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Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Akulliq)

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday April 27, 2005

Members Present:

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, Hon. Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Hon. Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allan Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Patterk Netser, Hon. Jobie Nutarak, Hon. Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Hon. Edward Picco, Hon. David Simailak, Hon. 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): Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, Ministers and Members. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 105 – 2(2): Minister Kilabuk Absent from the House

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the House that Minister Kilabuk will be absent today. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 106 – 2(2): Day of Mourning

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my constituents. The Day of Mourning is a National Day for persons injured or killed in the workplace. April 28 has been proclaimed a Day of Mourning in recognitions of workers killed, injured or disabled on the job.

Since 1984 more than sixteen thousand Canadians have been killed on the job. In 2004 almost eight hundred Canadians lost their lives as a result of workplace injuries or disease. In the same year the Workers' Compensation Board of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories compensated over seven hundred time loss claims.

These statistics are alarming; at the same time this, represents an eight percent decrease in accidents from 2003 and a twelve percent reduction in comparison to the three year average. This is due in part to increased safety programs and awareness.

Mr. Speaker, workplace injuries are preventable, and we must continue to make workplaces safer and to stop the needless loss of life. In 2004, four workers died in

Nunavut while trying to earn a living off the land and in the workplace. One death is one too many and we must work together – employers, workers and governments to make our workplaces safer.

PSAC Nunavut Area Council together with the Nunavut Federation of Labour and the Workers' Compensation Board call on all workers to wear black tomorrow. Day of Mourning ceremonies will be held in Iqaluit on April 28 at noon in the Legislative building. On the Day of Mourning, I ask all members to please take time to remember. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 107 – 2(2): Canada Health Infoway's Investment in IIU Telehealth Network

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to announce that Canada Health Infoway and the Department of Health and Social Services are working together to help increase access to healthcare through Telehealth.

Together, we are working on two projects that started on April 1st. The first project is called Capacity Building and the second one, Inuit Documentation.

The Capacity Building project is a training program for Telehealth technicians, allowing them to enhance their skills to operate equipment in their community. The project is designed to serve as a model for remote and aboriginal Telehealth initiatives across the country.

The Inuit Documentation project identifies successful strategies, best practices and lessons learned in the implementation of the Telehealth programs in Nunavut. This knowledge will be shared with similar communities across the country to help facilitate implementation and adoption of Telehealth initiatives.

The main goal of Canada Health Infoway is to increase the use of existing Telehealth networks and foster the growth of Telehealth programs focusing on northern, remote, rural and aboriginal communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to say that Canada Health Infoway is working with us toward our goal of bringing care closer to home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 108 – 2(2): Nunavut to head up 'Best Practices' in Aboriginal Education on Behalf of Ministers of Education

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's expertise with aboriginal education has been recognized by Ministers of Education from across Canada.

The Council of Ministers of Education Canada – or CMEC – agreed to have Nunavut lead the effort to identify and share 'Best Practices' in Aboriginal Education, including teacher training and recruitment.

Mr. Speaker, aboriginal education is one of the top three priorities identified by the CMEC earlier this month. The others are Literacy and Post-secondary Capacity. Provinces and territories are working together on these issues, engaging the federal government as required.

I am hopeful that Nunavut's work on 'Best Practices' will identify the actions we collectively need to take in future to improve results for Aboriginal learners. Our work is one part of the team effort on Aboriginal Education led by Manitoba, and involving Saskatchewan and the Yukon as well.

Nunavut is recognized for our Aboriginal/Inuktitut/Inuinnaqtun leadership with curriculum and resources. During this, Education Week, it is important to note the many successes with Education in Nunavut.

We are excited by the opportunity to share our best practices with the rest of Canada, and to learn from the positive experiences of other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Peterson.

Item 3: Members' Statements**Member's Statement 282 – 2(2): Kitikmeot Cementation Mining and Development**

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very proud today to inform the House about a business deal that an Inuit-owned company in the Kitikmeot recently signed with a major Canadian underground mine contracting company, Cementation Canada.

On April 26 in Toronto, the Kitikmeot Corporation signed a unanimous shareholder agreement with Cementation Canada to form a new company, Kitikmeot Cementation Mining & Development.

Mr. Speaker, Cementation Canada is a very respected underground mine contracting company in North America that has made a major commitment to the North.

Their deal with Kitikmeot Corporation will provide immediate benefits to the Inuit of the Kitikmeot.

With the creation of Kitikmeot Cementation Mining & Development, the new company will immediately undertake an estimated two year, \$20 million underground mine development contract at the world class Diavik Diamond Mine in the NWT.

The partnership projects that many employment and training opportunities will be created for Kitikmeot Inuit and other Northerners, particularly our youth, from this contract and others they hope to win.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, the partnership is looking at establishing training facilities in the North where Inuit and other Northerners can learn new skills that will allow them to actively participate in and benefit from the mining industry.

Kitikmeot Corporation continues to investigate the acquisition of the Lupin Gold Mine facilities from Kinross Gold to establish a Nunavut Mine School. The Cementation Canada deal will provide a much-needed boost for the goal of establishing a mine school based in the Kitikmeot and serving the North.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in congratulating Kitikmeot Corporation for negotiating a deal with Cementation Canada that will be good for our region, good for our communities and good for our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 283 – 2(2): Bowhead Whale Hunt in Repulse Bay

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I would like to say Happy Birthday to my wife, it is her birthday. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the people of Nunavut are well aware that there is going to be a Bowhead Whale hunt in Repulse Bay.

I would like to ask the Minister of Environment to attend the Bowhead hunt and I would like to extend an invitation the rest of the Ministers. It will be an event that nobody should miss. If the Ministers should go to Repulse Bay, I am sure that they could combine that with having meeting with entities and boards.

I would like this to be considered very seriously by the Member of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 284 – 2(2): Territorial Hockey Tournament

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House that this weekend and last weekend there were territorial hockey tournaments in the Nunavut communities, especially the midgets. There was a tournament in Rankin Inlet and I would like to congratulate the Rankin Inlet team in the midget territorial championship games.

I would like to recognize the following and to urge the youth and for the record; Mr. Speaker, the goalie Max MacDonald, the captain was David Clark, and the players Buggsy Kusugak, Kelly Kabloitok, Cody Quvugaq, Cody Panika, Ed Pilikapsi, Arthur Beardshaw, Troy Aqsaarniq as the coach, and there was also Paul Ugjuk, Jame Kabluittuq, Shane Tulugak, Ray Saatianaq, Rubin Qabluittuq, Carl Isaluk, and the assistants for Troy Aqsaarniq, I would like to thank Carol Hickes, Chad Taipana and James Meri.. They worked extremely hard.

I would like to urge the youth to participate in these championship tournaments. Please be sure that you involve your children and start them at an early age. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 285 – 2(2): Hunters of Nunavut

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the hunters of Nunavut who worked extremely hard to feed their families and to earn a living. We all know that hunters work very hard to feed their families and in trying to sell the skins.

Mr. Speaker, the hunters have to purchase gasoline, supplies, food, ammunition, and other equipment. They have to have outdoor clothing because it's very cold up here. Their equipment is very expensive.

When the hunters catch seals, they sell the pelts, and usually if they make a lot of money out of those hunts, the dollar amount is deducted from their income support application. It's extremely difficult for the hunters.

At the appropriate time, I will be asking question to the Minister responsible for Income Support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 286 – 2(2): Congratulate and Commend the Gymnastic Club

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start off with my Member's Statement today, I would like to wish a very well known resident of Iqaluit and a good friend of Mr. Picco, a very happy birthday today and that's Mr. Gordon Rennie. He turned seventy six or sixty seven or thirty eight and a half; I can't remember what it was that he told me. He said he wasn't sure, but I would like to wish him a happy birthday and he is very much looking forward to hearing Mr. Picco singing him "Happy birthday."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today to congratulate and commend a group here in Iqaluit, that's the Iqaluit Gymnastics Club. A couple of weeks ago they put on an advanced clinic with the aid of an instructor and a teacher from Rankin Inlet that was up here, Lisa Kresky. The coaches Ron Kennedy, Caroline Mallory and Krista Keats put in a weekend clinic for advanced student in the club here and there were probably over fifty participants in the clinic. It went over very well.

Also one of the volunteers, Bridgette Ligiere, was there to help out. It was very much appreciated by the kids that took part in the clinic. Just over the weekend you could see the improvement in some of the things that the students that were participating in the clinic were doing, right from flips off the beam, things that they would never have tried before.

So I think that is a great opportunity for young people to participate in activities. That wouldn't be possible without the great contribution of the volunteers and the coaches that I mentioned. Also I would like to thank Sport Nunavut that helped bring Ms. Kresky up from Rankin Inlet to be an instructor in the clinic.

I would like to ask all the members of the House to help me and join me in congratulating and thanking the coaches and the participants in the clinic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 287 – 2(2): International Award for Iqaluit

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Friday, April 29th in Vancouver, the City of Iqaluit will receive the prestigious international E.D.R.A. Award for their Core Development Plan.

The Core Area and Capital District Plan is an overall redevelopment strategy for the future of Iqaluit's central area. It defines the future of our City in a way that is sensitive to the Arctic environment, respects Inuit culture and creates a vision for the new capital of Nunavut.

A network of civic, ceremonial and public spaces linked throughout the core area will respond to the Arctic landscape, will reflect Inuit heritage and will make Iqaluit a capital that represents all of Nunavut.

Join with me in congratulating Nunavut's capital, Iqaluit, for being presented this important international award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 288 – 2(2): Netsilik Cup

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently Taloyoammiut hosted the Netsilik Cup where teams from Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk traveled by snow machines and airlines to participate in the weekend event. The final game took place in a packed arena in Taloyoak and lasted until three in the morning during a blizzard. The final game was between Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak, both communities which I represent. The team from Gjoa Haven eventually won the game during a shoot out to claim the Cup.

I would like to congratulate all the players from Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven and Kugaaruk who participated. In particular I would like to offer my congratulations to Billy Koonak, Brian Qirrut, Dennis Qirrut, Geordie Pauloosie, Kenneth Pukiqnak, Corey Aglukkaq, Eric Porter, Stanley Porter, Andrew Porter, Brandon Okpik, Luke Takkiruuq, Chester Agvik, Kirby Tugilik and Warren Rudolph.

Next year's event will take place in Kugaaruk. I would also like to acknowledge the hospitality of Taloyoammiut and all the volunteers who participated in the event, and thank Taloyoammiut for doing a great job in hosting the weekend event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. There are none at this time. Item 6. Oral Questions. The Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 360 – 2(2): Domestic Violence

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to direct my question to the Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate there are occasions in our society when we fear for the safety of individuals in a situation of domestic violence.

It is fortunate however, that there are services in place to protect those individuals until issues can be resolved and I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services what policies are in place to determine where to send an individual in need of protection from domestic violence.

An example would be like the women's shelter here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Health and Social Services. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try and answer that question.

Yes, this is a very important issue and in Nunavut we have always tried to make women's shelters available, but of course there are not enough.

(interpretation ends) The department supports shelter programs across the territory as one way of addressing the problem of family violence. Shelters are part of the continuum of services for victims of family violence. Shelters often provide services including counseling and emergency relocation. We have a few communities equipped shelters but not all communities have them.

When the need arises, sometimes women in crisis are removed to regional centers. For example, if we're speaking about a situation in the Baffin, we will bring them here to Iqaluit and in the Kivalliq Region, some times they will bring them to Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for her response.

Mr. Speaker, my next question deals with cases where people can be accommodated here in Nunavut for the appropriate protection. Are there any policies in place to decide whether it would be appropriate to send an individual in need of some type of protection to a shelter outside of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Social Services Workers do the assessments and I'm not sure to date how many have been relocated down south, but I do believe there have been some cases of that.

I don't have the numbers here with me but it is one area that is being utilized. Sometimes individuals are sent south but we try and retain them here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, we live in a very small territory with a small population.

As many of us can attest to, you can't walk down the street without running into someone that you're related to and I would just like to ask the Minister if she could clarify for the house whether policies for sending victims of domestic violence to shelters takes into account circumstances such as when relatives of an abuser work at the shelter that the victim may be sent to. And whether that is taken into consideration when they are looking at whether or not to send someone to a shelter within the territory or outside the territory? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever possible and appropriate the department staff try to find the victim a safe place to stay in the home community. If this is not possible, they may be sent to a shelter outside their home community as a last resort, outside of Nunavut.

The spousal assault checklist and safety planning guide assists the staff in making decisions about when and where to send a woman to a shelter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Final Supplementary. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The checklist that the Minister talked about, if a victim of domestic violence indicates they are not comfortable, whether rightly or wrongly, are going to a shelter because a relative may work there, is that one of the questions that is on the list to ask, or if it is raised does the department look at different options in dealing with that particular case, on a case by case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department staff avoid sending clients to shelters operated by close relatives by either the victim or the abuser. This might be dangerous or a conflict of interest. If a family conflict is evident, the victim would be sent to another shelter. The staff of Social Services tries every way to accommodate those victims in question to a safe place to make sure that they are safe from abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 361 - 2(2): Policy on Flag in Half Mast

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the Premier. We usually have to lower a flag when say a police officer has lost their life. I am just wondering in Nunavut when you have to lower the flags, which ones do you have to lower? It seems like it is just some of them that are lowered. I had a letter from one of my constituents about Hamlet flags being up while others were lowered. Does the Government of Nunavut receive notice on these types of things, I am just wondering whether in Nunavut if there is a policy to have the flags lowered. Thank you

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not quite sure about that, but I could look into it. We, as a government, are responsible for that through our departments.

As a government, we are all different, but we try to have discussions to see what has to be done. We are all affected by what occurs in Canada. I can look into this and see what the procedure is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I received a letter from one of my constituents regarding having the flags at half mast. With the recent growth of Nunavut, the attention of the world is on Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Sometimes he is concerned with that. The main reason was that when someone passes away, and the other communities or the hamlets follow this practise, sometimes they are not recognized when they have their flags at half mast. Sometimes they are not placed into their top position for long periods of time.

If the Premier could assure me of which of the departments would be responsible; whether there's a procedure or not. I think it would be a good idea to have a procedure in place for this, and if there are regulations or policies in place, at some point if you could elaborate on that issue. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard of this on many occasions and we have practised this on some occasions in the past. Our Clerk knows of this. We are trying to come up with ways and means to address this properly, once we are able to formulate an answer we will relay that to you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Uqqurmiut. Mr. Arreak.

Question 362 – 2(2): Funding for Ilisarsivik Society

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. At our last sitting, I brought up an issue in regards to the recognition of the Ilisarsivik Society.

The group has been asking for funding to operate the society and I had asked the Minister if her department can provide funding for the operation of the society and she responded yesterday.

At this time, she is unable to provide funding. I would like to ask the Minister, why can't the Department of Health and Social Services provide funding for such an important cause? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to respond adequately.

I have been told that the Department of Health and Social Services provides \$50 thousand a year and amongst other departments as well as the federal government. My department, Health and Social Services, will continue to provide funding, but we can't give the society core funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister explain specifically how community wellness organizations such as the Ilisarsivik Society will be supported in her department; 'Care Closer to Home' Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, the Department of Health and Social Services will be providing funding; I will be speaking in English.

(interpretation ends) The department continues to examine options for providing the requested support to Ilisarsivik Society. However, currently, there are no resources available for core funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When there are a few positions reallocated to different communities in the government offices we start to hear that they encounter capacity problems. There are fifty part-time positions at the Ilisarsivik

Society. Can the minister reconsider her decision on the issue concerning the Ilisarsivik Society? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member's question because you have to represent your constituents.

(interpretation ends) The Ilisarsivik Society receives its funding from a number of sources, including the Department of Education, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Health Canada and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, as well as through various fund raising efforts.

(interpretation) Yes, I do agree with you and I can commit to having discussions with those agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Final supplementary. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's willingness to assist us.

The government has been talking about working care closer to home and what we are requesting is funding that can be used in the communities, so I would be very interested if, not today, but at a later date, there could be any funding made available to the Ilisarsivik Society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can look into this further. Once I have the information I will get back to the member with more information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 363 – 2(2): Income Support Deductions

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to my friend in regards to my Member's Statement.

Occasionally as Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are asked questions by our constituents and with this particular question I cannot give an appropriate response. In order to satisfy the people who have asked this question I would like to know why, if I have sold pelts or skins, the money I receive for selling skins is deducted from my income support amount. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Environment. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps this question should be directed to the Minister Responsible for Income Support. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Kattuk, could you please clarify which Minister you wish to direct your question to.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): I was referring the question to my friend who is the Minister Responsible for the Department of Education. Mr. Picco.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Income Support. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly, the issue has been raised in the past.

Basically what occurs is someone who is on income support who has earned income, whether that be through traditional practises, or selling carvings or in this case if they have for example, caught a bear and sold it, and received seven hundred or eight hundred from the sale of the bear skin, then that is considered earned income, and therefore and thus, it is subtracted from the income support payment.

So it is the same as receiving income from a profession, from work. That is how it is regarded under the income support regulations. That is why the money would be deducted from that hunter's income support cheque. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. To add to my question, I was given information which I didn't know too much about; the applicant who went for income support was told that you have to sell your Honda first in order to receive income support.

This was very hurtful to myself, personally, and I was wondering if they have to go through that procedure in order to receive income support? I would like clarification on this. This should be made aware to the communities, that this is not appropriate. It is not right when the applicant is told that you have to sell your Honda before you can receive social assistance. I would like to know if he is aware of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. For the record if a person is on income support and has a machine, has a skidoo, snow mobile, has a Honda, and so on, that does not disallow them from being on income support. The income support worker, if it is the case, has told that person, or any person across Nunavut, that

they had to sell the machine, or get rid of the machine before they get income support. That is not acceptable.

If a member is aware of this case in particular, if we could document that in writing, I would be able to follow up the specifics of the allegations that have been made. That is not the process, the regulations or indeed the rules of income support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will relay this message to this person to his response. I will try to get more details on that. I would like to further say that in the North it is very expensive to live up here, as we all know. The price of fuel has gone up, electricity and the stores such as Northern or the Co-op will automatically put higher prices on their merchandise because of this.

I am wondering if the income support amount can be reviewed so that it balances, or follows with the inflation because of the oil prices? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raises a very important point. Right now almost eighty five percent of the \$22 million that we have allocated for income support goes directly to food. So out of \$22 million in payments for income support across Nunavut, eighty five percent of that goes directly, or indirectly right into the food account.

That is why the government last year, in only one year of this government, 2004, we increased the income support amount by ten percent. And again in this budget we have increased by another five percent. So we have increased the income support amount by over 15 percent in the last twelve months.

Mr. Speaker, I am willing, again, to review the income support amount in cooperation with the members of the House. Again, that's something that's constantly under review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. The Member for Nanulik. Mr. Netsier.

Question 364 – 2(2): Meeting with the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Mr. Netsier (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to refer back to the question I posed yesterday to the Minister of Transportation. He stated that he was going to be having a meeting with the Minister. I would like to ask him if the meeting went ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Transportation. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I had a meeting with the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans this morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he referred that question I asked yesterday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. That was the first question that I asked to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, can we look forward to receiving that request that we made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we can't transfer anything yet because, of course, he has to take it into consideration and refer it to his colleagues and staff.

I have talked to our representative at Parliament; I have made references to the docks that are required in many of the Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Final supplementary. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When are we going to hear about the funding that we are requesting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once we receive a response from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, that will be the time that we will know and I will respond to you as the information comes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 365 – 2(2): Plans for Runway Extension in Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Two weeks ago I attended a joint meeting with two

hamlet council committees and members of the public to brainstorm about the future of our community and identify our projected infrastructure requirements.

The airport was identified as a key to our future. In particular, the extension of runways seems vital to take advantage of the economic potential in the next five to ten years in our region and increase safety.

My question for the minister is: is the minister's department currently making plans for an extension to the runway in Cambridge Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): He e-mailed me that same question and I was just going to respond to him. At this time, we are considering the extension of the airstrip in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that comment. I wanted to mention to the Minister and the House that on April 7 there was a federal announcement about funding for safety improvements for airports in Nunavut under the Airports Capital Assistance Program; it's a national airports policy and Cambridge Bay wasn't on the list, despite being one of the busiest airports in Nunavut. We have known that for many years.

I was wondering if the Minister could tell me if Cambridge Bay is on his department's list to access funding under that Airports Capital Assistance Program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, we haven't asked for any additional funds. The federal government has stated that they are not going to be looking at any requests at this time, before the completion of the terminals that are being built in three of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm disappointed to hear that about the federal government. In the Nunavut Transportation Strategy from the first Assembly, the consultants, LPS Aviation, recommended that a strategic airport upgrade program be developed to provide improvements in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and Resolute Bay airports. They said that the program was to not only include select expansions of runways.

My question for the Minister is what is the current status of this recommendation from the Nunavut Transportation Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have seen the changes, but because of a shortage of funds, we haven't started anything yet. If the federal government would assist us financially, then we could get on with the work, but then again we haven't made any requests to the federal government. As I stated earlier, we are going to be completing the terminals before making improvements to any other airports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Minister could help me out here and commit to meeting with the hamlet council in the next month or two to discuss the future plans for the Cambridge Bay airport including rehabilitation of the runways, taxiways, and airport parking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the hamlet of Cambridge Bay would like to have a meeting, I would be available to meet with them in June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. The Member for Iqaluit Centre. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 366 - 2(2): Reinstatement of Private Accommodation Rates

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is again for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

As you recall, during our last sitting we moved Motion 016-2(2), calling for the government to make every effort to lobby the federal government for an immediate reinstatement of the private accommodations rates provided under the Non-insured Health Benefits Program. It was passed without opposition.

At the beginning of this month, an e-mail went out on the help desk to all GN employees, on April 7. I noticed that the government was quick to raise duty travel rates to match those set by the Treasury Board of Canada and they made those. It went out on the seventh and it was effective retro to April 1.

It's interesting enough that the private accommodations allowance in Nunavut for the government employees remains, still, at the \$75 a day, not the \$50 that the patient travel private accommodations rate is. Can the Minister provide an update on what efforts have

been made to reinstate the private accommodations rates provided under the Non-insured Health Benefits Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not reinstated the rate. Upon reviewing the cost to the GN, there continue to be discussions between the Department of Health and Social Services and non-insured health benefits representatives.

(interpretation) We have to make sure that we spend government monies properly. We're waiting, at this time, for the non-insured health benefits, because it is under their program. We are going to be using a lot of money, around four hundred thousand or a little over. This is why we are waiting for a response from the government. I can tell the member that the motion is in my mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I could ask the Minister if she could go to her Cabinet colleagues and maybe ask them to provide her with an explanation as to why they feel that this is fair and adequate to provide employees traveling, staying in private accommodations to get seventy five dollars a day, yet it is not fair and adequate for patients traveling on medical, staying in private accommodations to get the same amount.

Maybe if she could ask her Cabinet colleagues to give jointly an explanation why this discrepancy is in place, and why they feel it is fair, and why they won't reinstate it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not had this discussion with my Cabinet colleagues but we would like to get the twenty five dollars back because I remember that they were paying seventy five dollars a day. Then again afterwards they deducted twenty five dollars and started paying fifty dollars per day.

It is still under discussions and if it is not reinstated, as a last resort, I will approach colleagues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that dealing with the federal government can sometimes take a lot of time, it is even worse than some people say in dealing with our territorial government. So this could go on for ever and ever.

Would the Minister be willing to fund the difference of the twenty five dollars a day out of her existing budget to bring those private accommodation rates to the same level, not more, but to the same level that this government feels is fair to pay for employees staying

in private accommodations out of her budget until it gets resolved with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand what the Member is trying to get at. There is an agreement between the governments and we are going to continue lobbying them although it may be a very long process.

At this time I am saying that we are not going to be able to supplement it with the twenty five dollars. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I would like to ask the Minister to explain why they feel they won't supplement patient travel private accommodation rate to the same level that this own government, our own colleagues and Ministers, all the Cabinet feel is a fair rate that they pay for employees to stay in private accommodations for the same thing.

Maybe I could ask her why they are not willing to do that. Are they planning on reducing the private accommodation rate for Government of Nunavut employees to set at fifty dollars per day too? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a federal responsibility and so it's a federal program. I will be waiting for their response and find out about if they can reinstate the extra twenty five dollars. At one point they were paying up to seventy five dollars a day, but in October 2004, they deducted twenty five dollars. As the Minister responsible, I can't increase that rate at this point because it's going to have an effect on our budget. I will wait for the federal government's response and Health Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 367 – 2(2): RFP for Medical Evacuations in the Kivalliq

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask the Health and Social Services Minister. During the session last month, they were going to come up with an RFP in the Kivalliq in regards to dealing with medical evacuations. I would like to ask if this RFP been submitted subsequently? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Health. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder which RFP the member is referring to, the one for medical evacuations or for travel schedule. I am not clear, so I would appreciate it if the Member can repeat his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser, can you please clarify your question?

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies. I'm referring to the medical travel for patients flying to Churchill and Winnipeg for the people of Kivalliq. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regular medical travel schedule was completed and a contract awarded. There also now is a contract for medivac services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had asked a question asking if a copy of the RFP could be provided to regular members. I would like to ask if this has been done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I am not clear on the Member's question and that I find it better to give a clear answer when I fully understand the questions being raised. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if I spoke in English. (Interpretation ends) At the recent sitting when we were deliberating her budget, the officials committed that we would get copies of the RFP for medical travel. Can we get copies of the RFP now? I hope that is clearer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also thank my colleague for making himself clearer. Yes, they will be given copies as requested. Thank you.

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

Question 368 – 2(2): Tabling of 2003-2004 Public Accounts

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. I was reading the Statutory Requirements for Tabling of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative Assembly that was tabled yesterday. On page 11, I noted that Public Accounts for 2003-2004 have not yet been tabled, despite statutory requirements, to be tabled by December 31st of the fiscal year, or if the Legislative Assembly is not in session, no later than 15 days of the commencement of the next Legislative Assembly, which was in February and March of this year.

I wondered if the Minister could update us on the status of 2003-2004 Public Accounts, when we might expect them to be tabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report has been submitted to the Auditor General of Canada. Once the Auditor General of Canada reviews them and signs them off, I will be prepared to table that report. From what I understand, that document was sent to her some time this past month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that reply. Can the Minister tell the house why there was a delay in getting the Public Accounts prepared for submission to the Auditor General of Canada? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of reasons. Part of it has to do with the differences in year end, getting the reports from the various agencies. Some of them are in the summer months and some are in the winter months. Specifically what the issues are per agency, I'm not sure of but there was a delay. Every year we make a commitment to try and move forward our reporting of the public accounts by month.

We have been in line with that. So, there are some reasons for that but I'm not familiar with each agency. At this point in time the report is with the Auditor General of Canada and once she's had an opportunity to review them and sign them off I will table the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that response.

I wish to note that the only agency with a different year end in the Government of Nunavut is the Nunavut Arctic College. A whole lot of other organizations have the same year end.

I'm on page twelve. Most of those agency's boards, Worker's Compensation Board, Nunavut Housing Corporation, Qulliq Energy Corporation, the Liquor Commission and whole lot of others here, they all seem to be getting their year end reports in well after the March 31st each year end.

Mr. Speaker, I noted in the Northwest Territories that the Comptroller General, put the cut off deadline for departments and agencies to get their information into the Department of Finance by April 22nd the following the year end that's less than a month after year end.

I'm wondering if the Minister of Finance could tell us if they're considering proposing some more stringent reporting requirements on departments and agencies to get their financial information in so that Public Accounts could be prepared in a more timely fashion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are working towards trying to meet the same target deadlines as the Northwest Territories.

There have been a number of concerns that have been raised with regards to reporting by this house and by the Auditor General and we recognize that. We have been working diligently to try and address the whole issue of the reporting of the agencies in the last seven years of our existence and every month we have gotten better.

Each year we have not met the deadline as outlined in the legislation. This week we will be tabling in the House, a mandate letter for each of the crown agencies that will outline all of the reporting requirements of the agencies to this House and those mandate letters are consistent across the board. So each agency has a clear idea of the timelines and requirements of meeting legislation and for tabling information in this House.

I share the member's concerns. Each Minister responsible for the agencies recognize that there are issues to try and improve the reporting requirements of agencies and we are working towards that. This week the mandate letters will be tabled as I promised during the last session. The Crown Agency Council as well has been working very hard to review all the legislation governing the crown and there are different governance structures for agencies and we need to look at trying to stream-line some of those so that we are able to report on activities to this house in a timely manner and provide the kind of resources or support that these agencies need to meeting these legislative reporting requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister again for that interesting reply to my question.

Last summer, during the standing committee, I think the Deputy Minister mentioned that it would be a good idea to change the Nunavut Arctic College year end to match up with our year end. That would bring all agencies and departments in line with reporting year end.

I wanted to ask the Minister if she thinks it would be a good idea to have those officials who are heads of these departments, I'm not talking about Ministers, but Deputy Ministers and Presidents, if would be worthwhile holding back payment of their bonuses until they comply with the year end reporting relationship.

Why pay bonuses if they aren't complying with statutory requirements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard two questions and I will try to answer both of them.

The first one, in terms of the reporting or fiscal year end related to Nunavut Arctic College, when I sat on the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors in the late 80s to early 90s there were discussions around the year end.

When I sat on the board, the problem was always around trying to run programs and perform financial reporting in the middle of actual program delivery and at that time there was a change to reflect the year end of the college to reflect actual delivery of programs offered by the college. So, in that, I continue to support that deadline because it is more appropriate I think in the structure of the corporation or the college in the delivery of programs.

In terms of my opinion on whether the Board of Directors for these crowns should withhold payments of bonuses to their presidents, I can't speak on behalf of the board. The presidents report to their Board of Directors, they don't report to myself. But certainly in the review that we are doing under the Crown Agency Council, we are also looking at the human resource practices of each agency and we're trying to streamline some of those human resource management issues in line with how we handle our senior personnel secretariat initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 369 – 2(2): Wildlife Regulations Community Consultation Tours

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

First I would like to say first in regards to the wildlife regulations and hunting on Inuit lands, it's a fact that according to our traditional and cultural aspect we don't hunt for sport, it's not just simply hunting, we hunt for sustenance. The store bought foods, it's not our culture, it's not our diet, maybe 15 percent of the Inuit population rely on the store for their food, according to our tradition, it's not like that.

In view of that, when you do the community consultation tour, will you be visiting all communities? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Wildlife. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will have consultations with all of the Hunters and Trappers Organizations across Nunavut. We will be consulting with them and their regional wildlife officers. We will try to accommodate all communities.

We are open to meeting with others, particularly from the communities, that would like to provide input before this Act and regulations come into force. It would be best, if we as Members of the Legislative Assembly could work with HTO's to provide them with support for the community consultations.

My department will listen to the interests and concerns of Nunavummiut, all the communities and representatives for the Hunters' and Trappers' Organizations. This way, they could have further opportunities for input. I think that it would be best if we were to consult with all the communities. This is our intention. The timing of these consultations is unknown at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's regrettable that not all the communities will be visited.

Under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement we have hunting rights, but it gives hunting rights to non-Inuit and I want this to be focused on. If this is agreed upon, will it be then that a non-Inuk will be able to catch five caribou, because it seems to state that.

If that person goes out hunting fifty times and catches five each times, they will have caught one hundred fifty caribou, the one non-Inuk person. Is that how I understand it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this has been a comment we've heard and we will be paying attention to this.

If, after the consultations, the wish is to revert to the original wording, then it will go back to the way it was. The way I understand it, a resident non-Inuk is allowed five caribou. If he catches the five caribou, then he has to apply again to the Hunters and Trappers Organization to catch another five caribou. That is my understanding.

If this is a major concern, we can revert to what we were using in the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Second supplementary. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way I read it, it states possession only, as if there is no quota for non-Inuit, it mainly concentrates on the possession.

The way I understand it, if a non-Inuk goes out hunting fifty times or three, not five, if he goes for three hundred sixty five days a year, that's one hundred fifty. I don't think too many people will approve of this if they fully understand this because you're giving hunting rights to non-Inuit and more wildlife will be killed. They will be doing it just for sport, it's not their diet. I wonder if you will be able to bring that up. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, if that is the wish of the members, we can do that.

I'm pretty sure that the majority of Nunavummiut will want to go through that route anyway. It will be included in the consultation that is being planned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 370 - 2(2): Kivalliq Air Operations

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Lately, we have been hearing that Kivalliq Air is being bought by another company. Kivalliq Air has been used for medical evacuations from Sanikiluaq for a number of years. I'm wondering if the Minister of Health is aware the services provided for Sanikiluaq will be affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Health. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker, thank you for bringing this up, from what I understand Kivalliq Air was purchased, but the general manager is still going to be there and the Department of Health has contract with them.

For those people who are going on medical evacuations or medical travel, it will remain the same as long as the contract is still in effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: First supplementary Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly appreciate her response, but do I understand that the operation as it is now will remain the same. There will be no changes from Sanikiluaq who have to take the airline to go to the hospital. Thank you

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to keep my colleague informed if there are going to be any changes to the operation or the delivery of the services because at this time, before the contract is terminated or expires, we cannot make many changes, but if there are going to be changes, I'll keep Members informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period now is over. Returning to Orders of the Day. Item 7. Item 8. Item 9. Item 10. Petitions. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 006 – 2(2): Long Term Care for Disabled People

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a petition I received from the mayor of Gjoa Haven, there are two hundred eighty seven signatures from the community in support of a long term care facility for persons with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please pass the documents to the clerk. Petitions. Item 11. Item 12. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Brown.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 121 – 2(2): Return to Oral Question 221-2(2) Larga House Contract Update

Tabled Document 122 – 2(2): Return to Oral Question 240-2(2) Conducting Investigations on Incorrect Diagnosis

Tabled Document 123 – 2(2): Return to Oral Question 227-2(2) Financial Help for Ladies' Auxiliaries

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table documents which include three responses; returns 221-2(2), Larga House Contract Update. The second one, 240-2(2), Investigation into death due to misdiagnoses, asked by Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Peterson and the third one, 277-2(2), Financial Help for Ladies' Auxiliaries, asked by Member of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Arreak.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of documents. Mr. Arreak.

Tabled Document 124 – 2(2): Editorial from Nunatsiaq News

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table an editorial from Nunatsiaq News and I thank Mr. Bill and his staff for that. This was done on April 15, 2005.

This editorial discusses how the government will need to address it's policy of supporting or not supporting community based Health and Social Services Programs provided, such as the Ilisarsivik Society of the community of Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please forward the documents to the clerk. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 125 – 2(2): Core Area and Capital District Redevelopment Plan

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to table the Iqaluit Core Area and Capital District Redevelopment Plan. This plan won an international award that will be presented on Friday in Vancouver. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 126 – 2(2): Report of Contracting Activity for the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the Fiscal Year 2004-2005

Speaker (interpretation): Honourable Members, I wish to table today the Report of Contracting Activity for the Office of the Legislative Assembly for the fiscal year 2004/05. Tabling of Documents. I will table another one.

Tabled Document 127 – 2(2): Actuarial Funding Valuation Reports on Retiring Allowances Act.**Tabled Document 128 – 3(2): Actuarial Funding Valuation Reports for Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act.**

Speaker (interpretation): Pursuant to Section 21(1) (A) and 4(6) of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, and Section 20(A) and 4(5) of the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table today, the Actuarial Funding Valuation Reports for both plans as prepared by the Actuaries of the plan, Hewitt Associates, as of April 1, 2004. Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act - Notice

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday April 29th, 2005 that Bill 15, an Act to Amend the Wildlife Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Bill 19 – Legislatives Assembly Statues Amendment Act- Notice

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker I give notice on Friday April 29th 2005, I shall move that Bill 19, Legislatives Assembly Statues Amendment Act be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Notices of Motions for the First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Bill 16 – Supplementary Appropriations (Capital) Act No. 1. 2005/06 - Notice

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also give notice that on Friday April 29th, 2005 that Bill 16. Supplementary Appropriations (Capital) Act No. 1. 2005/06 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriations (O & M) Act No. 1. 2005/06 - Notice

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday April 29th, 2005 that Bill 17. Supplementary Appropriations (O & M) Act No. 1. 2005/06 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Considerations in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Tabled Document 58-2(2). Tabled Document 100-2(2). Tabled Documents 101-2(2). Tabled Documents 102-2(2) with Mr. Arreak in the chair. Well take a 20 minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>Recessed at 15:08 and resumed at 15:38

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you, I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In committee of the whole we have the following items to deal with Tabled Documents 58-2(2), Tabled Documents, 100-2(2), Tabled Documents 101-2(2), Tabled Documents 102-2(2). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Peterson?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman we wish to continue to review Tabled Document 58-2(2), Reports of the Chief Electoral Officer. After we complete this review, we'll want to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Peterson. Ms. Sandy Kusugak, if you could go up to the witness table and your official. For the record I would like you to introduce yourself and your official.

Ms. Kusugak: I'm Sandy Kusugak, chief electoral officer for Nunavut, and this is Patrick Orr who is the legal counsel for elections in Nunavut. Thank you

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We were on general questions yesterday. Does anyone have any additional questions in regards to the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr.

Before I start, I would like to say that during the previous election, while we were all campaigning, in the Kitikmeot Region, prior to the results being released CBC shut down as well as APTN. The residents of Kitikmeot Region did not find out the results until the previous day. They went to bed without learning the results of the election.

I was repeatedly asked whether or not I knew the results. It's not the same throughout Nunavut because we have different times zones. Voting opens and closes at different times. During the elections, we used Eastern Standard Time.

At the time of the election, in the morning, polling stations opened at 9:00 am and closed at 7:00 pm, maybe Eastern Time or Mountain Time. This was not indicated and so we used Eastern Time when we were voting. In Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Pelly Bay and Kugaruuk, we are two hours behind. We use Mountain Time.

The Kivalliq Region is one hour different from the Kitikmeot Region and an hour different from Iqaluit. Yesterday, you spoke saying that perhaps we should switch to Central Time in the next election, although you also mentioned Kivalliq time. I would like to give you a suggestion for thought.

After I ask this question, I will be raising this issue again. I know that the election will be from 9:00 in the morning to 7:00 in the evening, but are you indicating on that page, 9:00 am to 7:00 pm, Mountain Time, or Eastern Time?

Chairman (interpretation): Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: In the last election, we voted from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm local time, where a constituency was only in a single time zone.

We do have three constituencies that cross time zones depending on the time of year the election is held. Correct, the Member for Nanulik would know. I was suggesting that if we wish the reporting of results to happen in a more compressed amount of time, we could consider everybody beginning to vote and end voting at the same moment. In other words, begin in one time zone at 8:00 in the morning, one time zone at 9:00 in the morning and one time zone at 10:00 in the morning which would be at the same moment so that the end of voting would happen at the same moment everywhere and perhaps the reporting of the voting for all constituencies would be a shorter period of time.

I only put that out for the Assembly's consideration if they wish to make an amendment in that way.

The Member for Kugluktuk, I would be interested in talking to him about this further, because the information went into the newspapers and the notices that we created in our office for display in the constituency of Kugluktuk certainly said voting would happen between 9:00 am and 7:00 pm.

If they happened at a different time, I was not made aware of it previously and I would really like to know about it. Thank you

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Ms. Kusugak, I'll speak in English.

(Interpretation ends) Yesterday I wrote on the note on the paper here, I'm just wondering how you got my notes from 8:00 am to 9:00 am, 10:00 am.

I was going to suggest that because if we have another election, why don't we suggest that in Kitikmeot we can start off 8:00 in the morning, Kivalliq 9:00 and Qikiqtaaluk 10:00. and then finish 6:00 pm Kitikmeot, 7:00pm Kivalliq, 8:00 pm Qikiqtaaluk, everybody would be listening to all the results more likely in the same time, but even though we have different times, Kitikmeot, Kivalliq and Baffin nobody would have to wait until the morning like 1:00 am because some of my constituents had called me after 1:00 am if I had heard the results.

I think the time that you had thought, too, that I wrote yesterday, would be a good one to check out anyway so that everybody could finish at the same time, we get all the news at the same time, results, I think that would be a lot better for everybody right across Nunavut otherwise if we start again 9:00 Qikiqtaaluk, 9:00 Kivalliq, 9:00 Kitikmeot, and news is going to be way back again in Qikiqtaaluk by 12:00 midnight or 1:00 in the morning, if you're done, some of our constituents might not even hear about the results again. So maybe what we should do is check these times out that I just gave you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kusugak: Yes, I'm taking note of all of these remarks and suggestions for the Management Services Board to take into consideration as they prepare, look at the amendments we've suggested and then prepare others for the assembly's consideration. Thank you

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If next election we are not going to be using the 9:00 starting time for the polling to open and closing at 7:00, were not going to use that, or were going to use it, come down to Kitikmeot and put your polling station up in Kitikmeot so that the other regions could know how, what the difference is, otherwise use the times from 8:00 am, 9:00 pm and 10:00 in different times but it will start up the same without the time. Thank you

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'll just take that as information to help us in preparing our notes for the Management and Services Board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome back Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr. It's good to see you again.

I wanted to follow up on my questioning yesterday just for the public record. I asked yesterday about notifying ineligible candidates for the next election. I noted that the media did a little bit of coverage on it this morning. It was unclear in the media. In reviewing the Hansard from yesterday it was unclear there as well.

What are you planning to do to notify the ineligible candidates for the next election. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is no procedure outlined in the legislation for me to inform those former candidates specifically.

To me, it would make most sense that I inform them in the time period before the next election when it is in the public's mind that an election will be happening soon. Certainly we can also do the more public things like posting this information to the website. There is not direction given to me by the legislation in this regard.

That is my suggestion. I agree that I do not want people to begin to think that they will run in the next election and then discover only when they go to submit their nomination papers that, no, they can't do so. At the same time I think maybe a letter, three or four years early can get lost or forgotten about in that time period.

That would be my plan, would be to inform them in that period, after an election date has been announced, then I would write to those 29 people. It's not an onerous task. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to Ms. Kusugak. I would suggest that you write to them immediately as an initial follow up from the election that ended February 16th. More than a year has already gone by.

If you can write to them immediately and let them know that you've filed your report. You've had a meeting with the Legislative Assembly, and there's been some media coverage. That would be initially what I would do and then you could remind them again, three to four months prior to an election and also provide a list to election officials.

I'm sure when you make up the packages, you will inform your Returning Officers about ineligible candidates. I strongly believe it's in the interest of the public to know immediately as well, who the ineligible candidates are because there are probably questions out there right now because of the media coverage this morning.

There are probably people wondering who the ineligible candidates are who didn't file their paper work, for the next election, what happened with the RCMP investigation and all that sort of stuff so that we can bring some closure to it. Then we can move forward towards the next election. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before the fact, in the plain language documents we wrote for candidates and agents, I believe it was at that time clearly defined what happens if you don't file and people were, in that document, also warned that if you don't think you're going to get your information in on time, contact the Chief Electoral Officer.

It said what happens if you don't put this information in on time and the answer said, well, you will not be eligible to run in the next election, although I believe, at the time, when people were working on that, they weren't thinking of the results following.

Are you asking for a private notification to the individuals concerned, or are you asking for a more public notification for everybody to know who is eligible and who is not eligible to run? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Ms. Kusugak, I think yes privately write a letter as a follow up, just to bring closure to their file. Then under the Act based on what I know you make public information about all the candidates election expenses and results. It would just be a public courtesy thing where you inform the public of the final disposition of the February 16th Nunavut election. I don't know how you would word it, but I'm sure Mr. Orr could probably come up with appropriate wording.

The candidates should know anyway, they should be aware that this is the case. I'm also sure that in the years coming that if any of them are considering running for election and are looking for nominators, the nominators would certainly want to know if they are an eligible candidate. If it's in a public place, there would be a record of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: Perhaps it doesn't require a reply, I've taken that as information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask, just recently we had received a letter from Revenue Canada regarding the Federal Election. It was up to us whether we wanted to accept it or not. How is it within Nunavut election whether the Revenue Canada, what is the actual situation here, or am I the only that does not understand about the Revenue Canada situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kusugak: I'm sorry Mr. Chairman I don't actually understand the question very well.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Barnabas, if you could clarify your question.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, when we're filling out our income tax, there's a question there if we want to be listed on the federal government's

Election Act or list, and how is this being used with the Nunavut Elections Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you very much. When people check the box when they do their income tax, the question asks do you mind if this information is shared with Elections Canada or do you want your name to go on the voters list for Elections Canada and when people check that off that is for the Federal Election, although we do have an information sharing agreement with Elections Canada, for voter relating to voting only, so at their request we provide them with our voter information and we have just actually received the first extract from Elections Canada from their voters data base.

So, they get the information off your income tax forms, that yes you want to be included on the list and if they have that information, then we will get their list and that way, we will be aware if we are perhaps missing people from the list.

There are new registrations we should make from getting that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to follow up on Mr. Peterson's questioning earlier.

As you know Ms. Kusugak, sometimes we have to bail out some of the people who didn't file their financial reports on the election expenses as well as other issues. I think quite a few people, when they were asked by candidates to be their financial agent, didn't quite understand what the procedures were and what kind of situation they would be in.

So, yes, there is going to be Inuktitut writing here and I know that some people are given time to be sent documents to read. I don't know if these documents are properly understood by individuals who accept the responsibility of that position. I don't know if it's translated properly for people to understand.

My question is, how do you make those people understand what they're getting into. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand your comment completely. I do know that in some instances, a prospective candidate will come up to somebody and say sign here, you won't have to do anything when in actual fact that person has responsibilities.

It is one of the difficulties I suppose, of operating in a system where there aren't parties because in a party system, there has been so much preparation and the candidates have been nominated early etcetera before an election that everybody is more aware of their responsibilities.

In our system, over a 35 day time period, the people are nominated and they quickly move out to campaigning and getting their campaign underway. The financial agent is often appointed in a hurry. The candidate might not have spent a lot of time to find out what's required of them.

It's something I struggle with because I really want people to know what they need to do. People are not very interested during the time of a campaign in the financial aspect. They just want to get out and do things. And then it's afterwards that the financial agents work becomes more. They're likely to come up onto the understanding of their responsibilities.

In some of the instances that we had over the last year, sometimes the candidate would say, well I haven't seen the financial agent in months and the financial agent would say, well the candidate didn't ever give me anything and there was a lack of communication. We are going to be producing a separate package for a financial agent.

We will during the next election be offering teleconference where people can phone into maybe our 1-800 number and in what ever language people choose, they'll be able to listen to what they need to do and to ask questions about what receipts they need to keep and how do they sort this out.

I would say it was an area that we spent quite a lot energy on because we wanted to work better for people. We knew if anybody has run in an election before in the Northwest Territories, the book and paper work required was quite extensive and we really tried to reduce it, while at the same time giving that kind of public responsibility, and public accountability.

I'm always looking for more information and more answers on how to do this well. Those are my ideas for the next election. It's difficult when it happens and the intense interest is just over a short period of time.

All we can do is put out a lot of public information in the month preceding an election to say if you're thinking about being a candidate, please find someone that can work with you closely and that can do the financial work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Ms. Kusugak. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Sandy, for giving me that information.

Sometimes unintentionally, they see their names in the newspaper and think, "My name is out in the public now," and become nervous and I've seen this happen. Because of this

fact, who is responsible for the candidates, for the screening period and the financial agencies, whose responsibility is it to evaluate the financial agencies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does Mr. Barnabas mean like the qualifications of the financial agent to do the work, or evaluate the returns that the financial agent sends in, I'm slightly confused. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was just trying to get the financial information, sometimes they have to show their expenses and yes they have to have qualifications for good management on finances. But, I'm asking who is responsible for ensuring that these agents are doing an adequate job with the financial information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's really the candidates' responsibility to chose a suitable financial agent.

You as members have all filled out the forms or worked with your financial agent who has. There's certainly not a requirement to be anything like an accountant to do our reporting. I believe that anybody that's ever worked with the, in a hamlet office for instance or perhaps a co-op or a northern office can handle this easily.

And certainly, with the ability to phone our office and get support in English and Inuktitut, then people shouldn't, I believe, have difficulty.

When Metro Solomon was working with our office, he would tell people, if you phone me I will work with you line by line and help you to fill it out and send in the information. Hillary Muckpa worked with him on that as well.

They'd have to be somebody the candidates have confidence in. When we set up the new Elections Act, we made a separate position for a campaign manager that a candidate could have, and a financial agent that he must have, because I thought the terminology we use to use, which was an official agent, led people often to believe that the campaign manager is kind of person that we think of somebody that runs teas and welcoming events was suitable for an official agent and once a candidate was in the middle of the campaign, they realized oh, this person has to sign for the financial responsibility.

So, we thought by dividing those into two, we were making it more apparent that there were responsibilities as such. I hope I've answered the question, but please ask me again if I haven't. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will slowly learn as we go along and progress. We have already learned a lot since the last election.

My other question is, the successful candidates are given seven days after the election to make a report and a lot of our constituencies don't get regular schedule airlines coming into the communities. Those official documents have to be submitted within a certain number of days, seven days in fact.

I'm wondering why such a short time is designated. Can an extension be made to accommodate the inconveniences in some of the communities? Thank you.

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

Ms. Kusugak: Excuse me Mr. Chairman. I just need a few minutes to find the appropriate section in the act. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We just checked back. A successful candidate, like anybody else, has in effect 60 days to file their financial return. The problem with that is that there is another section in the act that says that a successful candidate cannot sit in the assembly until their return has been received.

So, I think it would be to do with the timing of the start of the assembly, as opposed to the time of having to put in a return as such, if you know what I mean. If the assembly were to start 60 days passed that, then you would have the full 60 days, as did any other candidate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas, do you have any further questions. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask this question in English.

(interpretation ends) I have a question that was not addressed in your recommendations. It has to do with the contributions to candidate regulations. There was no reference to that what so ever. Suppose you did not receive any comments or complaints or any sort with respect to the amount of funds that can be donated to a candidate. Were there no complaints during the last election? Thank you.

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

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Curley, do you mean the contribution limits of \$30 thousand?

Nobody complained that the amount that the amount was too little and there was really no candidate that came close to spending that amount, so I haven't received any criticism or actually comment at all on that subject. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I realize that and fully understand the amount or limit that can be granted or donated to a candidate.

I know the theory behind it in Canada. Obviously, in order to try and make as many individuals as possible participate in democracy, they purposely limit the amount each individual can donate to a candidate. The thing is, in Nunavut, that's very different because no individuals in any given constituency, I don't really believe, other than corporations, that one way to participate is through donating to a candidate in terms of funds and so on.

I was wondering what happens if a candidate receives a \$5 thousand donation from an individual. What would happen? Obviously that's not allowed. What would you advise a candidate to do with that? Instead of backing it, what do we do with it? Thank you.

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

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the present legislation you would have to tell the person that was going to give you the money what that the limit was and that they had exceeded it and they'd simply have to write you a different cheque for the amount that was allowable. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: The current limit is the same for corporations as it is for individuals. I really think our legislation should differentiate between a corporation and individuals mainly because the sources of raising financing for candidates in seriously contested ridings anyway, have a very challenging situation wishing to raise funds.

Obviously the Management Services Board can propose that but is the current law based on a Southern system or has any thought been given as to whether or not in some regions it may be difficult for individuals to donate to candidates so, therefore most of the candidates pretty much rely on corporations to raise their campaign dollars.

It is difficult because candidates really shouldn't be asking that because financial agents are not really aware that they should be the ones that should be knocking on the doors of the potential donors. Would you be open to amending the limits that the corporations can donate so that it is not the same amount of individual donations? Thank you.

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

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To give a really good answer, I would have to do some research as to what happens in all the other areas. Certainly, we know, watching the Federal Government, the corporation donations have been pretty well eliminated.

When we were constructing the Act, the majority of the Act was on the Ajauqtiit Committee recommendations, the recommendations of the former Chief Electoral Officer, and I talked to my colleagues about what they found worked really well in their Elections Act, that they thought we should include, as well as meeting with groups through the territory.

I'm not exactly sure where the source of that particular clause and that particular amount came from because my memory isn't that good. Perhaps Mr. Orr does remember. I wouldn't want to speculate right now. I think I should ask other people what they do and why they do it so I would have a good recommendation to make to the Financial Management Board or if the Financial Management Board wanted to discuss it further, that I would have some sound information to base that opinion on or give them some data. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I appreciate your response. I am also interested in hearing what Mr. Orr might have to say on that because I know that when we were doing the preparation for the campaign, there were potential donor like in my riding, out of provinces, who were willing to put in the paper but we had to turn them down.

And I sort of felt it was a bit unfair because like I said before, raising financing is a bit difficult, so you pretty much either deal with the corporations that you do know and if you don't know your really at a disadvantage as to where you get your contributions from.

So what I'm trying to suggest to you is maybe separate the corporations and so on, what would be the consequences or problem with opening it up to other donors that do business in Nunavut, even if they are based outside of Nunavut.

I know there is a reference, they could donate providing they do business in Nunavut, but then there are also individuals I know, we had to send a check back, a friend donated a small amount but was not a resident. Even an individual was willing to donate, where as in local ridings, many of our people tend to believe that a word of encouragement is going to make a candidate elected.

Most of the time it's a bill vote and everything else and all the other paraphernalia involved that get them elected.

Could you help us out in whether or not these are within the means of the assembly to change if we wish to do so? Thank you

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

Mr. Orr: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very interesting from a policy point of view, I know that when the Act was drafted, I believe the limit was raised from a former limit on the contribution.

The idea that the limit would be the same for individuals and corporations, I believe has been a historical practice in both the first election in Nunavut and in the Northwest Territories before that.

There was no suggestion coming from either inside election Nunavut or outside to change it at that time, because it was felt that one thousand five hundred per person, whether that person is a human or a legal person, was a generous limit.

On the idea that a corporation being not one in Nunavut, the provision is, the corporation has to carry on business in Nunavut, this ties in with the Business Corporations Act where a business that wants to carry on business here but isn't actually registered or incorporated has to register with the registering company.

So we thought that would tie in with existing provision, and the underlying policy principle is that people who do not have a connection with Nunavut either because their an individual residing in Nunavut, and of course they don't have to reside in the constituency where the elections taking place, but don't reside in Nunavut, or corporation that doesn't have some connection to carry on business in Nunavut should be able to use their money to influence a decision over which that has no effect on them, just as we wouldn't want American companies coming in and financing candidates.

Running for parliament, the theory is, you don't want people outside the jurisdiction influencing elections in the side of jurisdiction, so that was the policy behind it and if the assembly wanted to look at it again, I would advice some caution on that. Thank you

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Orr. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, I understand all that, but Nunavut is not exactly the same as any other provinces where there financial contributions can be seen as influencing both and so on.

Expenses can be pretty high in this part of the world because production of the many paraphernalia needed are only have to be done outside of Nunavut as well to get a really quality campaign material and all that kind of stuff.

I remember generally, some potential donors said is that all, you know like why not just bank it and use it for another next election, but that was not allowed either. In our situation, I think that really has to be, in many respects, improved because there were problems with trying to raise financing from regular individuals in Nunavut.

People are not really into donating to candidates, other than the corporations. So, I feel that we need to try and address that. During the Financial Management Board we'll address that. We don't really have to model the Southern campaign donations limits and other things but we should improve it to try and ensure that all the candidates be given a good run during their campaign. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I didn't hear a question. Are there any other comments. Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to follow up on something that was mentioned earlier in regards to individuals who have disqualified themselves from the next election.

I think it's important that those individuals be informed right away and also that the public be made aware of who they are. This is a small territory. Those individuals may decide to run for a different election. There are all kinds of elections going on. There might be a federal one coming up pretty soon. There are municipal elections, Inuit organization elections and all kinds of local elections that go on.

In most cases, those people that want to be candidates in elections have to get people to sign their nomination papers and I think I would want to know if someone came to me and asked me to sign their nomination papers. If I knew they were disqualified from the next federal election for what ever reason, I might think twice about signing their nomination papers.

I think we owe it to the public to be informed of who these individuals are and then at least they can make an informed decision as to whether they want to support someone for a different election down the road. I think that is an important thing. It was already put out there in the last big ad that you posted after the elections. There were all the names with the question marks on there, and the question marks are still out there in people minds.

They're wondering what happened to those question marks. In the Integrity Commissioner's Report, he had indicated that a number of them had been resolved but that there were still more that were in the works. I think that people have a right to know of those ones that have disqualified themselves. They may want nomination forms signed for another election, a different kind of election. That could affect a persons decision in whether or not to support that individual in nominating them or not.

That was just a comment to make and to add to some of the comments that were made to some of the other members. I would like to ask another question but I'm not sure where it fits. I know of two facilities in Nunavut where individuals are staying that are basically institutionalized. They are in an adult group home or something. I know that there is one here and I believe that there is one in Rankin Inlet and I'm not sure if there are any other ones that are out there.

When it comes to eligible voters, are individuals staying in group homes eligible to vote, one and two, do they have to vote if they stay in the group home, would that be considered their place of residence or would it be their home community, if they come from different community, to be considered where they would be eligible to vote, if they're eligible to vote. I don't know who would want to answer that, maybe Mr. Orr or Ms. Kusugak, I'm not sure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. People staying at group homes are eligible to vote, we do not actively go to group homes to recruit voters. If people there express an interest and want to be a voter, then they can certainly do so, because you can imagine, we really couldn't go around applying a test to everybody, it's not the right thing to do, to determine whether people would qualify in that way to vote.

They can vote like any other person, I would believe if they're in a group home that would be their residency, it's not a temporary place for most of the people that I'm aware of.

The only people that could not vote that lived in a group home would be those who are there by some kind of court order. I understand from speaking to the people in justice that that's virtually nobody in Nunavut.

People that have been placed into the group home by a legal requirement. They certainly can vote if they decide to register. Thank you

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo. Thank you, I don't other names on my list. Mr. Peterson, do you have a motion?

Committee Motion 008 – 2(2): Development of Amendments to the Nunavut Elections Act

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the Management Services Board of the Legislation Assembly, in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of Nunavut bring forward amendments to the Nunavut Elections Act, put a consideration to the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity, and that the amendments taken into consideration the recommendations contained in the CEO's most recent annual report, in addition to the comments and concerns raised by the members of this House and the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has a right to speak once to the motions for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first, and the mover of the motion has a right to last reply which closes the debate. To the motion. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr have appeared before us for two days. They have given a very good, I believe, report. They have some very detailed information and made some very good recommendations on how to proceed for the next election. I'm sure after taking into consideration our questions as Members that we gave them more insight into how to conclude the report and make the next general election in Nunavut a much more efficient and public process.

I'm confident that Ms. Kusugak will quickly act to make public the names of the ineligible candidates and make them aware that they are ineligible. I look forward to seeing her recommendations appear before management services board. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to make additional comments on this issue and I would like to say that we are going to be considering amendments to the Elections Act.

We were talking about setting a fixed date and I don't think that I would be able to support that section that is in regards to the fixed term. I think there has to be some flexibility and I think that we should keep it open. If there is going to be a fixed term, I believe that there should be some room for discretion.

If there is a requirement for an election, you need some room. I just wanted to make that comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. To the motion. I apologize. Thank you. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too would like to support the motion.

Having gone through the report and your recommendations, I think the report that you have put forward is very thorough and I am in support of many of your suggestions. Having said that, I think there were a lot of other points that were raised yesterday, outside of that.

I would like to see those suggestions or issues raised as part of the overall reporting back to the Management Services Board as for the motion to be inclusive of all the suggestions and comments made as well. But, I do support your suggestions and recommendations as you have presented them, but I think having going through our own experience as Members in this House in the first election, we had a lot of insight into the problems that exist at the ground level of trying to run a campaign and having to work with the legislation that was in place.

I think there is value added from this group to your recommendations. I want to thank you for suggestions in appearing before the committee. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I too would like to thank Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr for appearing before the committee.

As Ms. Aglukkaq indicated, and as I mentioned earlier on yesterday, this election was the first election going through with the new Elections Act. Having been involved in the report on the first election in 1999, and going through that process and the consultations and hearing what people had to say in terms of what they wanted to see done differently, I see a lot of that was and has been incorporated into our new elections act.

Like everything, you try it out, and see how it works and discover the wrinkles and then you find ways to iron them out. I think that's what we need to continue to do. What we want to try and do is plan the easiest way possible without jeopardizing the integrity of the process to maximize the participation in the election and make people aware and educate them on the importance of it and the roles that different parties involved in a campaign and in an election play.

I think a lot of that work has been done and I could say now that it's finer tuning and tweaking to see what works and what didn't work. I agree with Mr. Peterson and Ms. Aglukkaq, that the things that we need to look at as far as amendments go, should be all the comments made by all the members here and any other stuff that's been brought forward in your report.

As a member of the Management Services Board, I look forward to working closely with you on this over the next little while and hopefully we can just try and make our Elections Act more effective and more efficient for the whole system to make it better and easier for Nunavummiut to understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I have no other names on my list. The mover of the motion, do you have any closing comments, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank again, Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr for appearing before us.

They've make some very good comments and I look forward to working with the Chief Electoral Officer and Management Services Board. I believe the Management Services Board will take into consideration all the recommendations and consideration of the members of this house and any feedback we have from the public.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. All in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Thank you, Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr.

I will give you an opportunity to make closing comments. Ms. Kusugak.

Ms. Kusugak: I'm sorry. My earplug got all caught up with my earring and I've been concentrating on it because I was thinking it's going to take me 15 minutes to get out of this chair and it was all I could think about.

I really look forward to working with the Management Services Board on the changes we'd like to make and exploring some of the ideas in more detail than we can at this table because there are fewer people a longer time to spend on it. I look forward to finding when it is that Management Services Board would like to come together. I really would thank Mr. Orr for his invaluable help bringing us here today. Thank you very much.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you very much Ms. Kusugak and Mr. Orr. We will see you next time.

I will now report progress on the proceedings of the Committee of the Whole.

Speaker (interpretation): Back to the orders of the day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole on Bills and other matters. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 58-2(2) and would like to report progress. That Tabled Document 58-2(2) is concluded with one committee motion adopted and Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Netser. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills.

Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Thursday, April 28, 20005:

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
 - Bill 18
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 100-2(2)
 - Tabled Document 101-2(2)
 - Tabled Document 102-2(2)
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): We will resume on Thursday, April 28, 2005, at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*Session adjourned at 16:46*

