of

health as well as now as Minister of Education, on issues around FAS-FAD. The Government of Nunavut is involved in the Northern Prairies Fetal Alcohol Syndrome network, where a lot of good work has been going on.

In this budget, we actually have over 40 special needs positions that will be going directly into our schools, again, working with special needs students, which include FAS-FAD students.

I think it is important to point out that the designation for an FAS-FAD student or person or child has to be done by a medical professional. It is not something that can be done by someone just looking. At one point there were some characteristics, facial characteristics and so on, of an FAS-FAD child, but medical professionals as well as professionals in the field have now decided that, indeed, that is only a small percentage of people who would be afflicted with the disease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 328 – 2(2): Compensation for Bad Gasoline

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

We have heard about hunters and people who buy gasoline, that there is bad gasoline in the communities. Could the minister tell us before the end of this session if those individuals could get compensated for engines or snowmobile cylinders and so on that have been damaged by the bad gasoline? Could the minister tell the House if there is going to be compensation for those individuals, and that it is not going to be just let go, unresolved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be informing the members about what we are going to be doing and the studies that we have had initiated. We will give you a comprehensive list of what has been reviewed and what is going to be ongoing after that initial study. During this part of the week, I will not be able to make an announcement in the House on whether individuals are going to be compensated for the damage that was caused by the bad gasoline. I would like to inform the members that there are ongoing studies being done at this moment. I will make an announcement after it is concluded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. What about those individuals in my communities who have been waiting for quite a while and their machinery, expensive

machinery, is still being damaged, like snowmobiles, vehicles, and they spend a lot of money replacing that essential equipment.

There are over 20 individuals in my community who have had damage and breakages. These are just some of the people that have notified us about the damage and breakages, and I'm sure that there's a lot more individuals out there affected similarly. It's not just the gasoline that's the issue here. Could you tell the House that you're going to be lending support to those individuals in the communities? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I have stated in the House, what the member talks about is correct, that it's just the tip of the iceberg. One of the things that we are working on, especially in the Kivalliq region, is we will be going out to the communities to find out in depth about the problems that they are having, and we're going to be talking to the individuals who have breakages or damage done to their machinery. We will consult with the people directly to find out what effect it has had and the extent of the damages.

It's also very important for our department because, of course, we will have to buy bulk petroleum products in the upcoming season. So, we would like to know the extent of the problem and find out exactly what the problems are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Your next supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: (interpretation): When you keep getting correspondence from individuals who say that this is their livelihood, that their livelihood in jeopardy, it seems very important to help those people. Why is the government reluctant to say that they will give support or compensation for these individuals? I think it's an emergency case. Can you tell us if you're going to be compensating or giving some type of support to the individuals? Could the minister say in the House whether there's going to be help or compensation for those individuals? Thank you

Speaker: (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): The hunters at the community are concerned, and I apologize that I have to make them wait. But, I would first like our department to find out exactly what the problem is, what kind of breakages are happening to the machinery. We have sent out some samples for scientific testing down south.

I have directed my staff to work hard with this and to finish it as soon as possible. I would, however, like to get the complete information prior to making an announcement to the people of Nunavut. We would like to get a comprehensive report prior to taking any actions as such. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): So, I understand that if they say that the gas is good in those scientific labs, even though there are breakages and damage done to the equipment, then there will not be any support given to the hunters? Is that my understanding, Mr. Minister? When the scientific studies have been done by the Americans and the people of England, then there won't be any compensation or support given to the people. Is that right, Mr. Minister?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): I thank the member for posing those questions, but what we and the Petroleum Products Division are doing is to conduct some studies. We are having dialogues on an ongoing basis, but I would like to point out to the member that we would like to understand everything first of all, get a comprehensive report together so that there will be understanding between us and the people from whom we bought that product. We are currently gathering data. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. Your time is up. Oral questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 329 – 2(2): Cruise Ship Custom and Immigration Fees

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for immigration.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we have seen more often lately throughout Nunavut and all of the different communities are cruise ships coming to Nunavut. One of the barriers that I think stops them from coming is the lack of immigration officers to be able to clear individuals off these ships.

I am just wondering if the minister responsible for immigration has heard any concerns or is he looking at ways to try and address this issue so that these cruise ships don't have to pay exorbitant fees to fly someone up to clear them through customs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raises a good point. There are two actual issues that we have seen in Nunavut that have impeded the cruise industry. We know, for example, that in Greenland and the other parts in Labrador, in Newfoundland now, the cruise industry is really giving a strong injection to the local economy.

In Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, there are two issues. One is being the infrastructure available. For example, when the cruise ships come to Iqaluit, you have to put... . Most cruise tourists are older and they have to get in zodiacs and they have to come to the dock and it's very hard for them to disembark and so on. So, that's one of the issues, that we need

to be able to increase our infrastructure on the ground. That's something that was discussed during the budget debate.

Mr. Speaker, the second issue of concern that the member spoke about earlier was issues around immigration and customs. We have not really seen an issue where there has been a big tie-up of clients off the cruise ships because, usually, before the cruise ship comes in they have notified the customs and immigration people, for example here in Iqaluit and in other communities, and if they are going to go onshore for a longer period of time, then they have facilitated that.

In some cases, there may be agents of the Government of Canada aboard the ship that can also help facilitate it, and again, it only involves foreign tourists on some of these ships. So, in some cases, Mr. Speaker, the tourists are actually Canadian and there isn't an issue.

I think it also depends on the visiting time. Cruise ships are not like airliners where the airliner lands and is in the place for two or three days. You could disembark in Los Angeles from Canada and you are there for a couple days and so on. Cruise ships are already in Canadian waters and their point of disembarkment is in a community. For example, in Nunavut, it's for two or three hours, and there are ways of facilitating that with local officials like the RCMP. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According my information, and I am sure that the minister would be more than happy to correct me if I am wrong, some of these cruise ships that come from foreign countries have to pay upwards of around \$13,000 to have their people get cleared through customs, if they have to bring in a customs officer to a different community to clear them or stuff like that.

I am wondering if the minister can commit to looking at ways to, maybe as he had indicated, come to some kind of agreement with Customs Canada and the RCMP to allow RCMP members in those communities to be able to have the ability to do that work on behalf of customs, to save those additional costs to the cruise ships so that they have more money to spend in Nunavut and not be giving it to someone that works in Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member makes a good point. I think one of the things that Nunavut is trying to do, and I am sure that the Minister of Economic Development can speak to it in greater detail, is to grow different industries in Nunavut. One of them would be the cruise ship industry because most of these people are well-heeled; they have some ready dollars available and at times do spend that money.

On the fee structure that the member talked about, depending on the way the ship works, 99 percent of the time the cruise ship liners actually are in touch with local authorities

before they go to a port. In those cases, there usually are mechanisms in place to help facilitate the disembarkment of the cruise passengers.

I would be willing to look into specific issues where there have been concerns that customs agents weren't available. It is very similar to when we see flights that overfly Nunavut; they have to land for a couple of hours on the ground, they might want to get off the plane, whether it is a mechanical issue and so on, then we have to arrange to have these people when they come into the terminal. Those things do happen.

The member is correct; there might be a better protocol position that we could put in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister indicated in his first response, cost is one of the barriers in attracting tourists in Nunavut, and I think he had indicated that he'd work in any way he can to try and help that. He also indicated that proper docking facilities for loading and unloading of passengers is another issue.

He had indicated that it is different than airlines. When a plane, as he said, overflies Nunavut and lands here, that when they land here, which I'm still trying to wrap my head around, they get herded into the airport terminal and they have that whole security thing blocked off, and there is someone there to check them or else contain them in a separate area.

My question is, is he aware if those officials go outside of the airport and deal with the people are coming off the ships? For example, if the boats end up in Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset, or Kimmirut, do those customs officials go and clear those guys, or is that done by the RCMP in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to address these earlier issues where he said that I was over his head. I said what happens is, again, I am not a geographic specialist, or a circumpolar expert, but in the world, we have a round world: a spherical shape, oblate, spheroid to be exact. The quickest distances on polar flying routes are to fly over Arctic Canada, as an example, because it is more fuel efficient and cheaper to fly from Moscow to Los Angeles. To do that, they fly over Nunavut.

If I was talking over the member, I was talking about the flights that fly over Nunavut. Sometimes when these flights fly over Nunavut, although they were not planning to come here, they land because there is a death aboard, God forgive us if that happens. But sometimes people die and there are accidents and so on and so forth, so they land, and in those cases the customs and revenue people have to look at what the delay is. If they are on the ground for five hours, for example, it is very uncomfortable, so those people come into the terminal and they are checked out by Canada Customs agents.

Specifically on the issue around the cruise ships, there are between six- to twelve cruise ships that come to Nunavut every year or that frequent Nunavut waters, six- to twelve cruise ships. There is a strategy underway within Nunavut Tourism to look at issues around how we facilitate cruise ships. I don't want to get into that, the Minister of Economic Development can speak to that. I can say there's some work being done on the customs side. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Question 330 – 2(2): Recruitment of Nurses

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, last week, a number of questions were raised in the Committee of the Whole on the issue of recruitment of nurses. Can the minister update this House on what specific initiatives are in place to keep the nurses who are recruited to stay in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have been facing challenges with the nurses and we really do want to retain them in the North. Some nurses stay for the long term, some for a short period of time. Nurses are very important to us at the community level.

In regard to the question that was just posed, we have bonuses for the nurses, to retain them in the North and to attract more nurses. So, this bonus is there to attract and retain the nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seems a shame, after all of the efforts and expenses, to find fully qualified professionals like nurses and to have to look as far away as in places like Australia to find nurses with skills such as midwifery... . We all experience that, when the efforts are not made to ensure that they stay as long-term residents of Nunavut.

Can the minister clarify what policy her department has to encourage long-term commitments to healthcare professionals such as nurses and doctors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we face difficulties in retaining nurses and doctors. The reason why we have to look for the nurses overseas is that it's very difficult to get nurses from Canada; we are all in short of nurses and doctors in Canada. Another reason why we seek nurses and doctors in Australia is because they already are qualified and recognized as midwives. Some of the doctors and the nurses are hired up here on a contract basis.

At times, we really don't know whether the nurse or the doctor is going to renew their contracts again. It's up to the nurses. We can't force the individual nurses and doctors to stay up here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 331 – 2(2): Jet Services for Arctic Bay

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a follow up to my member's statement, I would like to ask a question to the minister responsible for transportation.

Does your department have a plan already in place to service Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for transportation, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, I have not personally discussed this matter with First Air, but I have heard that when they get their new airplane, they are probably be using that aircraft to service the member's constituency. I could approach First Air to see what the latest is. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. If they are going to be using that aircraft, as I have stated in my members' statement, will that airline be scheduled to go to the other smaller communities? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not heard any plans from First Air, as yet, in regard to that, but it would be ideal for the mayor of Arctic Bay to invite the First Air officials to make sure that they have the same level of understanding. Thank you.

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

Question 332 – 2(2): Income Support for the Hunters in Arviat

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the minister responsible for income support. He seems to be hiding over there; I cannot see him. First of all, I would like to ask the minister if the hunters of Arviat will be provided more support this coming winter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): To whom did you direct your question?

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): The minister of income support.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amounts of dollars that are in the income support amounts increased by five percent in this budget, based on the program resources and the rules and the regulations that are in place... That would determine the amount of income support available, whether the person was a hunter or any other of the occupations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although we are aware of the five percent increase for income support recipients, I want you to pay close attention to the hunters because they are not having successful hunts, due to the breakdowns of snowmobiles with the bad gasoline. They are not as successful as they were in previous years. I want him to be aware of that.

My second point is that since there will be community tours, which is the only form of assistance that the hunters have... Some of the fox trappers did not harvest their foxes this year. They were unable to go hunting this year because of their fear that their skidoos might break down, and so they haven't really been successful during their hunts.

I am wondering if he can tell his officials to make sure that there will be some assistance provided to the hunters that have experienced broken down snowmobiles. I wish for the minister to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: I know there are some income support programs available for hunters specifically, within other departments. Specifically, for the income support program, it's based on need. I agree with the member: if there is a great need in his community because of the issues around the concerns raised, then that's something that the department should look into.

By way of his questioning in the House today, then I will be talking to our officials today about the concerns raised and see if there is any additional support that we can provide within the framework of the income support program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank you for understanding this issue. I would like to ask another question in regard to this. Even though the needs are always great, they were even greater this winter. As the minister stated, usually there is funding set aside, not just for groceries but also for miscellaneous items.

I know that there doesn't seem to be any support system for those in winter time. There are four seasons: spring, summer, winter and fall. They will be starting their spring hunts, but their snowmobiles are broken down and they can't afford to buy parts. Will you be notifying Arviat residents that they should at least expect some form of funding to assist them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Harvesting is one of the eligible criteria for someone to be eligible to have income support. Over the past, just less than, 12 months, we have increased the budget by 10 percent last year and 5 percent again this year, for 15 percent, which is more than the amount for employees and so on. There has been some movement by the department.

What I'll do is inform the Department of Education, again, by way of the question of the member, to ascertain what is the issue directly with some of the harvesters in Arviat, to see what has occurred and to see where we can help them within the framework of the income support program.

I'm sure, Mr. Speaker, that I would be able to get back to the member in the next couple of days on what has occurred and what the uptake on the income support program has been in Arviat because of the issues raised by the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand what the minister is saying, because as members of the legislature we have to help our constituents.

My final question is that the people that really need the help the most have to get some help. So, when will you be telling your officials, the soonest, about the extra income support for those people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know from the House, here, there have been issues, for example, in Panniqtuuq, where hunters have lost their equipment and, indeed, they're not going to be UI eligible because the season has been cut short. That's going to cause some issues with the income support program in the community there.

As the member has raised, there are also some issues in Arviat. Again, within the framework of the program itself, to see what we can do to assist the people in Arviat, as well as in Panniqtuuq and other communities, where there have been issues under the income support program.

Plus, there may be other programs within the government too, to be able to assist. So, I think we would be moving on that very quickly. Again, the idea would be to contact our office in Arviat, in this case, to see what the case load has been and will be and indeed ascertain from the case worker in the community what the uptake on the program is and what extra help we can provide to the citizens of Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 333 – 2(2): Slaughter of Dogs

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my member's statement, I mentioned that I will be asking a question to the Premier.

We heard about Inuit organizations saying that they have had some problems since the slaughter of the dogs in the communities. I wonder what the government is doing with the federal government in regards to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had some discussions with the federal government in that regard. They have a committee formed and they have made some progress to help the Inuit because of the slaughter of dogs years ago. They want to be able to help and they want to gather all the information before they make a decision about whether it's been the fault of the federal government that there was a dog slaughter. A lot of Inuit all over had been greatly impacted by the slaughter of their dogs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier said that he believes that the committee that has been formed will be dealing with this issue, but I just wanted to know what the Government of Nunavut is doing to help those people that had their dogs slaughtered in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the responsibility of the federal government because the Government of Nunavut did not slaughter the dogs.

We want to be able to make sure the federal government is doing what they can to resolve this slaughter of dogs that was done years ago. The Government of Nunavut did not slaughter the dogs. It is the responsibility of the federal government and if they have to provide some funds for that, then they will. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not saying that the Government of Nunavut was the one who slaughtered the dogs. My question is, what is the Government of Nunavut doing to try to encourage the federal government to work a little bit faster to resolve this issue soon? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to be able to assist the people that were affected by the dog slaughter. We would like to be able to work with the committee that was formed by the federal government, and we will do our best to ensure that the slaughter of long ago is resolved as fast as possible. We will push it forward, but we have really nothing to do with that because it's the work of the federal government. They are the only ones who can resolve the problem, but we are pushing them to do it faster. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Have you had any discussion with the MP for Nunavut, Ms. Karetak-Lindell, on the issue of the dog slaughter?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't specifically talk to her about the dog slaughter, but I have talked to her in other areas. The committee of the federal government dealing with that issue wanted a study done on what happened during the dog slaughter.

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

Question 334 – 2(2): City Council

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Community and Government Services. Last week there was a CBC news story that says that city

council should be dissolved and the government take over. Does the minister have anything further to add on this?

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had an interview with CBC about dissolving the city council here in Iqaluit, but from there I have not done anything else to date on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary, Mr. Curley. I am sorry. Oral questions. The Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Question 335 – 2(2): Part of Lottery Sales to Sports Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe my question is for the minister responsible for Sport Nunavut. He can redirect it if he isn't the appropriate minister to ask.

I know that in the Northwest Territories, there was Sport North. One of the agreements that Sport North had with the territorial government was that all the lottery revenues from the sale of 6/49, scratch and win's, and things like that went to Sport North to assist them in providing the sport delivery system that we had in the territories at the time.

Since division, I understand that we don't have a whole heck of a lot of lottery sales in Nunavut, and Sport Nunavut is funded through his department. My question to the minister is, if I go down and buy a scratch and win lottery ticket for \$1 at the booth in Northmart here, or a 6/49 ticket, do those proceeds from the lottery sales here in Nunavut now go directly to Sport Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing now is we are not exactly sure how much money we are receiving. In the next session, I will be providing some tabled documents in this regard. That information will be giving you how much money is Nunavut's portion. They are not ready at the present time, because they have to be translated, but I will provide them to the House in the April session.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to reviewing that information. My question is general, regardless of numbers: do the proceeds from lottery sales go to Sport Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): With the contract that was negotiated by the Government of Nunavut and the Sport North federation in Yellowknife on the Nunavut portion of the lottery proceeds, the Western Canada Lottery Act requires us to disclose the information that I said I will table at next month's session in late April. Yes, it's true that money does go to Sport North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sport North is a separate organization from the government of the Northwest Territories. Sport Nunavut is part of the minister's department. I'm just wondering if the revenue dollars from the lottery sales go directly to Sport Nunavut, on top of the funding allocation that they get through his department's budget, or do they just go into general revenue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The responsibility of Sport North for Nunavut is up to March 31, 2005, and the Western Canada Lottery Association and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth are in the process of negotiating that agreement.

If we do get that agreement, it will be good for two years, up to March 31, 2007. At this time, they're under the Northwest Territories' authority board and we appoint two to more or less observe and attend their meetings. But, we are in the process of coming up with a new agreement so that this can be the responsibility of Nunavut. If the member wishes for clearer information, I'll be able to provide it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If that arrangement is still being run through Sport North, can the minister indicate whether Sport North would then directly issue a cheque to Sport Nunavut, or does it get paid to the GN, through the general revenue pot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): At this time, I am unable to respond to that question, but I will be able to at a later time, perhaps tomorrow or something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 336 – 2(2): Savings from the Purchase of Fuel

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address Minister Kilabuk on behalf of Kivalliq residents, regarding the fact that we now get our sealift from Montreal.

This change was made because it would be cheaper. But we, in the Kivalliq, don't believe that has happened. There have been a lot of oil spills, and the government has to do inspections before the fuel is delivered. I wonder if the minister can produce for us how much savings they have made since that started. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be able to provide you with the prices that used to be; I will be able to produce those documents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are not just talking about the fuel delivery. If you get a vehicle from Montreal and the point of delivery is from Montreal, it costs more than it does from Churchill. Communities receive heavy equipment that is shipped from Montreal. Can he also produce the prices for that heavy equipment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, for the heavy equipment, and as to what price it used to be for building materials and for food, for example, yes, I will be able to provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we get fuel delivery and we often hear about bad gas and machines breaking down. After they've investigated this issue in the Kivalliq, would we be given the information?

Back when NTCL was making the deliveries to the Kivalliq, we never experienced any bad gas and therefore we didn't incur heavy costs in government. Before Mr. Kilabuk, we had already had a bad gas minister and now we continue to have a bad gas minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to elaborate, last year's shippers were a different company from the time of the original bad gas. I will be able to provide my colleagues, with the assistance of my staff, the information that we are

presently gathering to see how we can provide it better and more clearly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 337 – 2(2): Insurance Coverage for Firefighter and Emergency Response Teams

Mr. Peterson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services. It concerns insurance coverage for firefighters.

Mr. Speaker, there was a tragedy in Yellowknife last week where a firefighter died in the line of duty to his community. Our firefighting emergency response personnel place their lives at risk everyday in Nunavut in the service of their communities.

My question for the minister is, what insurance and Workers' Compensation Board coverages are provided to all firefighters and emergency response personnel in Nunavut while on duty? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to locate the information to see if I have it in front of me, for instance, if there were an injury or loss of life, exactly what procedure they go through. But, I'd like to repeat again that fire insurance will have more... . It'll be more in line with the training that was provided in the communities and included is the estimate.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the minister for that response. The Workers' Compensation Board will cover firefighters during an emergency situation, based on whatever salary they are earning from their employers. Many firefighters in Nunavut may be unemployed, hence the Workers' Compensation Board cannot provide them with benefits, aside from immediate medical costs. Many injuries can leave a firefighter unable to work for years, whether they are currently employed or not.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell us if his department is working with the Workers' Compensation Board to determine how unemployed injured firefighters can receive additional Worker's Compensation Board benefits beyond medical costs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I regret to inform my colleague that I am not in a position to respond to that specific question at this time, as it's information that I

do not have readily available to me. I can assure my colleague that I can get an update from my staff and share that with my colleague, on this matter. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that candid response. I look forward to getting that information and I'm sure all fire fighters in Nunavut look forward to that information.

Many firefighters and emergency response personnel are on duty 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is unclear whether the Government of Nunavut, hamlets, or Worker's Compensation Board provide insurance and other coverage for non-emergency duty, such as getting gear ready for the next emergency, fire drills, and inspections.

Can the minister explain to the House what coverage is provided to firefighters and emergency response personnel for non-emergency situations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a good line of questioning, but, as I just indicated, I do not have the detailed, specific information with me at this time. I will ensure that my capable staff dealing with this very important file will have this information available for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I thank the minister for that response and I appreciate the minister not taking questions as notice. The onus is on me to ask questions so that this information is out there.

My last supplementary is, would the minister commit to undertaking a complete review of insurances and other coverages for firefighters and emergency response personnel, both unemployed and employed, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day for both emergency and non-emergency situations while performing their duties? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to discussing those issues with other departments that may have responsibility for some areas in the line of questioning my colleague is forwarding. So, I will commit to looking at those with not only this department, but also with other departments that may have some roles and responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 13: Tabled Documents**Tabled Document 108 – 2(2): Sealskin Price Schedule and Manual**

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table to following document: Sealskin Price Schedule and Manual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please pass the documents to the Clerk. Tabling of documents. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Tabled Document 109 – 2(2): Nunavut Liquor Commission (Unaudited) Financial Statements for Year Ending March 31, 2000 to 2004

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents: Nunavut Liquor Commission (Unaudited) Financial Statements for year ending March 31, 2000 to 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please pass the documents to the Clerk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 110 – 2(2): Qulliq Energy Corporation Forecast Capital Expenditures: Five Year Ending March 31, 2010

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Qulliq Energy Corporation Forecast Capital Expenditures: Five Year ending March 31, 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Going to the orders of the day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 018 – 2(2): Tabled Document 100-2(2) GN Leased Properties Report ending March 31, 2004, Tabled Document 101-2(2) GN Procurement and Contracting Report 2003/04 and Tabled Document 102-2(2) GN Contract Data Report 2003/04 to Committee of the Whole – Notice**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Wednesday, March 23rd, I will move the following motion. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that Tabled Document 100 - 2(2), 101 - 2(2), Government of Nunavut

and 102 - 2(2) be moved to the Committee of the Whole for discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Item 16. Item 17. Item 18. Item 19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and other matters. Tabled Documents 52 - 2(2). Bill 8, Bill 9, Bill 10, Bill 11, Bill 12, Bill 13 and Bill 14, and Tabled Document 58 - 2(2): Report of the Chief Electoral Officer, with Mr. Netser at the chair.

We will take a break until 1:30. It is lunch time.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:40 and resumed at 13:33*

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

Chairman (Mr. Netser)(interpretation): Thank you. The Committee will come to order. What's the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with Bill 8 and the review of the main estimates for the Department of Human Resources and Tabled of Document 52 – 2(2). We will then proceed with the review of the main estimates for the Department of Environment followed by the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we agreed to deal with Tapardjuk's Department?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk, if you could go to the witness table with your officials. Minister Tapardjuk, please introduce your officials.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Cathy Okpik who is the Deputy Minister of the Department of Human Resources and on my right is Tom Thompson the assistant deputy minister.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, welcome, Ms. Okpik and Mr. Thompson. We're on page D-9, Inuit Employment Plan for Operations and Maintenance, \$4,407,000, do you agree? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The total operations and maintenance is \$4,407,000 in 2005/2006 main estimates and under the Inuit Employment Plan in the 2003 Public Service Annual Report which was produced in November 2004,

the government stated that they would have 50% higher in the various government departments and in the occupation categories by 2008.

(interpretation ends) Will the Inuit Employment Plan Strategy document called Seeking Balance be tabled in the Legislative Assembly during the upcoming session? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Did you say 50% Inuit Employment or I thought we heard 85%.

Mr. Barnabas: The government indicated that it has a defined target of 50% Inuit representation across all departments in occupational categories by 2008. I hope that makes it clearer.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The document Seeking Balance has not been presented to Cabinet under my hat as minister of Human Resources. We arrive at those decisions under the negotiation under Article 23 and we had assumed that this would be paid for by the federal government. We have not made a definite decision yet. As the Nunavut government, we will use our own funds to pursue it. For that reason, and the fact that Seeking Balance has not been presented as yet, Mr. Chairman.

Chairperson (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think our target was 100%, but I'll be asking question. (interpretation end) 50% Inuit employment target across all occupation categories by 2008. The Government of Nunavut will have to hire a total of 38 Inuit senior managers. 130 middle managers and 317 professionals in three years for the total of more than 85.

Is this a realistic goal? I want to understand how this will be achieved.

Chairperson: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is realistic, with the middle management we have trainees who are taking management and there were some individuals who graduated. We are starting on April 1. We will be starting more leadership programs and they will be doing internship with the government. We have had ongoing programs available for managers.

We are looking at 2009 where we will have 50 percent Inuit employed. We have a policy that places first priority for hire for beneficiaries or Nunavummiut and because of that, during the summer, we have summer student employment programs. That's why we are

saying that it's a realistic goal to have 50 percent Inuit hired by 2009. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We are on page D-9. (interpretation ends) Human Resources Branch Summary. Inuit Employment Plan. \$4,470,000. Do you agree? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to follow up on my colleague's question and on the target that's set for 2009, and I think that if you take a look at the latest IEP Reports, I think there's like over 300 new people they are going to have to hire to meet that goal, again I think it's great to have goals, but be able to set something realistic; hiring 300, almost 400 people and without losing any of the current beneficiary employees that we have right now.

I am just wondering how these are going to be I looked at that as indeterminate positions working within the government and not just summer student positions or casuals that we can use to boost the numbers up. So maybe if I could just get a little bit better estimate on exactly how the department plans to achieve that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We think the 50 percent mark is realistic and I would like my deputy minister to respond.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have identified 50 percent and I think it's a realistic goal. We are using different avenues to reach that mark, and as he said earlier, we are negotiating under the Article 23 and as the minister stated, we have had to use our own funds to set up training programs.

We are going to have to work with the different departments within the government. Every government department has made plans on how they are going to increase the Inuit contents.

We are going to be working with the government departments and the plans that we have produced are being given to the Cabinet for a review. We are also making those plans so that they can be implemented into the Business Plan and other avenues.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I still see in the IEP Capacity Report they did for December 31, 2004, it shows the total number of employees in all categories as 3,212, and if you look at 50 percent of that, 1,606 and as of that date, there was 1,216 beneficiaries working for the government, but 390 to fill the gap.

In there it also breaks it down by category. The only category where we're above the 50 percent mark right now is in the administrative support. In the areas of middle management and the professionals, you're under the 50 percent mark by both 453 positions.

What plans does the department have to try and meet the 50% requirements or goals in those specific categories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier, we have Sivuliqtiksats programs and there were 9 graduated last year and for this year, we 14 positions.

In regards to the Akitsiraq Law School, I believe they'll be graduating this spring and we have agreed that these individuals, these graduates will be working for the government. We have individuals going to school in the Arctic College and we are also making plans through the Inuit Employment Division.

We are also upgrading Inuit. With the high school graduates, we're also focusing on the high school graduates to get into the government positions. Those are the main reason why we think or we believe that we can reach our 50 percent goal. Our Deputy Minister can make a supplementary to that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To supplementary the Minister's comments, we are going to be working with beneficiaries who are in the entry level and through training will be going up the ladder within the government.

It would be called career development which would be geared towards the present government employees. Training will be available through upgrading or through other means. That's one. Then there are other programs that have been established by our department where we would focus on the present work force.

We have educational guide lines that will be in the educational guide lines. The training programs would be finances, computer skills and other programs. We also have two other programs where one is the Nunavut Public Service Diploma and the other one is for Public Administration.

Those are just some of the programs that I have identified. They are mostly geared for the entry level and for the permanent employees who need the upgrading and who will be focusing on management positions. With the leadership programs, this program is open not only for the managers but we're focusing on the coordinators and the program managers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know prior to division and since then there have been a lot of focus on senior and middle managers. On the senior management, there are only about 37.5 below the 50 percent middle management, I said is 133 positions below the 50 percent, but the professional area is 320 below the 50 percent mark on there, and I know that that's your accountants and other professionals.

So I think we can train individuals to be managers to take the information and policy analysts and do things like that with it to try to bring us more in line with our targets, the targets that the department has set for professionals, and I know the minister had indicated that there's 23 people graduating from the program and the law students are going to come out. So, that's still like just a drop in the bucket from that area.

Would you take a serious look at it in committing to try and develop some type of a program like the law school program for accountants, for people to be able to obtain their accreditation in the accounting field so that we can try and bring those numbers more in line with the goals of this government are as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes. Just to elaborate further or more in detail, the internship program, if we look at the internship programs, like each department is working on their own internship program within the Department of Finance, there we have an internship program.

So this is continually being worked on and it's evident that by working with the other departments, we can look at ways how we can improve the internship, but in regards to professionals such as lawyers, nurses, doctors, accountants, and architect engineers, there's a training program now on for professional development. So that's why we feel that our target figures are realistic.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you go through the list of departmental totals for the percentage of beneficiaries hired, I think Finance is the second lowest at 38 percent and I know they have the internship program in the Department of Finance and every other department, but with how many people does that turn out?

I guess what I was looking at was the law program was a very successful program. We are going to turn out some professional lawyers after a fixed period of time and that's all they do is go to school. I am just wondering if the government would look at trying to set up a program like that for accountants because I know that even the Auditor General pointed out that that's one of the things that we have to try and do was increase our financial capacity and the way of having accountants and skilled number counters, if you want to call them that, in the workforce.

I think if we can be able to do that and keep them here is to have people from here, beneficiaries, trained, get their designations and do that work. Otherwise, we are always going to have that revolving door of accountants and budgeters and that from somewhere else.

Again, I would like to ask the Minister to commit to looking at specifically setting up some type of a program like the law program for people that are interested in seeking their designation and getting an accounting profession. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Was that a question? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes it was.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I agree with your comment there. Yes, although I cannot speak for the Department of Finance, I know for sure there is a training, in Iglulik they do an accounting program and training. Yes, I know they are very busy working on accounting training. I do agree with the comment you just made. Yes, we definitely need to do some further training on accounting.

I could tell you that the Department of Finance is doing accounting training program in Iglulik. It's evident that I'm sure, your points are very well taken and I'm willing to speak with the Minister of Finance to find out how we can provide more assistance.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to hear that. I think a program like that shouldn't be just targeted for the Department of Finance, it should be an open program just like the law program was. You can apply for it and once people graduate from there, whether they go work for the Department of Finance, I know every department is probably in dire need of someone with a very good finance background because it always seems to be the backlog in processing in the paper work is the lack of that expertise in that field and in the departments.

So, I would appreciate if the Minister, not only the Minister for Finance, but along with cabinet all together say that this is something that we want to be able to establish to be able to create opportunities to put out more professionals into our work force that will stay here so that we won't have to keep at that expensive process of bringing people in on a regular basis from outside.

That's more just a clarification comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you for the comment Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the Minister for working on the government's obligation on Article 23 and once the training has been completed, once the employees are all accredited and once they go to the accredited schools, then I believe that Article 23 will never be fully implemented.

In looking at the Department of Finance, all the staff, what percent of the staff of the Department of Finance are they accredited accountants? And all the employees employed there should be graduated. Perhaps, if you can tell us whether the staff needs to go through the accredited school.

Do all the finance officers have to complete that, or do they have to have accounting certification? Can you tell us which accountants require chartered accountants and, I just wanted to get that information from you for that one department. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes that's a very good question. The Department of Finance alone, well perhaps I would have to get the support from the Minister of Finance. I cannot get all the information prior to me without speaking to that individual. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. In looking at the May 8 proceedings I know that you have that back up. There are the government's 3,212 positions and 2,730 are filled. It is in the document that you just tabled. From December 31st, of the 2,641 individuals who work for the Government of Nunavut, 1,216 are Inuit.

So, our 85 percent of the population 1,216 is employed by the Government of Nunavut. The other 15 percent of the population, approximately 5,000 non-Inuit, 1,425 are working. That literally translates to 54 percent of staff, a little bit over 50 percent are filled by non-beneficiaries and 46 percent of these positions are in the Government of Nunavut.

Can the minister or his officials state to us what percentage annually, is there any increase, like there are 46 percent Inuit who work for the Government of Nunavut and 15 percent of the population. Do you know the percentage for executive, senior management, middle management, professional all the way down to period administrator, could you tell us so we can at least have some kind of expectation that this time there are 1,216 Inuit beneficiaries. Do you have any idea of how much increase there will be next year, and if you have a target? So we'll at least get an idea.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my Deputy Minister respond to that question.

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

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our target is 2 percent increase for all the departments for hiring Inuit. We are looking at two percent increase. If all the positions are filled there will be 280 positions filled by Inuit and that is our target for four years. Just to remind members that the Department of Human Resources makes a report as to how many beneficiaries are working in various departments, but the departments have the responsibility to hire Inuit and it's their responsibility to increase the number of Inuit hires.

We are the advisors as the Department of Human Resources to other departments. We advise them if they are far too below the Inuit Employment Plan. We provide support and assistance to the departments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, with a goal of two percent every year to 2008, there would be 50 percent Inuit employment. In 2008, it will only reach 50 percent Inuit employment within the government. It would be better if this could be fast tracked.

Are you going to be careful to make sure that you are not in such a rush to fast track Inuit employment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, Mr. Chairman. For example, what we have fixed is the lowest number, but we expect that it would be a little bit higher. In 2008, we figure that it's going to be over 50 percent, but we are going to work very hard to achieve that. We would like to get 208 Inuit employment or 56 percent; we have the lowest figure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I like that idea. I just want to ask a question now. What about the turnover rate of Inuit employment? Do you have an idea of which ones have a higher turnover rate; is it Inuit employees or non-Inuit employees or are they sort of similar because it's a lot more expensive to hire non-Inuit.

Has there been a cost comparison on the non-Inuit and Inuit employees? I am pretty sure that if you bring in southern employees up here that there's a lot of money being spent for their relocation. So have you made a comparison in writing between the non-Inuit and Inuit employee turnover?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I will get my assistant deputy minister to respond to that question.

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

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We maintain the retention in turnover rates for the entire Government of Nunavut. At this point, we didn't break it out by beneficiaries/non-beneficiaries although that would be something that we could definitely look at.

With respect to surveys on salaries, I don't believe there's any data pertaining to average salaries of beneficiaries or non-beneficiaries, but that could also be captured. With instruction from our minister, we have begun to anticipate ways in which we could get that information to the members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, thank you. I think that information would be within the department because we figured that it would be better to have Inuit employees or northerners then the turnover rate would be lower. So, for that reason, that if the department could have the statistics done it would be good.

Mr. Chairman, the obligations of the department is good, but although I would like to be able to get the information on the turnover rates of the Inuit or non-Inuit and I am in support of the minister because the Inuit are starting to have more employment within the government. You have to be sensitive to work within the government for the sake of the Inuit. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are on D-9. Human Resources. Branch Summary. Inuit Employment Plan. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,407,000, do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. D-10. Human Resources. Branch Summary. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. I have two questions on that page. (interpretation ends) Expenditures on Training. The department business plan page D-19 indicates that the Government of Nunavut made an audit of training expenditures by the department was to have been completed by March 31, 2004. This was to quantify the amount of investment in training across the public service. What are the results of this audit? Will its results be tabled in the Legislative Assembly?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I will get my deputy minister to respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The study has been done already, and this week we have worked with the Department of Finance this week and we will be having a meeting with them in this regard, and we will also meet with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated in regards to Article 23 Bilateral Working Group, and we will provide it in this house as soon as they are...they have been completed, we will have to just table it.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The programs, which ones, with those programs, which ones are going well and which ones are not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are doing a review on that right now because they are doing different reviews right now. What we are doing is all of the money that has been use for training is what we're identifying right now.

Some people that went to school in Nunavut and outside of Nunavut and whether they were taking professional development or where they were having a workshop or conference; those of types of things that we are doing right now; reviewing how much money was used for various programs. So, it will be in the information. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Can you shut off the microphone? Thank you. Are you done, Mr. Barnabas? We're on D-10. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): This division, Training and Development, is a various division of the Department of Human Resources; providing professional employees is part of this division.

We never used to talk about professional; exactly what does it mean because a lot of them usually need more workshops. I think I mentioned this before in one of the departments because some people were complaining and they don't know who to complain to. I think there should be another workshop to deal with teamwork whether they are non-Inuit or Inuit. Sometimes their relationship is not adequate.

So for that reason, I wonder what the opinion of the department is in regards to employee relations not just to have an ad-hoc basis, but have a real working relationship.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a very good question. I will get my deputy minister to answer it.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member's question is not in training and development, but it's in employee relationship and all the departments can ask for that type of training from our department. We are quite open and we would like to be able to go to any community at anytime to train employees and all the deputy ministers are the ones that are responsible for the wellbeing of their public service.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I was in too much of a rush. I think we're going to be pleased tomorrow. That's it.

Chairman: We're on D-10. Human Resource. Branch Summary. Training and Development, \$1,213,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. D-11 is an information item. D-12. Human Resource. Branch Summary. Employee Relations. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have two questions on this page in regards to grievances. In 2002/03 and 2003/04, Public Service Annual Report there were a total of 96 active grievances as of March 31, 2003, and 116 as of March 31, 2004.

Are the Nunavut Employees' Union and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers in agreement with the department's Business Plan goal to implement an alternative dispute resolution process that provides options to the current grievances procedure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, the Nunavut Employees' Union and our department have not had any discussions on that yet as to how they would be a resolution on. At this time, I have informed my staff that they should be looking into an alternate dispute resolution process that is reflective of Inuit culture. That's the type of things that we have not consulted the union as yet.

Just to make it clear, say, for instance, if I'm not happy with the amount of money that I'm receiving from the government, I could have one grievance. If I was late to come to

work and then they take an hour off my pay, those little bits and pieces of grievances are the ones that we hear about, not the major ones.

Such things as how Inuit can be retained by the government departments, we have this review that we have been doing to make it more Inuit related in the workplace. So, those are the types of things that we would bring to the Nunavut Employees' Union. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What kinds of those types of things would the department want to talk to about with the Nunavut Employees' Union? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): At this time I cannot really say but I have seen some information. After going through it I had to give it back to make improvements because it's in the process of being improved. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The current Collective Agreement between the FTN and the Government of Nunavut expires on June 30, 2005.

One of the department goals is to negotiate a new Collective Agreement with FTN. What is the status of the negotiations between the Government of Nunavut and the FTN? What increases is the Union asking for and what is the government's position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As government, we have only identified who will be negotiating because their contract expires this year. At this time, I can't give you a definite answer as to how it will be.

First of all, they have met from March 10 to 14 from Government of Nunavut and the employees. From April 21st to 25th, they will be having another meeting. So we figure May 26 to 27 they should have agreements on how they will going to deal with that. So at this stage, we are nearly figuring out who the negotiators will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department's Business Plan specifically states that high absenteeism and turnover requires development of redeemable strategies

according to information contained in the department's Return to Written Question 14 – 2(2).

The absenteeism rate across the Government of Nunavut doubled between 2002/03 and 2003/04. In fact, it doubled again in the first six months of 2004/05. What factors account for the increased absenteeism rate across the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): People might think that maybe it's for one person or that happens with a very small number of employees. For example, if that employee is absent from work then they total it from the days, it could be the same person.

The people with grievances; they try and help those employees to solve their problems to assist them. We try and work with the departments and have discussions with them as to how to prevent people from being absent because that costs money to the government.

So we are trying to find alternate ways of how we can assist them more. Maybe my deputy minister can respond to that more. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the time when this question was raised, it was raised only for six months and the portion before that was used. If you look at this; that was six months, it was to show that we just double that from six months so it doubled. So we used that figure to give an estimate because that's mainly to look at it annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question. What are the plans when they are reviewing how to decrease that absenteeism within the government? Thank you.

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

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The absenteeism that was mentioned, there's a very small percentage of employees who are absent. We don't know what their reasons are or if they don't go to work for three weeks so the department we have to work together and try to find out as to why they are not attending work.

The policies we have in the departments, we want to inform the departments that these employees have to be at work. If they don't then you'll have to show on paper that they

are absent so we're expecting that this new form will be able to explain to us more why they don't show up for work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Under D-12, my question, Contract Services, and its \$447,000. What was it used for, that it is so high? Is it an ongoing contract? Or discretionary, can you explain that to me.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, it was mainly for the bargaining unit and for grievances where some employees were let go. As a government, we have to consult with lawyers to explain to the past employees who have been go.

This year there has been, there is are negotiations coming out with the teachers and for people who had grievances. That figure shows mainly for those things that we expect to spend. I believe he is \$447,000, my deputy can add to that further.

Chairman (interpretation): Did you wish to add? Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To clarify, the grievances, when there are grievances, we have to bring an arbitrator and there is a Union because they have made agreements that there is arbitrators we have to pay for their airfare, accommodation. We didn't spend that much last year and for if we expected to have an arbitrator from outside of government to negotiate but we ended up using one of our employees.

We have to prepare for those because we can never know exactly how many we're going to have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on the employee relations end of things and then reviewing the information that was provided in the written question on dismissals and suspensions.

I'm just wondering, you get in line with usually grievances follow before that and I'm just wondering how many grievances the departments had to date. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figure is still the same, 116 grievances. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on the suspensions that went from April 1st to September 30th, there were three. I'm just wondering if there has been any more of those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Ms. Okpik.

Ms. Okpik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The figure is still the same but we can check into it further to see if there are more then I will be able to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering for people on suspension, are there any specific areas, whether we look at your frontline administrative workers, is it your IT people or what kinds of areas do they look at where these suspensions do they look at if they're common in coming up in any particular category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let my assistant deputy minister explain this further. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we don't maintain that data but it's easy to get if the number of suspensions are fairly small. It would not be hard to gather that data. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering if there has been any observation made by the department for dismissals or suspensions or things like that have been internet related or related to communications or electronic information highway or that kind of thing.

I know now, you hear of stories all over the place where people can go any where in the world from their desk. I'm just wondering if there have been a number of suspensions or dismissals as a result of misuse of that kind of thing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): We can't really say aside from the answer that the Assistant Deputy Minister just gave you but there are different reasons so we can certainly check into this. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are there any policies or guidelines outlining computer usage and internet usage for employees to follow so they know what they can and can't do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Department of Community and Government Services has a very extensive policy on the use of computers and internet.

Every Government of Nunavut employee when they sign on is informed of this and every time the website opens, the warning is also there for everyone to read. I understand deputy ministers have the ability to request proxy reports on any employee that they suspect is misusing the internet during or after work hours.

That can be certainly investigated and sent back to deputies for decisions on whether to proceed with suspension or dismissal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Sounds like basic stuff. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said they can get proxies or take a look at tracking someone's use. In light of that, say, John Smith writes a confidential email to a sibling or a mother or a father that lives somewhere down south and does that kind of thing potentially can get looked at, too, by the government officials whether it would be Department of Community and Government Services or Department of Human Resources or whoever. I'm just wondering what the guidelines are there for privacy issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, the policy resides with the Department of Community and Government Services so I'm only speaking entirely from my own knowledge of it, but I understand the emails in our system is not completely confidential, the government doesn't spy and read people's emails.

I was referring to internet usage when the department suspects an employee of the misuse of the internet, they can request to the Department of Community and Government Services a proxy report; that proxy report only provides the websites the employee has visited in the times that that has happened. It does not access their email, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): It that it? (interpretation ends) Thank you. (interpretation) I would like everyone to stay in the House if at all possible. We would like to conclude our business.

We were on D-12. I have no other names on my list. Human Resources. Branch Summary. Employees' Relation. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was listening to the response that the minister and his officials gave on the contract services and I believe, as an indication, that they didn't use the full amount before, I guess it's still showing that that's in there. How much of that is for arbitrators, I guess I'm just wondering, and how much is specifically for other contract employees? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the upcoming year, we have \$40,000 for arbitration for legal cost, for legal services \$28,000, and for Federation of Nunavut Teachers and Nunavut Employees' Union \$60,000. That's specifically for arbitration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. We are on D-12. Employee Relations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,732,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Back to page D-4. Human Resources Department Summary. Detail of Expenditure. Total. Operations and Maintenance. \$19,396,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we agreed that Human Resources is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Does the committee agree that Tabled Document 52 – 2(2) is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister, do you have closing remarks, Mr. Minister, briefly.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleagues. We are looking forward to increasing the Inuit Employment and also increasing the training and internship programs. We are very pleased that we are

getting the numbers up and we would like to make being an employee of the government friendlier and more hospitable than the present.

We are going to be working closely together with the government departments to make improvements in our department. Also to increase the Inuit employed and to better service the people of Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk for being able to be here and also your officials. You are done.

Minister of Environment, if you have opening comments. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be here today in front of the Committee of the Whole to present my department's Main Estimates and Business Plans for the 2005/06 fiscal year.

(interpretation) Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment wishes to be allocated for the fiscal year 2005/06 with \$18,134,000. (interpretation ends) My department has identified a budget and business plan for fiscal year 2005/06 and that focuses on delivering our mandatory obligations and responsibilities including our Article 23 obligations under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and supporting partnership within strategic areas of our operations.

The Department of Environment has a number of specific obligations in areas of responsibilities under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement that are directly related to management of Nunavut's resources as well as involves other national and international legal obligations and responsibilities.

This includes ongoing responsibilities for the co-management of all wildlife in Nunavut, Land Use Planning, Environmental Regulatory functions, and the responsibility for the implementation of territorial parks, Inuit Impact and Benefits Agreement among other things. As you will see, a significant portion of our overall budget goes to ensuring that we meet those obligations.

As part of the departmental Inuit Employment Plan, we also plan to introduce the Field Officer and Training Program beginning in 2005/06. This multi-year program will encourage the recruitment of Inuit Wildlife Officers through our northern training program, which combines seven goals for professional development within the system of training and mentoring.

Throughout our budgeting and planning for 2005/06, in all cases we have attempted to support partnership as the most efficient and cost effective approach to getting things done. By partnering with other organizations and institutions, wherever possible, the department will maximize the impact of our dollars to increase or supplement our internal capacity. Often a relatively small investment on part of the department with the support of much needed service for Nunavummiut.

For example, Mr. Chairman, in 2005/06 we plan to enhance our Fisheries Development and Diversification Fund. This fund supports the development of Nunavut's emerging fishing industry through cost-shared projects. In 2004/05 a total of \$350 thousand in funding was available through this program and it looks like we will again have successfully leveraged more than twice that amount from other sources.

As there is continuing demand for project funding under this program, in 2005/06 we intend to increase the Fisheries Development and Diversification Fund to \$525 thousand.

Another example of how the Department of Environment is working cooperatively with other organizations and institutions is in the newly formed Nunavut Fishery Training Consortium. This training program is largely funded by the Aboriginal Skills Development Canada.

This three year program was developed to prepare 150 – 200 Nunavummiut to actively participate in all facets of offshore fisheries. The Government of Nunavut contribution for this program is \$500 thousand.

In closing Mr. Chairman, I'd like to point out that the Department of Environment's 2005/06 main estimates and business plan is well balanced and clearly supports the obligations and priorities of the Government of Nunavut as well as the needs of Nunavummiut. I am confident that my department will continue to provide Nunavummiut with the highest standards of performance and accountability. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Does the chairperson have any opening comments to make? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to give the Committee's opening remarks as we begin debate on the 2005-2006 main estimates for the Department of Environment. Later on, Members will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding these estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit has had the opportunity to meet with the Minister and his staff. The Minister was able to give an update on his department's proposed expenditures. Mr. Chairman, the Committee noted that this is the only department that refers to Inuit Qaujimajangit rather than Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit in its business plan and commends the department for giving careful thought to these concepts.

Mr. Chairman, members continue to be concerned with staffing levels at the department's Iglulik Wildlife Office. The December 2004 Inuit Employment Positions report shows that 10 of the 29 vacant positions in the department were in Iglulik. Members expect to be kept informed on the progress made in filling these positions.

Mr. Chairman, Members expect to see what the department has specifically done to implement the Climate Change Strategy for Nunavut that was adopted in 2003. Members also look forward to updates on any new initiatives or actions that are going to be taken as a result of the recent Arctic Climate Impact Assessment.

Mr. Chairman, Members expect to be kept informed on clean up and monitoring programs for contaminated sites in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, the Federal Government announced that it would improve efficiencies in the management of INAC's share of the clean-up of Northern contaminated sites that will result in the savings of \$5 million per year.

Although this is not supposed to scale back the clean up of contaminated sites, it will be important to closely monitor the federal department's performance.

Members were pleased with the recent increase to Nunavut's total allowable harvest of polar bears. However, members are concerned that recent news reports indicate that population counts may have not been as accurate as initially thought. Members urge the minister to consider very carefully any additional changes that may be brought forward as a result. Members also urge the minister to continue including Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit when conducting studies on polar bear populations.

Members look forward to seeing the results of the two studies conducted by this department on the Peary Caribou and Polar Bear Deterrents.

Members understand that the department is now working on drafting regulations for the new *Wildlife Act* and will be consulting with communities. Members wish to be kept fully informed on progress in this area, and to have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft regulations prior to their final approval by Cabinet.

Members understand that these regulations will be translated into Inuktitut for the benefit of unilingual Inuktitut speakers. Members would wish to see the same provided to Inuinnaqtun speakers.

The committee is committed to the development of Nunavut's fishing industry as this has potential to create much-needed employment for Nunavummiut.

Members were pleased to learn that the department is looking at developing a fishery and sealing training program in partnership with Nunavut Arctic College, Kakivak Association, HRDC, INAC, BFC and QC. Members expect to be kept informed on this development.

Mr. Chairman, members eagerly look forward to reviewing the department's new Fisheries Strategy.

There is still a lack of clarity with respect to responsibility for harvesting-related economic development initiatives in the territory. It is clear that the Department of Economic Development and Transportation funds the Nunavut Development Corporation and therefore has an interest in its subsidiaries, Kitikmeot Foods Ltd, Kivalliq Arctic Foods Ltd, and the Pangnirtung Fisheries Ltd. It is equally clear that the Department of Environment is responsible for fish and wildlife management in the territory.

It remains unclear as to how the departments work together in the overlap between these two distinct areas. Members are concerned that adequate mechanisms for cooperation do not exist.

Members note with approval that the prices and sales of sealskins have stabilized somewhat, and commend the department's continued efforts to revitalize sealing in Nunavut through its fur pricing program and support for marketing campaigns that highlight the sustainable harvesting practices used by Inuit.

Members were pleased to hear the Fur Price Program made a profit in 2004 and as a result, will be paying the seal harvesters with a one-time second payment of \$10 for every sealskin that was delivered to their offices. Members look forward to seeing the department's Sealing Strategy.

Mr. Chairman, members will wish to see the new Department of Environment Strategy to check its plans once it has been developed.

Members noted that joint planning and management companies for all territorial parks in Nunavut has been established and implementation has been delayed due to the lack of federal funding for IIBA's.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks and I anticipate that the individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2005/06 main estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. We're going to have a 15 minute break before we proceed. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 14:56 and resumed at 15:20

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akasuk you may proceed to the witness table with your officials. (interpretation ends) Do you need your officials at the witness table?

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): I don't need them if you are going to have no questions. If you just go along, well I guess that I need them.

Chairman (interpretation): I am sure that there will be questions. You may proceed to the witness table with your officials. I just want to say, Mr. Akasuk, when you get asked questions that are very difficult for you to answer, you are going to say, "That is a good

question, so I am going to get my deputy minister to answer. Please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. To my right is my deputy minister Simon Awa, and to my left, Corporate Services, Trevor Jarett.

Chairman (interpretation): Welcome. Every member has 10-minutes to do their general comments. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I am sure that it's going to take less than 10-minutes to approve the department. I am going to be talking in Inuktitut, so please pay attention.

At times when you try to speak Inuktitut it's to convey the Inuit concept and they just say that they will look into that and all of the ministers have stated the same response. Although everyone knows the actual result, but when they are asked, they always respond by saying that they are going to look into that, especially when we are dealing with wildlife that we need to have a biologist here because that's a great concern of the Nunavummiut and they state that once they do a survey they say that these wildlife are critical in population. So that's why I am making this statement.

When we talk about wildlife, we listen to scientists and they have no direction and nobody even talks to them. At times, the wildlife biologists and animal rights activists seem to work together, don't they work together? And as a minister, I would tell my biologist not to state what they state because they are not approved yet.

We have seen in the international relations, it seems like the biologists are working on the responsibilities of federal ministers, especially when the Greenlanders are harvesting too many of some kind of species.

We don't even have foreign affairs in this committee, although we have international agreements that we have to deal with. Are we working effectively within our responsibilities?

So at times, I become concerned and I would urge the minister to tighten up his department, especially when we have to the scientific data, we have to include Inuktitut knowledge. The polar bear biologists met in Edmonton. I will bet you that there was not even one Inuk person down there in that meeting.

The only way we can incorporate Inuit traditional knowledge is when they are incorporated with the scientific knowledge. I would like to ask about the scientific knowledge so therefore I believe that we need a biologist. I want to get understanding of what scientific data means.

So, when the biologists state that specific species are in danger, like for example, polar bears in the Baffin Bay, there's only 200 something polar bears around the polar bear management zone to North Baffin.

They say there were only 2,700 polar bears being estimated now. So therefore I would like to get an understanding why we have not included biologists at the witness table. Thank you.

Chairperson (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Kattuk, you have 10 minutes for general comments.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although I will not take 10-minutes, but I am in support of my colleague's general comments and I believe what he said because the animal rights activists get together, for example, the protest we talked recently in regards to the protest that was made by the humane society.

Even though these animal rights activists just work within their homes, it seems like they have no place to go and watch the animals in hinterland. The knowledge of Inuit, I'm sure we need an opportunity to voice our concerns, too, because the Inuit are very knowledgeable about the environment and that's part of their daily lives and they know their wildlife.

When it comes to animals rights activists, we have no place to turn to and they believe the scientific knowledge and I believe that the Nunavut Government should know to approach and validate the knowledge of Inuit and make sure that there's opportunity to hear the users of wildlife on a daily basis. I just wanted to make that statement first.

The concern that's being raised around our environment; we now have all sorts of pollution. We are starting to be concerned and worried about pollution. Back then, we were never worried about pollution and we were never worried about contaminating our wildlife.

We were never concerned about wildlife having diseases or sicknesses. In my constituency, we use seal and seal meat for sustenance and as the spring season arrives we tend to get sicker, too, and we tend visit the nurses more often or more frequently even I have not seen a laboratory set in Nunavut.

I can use an example, last fall, with the sea cucumbers, we were quite concerned about the sea cucumbers and it took a very long time for the officials to do something about the sea cucumbers dying off. And it took a very long time for officials the reason why they were dying off.

There are no laboratories in the north to do some testing for our species. It would be ideal to get a laboratory where you can get the results the very next day. We are concerned about eating contaminated species and getting contaminated ourselves.

Although we know that we expect to see some negative impact coming to the north, such as pollution, because the other international country's pollution are coming up here and it is becoming more evident in the Hudson Bay area. There are many rivers that are flowing right into the Hudson Bay area. There is a lot of sewage and raw stuff being poured right into the river and they are flowing right into Hudson Bay. There is a lot of forestry work done in the Quebec area, so the river flows into Hudson Bay and I am concerned about that.

We are concerned about our species and once we find out what kind of diseases our species are contaminated with, there is no laboratory place where you can do some testing on these specimens, and we can't get results the very next day.

I am just making these comments here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just for the opening I would like to make a short comment to the department. I would like to be able to work with the department on this fiscal year and the coming year in regards to the protection of wildlife in the north. I am happy that they are starting to help the people of Nunavut.

What I am concerned about is the department used to have quite a chunk of money before Nunavut was created. I think that they were supposed to be getting some money from the federal government annually.

The Department of Environment wanted to be able to give out Grants and Contributions as well. There have been a lot of problems coming from the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations because they don't receive much funding from the department. There is also the Canadian Wildlife Organization have also wanted to get some Grants and Contributions. Also the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board is giving out some funding too as well but the funding that they receive is not adequate.

Also in our community what I am saying is that I am talking about mostly my constituents. There are a lot of wildlife organizations in various regions and they ask for funding and the funding is being asked by various organizations. Under the department's funding, there used to be some funding available in the Northwest Territories days to help out the fishing, and then there has been a lot of people saying that this department is not giving out as much money as they used to.

These are the two things that I am mostly thinking about because there's a lot of funding coming from various organizations as well to help out with fishing, but we would like to be able to have some more money for the fishermen from this department, but they have not been doing that as much to those fishermen.

There's about \$875,000 in that amount from the Department of Environment for fisheries and I know that it's going to be going into the deep sea fish for deep sea fishermen and some other areas.

I think the department should be able to look at this funding more so. I think we have to concentrate more on the Nunavut fishermen rather than the other fishermen that receive a lot of money. It seems like the Government of Nunavut is not doing as much for fisheries as much as they should be. So I figured that I should talk about this, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will make a brief comment, too. What the Inuit people are mainly doing today in my constituency about looking after their wildlife and the environment. The department is doing something about what we are doing in my constituency.

The Inuit used to say that when they have their own Nunavut Government that the government would be able to make their own legislation that directly effective to the people of Nunavut.

There are a lot of people that don't know anything about what's happening about the wildlife regulations and they said that this coming July that they would be doing something about the regulations. We want to involve the people of Nunavut when it has to do with wildlife.

Also, we have seen some strange animals coming up north that don't belong in the north, but there's not enough information going to the public. I know that with diseases and everything else that I think there should be a laboratory in the communities of Nunavut to be able to test those animals.

We were very happy to hear that the polar bear quota has been increased, and then all of a sudden when they did the counting of the numbers of polar bears, they said that there was not enough in numbers. Perhaps the number is not declining. Maybe their route has changed say to mostly on the shore.

I have seen a lot of polar bears around my community and there have been a lot of polar bears coming into my community as well, although it never used to be that way years ago. We are seeing more polar bears coming into our communities more so than years back. Nobody seems to know the reasons why.

Also, there are a lot of snow geese now in the north and because they put a ban on killing on them, there are too many of them now and the same thing will probably happen with the polar bears. That should be the thought in the biologists minds all of the time.

Even though the polar bear quota doesn't increase, it would be okay, but there might be a decision by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board in that regard, but I have to say that all of the wildlife in Nunavut is the source of food and clothing, and we want to be able to have no ban on anything. Thank you.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to welcome the minister and his officials.

I just want to comment on commercial harvesting in regards to the polar bears, the grizzly bears, and the wolves. These were the concerns from the communities of Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, and Bathurst Inlet. The concern was the quota for the wolverines. It was not too long ago when the biologists went to Kugluktuk for two years to monitor wolverines.

(interpretation ends) The biologist had just moved to Kugluktuk a couple of years ago now probably and according to what I heard from some of the hunters was that the biologist wants to see a quota system for wolverines. A lot of hunters were not too happy because that's their main source of income to put food on the table for some of the hunters who are doing trapping and fishing.

When they heard that the quota system was going to go up on the wolverines, some people were not too happy. In Kugluktuk alone, in probably 2001/02, I guess they had caught 112 wolverines in one winter and two days ago, I called the wildlife officers he mentioned there's about 79 caught so far. He told me there are 85 averages per year. I am sure that it's going to go over again.

I don't mind seeing the quota system as long as the biologists and the hunters meet together and come up with what they both agree with, otherwise if the biologists put a number down without consulting with the hunters or Hunters and Trappers Organizations, a lot of people are not going to be happy.

So it's best for you to let the biologists know that they should work very closely with the Hunters' and Trappers Organizations and also individual hunters. Then that way, everybody will work together and nobody would point fingers. That's the proper way to do it, that's what I think is best in Kugluktuk area.

I am in support with what you are doing; I am quite happy with what you are doing as the minister and keep up the good work. I may have some questions later on for you and I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. (interpretation) We are on I-5. (interpretation ends) Corporate Management. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Are we finished with the opening comments?

Chairman (interpretation): I don't have any more names on my list for opening comments. You can start asking your questions. We are on I-5. (interpretation ends) Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I just want to find out in regards to the wildlife regulations that are being worked on by the department. The Aboriginal Harvesting Rights have been negotiated and if the Government of Nunavut is going to comply, the Inuit harvesting rights have to be respected. In the regulations that are being worked on right now, and it seems like the non-beneficiaries are being given an opportunity in the regulations. It seems like they are going to have the same rights in regards to hunting caribou. Is that the way it is right now?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, we are in the midst of doing regulations and we are still working on them.

Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board have an agreement in place, and we have an agreement before the community consultations. We are not exactly sure of how the regulations are going to be.

So with the agreement with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, so when our department goes to community consultations, we will find out the problems that people are encountering in the communities. That's the way it is right now until the changes are put in place. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The way I see it, Mr. Minister, I am pretty sure if the majority of them agree with change, but the regulation; maybe if you say those non-Inuit do they have a quota? The present practice before any changes. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The non-Inuit are allowed to harvest five caribou a year. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): So why is that policy inadequate? Why do you feel that it's not sufficient? It's not their diet and they don't use the caribou fur as clothing, and if they are residents, what is the residency requirement; a year? Isn't that sufficient?

Chairman: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the consultation, then we will find out if it's sufficient or not. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. So you're just going to find out what I have heard and reading the agreement that harvesting rights; it's the aboriginal right and if it's sustainable, the Inuit can hunt without a license.

If they feel that there might be a surplus, then they are willing to do more. Is it true that they have drafted regulation and non-native, non-Inuk who is not a beneficiary can harvest five caribou at one time? Could that be every day; would that be the case? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): No we don't want to see that. The government can't do this alone and we are working together with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. At this time it's very difficult to give a response without consulting the communities first. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think they're stepping over their boundaries.

If you agreed to that regulation, even if they have consultations with those people who are non-Inuit, they can't get five caribou, but after the consultation they will be able to get five and when you make ...(interpretation ends) ...when you do a draft regulation with proposed wording will probably cost you more than \$25,000, (interpretation) it has to be drawn up by a lawyer. If a non-Inuk has five caribou at any time then it's okay for them to re-apply for five more caribou if they don't have five in their possession.

(interpretation ends) So you could conceivably give the Minister of Energy the same rights as Inuit have over and above his sons and wife. So (interpretation) our aboriginal rights are depleting because they are being taken over by non-Inuit. It's not just on assignment rights anymore. (interpretation ends) They are giving them their rights now. (interpretation) I don't think that you realize what the impact will be (interpretation ends) 5, 10, 15, 20 years down the road.

(interpretation) It's not their diet and they don't use the fur for clothing. I want to ask the minister why he's rushing that. Can you table that draft regulation here in the House?

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): No, I cannot table the document because it has to be approved by Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporate and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and I can't just agree to it just by myself.

When we reconvene on April 26, then I'll be able to table it because we want to start the consultation this month.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): During the consultation process, is the draft regulation under working groups because we don't have access to it at this time as Members of the Legislative Assembly.

We'll finally be able to see it after it's decided upon. The bills or acts are passed, but it's a regulation. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we don't have access to them. How can we participate? Thank you.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Last week, I made a statement that as soon as the draft is ready for consultation that I would make it available to you and before the consultation, I will make them available to you before the consultation and you will be able to ask the people who are doing the consulting and I will also be available. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I just want to thank the minister because we will be able to review them.

We have to protect our harvesting rights because it's not protected by the government. So you have put yourself in a dangerous position (interpretation ends) without a key, without compelling, without a substantiation, without justification.

(interpretation) So that work has to be done. (interpretation ends) Are they in a desperate state that they meet without a quota (interpretation) given to the Qallunaat if they don't hunt over five caribous that's possession on the day when they are seen by the environmental officer, if they don't hunt more than five caribou, then they can keep them.

As Inuit, if we request something, then we have to wait for studies after studies. I wonder if you, as the minister, can do that because the non-natives seem to be just for the sake of killing, especially if the limit will be five. You will definitely need to do more studies on this and have a mini-referendum. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will look at this closely and this will have an impact and we will be careful of how we come up with the

regulations and also using Inuit knowledge because we don't want just anybody killing our wildlife in Nunavut, but it should be taken seriously. The work that we are doing with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, I will be working with them because the Wildlife Act is being made as a made-in-Nunavut Wildlife Act. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. Once you start putting the regulations in place, you will need direction from the minister. If you keep getting suggestions, if they feel that five is not sufficient and if it's left wide open...because we even see now just because nobody is there to supervise them that they kill more than five.

If it has to be increased by two or three, maybe the Inuit will be able to decree. As long as they are told it's not over five and for us 85 percent, when we try to do something in regards to wildlife or we have a very difficult time. So I would like to ask you under your budget, corporate management, travel budget, where does that \$500,000 go?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I will get Mr. Jarett to answer the question, please.

Chairman: Mr. Jarett.

Mr. Jarett: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This budget is broken down in terms of a lot of training and development. Training and development for our Wildlife Officers is incorporated in the Corporate Management budget. That alone is \$400,000 of the travel budget. It is to coordinate the training efforts for all the Wildlife Officers throughout the territory for the pneumatics and so that they can enforce what is basically passed accordingly. We bring them in here twice a year. They have just been in town in late February and early March, for their recent conference where they have gotten a briefing on it.

They will be back next year and this is a budget to bring them back in. And further to this training budget is also a new allocation for a new Field Officer training program for which \$40,000 is travel and transportation is to bring in three Inuit new Wildlife Officers per year. Get them trained and the travel component is accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Mr. Jarett said that a significant portion is used for training and development in the proposed new regulations. How do they get to see these proposed new regulations before we even have a chance to look at them? What are you training them on the proposed new regulations with either I know this Assembly has

recommended it be approved. Who authorizes them to see these proposed new regulations that are confidential?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Jarett.

Mr. Jarett: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This recent Wildlife Officer's conference was the process of bringing in all the Wildlife Officers and getting their input; without their input, even our department is going to have no basis to start reviewing the community consultations accordingly.

From there, next year's budget which is incorporated here, is going to train them once. The drafts are available to everyone and circulated. Right now you are absolutely right; it is just a training document. Last year was to bring them in for input, this year it will be, hopefully, to roll out. But if it is not provided in terms of a final document then there will be other training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. You seem to have a vision even before the regulations come up. Mr. Curley, you will be able to ask later on. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In line with my colleague's question, they were very good questions because even before it was made public we sort of knew. I wonder if the minister can tell us as to how many people were involved in making the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I mentioned that Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the government have been working together on the drafting of the regulations. Very likely the RWOs are going to be involved during the discussions of the draft regulations.

At this time they are just drafts so the HTOs and the RWOs are going to have their input in it. Once it's completed, it will be given to the Members of the Legislative Assembly for your input. We have been working on these draft issues since 2001. We are currently working on it still and it is progressing very well. In the coming months to make sure that the regulations are made in Nunavut.

I can only say that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board have been full participants of the drafting of the regulations following the NOC. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you. It doesn't seem like we have very many Inuit involved in the drafting of these regulations and it seems that there's quite a number of quotas established.

It seems like all the decisions that are pending are based on the regulations. The other question I have is in 2005/06, and if I am off topic Mr. Chairman, you can stop me. In regards to the field service officers, they were trained in 2005/06, and once they have completed their training, which communities are they going to be based in? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. They will maybe be based in the 26 communities. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Joe Tigullaraq has been involved through the whole process since the beginning and he is representing the Government of Nunavut.

For the next three years, we are going to be training three Inuit as wildlife officers. We are looking at three more and we have not decided which communities those wildlife officers will be based in. Once the budget has been approved then we will decide what course of action to take. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

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

In my opening comments, the office in Igloolik doesn't have the number of wildlife officers that it should have. What's your target date to have every position filled? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The laboratory in Igloolik is quite old. Over this year if it goes accordingly, we will definitely have to do renovations on the existing laboratory before we can fill those positions. Mr. Awa can supplement my response.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to supplement the minister's comments, the laboratory is quite old. It's a big mushroom shaped building and the insulation, of course, since it's very old has to be changed.

The federal government has been looking for some individuals who can dismantle or renovate it, but maybe due to safety issues, they can't find anyone to dismantle or to renovate the building.

Once the renovations are complete, then we'll start advertising the positions according to housing availability. Once the renovations are complete, we'll look at filling the research positions to be based in Igloolik.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because you are waiting for the renovations for the building, is it putting the project behind?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are currently using a laboratory and researchers from the south. We're looking at basing them in Igloolik or in Nunavut but marine specimens are being done by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I have a question. Could the Minister tell us how many people are sitting on the working group. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I'll get my deputy minister to respond.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't give you a number but we're looking at approximately 6 or 8. I think there are two from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, two from the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and two from the Government of Nunavut and I believe two more positions for lawyers. I think there are about 8 sitting on the working group who are drafting up the regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I heard that the two representing the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated can't say much. They are given the draft for review but they don't have much input.

I would like to ask you, it seems like there is constant opposition to the draft regulations but then again they're the ones who are sitting on the working group. What are they doing? Are they doing something they don't like to do or what's happening over there?

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): We're trying to draft the best regulations that we can. They have been working diligently as a group and usually there is correspondence going on between the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. To date, we have draft regulations and nothing would go forward if there was no agreement between the parties.

After there is an agreement between the parties, they will start consulting with the organizations out there in the communities. If they didn't come to an agreement, then there would be no community consultations. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): We're going to be having our next session on April 26th and you stated earlier that prior to that date there would be an agreement between the parties and you would be able to go to the communities for consultation, but we hear that there is disagreements between the parties on the wording of the draft regulations. Do you think that April 26 is a realistic date to table the draft regulations in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We'll definitely have to go forward. If they don't like it then they'll let us know. Of course, you can't please everybody at the same time. You can't please all of Nunavummiut all at the same time. If the majority likes the draft regulations, then we'll go ahead.

As I stated earlier, we want to start our consulting tours next month and we will want to give a copy of those regulations to the communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to go ahead. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated because they represent all the beneficiaries of Nunavut, and the Government of Nunavut representing the people and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, even if all these parties agree, and you probably heard and I heard that if there is anybody who disagrees from the general public, and who will be going to the public meeting that you are going to hold. They are going to make comments that are from their own opinion. Are there are going to be any independent representation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I don't know but when we are going to the communities they will have their own independent opinions and they will participate in the debates.

We don't want to base anything on heresay or anything because of course it is hard to respond to anything like that. I am sure that the communities will voice their independent opinions, but I don't know of anybody who will be following us around as an independent lobbyist. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since CBC is the major media up here, are they going to be involved in the community tours? Are you going to be extending an invitation to follow the tours? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be up to the CBC. If they want to participate and because they are an independent body it is up to them. We are going to be open. It is a consultation tour. If they want to participate and because they are an independent body, it is up to them.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You would welcome the media, right?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I would because they're the only ones that disseminates the information and the news around our region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The main question that I wanted to ask you is in regards to the draft regulations. First of all, to catch up on the issue of caribou. These regulations are for the general public. Its for the general public, whether they are beneficiaries because they have every right to harvest the caribou.

The Member for Rankin Inlet North stated that anybody can harvest up to the maximum of five caribou every day. With that clause does it apply to the sports hunts that have to have guides that are approved by the HTOs, or are we talking about any Nunavummiut of the general public? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I can't really respond to that question because I don't even have a copy of the draft and we can't discuss it in the House when it's just in draft form. I could respond to you after I have looked at it.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps during the end of the April Session, perhaps we will be able to read the draft at that time and we will have to get used to the draft and we should get the copy of the draft two weeks prior to our Session so that we can at least discuss that matter in the House. Perhaps two weeks before our actual Session if you could provide us with the draft regulations. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Once it's completed, then I will provide it; as I stated earlier on last week that I would provide that information to the regular members in my minister's statement. Once it's completed, I will provide you with the information.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then I will save my voice until then. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question in regards to the research. I stated in my general comments that I do have a concern in regards to doing research on environment in Nunavut. We lack a laboratory in Nunavut. Perhaps the laboratory in Iglulik that we heard mentioned of earlier on; is that the only laboratory available in Nunavut? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are still working on that laboratory and we do have a Nunavut Research Institute that is utilized, but the laboratory such as university labs, we also utilize those university labs. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Yes, we are quite concerned about the pollution coming up by air to the north and it can become a concern of the international countries.

In the past, there were some studies done and we noticed that the snow is different. After there was a snowfall, we realized and noticed the difference in the snow when the snow is

polluted and when you see the polluted snow that just fell, you can really notice the difference between the clean snow and the polluted snow.

Once we get snow samples, where can we send them out because are quite concerned about those or such issues like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The HTB wildlife officers in the community level, we would urge the community to work closely with the renewable resource officer of whether they have a concern or if they observe something strange or if they observe something really odd. I would urge the members to work closely with the renewable resource officers then they can make a decision as to what next comes on. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the pollution is becoming so evident in the north and we are becoming concerned about that.

As my colleague stated earlier on, as Members of the Legislature have not seen the draft regulations and I would like to ask the Minister for a copy of the draft regulations as soon as possible because the Inuit harvesting methods or the use of traditional harvesting should be approved.

Therefore, I truly believe that I have to see the draft and I'm sure that there is going to be high interest out there by Inuit for the use of traditional hunting methods and technology and I do want to get a copy of the draft regulations. That was more of a comment than a question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): That was a comment. I have no more names on my list. We're on page I-5. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) I want to follow up on what Mr. Jarett said to the committee that without the support of the Wildlife Officers, our regulations cannot become a reality. Is that in the Act?

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let Mr. Jarett answer the question.

Chairman: Mr. Jarett.

Mr. Jarett: I don't know what's in the Act. All I know is that our input from the department is, first of all, with our community representatives, which are the wildlife

officers. The only way we can get the voices from the community input is by listening to those avenues.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm a little amazed over the new reality that the only way to get wildlife regulations, or concerned input is through the wildlife officer.

Mr. Jarett knows very well that there are a whole slew of communities that don't have wildlife officers. So, without a wildlife officer in the community, if they're the only means of getting your concerns raised, that's news to me. I really believe that if the draft regulations are being proposed, discussed, considered and approved or changed without the Minister ever seeing them, can we propose new proposed regulations even through here without the Minister first having seen them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Jarett.

Mr. Jarett: No. Nothing will be proposed or anything any further unless the Minister sees it and introduces it to his colleagues.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The fact is the Minister indicated earlier that he has never seen the draft regulations.

That is really an abdication of responsibility because the Act is quite clear that the Minister shall, the Minister will this and the Minister etc. Without the authorization or recommendations from the Minister, public hearings or input cannot be done. Maybe that is why we couldn't see these draft regulations because there is nothing secret if the wildlife officers can take a good look at it and propose changes to it, why couldn't I see the draft first even prior to the Minister reading it. I should be able to see that proposal. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Akesuk, would you like to answer?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is not just the government who is working on this document. Like I said earlier, the document has to be approved by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., because we're working together and without them agreeing to release the draft document, I can't release it until they release the draft, then I can release it and it's released to me too at the same time.

The working group is working very hard together to make sure the draft document respects both government's position and also the position of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board.

So the fact is that until Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the government have agreed to release the document, that's when we could release it. It will be a public document after that. I just can't hand it out to the regular members or to anybody in fact without the government and the two organizations agreeing on the document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I guess especially of you, I have never seen it like that. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I believe I am not 100 percent sure that there's a particular clause in the legislation that says the documents or regulations have to be approved by either public bodies. I am very surprised to see that provision. I need the minister to be very clear of whether or not, in fact, that's in the legislation.

I do believe the minister has a right to consult with the public; I am sure that's in the Act, but the Act normally doesn't give any other public body a similar right for approvals that only applies with the minister.

So I need that information because I don't want Mr. Jarrett nor the minister to mislead this House. So could you clarify of whether or not the Act allows the public body like Nunavut Wildlife Management Board approval of that regulation before it can be tabled? I really believe it's at your discretion to release that information, if you can release it to the public bodies, you can release it to this House. There's nothing preventing you from doing that. Why don't you want to do that?

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I think it's important that we respect each other and our mandate as a government is to work with Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and whoever is in the body, too, to make sure that we have something that we could work together and to make sure that we don't mislead the people in Nunavut that we are not working together. I believe it's the best message right now is to make sure that we work closely with them.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I am asking the minister to get the facts right because I don't want to appear to be misleading the public because they are watching some of it; that the Act allows that it's at your discretion that you can release it to anyone you want it to be released, whether it's a consultant, if you can release it to the public officials who are being paid by this government, an opportunity to review and recommend changes, I believe there's nothing preventing the minister from releasing that document.

I believe you are wrong when you say Nunavut Wildlife Management Board must have the approval. I don't believe that's in the Act, I think your interpretation is separate from the law that public bodies like Nunavut Wildlife Management Board must have a prior approval. There's no such thing.

Could that be clarified so that we have the actual wording of the Act and also if the minister wanted to work with him, the best thing he should do is to consult with it now and release the draft regulation. That would indicate the minister is willing to work with us. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. It's important that there's a protocol that was written down in Clyde River and we are trying to respect those to make sure that we work closely with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and I certainly could release the draft document when it's ready.

I don't think it's ready right now. There are translations to do and once the document is ready, as I stated in my minister's statement, that we are going to release the draft document once it's ready and we are planning to do that.

I think it's important that we respect the protocols that have been dealt with in the past within Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the government, and I think that's what we should do is to make sure that we work closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any problem with any other non-binding statements at the previous gathering or any other, I think it's all great that we shall work together, but if you want us to work together we have to know exactly what we are dealing with.

I have heard from many of the beneficiary groups that they are really quite worried because they feel now that some of their rights that they have negotiated under the, particularly the sustainability and some of the, if they are going to be dispersed and give the rights to non-Inuit without the basis or facts whether or not the increases are needed. If they need to be increased, and I believe they should be still on the quota system instead of the wide open proposal.

If the wildlife officers of the government have already taken a good look at them, I am amazed that even the public officials, elected representatives cannot even have a copy of the draft regulations. What is more important than the wildlife officers than the members of the Legislative Assembly?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The draft regulations are still in drafts. Once the draft is done, like I said, when the drafting is finished, before the consultations, we'll make sure you get the document. I don't think the Wildlife Officers had a chance to go through the draft document because it is not ready. It is just an input of how we are

going to deal with the consultation and how the wildlife officers would be accessed, or be helpful to the community, when the draft is ready.

No, we can't release the draft until it is finished by the Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The wildlife officers haven't even had a chance to see them.

I think my deputy might want to add to the question.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Just to add to the minister's response. The Committee that was looking into the regulations they had to be finished before December. We wanted them to do the community consultations in January. During the fall and up to date some of the regulations could not be agreed to. They have not been completed yet. I have taken a look at them unfinished, some of the wording was not included, and so they are not complete yet, so we were not ready to provide them to this House.

Two weeks ago, I had a meeting with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Nunavut Wildlife Management Board some of the disagreements were discussed and we have done a great deal of work with the regulations. If the disagreements have been resolved, that the regulations would be finished, but before they agree, we can't release the regulations. That is what I wanted to say. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe that what Mr. Jarett said, that they had already had a meeting with the draft regulations. The minister stated that he has not seen the regulations that they are working on. The deputy minister said that they had not been completed. What are they doing then?

We have heard that the proposals that the non-natives could hunt caribou. We are not really sure what they are doing now is sustainable or not. The minister was invited to the Committee and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated was there as well along with the President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. About a month after we got here they stated that the definition of hunting rights under Article 5, in regards to traditional methods with spears and harpoons will no longer be used. I just wondered if some of those statements are true or not.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The hunting methods that we talked about have been agreed to already and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is in agreement with that.

Some of the things that we don't agree on are the ones that still have to be consulted upon. That is what is delaying the drafting of the regulations. The Wildlife Officers have not seen that document yet because they can't be given a copy until everything is done. They just held a workshop in regards to how the public consultation will take place.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I'm not really sure but some people call proposals and some people call them draft regulations. Exactly what kinds of stuff do you have to meet about? (interpretation ends) Who proposes them?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and the government and using the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The working group is dealing with those draft regulations.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes I know who the members are of the committee but who's putting in the wording. They were in a dead-lock. That's the reason I was asking the question. Who is doing the drafting? Who heads up the drafting of those regulations?

Chairman: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I will let my deputy minister answer that question.

Chairman: Go ahead Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The draft regulations were taken out of the Wildlife Act and the regulations are the work of the committee. The wording is done by the committee itself.

Those three organizations work together and they work with the lawyers and the lawyers draft the wording after there has been an agreement amongst the three organizations. What happens is they discuss it and then they tell their legal counsel to word it in a certain way.

There are three bodies that are dealing with that. Perhaps if I could respond, the minister is the head person because we want to work together. That's the way it is by the three organizations.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I wasn't really sure because the minister has not even looked at them. It seems like the minister has to give the direction and those are only proposals at this time but the draft regulations should be looked at by the minister's department and by his legal counsel. That's the way I think it should be done.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps after some more consultation with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, we would have to work together to give better wording to what's inside the regulation. I know there's going to be a lot of disagreement.

We will work diligently to look at those draft regulations and I will provide the members with the copy of them once the draft is finished. We would be able to talk with each other to see why did you use this word, can you use this wording instead, and so on, and so forth? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have other questions about hunters and trappers' policy in regards to compensation and if they had a 24 percent income from their harvesting, that's the only time that they are eligible for compensation.

Instead of livelihood, would they have to, it's only about \$4,000 of compensation that the hunter can receive. How hard would it be to change this?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have to do is we have to change the policy and it could be changed if there are more people that wish to have more than that amount. In the future, the policy could be changed by the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley, your time is up, but I have no more names on my list. Go ahead.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. The reason why I asked that question is because the disaster compensation policy states that the harvesters have to be able to make at least 25 percent, but they are harvesting for their food and they can't be helped.

Some of the trappers are having a hard time and also their hunting that 25 percent for harvest compensation, the disaster compensation, you said that it was only 25 percent and it's very, very small because what the harvesters do is they hunt for their food and their clothing and some of them are not even successful at times. It seems like it's not very much because looking at the minister's travel budget, it's about \$475,000 as opposed to the disaster compensation.

If we could change the policy, if you were to agree, I would like to be able to make a recommendation that if we take it out of your travel budget and give more to the hunters, would you be in agreement?

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can find the best possible way to amend this or if we can verify as to why we need to change it, and where we would take that amount from our budget, but we would have to work in the policy and to find out where the money will come from. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I just wanted to tell you that we can support this and we all agree. Just as an example in Panniqtuuq, there are a lot of hunters who lose their equipment or boats.

A lot of times they don't have anybody else to turn to and I know that there was a group of hunters who went out and got stuck because the ice broke up and the fishermen in Panniqtuuq can't even get insurance. The problem will be from your staff if we don't decrease your budget on your travel and transportation.

If we can reduce \$479,000 so we can put it towards compensation, I can make a motion to decrease that amount and put it under compensation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Yes, I definitely agree that we need to increase that amount. Just last year, in 2004/05, we have given only \$4,500 and we definitely need to increase and we are in agreement to increase it. The policy or the guidelines to follow what is needed by those people like the prices of snowmobiles, boats, outboard motors, or the travel budget is mainly for the training of the wildlife officers. Maybe we can decrease an amount somewhere else and put it under compensation. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. We can look at all kinds of different sections, but we would not know where to get it from. Looking at your budget, I feel that travel and transportation is way too much and we can't really deduct from the contributions that we give to the Hunters and Trappers Organizations. For one department, \$479,000, that's quite a lot. If we can't decrease it by \$150,000, can you agree to that?

Chairman: Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have been working on how it will be used, but we will have to decrease that amount and I am sure that we can find some way at the present time.

Within the department, some people want that budget decreased, but the \$479,000 is to pay for the airfares because the airfare is so expensive and it's all the wildlife officers from different regions, but it is so expensive. If we were to take \$150,000 from that amount then maybe we can find an alternative source where to get it from. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): We are proud of what we do but if we just agree to what is presented in front of us and not try to make changes and looking at the compensation, there is only 25 percent of the income, only if they sold skins.

For those people who go out hunting for sustenance only then that is not very much. So I am going to make a motion to reduce that amount.

Committee Motion 005 – 2(2): Deletion of \$150,000 from the 2005-06 Main Estimates of the Department of the Environment

I move that to deduct \$150,000 from the 2005/06 Main Estimates for the Department of Environment's Travel and Transportation Division under Corporate Management. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley made a motion. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You want the copy. He is bringing it up.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Curley made a motion, but it is not translated so we are going to have a ten minute break. Ten minutes.

>>Committee recessed at 16:57 and resumed at 17:16

Chairman: Thank you. Before we proceed, a few comments to make as to the procedures:

1. Every member has a right to speak once to the motion for a total time of 20 minutes.
2. The mover of the motion speaks first.
3. The mover of the motion has the right to reply last which closes the debate.

To the motion, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. When I was asking questions we have been sitting here for a month and the contribution that the government gives, the \$20,000, is

insufficient. So that is why I made a motion because we can make a recommendation. The reason I wanted to move that was that there are not that many Wildlife Officers. They don't travel to our communities, especially in our region. Maybe only to the headquarters.

For that reason even if we delete \$150,000, there is still over \$300,000 for Travel and Transportation. We are not too sure what it was used for. The minister had stated that we want to assist the hunters and if we delete that from the Travel and Transportation and put it somewhere else.

My reasoning behind is its getting shameful that the hunters equipment gets lost but they don't get any kind of compensation. That is why I wanted to delete \$150,000. Even if we take that \$150,000 there is still over \$300,000. For that reason the department's responsibilities will be used more wisely.

Even if we decrease the number for Travel and Transportation, over \$300,000, that is still quite a bit. For that reason, we are not against the ministers. The money will not be lost but it will be put into a better use.

The Minister of Environment stated that if we support him that he can try to put them for better uses. That is why I felt that we should do that. Maybe tomorrow we can indicate where we want to see it. The Premier has indicated that he supports the Inuit and we should use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit and the elders and our hunters are important. That money will not disappear. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will also support this motion. Back in 1999, in my constituency there were hunters who lost all their equipment due to the harsh weather. Because they are unemployed and they are subsistence hunters, they get a bit of income from hunting; we felt that \$20,000 is insufficient.

I can use an example where two hunters lost their skidoos and all their hunting equipment. They couldn't really do anything about it after. I stated earlier that if they had a dog team, then there wouldn't be such a big loss. The hunters who lose all their equipment, we're happy that they're still alive but they lost all their hunting equipment, their qamutik, their skidoos, their rifles, all their hunting gear was gone. Luckily, the men survived.

There was an incident where a four wheeler went through the ice. The hunters usually bring their hunting equipment like rifles and other things. This four wheeler sank and the hunter lost all his equipment. We can only increase the amount. The First Assembly also felt that there isn't much you can do with \$20,000.

What the mover to the motion stated is true. It's shameful that as Members of the Legislative Assembly we know what the amounts are designated for. Maybe it can buy

one skidoo because they're very expensive. Or they can buy two four wheelers or two skidoos and that's all you can buy with \$20,000.

Hunters individually have maybe about \$28,000 worth of assets. Not every Nunavutmiut will benefit from this, but at least it will assist those who have lost their hunting equipment. At least it will be used in a better way and that is why I'm supporting this motion. I'm urging the ministers to support the motion because we always think we want to be closer to the community, to the people. As the minister stated, we can find some other money. So if that's the case, I am urging the ministers support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to support the motion. I have seen cases and I have been involved in some incidences that happened out there when there's a requirement for search and rescue and either to use aircrafts or helicopters, you have to leave all of your equipment; snowmobiles, qamutiks, and everything else and then the helicopter or the aircraft takes you out to the land. A lot of the hunters don't have insurance and they don't have the surplus funds to buy snowmobiles or to replace their equipment.

In the communities that I represent, there have been incidences of canoes or Peterheads completely smashed and equipment getting lost during a polar bear hunt, and they can't replace their equipment right away.

Because of those, I think that it's up to the House to support this motion. When you lose hunting equipment, and especially in the High Arctic where the cost of living and equipment is higher and the cost of transportation is extremely high, even if you use the ship, it's essential to increase this amount.

We don't have the required support from the government, and because of all of those, I will state my support to the motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to state my support. Since Arviat and during the fishing season in the summer and polar bear hunts in the winter, there are a lot of incidences where we lose or damage our equipment. We have problems when it's icing of equipment or snowmobiles have been exposed to salt water, you can't start it if it's not completely overhauled since they are aluminum and because they have been exposed to salt water you can't use them anymore; they rust up.

I just spoke in Arviarmiutitut, they become rusted and you need money to buy the equipment and once the equipment's gone and the trapping season is in, then again, you don't have the funds to replace what you lost.

I think it would be proper for the government to increase that emergency funds by \$150,000 and I think we need more to put into that pot. I think it's especially essential to increase that amount because the purchase of equipment, ATVs, canoes, our rifles have increased dramatically since that pot of money was found. You now have to pay taxes and GST and if you need guns and ammunition, then you need a federally issued registry. We will have to keep up with the cost of living. I wanted to make those comments.

I do have a lot to say, but I think that it would be good if we state our intent to this motion. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to state my support for this motion. We see damages or losses to equipment that are essential. There are people out there who do not have the money to replace that equipment out of their pockets. A lot of them don't have insurance. It is very expensive to buy insurance.

The main reason why I support this motion is with the increase in the population of polar bears in my community the polar bear population has increased dramatically. They are breaking snowmobiles that have been left only for a short period of time. That is especially when you are out sealing in the flow edge.

There are a lot of polar bears in the summer also that are damaging the sheds or the cabins and damaging the contents of those cabins. You cannot hunt polar bears in the summer because they are saying that there is a decrease in the population of the polar bear. They're damaging equipment and sometimes the polar bears come in when the inhabitants are sleeping and breaking the equipment, the canoes, the Peter heads the tents while the people are right there.

It would be very important to have this pot of money that Mr. Alagalak had stated earlier. I would like to see more money re-profiled from other items to this item, just to keep it short I think it is very important to have something within the government that would help the people out there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to state my support to this motion. I am urging all the members of the House to support this motion. We have to properly represent our constituents out there. When people ask us if there are any compensation funds within the government, we just say that there is a tiny little pot of money, which is next to nothing, \$20,000 is nothing if it's meant to last the whole year and for 26 communities.

Those who have lost all their equipment, I think that it's better if we move additional dollars from other line items to here. We have to look at least \$500,000 to move to this pot. We have to make sure that there are enough funds.

The hunters are the ones who are hunting for their sustenance and for their livelihood and they're dependent for their snowmobiles, their guns and other equipment that are required to go out there.

We just recently heard about an individual from Pangnirtung who lost approximately \$35,000 in one disaster, or one emergency case. It is up to us as the government to help them. I think everything else has been covered by the other members. One of the members said there is the damages that are done by wildlife such as polar bears.

I urge all members to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to support this motion. I think I have been here going on six years, five years, it seems like an eternity sometimes, but a lot of times we hear people, Nunavummiut say, 'There's nothing there for me.', and I think this is an opportunity we have as a government to say, 'Look here we want to make something available to those of you who need it.', and I think that that's important because too many people, that's one concern that they have and they never have money for this or that or things that the ordinary Nunavummiut and the communities, and here in Iqaluit, that was trying to find funding for something or come up with a program in the community or whatever and there's never any money there.

I think this is an example where we can show that we are thinking about them and we are willing to put some resources aside to address those needs if, I mean you hope that they never need it. At least there will be some resources there in the case that it's needed and it will not be just a little amount that was taken up just in one shot in some cases and then everyone else would go there, 'Sorry we have nothing left for you.'

So I think it's a good step. I think when we get to the appropriate time in dealing with the recommendation on this that I don't know what exactly the guidelines underneath that program are, but because they should be looked at on and reviewed it with this to try and make it more susceptible and fit for people that do need this type of funding. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I have no other names on my list. Mr. Akasuk, just a minute, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would like to support this motion as I know too well our hunters try very hard to support their family with sustainable development on the land because there are times when the hunters and the families don't have food to put on the table.

As we know, \$20,000 is not sufficient enough for a disasters fund and it's not sufficient enough for hunters to replace the equipment. So when we recommend that we delete

\$150,000 from the Main Estimates of the Department of Environment that would be put to good use. That a substantial amount for Travel and Transportation from the Department of Environment.

This is a disaster that happened in Pangnirtung, it's heartbreaking when you are think about what the hunters try to do, trying to make money to make ends meet to support their families.

I am going to urge all members to support this recommendation and I, too, will support that. Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are concerned about hunters who lose their equipment and especially individuals who run private businesses. I am not in support of this motion because we'll have to review the disaster compensation line item to find out how we can improve it and to consult with the communities in terms of what they'd like to see regarding the policy.

This deletion for Travel and Transportation of Renewable Resource Officers is very beneficial to all the communities of Nunavut because our Renewable Resources Officers have to be trained properly with the Act and regulations. There are 35 Renewable Resource Officers and within this year, if this funding was adequate, we would have had 38 Renewable Resource Officers and it would also include individuals in training.

The Renewable Resource Officers take part in training, including how we can deal with health and safety issues and also to make sure that they can log all the species that have diseases or illnesses. They have to be taught first aid and CPR. The entry level staff needs training as well and that includes the Environmental Technology Students.

Renewable Resource Officers are trained using their equipment and they also give them training programs on fire safety and also they train them on polar bear deterrents. They are also trained in search and rescue. If this is deleted, it's going to have a negative impact on Nunavummiut.

The training programs that I mentioned are not all the training programs that they attend. There are other programs also made available to Renewable Resource Officers. They are very important to the communities and with the new draft regulations we will have to do more training.

This deletion is going to have a negative impact on all the communities of Nunavut. It's going to reduce the amount of money that we use to train the Renewable Resource Officers. In regards to having the new Renewable Resource Officer training program, this training program for Inuit, after their entry to work in our workforce, this deletion is going to have an impact on their travel and transportation. That is how it's going to affect the Renewable Resource Officers.

It reduces the training the amount of training requirement for the Renewable Resource Officers in Nunavut. We teach them survival skills, such as surviving in the cold weather. This is going to have a negative impact all Nunavummiut if this deletion occurs. We would like to see our Renewable Resource Officers trained properly and qualified.

This funding line item was to give support to the Renewable Resource Officers to make sure that they're properly trained. They do their development training

Perhaps if we look into this further and if we can understand the fact that this motion is going to have a negative impact on all the communities of Nunavut, especially when they look for other alternatives to give support and assistance to the Renewable Resource Officers. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated do have a Harvesters' Support Program. So therefore we would like to have a close working relationship with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

In regards to the motion, it is also going to affect the communities and potential Inuit employees that will become Renewable Resource Officers; their training program is going to reduce, especially for the three individuals that will be training on the job. Perhaps one individual costs for \$1,500 if they go to take their training outside of Iqaluit. So this is going to have an impact on the training of the three individuals who would like to become Renewable Resource Officers.

Inuit people are always unsatisfied with the non-beneficiary Renewable Resource Officers. So therefore, we are trying to set up a training program for the three individuals to get into Renewable Resource Officer trainee.

So this motion is going to have a negative impact on all the communities into this program line item.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. No members of the Cabinet would like to make a comment to the motion. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the members who made their comments. The government is not going to go broke by deleting this funding. This funding is going to provide more benefits to the Inuit, if we open it by another page, there is over \$1 million for Travel and Transportation. In the next line item, there is another line item for Travel and Transportation, \$1,131,000. It is not going to close the government.

So therefore I would like a recorded vote on the motion so that we could show the harvesters who is in support or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour of the motion, please rise. When I call you name please sit down.

Mr. Curley.

Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Evygotailak.

Mr. Barnabas.

All those opposed. Please rise. No one is rising. All those abstained, please rise.

Mr. Tapardjuk.

Mr. Akesuk.

Ms. Aglukkaq.

Mr. Okalik.

Ms. Brown.

Mr. Picco.

Mr. Simailak.

There are nine in favour of the motion. Opposed, zero. Abstentions, there are seven. The motion has been carried.

>>Applause

We are going to have a half hour break. Please sit down. We are going to have a half hour break.

>>Committee recessed at 17:50 and resumed at 18:26

Chairman (interpretation): I hope you had a good supper. We are on page I-5. Environment. Branch Summary. Record Management. Total. Operations and Maintenance. Revised total of \$3,706,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are going to I-6. Environmental. Branch Summary. Program Development. Total. Operations and Maintenance. \$12,422,000. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question on I-6. Will Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit be used whenever they are doing work on polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Just before I ask for a response, I-6, 7, 8, and 9 are all together, including I-10. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to use Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into our researching. We want to make sure that we recognize Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into our researching. I think that is the important part to make sure that we do the right thing and work closely with the communities that are nearby that are affected by the service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under I-9, under fisheries the Qikiqtarjuaq residents, would they be getting assistance while they are doing a Business Plan? Will they be getting assistance through the Fisheries Development and Diversification Program?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Business Plan would be dealt with by Economic Development, but the money that we have here on Fisheries Development and Diversification is to be used for that type of thing. If you want funding, it comes from Economic Development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. When will there be a study done and where? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different researches that have to be done that should be done with the \$525,000.

The community that the member has, Broughton Island has been assisted by this fisheries development and the diversification program and it will be available for the research for a study done in Broughton Island. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question; if there was a motion that was carried a while ago and the minister stated that it would be used for renewable resources technology programs' travel budget. What is that amount of money, \$1,131,000, for under I-6?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the member state where that page is?

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Arreak could you tell him the page?

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): I-6 under travel and transportation, under program development. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's to deal with fisheries, for parks, and for travel and transportation for those people.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first page has to do with corporate management and the other one is program development and wildlife is under there for the wildlife management's travel.

I just thought that wildlife management people were the ones that used that for traveling, isn't that so? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Mr. Awa will respond to that question.

Chairman: Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$1,130,000, like the minister said, has to do with...and sometimes there are no wildlife officers in all of the communities. They have to share a wildlife officer and it's for their travel, and when a wildlife officer from a community goes on holidays and the other wildlife officers travel

back and forth to the communities where they don't have a wildlife officer. That's what it's used for. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question in regards to biologists because there are no biologists here. I wonder why the biologists' work never show, like there's no paperwork that ever comes out. They do a lot of studies in the north in Nunavut and I wanted to be able to ask them questions in regards to polar bears especially.

I know that the polar bear population is increasing, but I have wanted to ask the biologists about scientific stuff because the information that the biologist provides is very helpful for the people down south, but there are a lot of estimates that they do and I think they make a lot of mistakes. I wanted to ask the minister when those biologists would be available?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The biologists can be invited by the Standing Committee of the committees would like to ask questions of them. We could make them available at any time during their committee meetings in regards to the estimates of those biologists. So, that is the reason why we wanted to incorporate Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit. There always has to be an estimate done. Even though there is an estimate done we want to be able to have some numbers more accurate.

There was someone in a community that said that if we are going to be doing any counting of polar bears that they would like to see accurate numbers as well. Just before the biologists had started their study, what we advised them was to talk to the people in the nearest community where they are going to do their work because the Inuit people in the nearby community know the approximate number of polar bears surrounding their community, not just for polar bears but other wildlife as well. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that amount of Travel and Transportation for \$1,131,000, I just wondered why the minister stated that they would be having a hard time. Financial Management Board can transfer money from one program to another. I wonder if that \$1,131,000 could be used for better stuff?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We estimated this amount of money for Travel and Transportation from the previous year's estimates, that we have used this amount because transportation is very expensive. We have put it to

good use at the department. If we didn't travel to various places then our work would not be totally complete. Perhaps, Mr. Awa can elaborate further on that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Awa (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can't really elaborate on it but just to say that we have to be able to go to the communities because we are representing all the people of Nunavut and all the communities. Some of the staff is in decentralized communities as well and we have to be able to go to those communities. And then they have to come to the headquarters as well.

For instance, in Pond Inlet and Arviat, Rankin Inlet has to be assisted by the government. The job that they are supposed to do, whether it be to do with finances or whatever else. It is very expensive to travel to those communities and we have to be able to travel to those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask another question. We heard that whenever we started using computers that everything would be a lot cheaper and communication would be better but it seems like the Government of Nunavut has a large travel budget. It is over \$1 million on just Program Development. What is your travel policy?

My question is with new technology, such as computers and the internet, are you going to be using that huge amount for Travel and Transportation.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to go to the FPT sometimes and we have to be able to go to the provinces and other places in order to promote what we are trying to do. We have to make estimates based on the funding we used in the previous year and to determine what we will require in the coming fiscal year.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the programs don't have very much money allotted to them such as Aboriginal Skills Employment Program, which is \$150,000, and the government's Travel and Transportation is very high.

Travel is not an investment but the investment program such as Hunters and Trappers and the Hunters Assistance Programs don't have as much money as Travel and Transportation for the government's department. How many people work in this section, Program Development? Can you give me an estimate? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Mr. Awa respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Awa.

Mr. Awa: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The number of staff for the Department of Environment is about 105 and there are about 35 Wildlife Officers. With Parks and Fisheries and Environmental Protection, and the people who deliver the programs, I believe about half of them, there are about 108 in total. The actual number for Program Development is about 30 employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there is 30 employees and for 30 people the travel budget is \$1,131,000, this money can be utilized in a wiser way.

There is even less than \$100,000 for third prize programs, probably for seal skins or fox furs. Can't you look at these closely because you are asking us to support you because you are requesting our assistance? We are trying to. You can ask your deputy and your staff to reflect the money to what is needed. I wonder if you can start doing that.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member stated that there are 30 program development staff, but I would like to point out that there are in fact 79. (interpretation ends) For the record, the PYs are 79. (interpretation) What the member was talking about is in regards to furs; \$70,000 for a fur price program is for the freight that we have to pay from up here down to Southern Canada and it's usually that much.

Where if we had to increase it, we would, but it's in the average of that figure and the other ones that he referred to for Hunters and Trappers Organizations, yes, it's always inadequate and the regional wildlife boards is usually the same.

Yes, maybe we will have to look at them closely for the next new budget, especially when the Wildlife Act is in effect and that responsibilities of Hunters and Trappers Organizations will be broadened and how the Wildlife Act will have an affect on these organizations. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I would like to thank the minister. Now there are 70 from 30 to 50. How many employees use \$1,131,000 in travel and transportation?

You requested us to give you support of \$150,000. If we wanted that \$150,000, would you be able to make improvements on the program guideline, but the hunters, maybe just in order to live on the 25 percent, maybe you can change it to livelihood instead of income for the fact that they lose their hunting gear and

We hear that the Hunters' Support Program from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated is not for the equipment that is lost. It's for the people who apply and they can reapply after four years. It's not geared towards compensating the people and there's no conflict there, and our Nunavut Government has to assist. So for that reason, can you reconsider because you constantly want our support through there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they will probably come out with a recommendation and then we can see from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. You constantly say that if you support this budget there will definitely be a recommendation.

If we don't come up with a recommendation, it will be kind of difficult where we wish to spend it. If we do agree, maybe you can make amendments to the program policy and how would you amend it. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, if that is your request, I would. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the Minister. It is evident that there will have to be an amendment. That's what I wanted to say. I don't have anything else.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under page I-9, we have tried this in Sanikiluaq. Maybe because the amount is so small we haven't heard anything else about it. The previous wildlife officer we had is no longer in our community because we thought about organizing a hunt even though there is caribou but even if we didn't go for a caribou hunt and if we encounter caribou and kill them, but we have been told it would cost too much.

In my constituency, we know an area but it is outside of Nunavut boundaries and it is not too far from our community. I wonder if we're going to access that funding does it have to be only within Nunavut boundaries. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Nunavik Government agreed to the Sanikiluaq hunters hunting there or even if Arviat people wanted to go Manitoba, as long as their governments agree then I wouldn't see any problem with that. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Are there guidelines that we have to follow if we're going to organize a hunt? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Hunters and Trappers Organization requests to us and then we can take a look at it. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and the Minister. We had made a request, but it was going to cost too much so that was one of the obstacles. Is this geared towards the 27 communities in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): This is available to anybody and it has been used here in Nunavut. If they put in an application and estimating how much they would need for organized hunts, such as for caribou, a lot of people utilize this fund so if you apply not too late, then you might be lucky.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): I don't have any other questions, but then I will think about his answers that he just gave me.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under I-9, Commercial Fisheries Program, \$190,000 for those who have licenses is licensed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I would like to ask him: in Chesterfield Inlet, the Iqaluvviq Fish Plant, are they licensed by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. At this time, we don't know if they do, but it's usually the responsibility of Department of Fisheries and Oceans to issue licenses and if they didn't, then they can apply; it's available as long as they have Department of Fisheries and Oceans licenses.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): I feel that maybe you should have known. They probably have a license; so they sell fish to Rankin Inlet. They always go over their quota because the quota is about 10,000 to 15,000 pounds.

I wonder if your department can assist in using up their limit in Rankin Inlet and if they were to find a market to sell fish, would your department be able to assist them? Thank you.

Chairman: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$525,000, it should be approved or if it was not decreased, it would be used for the development and diversification of Nunavut's fishing industry. They would access these monies because they have already got an established quota and it's for the emerging fishing industry, and they would access it from this pot of the money. They would make a proposal and give us a plan of what they are going to be doing.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We read about the Nunavut Development Corporation. If you are looking at this amount, it's only about 10,000 pounds for Chesterfield Inlet, but we need a larger quota because there's a lot of fish around Chesterfield Inlet and we would like to get support.

We just did a market search last year in Winnipeg, but if you don't have the required support and as you have said, as the minister, there are the regulations and the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Board and the DFO's regulations have to be adhered to. You say that we have to adhere to those rules but you don't give us an alternative way of doing it.

What is your staff doing? You tell us what we can't do but you don't give us the support that is required in order to get any of those developments going. Can you ask your staff to help the communities that are looking for a market to sell their fish? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Yes I would. Yes.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very glad to hear that you would give us the support because there is a lot of support needed by the smaller communities to do their marketing. When you keep just getting the negative or you can't do this, or you can't do that, then you kind of lose hope in getting anything going.

We are now looking forward to your department to help us look for a market niche either in Winnipeg or in Yellowknife. So I can tell the Ikalutit HTO in Chesterfield Inlet that the government will give us the support to go marketing.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to see these develop because we are looking into the gateway provinces for market niches. We are looking at what we can do as the department to look for more market areas in the southern provinces. We can do so much with the money that we do have.

We will have to look at options and we will try and adhere to the Nunavut Fishing Strategy. We will be looking at other funding sources, either by way of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, and Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. I am very glad to hear that. The Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations usually get discouraged when they are told that they have to follow this regulation and that regulation and then they end up going anywhere. There is usually no support when there is a lot of potential out there for emerging fishing industry. I am very glad to hear that Chesterfield Inlet will be getting the support that they need.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. That was more of a comment than a question. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will keep my question very brief because I want to go home very much.

Going back to the comment that was made by one of my colleagues about the community organized hunts. Which community is eligible to get contributions for community organized hunts? Which community is it geared for? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for all Nunavut communities and the Hunters' and Trappers Associations can access these funds through proposals. This is the system which Transportation costs when the required destination is too far.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize for calling you Mr. Speaker. My next question, the Nunavut communities usually want the various organizations to use cost cutting measures and to use their money conservatively. In regards to the wildlife officers, how much money do they make for equipment like canoes, snowmobiles and other modes of transportation? What is their budget for transportation equipment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They vary. For the Baffin, it's \$100 thousand. For the Kitikmeot Region and Kivalliq Region it's \$60 thousand annually. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Are they told to use their money conservatively for the purpose of transportation equipment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): It's part of their training programs. When they are in training, they are given workshops on how they can use their money conservatively. They are required to have insurance coverage. They're capital purchases if they require transportation vehicles.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on Page I-6, contract services. It's \$742 thousand. What kind of contractors do you hire to provide what services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, if we're talking about fisheries for the drafting of the bylaws for the wildlife act, it covers a variety of services that are required by our department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): This money would be used if the wildlife regulations are not going to be implemented by this summer, you would have a surplus then in this line item and you can't quite seem to pinpoint what kind of contract services go under this line item.

I'm sure that you have advisors and lawyers and so on who are involved in the drafting of the regulations and helping on other services. If there should be contractors at the community level, approximately how many people do you employ under this line item? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Minister

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. It would be very hard to get anything going if we didn't have a line item and we would not be able to do any of the programs or services that we were directed to do by the Members of the Legislative Assembly.

There are also the other pieces of legislation that are required under the Department of Environment. We need to have contractors to provide those types of services and I can't tell you exactly how many contractors are under this line item. There are various sets of services that are provided under this line item and I don't have the number of people that are contracted by the Department of Environment.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On I-9, Fisheries' Development and Diversification Program, \$525,000, this program is also intended to assist with the attraction of this third party funding for this important emerging industry. I am just wondering if this money is for the whole of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it is available for every community in Nunavut to leverage more money. As I said, the best way to do it is to leverage more money from other organizations that have funding available to assist in fisheries department. So it's for every community in Nunavut. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in other words you are saying that this money can be for anybody who is to learn how to dive and to look for sea shells and mussels, sea urchins, and stuff like that, if a person wanted to learn? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Jarett to answer that question.

Chairman: Go ahead, Mr. Jarett.

Mr. Jarett: The money can be used within any community so long as the program meets a guideline to go by fisheries for it if it's going to be diversified or if there's going to be a future development if the diving project is for all of that. It would be judged on fairness as well as to the other applications that are given in any year and if it lines up ahead of that, then it probably would not be tried.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Jarett. Yes. In the north of Kugluktuk, in the Kitikmeot region there's a lot of seafood, more like mussels, sea urchins and clams.

I know in one area that we go and harvest caribou in the summertime and at the bottom of the sea, you can see very clearly and so deep; you could see a lot of sea urchins at the bottom of the sea. Sometimes we would stop when the tide would go down, but it doesn't go down in the Kitikmeot, so it's the only way you could get to them is by diving with an outfitter.

I'm just wondering if this money could be used to give a workshop on how to use diving equipment and that for young people who are interested in our region. I'm just wondering if this money could be used for that too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are using this as a fisheries development and if you think that there is potential in that type of market, Broughton Island also clam fishes. We could treat it as such and if we did a study and if there was a proper proposal done, our department is very likely to develop it. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak, do you have any more questions.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's all I have for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): I'll make my question brief. Ground fisheries, in order to sell the ground fisheries, we need approval from the federal government to sell the ground fisheries and they have to be inspected. Can we market any kind of ground fish down south? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as long as they've done a study on that and as long they follow the Canadian Food Agency's guidelines, then you can go ahead and sell ground fish.

I know it's difficult to market ground fish because you have to work very hard and as I was stating in the Fisheries Strategy, if it's stated in there, then we would work harder to lobby the federal government to make sure that we can sell our ground fish.

Chairman (interpretation): Are finished. Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to talk a bit about the Program Development and talk about the policy in regards to Hunters' and Trappers' Disaster Compensation Schedule A-2.

I would like to tell the Minister that we need to update the eligibility requirement. The residents of Nunavut who hold a general hunting license or beneficiaries, the qualification states that they can be compensated if they are related to forest fires first of all; it's 25 percent of their income.

As I had told the Minister, perhaps you can review this and amend the eligibility requirement. If I could get the approval, we would like to re-allocate the \$150,000 there into that line item. We don't have a forest here. It's evident that it's not going to be used up here in Nunavut and put it under the line item to a livelihood from harvesting to make sure that they can be eligible.

It seems like this is outdated from Government of the Northwest Territories days before the division. If the Minister could review it, I would appreciate it. They can provide support of \$4,000 per individual. It seems so outdated, so therefore, I'm making a comment to that affect. I'm sure in our next April session we can deal with it. This is just a comment ahead of time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Environment Branch Summary. Program development. Total operations and maintenance, \$12,422,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Page I-11 is an information item. Are there any further questions. Environment. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total. Operations and Maintenance, revised total of \$16,128,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we agreed that environment as amended is concluded? Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I would like to read ahead of time that I am sure regular members would like to make a motion. This motion has to be translated. During Committee of the Whole I will be moving this motion;

(Interpretation ends) That this committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut bring forward a Supplementary Appropriation Act during the spring sitting of the House to reallocate the \$150,000 that has been deleted from the 2005/06 Main Estimates of the Department of Environment and that the funding be used for disaster compensation grants to hunters and trappers to replacing equipment loss as a result of natural disaster.

(Interpretation) Mr. Chairman, I just read it for the record. So, tomorrow we'll be able to deal with it after it's been translated into Inuktitut. I'm requesting the support of all the members, including Cabinet members.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Mr. Akesuk, do you have any closing remarks. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank my officials, Trevor Jarett and Simon Awa and all of you Members of the Legislature. We take your concerns well and I, as the minister, we do want to give support and it shows that you want to make the lives of Nunavummiut much better. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk and your officials. Thank you.

Minister of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, do you have any opening remarks? You may make your opening comments, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 2005/06 Business Plan and Main Estimates.

This department preserves and enhances Nunavut culture, heritage and languages and provides healthy active living opportunities for all Nunavummiut. The department has the ability and capacity to forge ahead with the implementation of strategies and services that will enable the department to meet its mission.

To show your commitment to our lead role in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, the department has increased resources in the 2005/2006 fiscal year by one PY that will be filled by an Elder Advisor. The Elder Advisor will coordinate the additional resource of \$200,000 which will be used for contribution funding for community based projects focused on incorporating Inuit Societal Values.

Language is a vital element in the incorporation of Inuit Societal Values. The Official Languages Branch is working hard towards the development and consultation of the important made-in-Nunavut language legislation and it is progressing according to the

timeline I stated during the May Session. An additional \$200,000 has been dedicated this year to the development of the two legislations – *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuktitut Protection Act*.

The Branch regularly holds terminology workshops and in the 2005-06 with additional \$22,000 dedicated to language research and development, we hope to increase our development of the language capacity.

The Department of Culture and Heritage Branch is working towards the establishment of a full-service Territorial Heritage Centre that will house Nunavut's Heritage collections which are presently stored elsewhere. A Trilateral Working Group – made up of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Inuit Heritage Trust – are collaborating on identifying sources of external capital funds Nunavut Heritage Centre. This work will allow us to make a decision on which avenue to take. It requires all parties to be involved.

The Community Programs Branch continues to provide a human face by being very accessible through its toll free number and by continuing to have a well established presence in the communities through community presentations and workshops on the Grants and Contribution programs.

The Sport Nunavut Branch coordinates multi-sport games. This fiscal year additional funding of \$500,000 will be dedicated towards the participation in the Arctic Winter Games (AWG) and the Canada Summer Games.

The Recreation and Leisure Branch is working on developing a Nunavut Physical Activity Guide and continues to work towards the development of the Nunavut Volunteer Network. The Branch has an additional \$75,000 dedicated to the promotion of active living.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): I am sure that there will be some questions from the members. Does the Chair of the Ajauqtiit have any opening remarks? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to be able to give the committee's opening remarks as we begin consideration of the 2005/06 Main Estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Later on, members will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding these estimates.

The Standing Committee Ajauqtiit has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his staff. The minister was able to give an update on his department's proposed expenditures for the coming fiscal year.

Members were pleased to see an increase in this department's budget as it deals with matters that are deeply valued by Inuit, our culture, our language, our elders, and our youth.

(interpretation ends) Members noted that all departmental business plans now includes a section of detail of the each department language service for a language initiatives. Members are pleased that the government is making efforts to comply with new language guidelines developed by this department.

Members expect to be kept informed of the status of the department's evaluations on the Inuktitut component of the Canada-Nunavut Cooperation Agreement for the French and Inuit language in Nunavut as well as the status of the language legislation feasibility study that is underway by this department.

Members noted with interest that the department has added to its business plan and budget a funding item for the incorporation of Inuit Societal Values. \$200,000 has been budgeted as a new contribution for providing community-based organizations for the project funding focused on incorporating Inuit Societal Values.

Members will recall that reflecting Inuit Societal Values and the fostering of sense of Inuit ownership in their government that clearly identifying the implementing of practical ways and incorporate Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit into government delivery. The public service was one of the goals established this during our Arviat Caucus Retreat.

Members would like to know what specifically these funds will be used to see the guidelines and policies for applying for this contribution.

The committee is very supportive of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit initiative. The committee looks forward to being kept informed on the feasibility study that this department is conducting our Nunavut Cultural School.

Members look forward to hearing the department's plan on establishing a full service Territorial Heritage Centre in the future. Implementing plans for such a centre and repatriation of Nunavut's cultural treasures was also our goal during our Caucus Retreat in Arviat.

Members note the ever growing number of working groups and committees that are established by this government. Members would like to know exactly what will be accomplished through the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katiimajit Review of the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Task Force report and look forward to seeing the response to this review.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is pleased that the Nunavut Geographic Names Committee will soon be established and looks forward to seeing its terms of reference. Mr. Chairman, we need to involve our youth in sports as much as possible and encourage them to live healthy lifestyles.

Nunavut has an extremely young population that is vulnerable to such serious issues as suicide. The government should do all it can to support our youth. They must be given the opportunity to live actively and follow good role models. Members are therefore pleased to note that there is more funding for Sports Nunavut for the 2006 Arctic Winter Games and more funding for recreational and leisure.

Oral history has also continued to be very important to Inuit. Members are therefore pleased to learn that the department will continue collecting oral history from our elders.

Members look forward to the new Minister continuing the practice of tabling annual reports on the department's grants and contributions spending, as this is important for the transparency and accountability of public funds.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2005/06 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee report progress. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Going back to orders of the day.

Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Netser.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Your committee has been considering Bill 8, and would like to report progress with one committee motion being adopted and that Tabled Document 52 – 2(2) has been concluded with.

Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There's a motion on the Floor, a seconder, Mr. Kilabuk. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for Tuesday, March 22, 2005:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 8
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 10
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 12
 - Bill 13
 - Bill 14
 - The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer

20. Report of the Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The House will reconvene on Tuesday, March 22, 10:00 in the morning.

Sergeant-at-arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:42*

