



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

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**2nd Assembly**

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**DAY 2**

**Tuesday November 16, 2005**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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*Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Government House Leader; Management and Services Board*

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(Quttiktuq)  
*Chair, Full Caucus*

**Hunter Tootoo**  
(Iqaluit Centre)  
*Chair, Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability; Chair, Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges*

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(Nanulik)  
*Deputy Speaker*

**Hon. Levinia Brown**  
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*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community Government and Government Services*

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## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	46
Point of Privilege.....	46
Ministers' Statements .....	50
Members' Statements .....	55
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	61
Oral Questions.....	63
Written Questions.....	81
Returns to Written Questions .....	82
Petitions.....	82
Tabling of Documents .....	83
Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills .....	84
First Reading of Bills .....	84
Second Reading of Bills.....	84
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	85
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	115
Orders of the Day .....	115

**A.**

**Daily References**

Wednesday November 16, 2005..... 46

**B.**

**Ministers' Statements**

001 – 2(3): Mid-year Fiscal Update and Capital Estimates (Simailak)..... 50  
002 – 2(3): Loss of Assembly Broadcasting (Kilabuk)..... 54  
003 – 2(3): Makivik Agreement (Okalik) ..... 55

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

015 – 2(3): Tribute to Pat Lyall (Aglukkaq)..... 56  
016 – 2(3): APTN Broadcast (Barnabas) ..... 56  
017 – 2(3): Decaying Infrastructure – Qikiqtarjuaq Health Center (Arreak) ..... 57  
018 – 2(3): APTN Broadcast (Tootoo)..... 58  
019 – 2(3): Economic Development in Nunavut (Peterson) ..... 58  
020 – 2(3): Congratulate Graduates (Brown)..... 59  
021 – 2(3): Federal Support for Deep Water Port (Picco)..... 60  
022 – 2(3): APTN Unfair (Curley)..... 60  
023 – 2(3): Disappointed at APTN Broadcast (Kattuk) ..... 61

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

011 – 2(3): Waiving of Inuit Employment Clause (Tootoo)..... 63  
012 – 2(3): Dry Cargo Re-Supply Survey (Netser)..... 65  
013 – 2(3): Funding Support for School Information Technology Position (Curley)..... 65

014 – 2(3): Nunavut’s Annual Growth Rate (Peterson).....	68
015 – 2(3): Update on the Food Mail Program (Barnabas).....	71
016 – 2(3): Core Funding for Illisaqsivik Society (Arreak).....	73
017 – 2(3): Fuel Supply in Arviat (Alagalak).....	74
018 – 2(3): Supplying Lumber to the Communities (Kattuk).....	76
019 – 2(3): Changing Time Zones (Tootoo).....	77
020 – 2(3): Tabling of Dry Cargo Re-supply Survey (Netser).....	78
021 – 2(3): Coast Guard Standards (Curley).....	80

**E.**

**Written Questions**

001 – 2(3): Recidivism Rates and Rehabilitation Programs (Netser).....	81
002 – 2(3): Administration and Enforcement of the Liquor Act (Peterson).....	82

**F.**

**Returns to Written Questions**

Return to Written Question 031 – 2(2): Private Accommodation for Medical Travel Clients (Clerk).....	82
Return to Written Question 032 – 2(2): Nunavut Teacher Education Program (Clerk).....	82
Return to Written Question 033 – 2(2): Government of Nunavut Expenditures on Advertising (Clerk).....	82

**G.**

**Petitions**

001 – 2(3): GN Staff Housing Policy (Barnabas).....	82
---	----

**H.**

## **Tabling of Documents**

004 – 2(3): Photos of Decaying Water Pumps (Evyagotailak).....	83
005 – 2(3): Conflict of Interest Allegation (Tootoo).....	83
006 – 2(3): Letter of Instruction to the New Nunavut Commissioner (Okalik) .....	83
007 – 2(3): A Report of the Health Literacy in Rural Nova Scotia Research Project, June 2004 (Tootoo) .....	83

### **I.**

#### **Committee Review of Bills**

Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Education on the Review of Bill 1 (Alagalak)	87
---	----

### **J.**

#### **Bills**

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006–2007 – Notice .....	84
Bill 08 – Statistics Act – Notice .....	84
Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006-2007 – First Reading.....	84
Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-07 – Second Reading .....	85
Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-2007 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee .....	85

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Wednesday November 16, 2005**

**Members Present:**

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

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Point of Privilege**

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise on a point of privilege. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your point of privilege, Mr. Tootoo.

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

I rise today under the *Rules of the Legislative Assembly* to raise a point of privilege pursuant to Rule 20(1).

Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by expressing to you my appreciation for your having granted me leave to raise this matter today. I regret that the time of the House needs to be used for this purpose, but I feel obliged to respond to published allegations that have been made against me.

I do not think that any Member of the House will be surprised to learn that I intend to use my time today to refute allegations that have been made against me in connection with the questions that I have raised in the Legislative Assembly concerning the awarding of the contract to construct the Kivalliq Health Centre.

Mr. Speaker, to put it bluntly, it has been suggested that my voice and my vote are for sale to the highest bidder.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Iqaluit Centre are entitled to have confidence in the integrity of their elected representatives. They deserve no less, and I am glad to finally have the opportunity to publicly respond in this House to the smears that have been made against me.

Mr. Speaker, the July 29, 2005, edition of *Nunatsiaq News* reported that the former MLA for Cambridge Bay via Yellowknife and Chairman of the Financial Management Board requested the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut to investigate what the former Member termed as a “potential conflict of interest” in relation to my raising questions in the Legislative Assembly concerning the government’s contracting and leasing practices. It is this point that I will address in detail today.

For the benefit of all Members and the listening public, I would like to review the nature of the Rule in question.

Rule 20(1) states as follows:

“With leave of the Speaker, any Member may explain a matter which, although not a contempt or breach of privilege, concerns the Member in his or her capacity as a Member of the Legislative Assembly. In particular, the Member may explain that he or she has been misquoted or misunderstood, or deny published accusations against the Member. The explanation must be clear and concise and no debate shall be allowed.”

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be tabling a number of items. These will include the article published in the July 29, 2005, edition of *Nunatsiaq News*.

The title or the headline of this article is: “Former MLA’s conflict of interest allegation fizzles out.”

Mr. Speaker, I believe that a brief chronology will be helpful.

As you and a number of other Members will recall, I raised a number of questions in the House during the First Legislative Assembly concerning the government’s decision to disregard the advice of departmental officials in the awarding of a major contract to construct the new Kivalliq Health Centre. The government decided not to award this contract to the lowest bidder.

In a letter to me dated June 30, 2003, the Minister of Public Works and Services of the day stated:

“In conjunction with this decision, officials of Public Works and Services were instructed to both negotiate a \$200,000 reduction in the proposed contract of Sanajit/Clark and to insist that the component on Inuit employment be increased from the proposed 25% to 32%.”



Two years later, in a letter from the Minister of Community and Government Services to me of August 22, 2005, I was informed that:

“Unfortunately, the contractor did not meet the specified 32% Inuit labour and therefore has been informed that there will be a monetary penalty as per the relevant clause in the NNI policy.”

Mr. Speaker, as you can anticipate, I will be posing further questions on this matter during our sitting, including questions to clarify whether this public money has indeed been recovered.

I would also note for the record that it was I who voluntarily made the effort to table a number of documents, including correspondence to me on this matter from relevant parties, over two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, as I noted at the beginning of my remarks, the allegations made against me by a former Minister of the government and a Member of this House pertain to my reasons for raising this matter.

The allegations suggest that I raised this matter not out of concern for the integrity of the government's contracting process, nor out of a desire to see that the contractor live up to its promises with respect to Inuit employment. Instead, it has been alleged that I raised this matter because of my position with Arctic Insurance Brokers.

It has been insinuated that I used my position as the elected MLA for Iqaluit Centre in order to further the commercial interests of certain local Iqaluit companies in relation to their unsuccessful bid for this contract. I can only infer that there are hints that I sought to benefit personally in some fashion.

Mr. Speaker, I formally refute these allegations in their entirety.

Mr. Speaker, later today, I will also be tabling correspondence to the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut that makes it clear that the allegations are without merit. I would note that while the Integrity Commissioner did not proceed with a full inquiry, I would absolutely welcome his doing so at any time. I have nothing to hide.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is only fair to acknowledge that I have gone on the public record in this House as being in favour of enhanced protection for public servants who disclose wrongdoing in the workplace. If the Integrity Commissioner were of the view that amendments to our own statute in this regard would be of use, I would certainly be the first to vote in favour of them.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to persistence in asking questions and scrutinizing decisions and actions, I plead guilty. Some questions may be uncomfortable for the government and for outside interests, but our system of responsible government demands that they be asked and answered in a forthright fashion.

However, I believe that no Member of this House should be smeared or bullied when they do their job and seek to protect the interests of the public purse and our tax-paying constituents. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I won't be intimidated into silence. I will continue to ask the tough questions that need to be answered.

Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that in his attack against me, the former Member did not challenge the substance of what I have said, or offer an explanation in response to the concerns I have raised. In essence, he said that asking questions is somehow in and of itself a conflict of interest. That is ridiculous, Mr. Speaker, and an insult to every Member of the House.

I must also note that it did not escape my attention that the allegations against me were raised by an individual who has some experience of the process involved in conflict of interest matters. As some of us recall, the 1998 report of the NWT Conflict of Interest Commissioner into the so-called Morin affair raised the issue of how some Cabinet Ministers were willing to sign their names to a document that the Commissioner found to be inaccurate.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note for the record that if my goal as an MLA were to use my position to financially enrich myself, I would have voted for, and opted into, the supplementary pension plan. As you know, Mr. Speaker, I chose not to do so, at considerable financial cost to me and my family.

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to address the issue of scrutiny of Government of Nunavut leases. In the former Member's correspondence to the Integrity Commissioner, he implies that I spent too much time scrutinizing some leases held by the GN, and not enough time scrutinizing others.

Mr. Speaker, I think that this may be the first time ever that I have been accused of asking too few questions, rather than too many.

Nonetheless, I would simply point out that I and other Members of the House can only work with the information that we have in front of us. In this case, the information provided by the government included detail on some leases, but not all. Mr. Speaker, there may indeed be a time to take another look at the others, and I note with interest the former Chair of the Financial Management Board's comments in this area. Indeed, now that he is no longer in a position to take the heat, I would welcome any light that he may care to shed on this area.

Mr. Speaker, frankly I am very surprised that someone who is very busy, someone that lives in Edmonton, Alberta, someone that is a director for the Business Development Bank of Canada and an employee of Pacific Western Trust has time to worry about little things like this, he must have too much time on his hands. Mr. Speaker, I also think that the Gomery Commission's recent revelations concerning financial irregularities and kickbacks to the Liberal Government ought to reinforce the importance of ensuring that our scarce public dollars in Nunavut are spent wisely.

And Mr. Speaker, I know for myself that I fully intend to use my voice in this House to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Tootoo for making a point of privilege. Your point of privilege is noted and does not require any action from this House.

We have a letter that I will be reading. It is directed to Jobie Nutarak, Speaker of the House, Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut the passage of the following bills during the Third Session of the Second Legislative Assembly: Bill 1, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006-07; Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, Number 2, 2005-06; Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act, Number 2, 2005-06; Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation, Operations and Maintenance Act, Number 4, 2004-05.

Sincerely, Anne Mikidjuk Hanson, CN, Commissioner of Nunavut.

Going to the Orders of the Day, Item 2, Ministers' Statements. Mr. Simailak.

## **Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

### **Minister's Statement 001 – 2(3): Mid-year Fiscal Update and Capital Estimates**

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to make a statement on the Mid-Year Fiscal Update and Capital Estimates to the Members and all Nunavummiut to date on the current fiscal situation of the Government of Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) The Government of Nunavut will continue to reflect the priorities that have been set out in the *Pinasuaqtavut* document by maintaining a sound fiscal position, while maximizing the benefits from the financial resources that are available to us.

Mr. Speaker, in October 2004, First Ministers met to discuss the problems associated with Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing. As a result, the federal Finance Minister announced an Expert Panel to undertake a review of transfer payments.

The Department of Finance has been engaged in discussions over the past few months with the federally appointed Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing.

This past August, I had the opportunity to speak with the Expert Panel in Yellowknife, at the first ever roundtable discussions on Territorial Formula Financing. In addition, representatives from the panel have traveled to Nunavut in order to get a better understanding of some of the true costs of trying to deliver programs and services in Nunavut.

To complement the work of the Expert Panel, Canada's 13 Premiers announced the establishment of the Council of the Federation Advisory Panel on Fiscal Imbalance in May 2005. The mandate of the Advisory Panel on Fiscal Imbalance is to provide an independent review of the fiscal imbalance in the federation.

This panel has been asked to look at ways to ensure that provinces and territories have the resources to provide services that are vital to the well-being and prosperity of its citizens. As part of its independent review of fiscal imbalance the panel has already directly consulted territorial governments during the course of the past few months.

We have taken this opportunity to reinforce our contention that the delivery of programs and services in Nunavut is different than in the rest of Canada and that the fiscal resources available to us, provided to us via our transfer agreement, need to reflect this reality.

Our financial agreement with the Government of Canada in future years could be influenced by the recommendations of these panels. During the past few months I presented a series of sound arguments and presentations to these panels to complement the work of my officials. We have argued strenuously that the current formula financing arrangement is inadequate to meet the growing social and economic needs of the territory.

I am optimistic that Nunavut's changing economic and social needs will be well reflected in the reports of both the Expert Panel and the Council of the Federation Panel and that the Government of Canada will respond in an appropriate manner.

However, the uncertainty about the outcome of this review compels us to remain fiscally prudent in our fiscal outlook beyond 2005-06.

No changes to our current Formula Financing arrangements will be made during the 2006-07 fiscal year. Any recommendations forwarded by both the Expert Panel and the Council of the Federation to the federal government will not be reflected in our Formula Financing transfer until at least 2007-08.

Our revenues for 2005-06 are now estimated to be \$982 million. The current revenue forecast is \$9.6 million higher than estimated in the 2005 Budget. This increase is mainly due to funding from the Northern Strategy Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, in May the Legislative Assembly approved a total of \$8.4 million in supplementary appropriations. The majority of that increase, totalling \$6.2 million, was for the financial impact of the power rate increase, effective April 2005.

In addition, we will be bringing forward supplementary appropriation bills for your consideration during this session. These appropriations include:

- Additional funding for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address the immediate shortage of staff housing in Iqaluit and for enhancements to the Nunavut Home Repair Program.
- Additional funding for the establishment of a new Devolution Division in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.
- Additional resources for the Department of Justice for the Law Enforcement Program, as well as for Legal Services Board and Court Services.

As a result of additional expenditure requirements and increased contingencies to offset the rising costs of energy, our revised expenditure projections for 2005-06 are \$21.9 million higher than outlined in the Budget.

The net impact of these revenue and expenditure adjustments to the 2005 Budget means that the original budgeted surplus of \$3.6 million dollars, has now changed by \$12.3 million dollars to a projected deficit of \$8.7 million dollars.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut continues to be reliant on imported petroleum for all of our energy needs. In the past two years, the cost to procure the necessary fuel products for our territory has soared dramatically. These increases have put a tremendous fiscal strain on individuals, businesses and the Government of Nunavut. I have met with the Federal Finance Minister and have requested help to offset the rising cost of energy for Nunavut.

We must continue, however, to manage our finances prudently. Our approach to expenditures will be even more important now to help ensure that we are equally prepared for the challenges that await us.

Mr. Speaker, I will now introduce the Capital Appropriation Act for 2006-07. For the fiscal year 2006-07, our government is planning to allocate \$104 million for capital expenditures on projects that will benefit communities throughout Nunavut.

This amount compares to the \$102 million allocated in the Capital Estimates for 2005-06. The Department of Health and Social Services has the single largest capital budget for the coming fiscal year at \$22.7 million.

The objective of the GN continues to be the ability to provide health care for Nunavummiut closer to home. As Members are aware, the regional health centers in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet were officially opened during this fiscal year.

Included in this budget is \$9.2 million dollars for the Qikiqtani General Hospital here in Iqaluit. This facility is expected to be completed in late 2006. In addition, funding of \$3.8 million will be allocated for the construction of each of the continuing care centers in Gjoa Haven and Igloolik and \$5.0 million for the replacement of the health center in Pangnirtung.

Mr. Speaker, consistent with our government's goals of improving access to education and providing affordable housing for all Nunavummiut, approximately 39 percent of the capital budget, or roughly \$40 million, is for education projects and housing. The allocation includes funding for the completion of the addition to the Aqsarniit School in Iqaluit, renovations to the Elementary School with gym in Gjoa Haven and the improvement of Nunavut Arctic College student accommodations in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet.

In addition, the budget includes approximately \$1.5 million for a design of both the new Folk School and Trade School, and \$1.6 million for renovations to Sakku School in Coral Harbour.

The Capital Estimates include \$5 million for public housing. Mr. Speaker, these units will be constructed in those communities that have the greatest need and did not receive unit allocations in 2005-06. In addition, \$11.5 million has been allocated for modernization and improvement retrofits, of which \$4.3 million will be recovered from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The total budget for the Department of Community and Government Services capital expenditures in 2006-07 is \$21.7 million. This includes \$16.4 million for community projects and \$5.3 million for projects in the Petroleum Products Division. The capital projects undertaken by this department affect almost all communities in Nunavut.

In addition to the capital contribution of \$4 million for projects in Iqaluit, approximately \$4.6 million will be spent on water supply and sewage facilities. This includes sewage lagoon repairs in Cape Dorset, a sewage treatment plant and water works in Rankin Inlet, planning for a new water line in Pond Inlet, and sewage lagoon work in Kugluktuk.

The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth has been allocated a budget of \$3.2 million. This funding will be used primarily for contributions to community heritage and elders and youth centers across Nunavut. In addition, funding has been made available for contributions for recreation facility projects and \$1.5 million has been allocated for the Nunavut Heritage Centre.

The Department of Justice will receive \$5.1 million for capital projects in the coming year. This includes \$1.6 million for the new Justice Center in Iqaluit and \$2.4 million for a men's correctional healing facility.

For 2006-07, the Department of Environment will have a capital budget of \$2.2 million. This funding will be used for various parks and wildlife projects around Nunavut including the replacement of the wildlife offices in Hall Beach and Cambridge Bay. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation has a capital budget of \$8.0 million for a wide range of expenditures, including for airport maintenance equipment, a deep-water port study and projects under the Strategic Highway Infrastructure Program.

In addition, \$4.0 million has been allocated to an airport replacement project in Arctic Bay. As well, in conjunction with the federal government's \$10.7 million contribution under the Airports Capital Assistance Program, the GN will allocate \$1.0 million towards improvements at the Iqaluit Airport.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Legislative Assembly will receive approximately \$300,000 for upgrades to the audiovisual system, the chamber and offices.

To conclude Mr. Speaker, while our government will continue to balance the social and infrastructure needs of our territory with the need to maintain a sound financial position, the impact of rapidly rising energy costs is making our task more difficult.

I remain confident, Mr. Speaker, that with the hard work and cooperation of all of us we can continue to make much progress in developing a territory that we all can be proud of and in providing good government to all Nunavummiut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 002 – 2(3): Loss of Assembly Broadcasting**

**Hon. Peter Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues and the public about the loss of our Assembly broadcast, which has been carried by APTN to date. Also I stand not knowing if this statement will reach our communities in a timely manner. It may not be until Hansard arrives into the communities, and even then, if people will have the time to read the information.

I stand today also to apologize for informing the public a couple of days ago through the media of the new proposed changes for broadcasting the Third Session's proceeding on APTN, which I stated would take place from 4 pm to 6 pm Eastern Standard Time, and other times in other regions.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, sadly, there will be no broadcasts, radio or television, to the public of our proceedings through APTN or any other network outside of Iqaluit. This

House does not have the networks or means of broadcasting its own proceedings to the public, thus has relied on APTN to provide this essential service.

(interpretation ends): I seek the support of the members of this Assembly to immediately make known to APTN and its management our need and our desire to resolve this problem for the benefit of our constituents and the public at large as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Minister's Statement 003 – 2(3): Makivik Agreement**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform the House and all Nunavummiut, and my colleagues, that the Government of Nunavut initialled the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* on November 15. Yesterday Makivik, Canada, and the Government of Nunavut ratified the final agreement before it comes into effect.

On October 24, 2005, the Honourable Andy Scott, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and I reached an agreement that will ensure the allocation of Nunavik Inuit to fish in the Davis Strait is done in a manner that does not undermine the Nunavut Inuit rights to the bulk of the turbot and shrimp allocation in the Davis Strait.

Mr. Speaker, the initialled *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* now guarantees Nunavut Inuit a share of turbot and shrimp allocations in the south and north zones of Davis Strait that exceeds any allocations granted to Nunavik Inuit by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, to be clear, this agreement does not signify any change in the Government of Nunavut's position that the Federal fisheries management policy should include a commitment to the fisheries development strategy that has as its objective Nunavummiut receiving a fair and majority fishery allocation in the waters adjacent to Nunavut. The Government of Nunavut will continue to work with Nunavik Inuit, and the Government of Canada in implementing the *Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement* and developing a fisheries regime in the Davis Strait that reflects the constitutional protection accorded to Inuit fisheries in the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Orders of the day. Item 3. Member's statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

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



**Member's Statement 015 – 2(3): Tribute to Pat Lyall**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to Pat Lyall who had a sudden passing on October 24. For all that knew him Pat Lyall lived in Taloyoak but managed to work tirelessly on behalf of people across the north.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Pat ever since I can remember. He was a good friend of many of the Members of this House. I will miss his sense of humour, listening to his stories, and my conversations with him.

In business, Pat's contribution was instrumental in forming some of the most successful enterprises currently operating both in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

His business acumen was legendary and corporations such as Nunasi, IBC, TVNC (now APTN) owe him a debt of gratitude. Pat believed in keeping the benefits of business in the north and he worked hard for this cause.

Outside of the office, Pat was a family man and a strong advocate of Inuit culture, language and committed to supporting youth. He loved being out on the land and with his family and friends. I remember fondly our trip with him last October to his cabin. He took the time from his busy schedule to entertain myself and my cabinet colleagues during our retreat in Taloyoak.

Individuals like Pat Lyall make a real difference in our society for the betterment for all Nunavummiut. He will be missed by many who know him. I ask the Members of this House to join me in extending our condolences to Pat's wife Leah, his children, and his family on their loss. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*>>Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member's Statements. Mr. Barnabas.

**Member's Statement 016 – 2(3): APTN Broadcast**

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Chair of our Full Caucus to speak on the issue that you raised yesterday in the House concerning APTN's broadcast of our proceedings.

Mr. Speaker, during the recent CBC lockout, I received numerous concerns from my constituents, especially elders. The lockout resulted in my communities feeling that they had been cut off from the rest of the territory and the country. The lack of news in Inuktitut was especially hard on the elders.

(interpretation ends): Mr. Speaker, APTN's decision to bump the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly is the wrong thing to do. As the MLA for three communities I know that our residents appreciate the opportunity to watch our House in session.

Mr. Speaker, broadcasting the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly in Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and English has proven an effective way of keeping our residents informed and connected. APTN's plan will result in less prime time aboriginal language programming. Mr. Speaker, I urge APTN to reconsider this decision. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 017 – 2(3): Decaying Infrastructure – Qikiqtarjuaq Health Center**

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you Speaker. I rise today to raise the issue of decaying infrastructure in the community of Qikiqtarjuaq. Mr. Speaker, the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Center was first built in 1972 and was renovated in 1991.

At over 33 years old the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Center is the oldest community health center in Nunavut. The only facilities older than this one were in three regional centers where modern new facilities have recently been opened or will be open in a year or two.

Mr. Speaker, as many Nunavummiut know, a healthy environment is important to healthy life styles. A healthy work environment, especially in a health facility, is critical to promoting health and wellness in a community.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that Members are aware through the news of a recent concern raised at the Inuksuit School in Qikiqtarjuaq. Several students and staff experienced health problems that seemed to be caused by something in the school.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Department of Education has already taken steps to investigate the cause of the health problems in Inuksuit School. In the meantime the school is temporarily closed.

Mr. Speaker, Qikiqtarjuaq is a small community but it deserves as good and stable an infrastructure as every other community in Nunavut. An old and aging health centre and an unhealthy school environment are just two examples of infrastructure that does not promote the well-being of a community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 018 – 2(3): APTN Broadcast**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my shock and outrage at APTN's decision to bump the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly from our previous time slot.

Mr. Speaker, we often talk about the need for transparency and accountability in government. The media itself has a role to play in acting as a watchdog on the decisions that we as elected representatives take on behalf of the public.

That is why I was particularly astonished that APTN's decision makes it more difficult, if not impossible, for the public to keep up with what's happening in their Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to hear that you are working with your counterparts in Yellowknife and Whitehorse to resolve this situation. All three northern legislatures do their best to make their proceedings open and accessible to the public whom we serve and Mr. Speaker, as Minister Aglukkaq pointed out, I urge APTN to remember their roots and where they came from.

And, also, I urge them to reconsider this terrible decision that they've made in keeping Nunavummiut in Nunavut and residents of the Northwest Territories and the Yukon in the dark as far as what's going on with their governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 019 – 2(3): Economic Development in Nunavut**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It will come as no surprise that I rise today in support of economic development in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, I took the time to read the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook when it was released by the Nunavut Economic Forum earlier this month. While the outlook contains several bright notes, I was quite concerned by some of the overarching themes and how it will impact economic development in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the first time that I have stood in this House to raise an issue of a seemingly confused strategy that has been produced by the government. Regular members and ministers alike have agreed that the government and its limited resources cannot be all things to all people and that priorities must be determined.

There seems to be a strategy for any possible type of economic activity but it has never been clear to me where the government's priorities are. The 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook agrees with my concerns. The Outlook asks the same questions that members in

this House have raised, quote “How will Nunavut resolve competing ideas for it’s economic and social development? How will it prioritize between strategies? How will it prioritize within each strategy?” Unquote.

Further it states and I quote, “To the greatest extent possible Nunavut must resolve these debates within Nunavut so it can present its ultimate decision to external sources with a unified voice. A fractured message becomes a message unheard.”

Mr. Speaker this is a real concern if our ministers’ travel to Ottawa and other southern destinations to negotiate for federal funding. To be taken seriously, it is essential that our leaders have a clear, concise plan for implementing the territory’s various strategies.

Mr. Speaker, the status of economic development is definitely not 100 percent bleak. One piece of good news was announced this week; construction at the Tahera Jericho mine is ahead of schedule. This too has a bittersweet edge. In an interview with the media, representatives of Tahera said that although Tahera doesn’t have a problem attracting workers, heavy equipment operators are scarce.

Mr. Speaker it’s a shame that the Government of Nunavut has moved so slowly in preparing Nunavummiut for careers in the mining sector. I’ve not been the only one to stress the need for trades training closer to home.

Mr. Speaker, I’m sure that I speak for all regular members when I assure the House that we are ready to work hard and carry a unified front with respect to economic development in Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Member’s Statements, Ms. Brown.

### **Member’s Statement 020 – 2(3): Congratulate Graduates**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the students that graduated last summer, one person in particular from Whale Cove, Glenda Uluqsi.

It’s very important that the x-ray technician work is done by the people in the community and there was an individual from Whale Cove who graduated from that course.

There were three graduates that graduated from Grade 12; Darryl Agjuk, Maxine Aanguk and Rain Agjuk. Those are the three graduates from Grade 12 from Whale Cove. I would like to congratulate them from Inuglak School in Whale Cove and I expect that there will be more graduates in the next year.

I would like to say hello to my constituents in Rankin Inlet and in Whale Cove. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 021 – 2(3): Federal Support for Deep Water Port**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently wrote the Minister of National Defense, the Honourable Bill Green and the Minister for National Transportation, the Honourable Jean Laverre in regards to federal support for the Iqaluit Port Project.

Mr. Speaker, as Member of the Legislative Assembly for Iqaluit East, I also spoke to the city officials and the Mayor, Her Worship, Elisapee Sheutiapik on this project. Mr. Speaker, it's the only jurisdiction in Canada not on a national transportation link and as the trans-shipment point for almost 60 percent of Nunavut's population the proposed deep water freighting, marshalling, and dockage area would be a benefit to the entire territory.

It is an embarrassment Mr. Speaker, an embarrassment that among circumpolar countries, Canada, Canada alone, has no facilities, infrastructure, or logistic supports for our coast guard and navy.

Issues of national defence Mr. Speaker, and sovereignty have been raised and I believe this project would not only help facilitate and strengthen Canada's circumpolar role but position us for the changes and challenges we are seeing with increased naval shipping Mr. Speaker, naval and civilian shipping North of 60.

Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit Port Project represents economic as well as political and sovereignty opportunities for Iqaluit, Nunavut, and Canada. Depending on what happens in the next few weeks on the political scene in Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking meetings with Minister Green, Mr. Laverre, and city representatives. The Mayor would also be attending those meetings with me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 022 – 2(3): APTN Unfair**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to add my voice to those who have expressed their disappointment at the recent decision by the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network that has left our Assembly without a home on the airwaves.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, since the creation of this legislature we have taken great pride in our ability to communicate through our broadcasts the very important work that we do in the chamber. I am saddened to know that for the first time Nunavummiut outside Iqaluit will not be able to watch in a timely and convenient manner, their elected representatives at work.

Mr. Speaker, it seems unfair that APTN, whose birth and heritage lies in Television Northern Canada, has turned its back on the very regions that made its existence possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to call upon all Nunavummiut to write, to call, and to email APTN and let them know that the broadcast of the Legislative Assembly belongs in the time slot that is accessible to all Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the management of APTN who will hear this message will come to understand that Nunavummiut both desire and need to access these proceedings and will allow the Assembly to be broadcast in a time slot that has served Nunavummiut for many years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 023 – 2(3): Disappointed at APTN Broadcast**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too rise today to speak on the issue of APTN. Just before I came here for the session I had to go on the local radio station and inform the people of Sanikiluaq that they won't be able to view us on APTN. There was a lot of opposition to the changing of the time slot and it is of concern to all the people of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, usually on my travel from Sanikiluaq to Iqaluit I meet up with quite a number of people and they are very interested in watching the proceedings of the House through APTN. Usually when I see the people out there they are very happy to see me in person after they have been watching the proceedings in the House. They recognize this and they have to have the same types of services that are made available to the rest of Canada. There has been no resolution to this problem yet and it has created a problem. I am well aware that APTN has a lot of programs to air but they do have to accommodate us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements, going to the orders of the day. Item 4, Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Okalik.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am the only one who can recognize this particular individual in the House. We have just been talking about APTN but there are other media personal here as well, we have the editor of Nunatsiaq News. Mr. Jim Bell who's from my riding and we also have CBC personnel here. I would like to thank them very much for covering the proceedings of the House.

That is one way of keeping the constituents informed. Let us forget about APTN for now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual from Winnipeg. I am sure that you heard about the GPS training and he is one of the individuals from there Tom Tisii. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize a constituent and a good friend and unfortunately another constituent of mine shares the disposition as a couple Members of this side of the House who cheer for hockey. Jutanie Davidee. I would like to welcome him to the House and finally thank him for coming down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Paul Pemik. I am sure you know him. He is from Arviat and a member of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board and welcome to the House Mr. Pemik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This individual is a student, Joe Iyerak. I would like to welcome him to the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to acknowledge and welcome to the Gallery today students from the Environmental Technology Program

at Nunavut Arctic College and their instructor. Mr. Speaker, they are seated behind me and I would like to introduce some of the people.

Moe Guimond from Iqaluit, Andrew Keenainak from Pangnirtung, Alex Farady of Iqaluit, Jerry Arreak from Igloolik, Kelly Akpaliapik from Pond Inlet. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome them as well as their instructor Jason Tusurak for the environmental technology program in Iqaluit. I would like to welcome them to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Just a minute, I was writing the names for Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

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

#### **Oral Question 011 – 2(3): Waiving of Inuit Employment Clause**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services. But before I ask my question I want to acknowledge the fact she is a new minister in her portfolio and these questions that I am asking are dealing with issues inherited by her and her department.

Mr. Speaker, earlier I talked about correspondence the Minister wrote to me regarding Inuit employment levels for the Kivalliq Health Centre project. In that letter she indicated there will be a monetary penalty as per the relevant clauses and the NNI Policy.

I would like to ask the minister if indeed that penalty has been established. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would also like to thank my colleague for asking those questions. The correspondence was written and we're going to be using a new policy.

(interpretation ends): I'm glad the new policy gives us more clout. The old policy didn't have that much in the way of penalties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to get, the minister had indicated that the penalty has been implemented. I'm just wondering if she can indicate if it's been collected and how much it was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We just started working on this recently over the summer and to date I haven't been advised whether the penalty has been paid. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know in my correspondence to the minister responsible at the time, and the response that I got indicated that was, my correspondence was requesting what the Inuit employment levels were for that particular contract.

I'm just wondering if the minister, as she indicated in her letter, she said they didn't meet their 32 percent content. Can she indicate what the percentage levels were? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct in saying that the contract specified that the contractor was to achieve 32 percent Inuit labour during the construction.

The contractor achieved 25.71 percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that was one of the pivotal decisions or, not decisions, but causes for switching from a public tender to a negotiated contract from the government's point of view. It was to increase Inuit employment levels, and that was a main stipulation behind the decision on this contract.

Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering if I could ask the minister, I've heard that the company in question, Stanley Clark, had actually asked to have that section of the contract waived. I'm just wondering if she could indicate if her department ever did receive any request from the contractor to waive that clause in the contract? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new policy states that penalties will be calculated at two percent of the total billable content of the contract for each one percent of the amount by which employment does not meet the mandatory requirement.

(interpretation) And also, I will take this question as notice at this time. Thank you.

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

### **Oral Question 012 – 2(3): Dry Cargo Re-Supply Survey**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Earlier this year, the Government of Nunavut commissioned a private consulting firm to conduct a satisfaction survey on the dry cargo re-supply. In October public meetings were held in Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit.

Rankin Inlet is part of my constituency. My question for the minister is, have the results of this survey been provided to her office yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, it has not been. We're expecting it to be completed by the end of December, beginning of January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you. For those of us in Rankin Inlet, we usually get our supplies from Montreal and it's creating havoc in our community. The prices of the goods are more expensive.

If you're ordering lumber and renovation supplies, it is more expensive. Everything has gone up since we started receiving goods and supplies from Montreal. We're from the Keewatin. I'm not sure why the representatives didn't go to our communities to consult about the re-supply by ship. Thank you.

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

### **Oral Question 013 – 2(3): Funding Support for School Information Technology Position**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Education.

This summer we sent correspondence from the District Education Authority Chair in regards to computer technology. All the students in Nunavut have to take training or education through the internet or on a computer.

We have these computers in our school and they have more computers than the Assembly itself. They don't have any technicians and they don't have anybody to teach the students how to use the computers.

My question is, the school wanted to create a full-time position to do the IT job. Why is it that there was no money set aside for this position?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raises a very expedient question, and the question involves the changing workplace that we see ourselves in, in Nunavut. Ten years ago we didn't need IT specialists in most of our communities and indeed in the schools.

Mr. Speaker, we certainly didn't need them to help people get on line and so on within the classroom. That has changed. Mr. Speaker, this past spring we did create over 80 new positions and placed them in our schools, which I think was well welcomed by all schools across Nunavut.

They did not include dedicated IT people or computer people as the member has talked about and that is something that we are reviewing as a department Mr. Speaker, to see where there are opportunities to bring these types of positions in line with some of the work that we're doing with the new school funding formula that we're still working on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's support for increased support to teachers and District Education Authorities in all the regions of the north. It is a welcomed fact that they need all the resources they can get, but I'm asking the minister once again, why is it not the priority of the minister to provide support, technology support as we live in the computer age now, so that the school kids can have a dedicated service individual that they can rely on instead of asking teachers to do volunteer support for the technologies in those communities. Particularly in places like Rankin Inlet.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't argue with the member, Mr. Speaker.

The member is correct, these positions are needed in all of our schools. In many instances, Mr. Speaker, if the school is fortunate to have someone who is computer literate and is able to work on the IT aspects of computers, then that's the very best.

In most cases that isn't the case. With the limited funding that we had available last year Mr. Speaker, in the budget, I was able to put 80 contract positions within our schools;

counsellors, teachers, special needs. I wasn't able to fund the IT positions that the member is talking about.

Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, in the next round of budget consultations, we'll be able to find those extra dollars for those full-time, indeterminate positions. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we are looking within our budget to see if there are opportunities to fund some of these IT positions that the member is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we get the drift with the minister's response to how he will eventually find funds to fund the IT support for the schools, but my question remains to the minister, why is it not a priority?

I would like to urge the minister, and indicate to you, that you don't need to consult with the community to provide essential services, like technology support, to schools. The computers are already there. Many of them are not operational due to the fact that they don't have a specialist to deal with them. The kids cannot rely on your consultation whether or not to provide funding or find individuals. They need it now.

Why not now Mr. Minister?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Mr. Speaker, if I had the opportunity and the magic powers to be able to snap my fingers and do it right now I would.

Mr. Speaker, we created over 80 new positions within that budget framework and as the member knows, within the framework of budgeted positions, let's say I was able to do this. We have 42 schools across Nunavut in 25 communities, every school needs an IT specialist.

Let's say I could hire 10 at a cost of about 80 thousand salary, and if I can't find that person within the community, I would have to find housing for them. We're talking about a cost of about probably over 1 million. I don't have those monies within my budget.

So I'm getting a feeling from the member that he is going to support me and bring forward these types of opportunities whether it be in a supplemental appropriation in the House or other extra monies to the budget for the Department of Education.

I can't stand here Mr. Speaker, and make a commitment to the people of Nunavut and to the House that I'll be able to facilitate new positions when I don't have a budget for them. They are a priority of the Department of Education, but first it was important for us to try to increase our teachers, lower the PTR amount, provide those counselling services and so on.

And that's what we've done the first go around in that budget and I would hope to be able to improve on that in the next budget round. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the first time that I've heard the minister say that he doesn't have a magic wand because normally you try convincing the members that you can almost walk up to the moon to achieve what you want to achieve in Nunavut.

Having said that Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the minister once again why is it not the priority to have the computer specialists required to service individual students in Nunavut, as they rely and they need to keep up to date with the changes in the technological world. Therefore, I will definitely commit myself to supporting you because there are contingency funds in your department. Why not use them now?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Only three months, August, September, October and now it's November into the fiscal year. The budget was just passed this past spring. Any contingency funds are based and prorated on the amount of money that is expended on a monthly and a go forward basis of the department.

So, it would be without the framework and the expediency and the ability of the minister within the Financial Administration Act to be able to access funds to do these positions right now because they're not even on the organization chart.

So, Mr. Speaker, IT program people are available in a lot of our communities. We also contract from Public Works, Community and Government Services, other departments of the government, who actually go in and facilitate computer help within our communities.

But I do agree with the Member that there needs to be an opportunity to bring forward IT positions and that is something that we are working on. So, hopefully Mr. Speaker over the next several weeks we will be able to identify extra dollars and to be able to bring on these positions and I appreciate the Member's comments about the magic wand and to be able to step up to heaven.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we need divine intervention. Mr. Speaker, this is one of those times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Oral Question 014 – 2(3): Nunavut's Annual Growth Rate**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. In his fiscal update Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that the formula financing arrangement is inadequate and yet it was only signed last year. In it, the annual growth increases were projected at three and a half percent. My question for the Minister is, what is Nunavut's annual growth rate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies to the Member. I didn't fully comprehend his question. If he can repeat his question.

**Speaker** (interpretation): If the Member can clarify his question.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will try to clarify my question. The last formula financing agreement that was signed, I think was last year. It projected annual growth increases of three and a half percent. Now the Minister is saying in his fiscal update that this is inadequate. Last year it seemed adequate and this year it is inadequate. The government formed an expert panel. My question is if three and a half percent is inadequate what is Nunavut's current annual growth rate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know in the previous years before the new arrangement was finalized for Nunavut in the old Northwest Territories days we used to get up to six and seven percent increases every year in our Territorial Formula Financing with Ottawa. And that used to be barely adequate for the Northwest Territories at the time.

But energy costs have sky rocketed in the last couple of years. So it something that is very hard to manage right now that would be the 3.5 percent annual increase that we get from Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that response. So there is need of a six to seven percent annual increase. I'm not sure why we are signing a 3.5% percent agreement last year. I am a little concerned. If our growth continues to be seven percent and the expert panel is going to make recommendations as the Minister is quoted in here that the Government of Canada will respond in an appropriate manner. I am not sure what that means.

My question is, "What is the potential effect on Nunavut if the feds don't respond to the recommendations of the two panels in an appropriate manner while our annual growth rate remains at seven percent? – fully three and a half percent above what we are getting now." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The three and a half percent that I am talking about is also for the provincial governments and that is the agreement that it will increase 3.5 percent not just for Nunavut but for all of the provinces in Canada.

The two panels identified during the Premiers' conference, at this time they are doing consultations. We are expecting that it will benefit Nunavut, especially for the Arctic because the funding that we are getting is inadequate, especially for the three territories, for Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon. Cooperatively we are looking at how we can deal with this and the Premiers of those territories have indicated that they are working on this.

At this time there are two groups that are doing the consultation so we are awaiting their findings, especially for the North. I will be meeting with the federal minister in regards to this if there is no federal election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his answer. I am not familiar with how this will work. They travel around the north and down south and they listen to people, but then they make recommendations in Ottawa. Whether the people in Ottawa are listening, it is hard to tell. We could be in serious financial shape if they aren't listening in Ottawa and the ministers meetings are unsuccessful.

In the interim my question to the minister is, "Is the Government of Nunavut considering any cuts to programs and services, or anything else in the short or long term to balance the budget to stay within our growth rate?" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question he is posing I haven't really thought about, but looking at the funding that we have, we are doing what we can to make sure that we have enough money. At this time I cannot say what it will be.

If we didn't have any other resources then we might have dip into it, but at this time I can't say at all how it will be. At this time I cannot really give him a definite answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister again for that answer and ask that he continue to update us as we must continue to manage our finances prudently so I am trusting that the minister will do that.

The minister has indicated also in his fiscal update that he met with the federal minister and requested help from him. He asked the federal government to help with the rising cost of energy for Nunavut. I am wondering if the minister could share with us what Minister Goodale, the federal Minister of Finance, told the minister in response to his request for help for Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last time I met with the federal Minister of Finance I told him how this has affected the North in regards to the increases. He was quite concerned and he was quite understanding. He was going to get more information and reply. I then met with him again and once more raised those concerns.

To date he has not responded. So at this time I cannot say what will happen, but he was very interested and he was asking questions as to how we are dealing with this and the funding that would be used for Canadian provinces and territories. We gave him our concerns and he was quite understanding. But at this time, like I said, he has not responded and hopefully he will respond very soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 015 – 2(3): Update on the Food Mail Program**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. Yesterday during Members' Statements I talked about the high cost of groceries in my constituency, especially in the smaller communities.

The cost of living is so high. I understand the food mail program is set by the federal government. I do know the food mail people met with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs. They have been meeting with them since last year and Minister Kilabuk has written to the federal minister Andrew Scott and he cc'd the letter.

My question is, what response have you received to date from the federal government in regards to this food mail program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has an impact in all of our communities and we have been lobbying the federal government to improve the food



mail program so that we can benefit all the communities of Nunavut. For the Kitikmeot and in the Kivalliq as well, not just the High Arctic.

So I have written another letter to ask him to look into this again because the program isn't reducing the costs of groceries enough. I have sent my letter and I have not received a response. However, I do know the Auditor General is now reviewing this, auditing this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the cost of fuel has increased also. I will be asking this in English, Mr. Speaker.

(interpretation ends) In response to a report by the Auditor General on the food mail issue INAC is in the process of reviewing the Churchill point of entry for Kivalliq. Is the Minister aware of any plans on the part of INAC to review the point of entry to the Baffin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wrote a letter to him in September and I was in support of the Kivalliq review and I was pleased to see the Kivalliq being reviewed but we do need to be reviewed in the Baffin as well.

Some of the groceries that arrive up here are rotten by the time they get here and I have asked them to review the cost of groceries in the smaller communities because the smaller communities don't benefit from the food mail program. I can table that correspondence in the House asking the minister to look into the various programs. I will table it tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the factors of the high price of all goods is the high cost of shipping. Can the Minister tell us today what progress his department has made in implementing a transportation strategy to help address this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't have the full responsibility. We are trying to work with the federal government continually and ask them to rectify the situation because this program should apply to everyone's benefit and help reduce the cost of groceries for nutritional food. It should be utilized to its fullest extent to make sure the cost of groceries is reduced in all of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Arctic Cooperatives had written a joint letter to various members of the legislature in regards to reducing the price of groceries. INAC wanted to increase the pilot programs to reduce the cost of nutritional food.

Perhaps our government is working cooperatively to make sure that we reduce the cost of groceries. Are they talking with their Ottawa counterparts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes. We will continue to work on this issue until it is resolved. I wrote a letter a couple of months ago to the minister responsible for that to make sure that we work on it and to make sure that we make progress. I am just waiting for a response from the federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Oral Question 016 – 2(3): Core Funding for Illisaqsivik Society**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Last February I made a statement in the House about the Illisaqsivik Society's great work in Clyde River. I identified how their work benefits the residents of the community of Clyde River. I asked the minister at that time if they could provide core operations funding for them. I received a response last May that they cannot provide that funding.

(interpretation ends): I would like to ask the current Minister of Health and Social Services whether she would reconsider providing core funding for the Illisaqsivik Society? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look at the file and see what's occurred since the last letter that was sent to the member. If it warrants core funding, I will look at that but as it is right now, nothing has changed. So, at the moment, no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The former minister indicated that she would direct her officials to ensure that the Illisaqsivik Society had adequate funding to allow for the continued delivery of its programs and services to the people of Clyde River. Can

the minister provide an update on what has been done in response to that direction?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to talk to my staff to see where that particular research is. One of the things that I should note is that in providing core funding to any agency in a community, that core funding has to be in line with the Department of Health and Social Services core programs; which are outlined in the main estimates of the department.

If those programs are part of the Department of Health and Social Services listed programs as per the main estimates, I will certainly consider that. As it is right now, from what I understand, the programs that are being delivered by this centre were not in the Health and Social Services core programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister has taken your question as notice. Oral questions. The Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

#### **Oral Question 017 – 2(3): Fuel Supply in Arviat**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister Responsible for Petroleum Products. I am not sure if you are aware that we have experienced some difficulties in Arviat in June, in July and also in the month of August. We ran out of fuel twice just when the summer was coming up.

The fuel caches were depleted and they had to pump fuel and put it into one tank trying to make sure there was fuel for the power house generators, the contractors delivering water and also for other services the vehicles had to work. I would like to ask the Minister if she is aware of this currently.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard a bit about it because Arviat went through a difficult period at that time and they were giving me correspondence as it was developing. As the situation was developing I knew about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was a very big problem. Even the power house required fuel and they had to get leftover fuel to make sure there was enough fuel in their tank. I heard that it had to be pumped out of another tank.

I am not sure that was the case but that is what I heard. They went to all the other tanks and pumped out their fuel. All the housing that was being constructed, it seems it was being neglected. I want to hear from the Minister in response to this. I know that the community this fall especially is going to be using more fuel than before.

We are a bit scared that we might have another shortage of fuel for this year. Have you directed your officials to make sure we don't experience this again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague for asking me that question. I know that we have growth in all the Nunavut communities and the impact is felt when we run out of fuel in the communities. This has been in our plans. We try to work on them all at the same time within our funding restraints and we have been woken up with this situation.

Last summer, my officials were working closely with Arviat residents. I will ask my officials again because this is very important. The staff call to make sure that I am aware of these things. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is good to hear that the Minister is dealing with this. But one thing that we had a problem with is we couldn't find out where the ship was and we were happy at the end that we were going to get a re-supply.

But we just experienced the same thing again 30 days before there was a re-supply ship that came to fill up the tanks. Before the 30 days were up again we started running out of fuel. I just wondered if the Minister really understood what I was trying to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this message was relayed to me but I'm sorry that the re-supply did not have enough fuel for the member's community and we would not like to experience the same thing for that community.

My staff have been giving me information as to what is happening with the re-supply, especially in Arviat. Sometimes the re-supply ships have encountered some problems and they did not have enough cargo and I'm sorry to say that this put the community in an unfortunate position.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask again, since we did not see holding tanks in the capital estimates.

Is there going to be anything done this winter to fix the holding tanks? Is there any way that we are going to be reassured that our supply will last us for the year.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's different every year and some communities run out of fuel.

We will look into the problem once we look at the capital expenditures or capital appropriations. I was told that some communities are having a hard time meeting their needs with their present holding tanks. I cannot say at this time whether they are going to have an adequate supply and I guess they will have to be shipped by air if their community runs out.

We will plan this with my staff and I will make sure that everything is adequate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 018 – 2(3): Supplying Lumber to the Communities**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for Environment and Housing.

I think he's been on holidays for quite a while. In Nunavut, we usually have a supply of lumber shipped to the communities. Mr. Speaker, I just want to find out if the communities have been given enough lumber to build houses in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We try to make sure that there is adequate lumber to build houses in the communities.

At this time I'm not really sure which communities have received lumber. We will try to make sure the communities have adequate lumber to build houses. I don't have the numbers at hand right now and I will be able to get back to the member perhaps tomorrow as to how many communities have been shipped lumber to build houses.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Some contractors in the communities have encountered shortages of lumber to build houses. Sometimes when they are trying to build houses they are delayed, especially in my community of Sanikiluaq. Then they have to charter lumber to the community so they can finish their construction.

I would like to work with the minister so that those contractors have enough lumber to finish their construction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to have adequate supplies for those contractors who build houses in the communities. What we have to do is look at what happened historically to make sure that there's an adequate supply in the communities in the future.

I will assure the member that this is what we are going to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response. Previously the Housing Corporation did not have adequate lumber shipped to the communities for construction of those houses. The communities that are building houses need to have the houses completed on time. Just to elaborate that we need to ensure adequate lumber is shipped to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): That is just a comment. Oral questions. The member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

### **Oral Question 019 – 2(3): Changing Time Zones**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker for taking the time to recognize me for the second time for a question today. Yesterday was a rarity for me as I actually had some spare time to take the time to listen to the news on the radio yesterday morning.

At that time I heard some interesting news. I think that there are eight members from the last Assembly that will remember the nightmare that we went through when we tried to change the time zone.

My question is for the Minister of Justice. Is he planning on changing the regulations to go back to a single time zone? That is something that I heard on the news that NTI is trying to initiate again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The Premier, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I recall during our leadership debates, just over a year ago, I promised not to deal with the time, so I will honour my promise and will not have the time of day for such a proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 020 – 2(3): Tabling of Dry Cargo Re-supply Survey**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services. I did not finish so I apologize.

When the results of the survey are completed and so is the government's review on dry cargo, will she table them in the House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After we review the report, we will be able to give it to the members if they request it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of the Kivalliq have been impacted and the minister is a member from the Kivalliq Region as well. There have been a lot of Kivallirmiut that want to get some supplies from the Manitoba Region.

What does the minister think of that?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Can the member rephrase his question to the minister because the member is asking the minister's opinion about being re-supplied from the Manitoba Region. Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't really understand you Mr. Speaker. I'm sorry. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): You cannot ask the minister what her opinion is or what she thinks. If you could rephrase your question to the minister?

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we cannot ask the ministers what their opinions are or what they think, how does the government think?

Because the Kivalliq people would like to get their re-supplies from Churchill, have there been any thoughts by the Cabinet or the minister about what the Kivalliq people want. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier in Inuktitut, the request for proposals for the sealift program evaluation has been awarded to Murray Port Group and the consultants will then make recommendations to the Government of Nunavut to improve the general level of sealift services, to business, hamlets and other stakeholders.

Until I see that report or those recommendations, I will not be able to say. I would like to weigh both sides and decide which is better. I understand the member when he speaks about his region wanting this and I think they are in support of NTCL. That has been brought to my attention in the past. However there is a huge amount of money saved with the current shipper. So, I guess I would have to wait and see what the report says. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that they're going to be saving a lot of money but for those who order privately, we have to pay a whole lot more money.

The customer is the one who is paying the extra cost. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the member for making those comments.

I would definitely like to see the report. They have consulted all of the communities and I look forward to reading the report that is upcoming. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Your last supplementary, Mr. Netser.

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for calling you Mr. Chairman. The Minister stated that the government is saving a lot of money. How much money are they talking about saving since we have switched suppliers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that 20 million dollars has been mentioned to me and from what I have heard we are saving approximately \$20 million per year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Oral Question 021 – 2(3): Coast Guard Standards**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I talked about an accident that had happened in Whale Cove. The Coast Guard has been very helpful to companies but when we are talking about small vessels they are being ignored by the Coast Guard and by the government emergency measures organization.

There is not enough information being provided to people about the small vessels. We are not doing enough to make the public aware of boating safety. Is it possible for the Minister to talk to the Coast Guard and to the boat builders in Manitoba to make sure that they are properly stamped and Coast Guard approved. Is it possible for the Minister to initiate those discussions so that the regulations are all being implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Who did you direct that question to?

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Emergency Measures under Community and Government Services I believe.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Thank you for that question from the Member. I am aware that an issue was raised regarding the seaworthiness of the boat and I will ask my staff to look into the question of boat standards. I am also informed that, prior to April 1, 2005, manufacturers of commercial water craft applied boat building standards on a voluntary basis only. The standards are now mandatory.

(interpretation): But I really like the comments that you have made and will urge our staff to look into this and also we will work with the Coast Guard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make it very brief. Is it possible to make it into a program and get the information updated every year. I think it is possible for your department to work with effected entities like the Hunters and Trappers Associations and other departments to make sure that smaller crafts are seaworthy. And is it also possible for the Minister, after consulting with those entities, to make a report to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We could look into the standards and the Transport Canada website and we could work with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation and the other entities that you have mentioned. We'll have meetings with them. Yes, we could do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question Period is now over. Going back to the orders of the day. Item 7. Written questions. Mr. Netser.

### **Item 7: Written Questions**

#### **Written Question 001 – 2(3): Recidivism Rates and Rehabilitation Programs**

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to the Honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Paul Okalik, on recidivism rates and rehabilitation programs in Nunavut.

1. As of November 1, 2005, what is the rate of recidivism for adult male offenders in territorial custody?
2. As of November 1, 2005, what is the rate of recidivism for male young offenders in territorial custody?
3. As of November 1, 2005, what is the rate of recidivism for adult female offenders in territorial custody?
4. As of November 1, 2005, what is the rate of recidivism for female young offenders in territorial custody?
5. As of November 1, 2005, how does the Department of Justice measure the effectiveness of its rehabilitation programs?
6. As of November 1, 2005, what rehabilitation programs are offered to adult and young offenders in territorial custody?
7. From November 1, 2004 to November 1, 2005, what percentage of offenders in territorial custody participated in rehabilitation programs?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Written questions. Mr. Peterson.

**Written Question 002 – 2(3): Administration and Enforcement of the Liquor Act**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Minister responsible for the Liquor Act.

1. On November 5, 2003, the Nunavut *Liquor Act* was amended to increase the fines for certain offences under the Act, including the illegal sale of alcohol. From November 1, 2004 to November 1, 2005, broken down by category of offence and by community in which an offence occurred, how many fines were imposed for violations of the Act and what were the amounts of each fine?
2. What has been the total number of charges laid pursuant to the *Liquor Act* during 2005 to date?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Written questions. Going to the orders of the day. Item 8. Returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**Item 8: Returns to Written Questions**

**Return to Written Question 031 – 2(2): Private Accommodation for Medical Travel Clients**

**Return to Written Question 032 – 2(2): Nunavut Teacher Education Program**

**Return to Written Question 033 – 2(2): Government of Nunavut Expenditures on Advertising**

**Clerk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Rule 44(2) I am tabling a return to written questions 31 – 2(2), 32 – 2(2), and 33 – 2(2). Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Returns to written questions. Going to the orders of the day. Item 9. Replies to opening address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Barnabas.

**Item 10: Petitions**

**Petition 001 – 2(3): GN Staff Housing Policy**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the recently announced GN Staff Housing Policy. This petition contains 22 signatures of residents of the community of Arctic Bay. The petitioners believe that this policy is unfair and unjust and it will result in professional GN staff leaving Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Petitions. Petitions.

Item 11, Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Evyagotailak.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 004 – 2(3): Photos of Decaying Water Pumps**

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Kugluktuk has been having some difficulties with the community pump house. I would like to table three photos of the pump house for the information of the Minister Responsible for Community and Government Services.

I would also like to ask the minister to be prepared to address this issue during the Committee of the Whole review of her capital budget later this week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Tabled Document 005 – 2(3): Conflict of Interest Allegation**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a nice thick package of documents that are related to point of privilege that I raised earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

#### **Tabled Document 006 – 2(3): Letter of Instruction to the New Nunavut Commissioner**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document; Letter of Instruction to the New Nunavut Commissioner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

#### **Tabled Document 007 – 2(3): A Report of the Health Literacy in Rural Nova Scotia Research Project, June 2004**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document; the Report on Health Literacy in Rural Nova Scotia. I would like to table it in the interest of our former Health Minister and now current Education Minister.

The title of this document Mr. Speaker, is *Taking Off the Blind Fold*, and it says “seeing how literacy affects health.” I’d like to table this document. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents.

Item 14, Notices of Motions. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

### **Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006–2007 – Notice**

**Mr. Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give Notice that on Friday, November 18, 2005, that Bill 1, Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006-07, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Okalik.

#### **Bill 08 – Statistics Act – Notice**

**Hon. Paul Okalik**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 18, 2005, Bill 8 the Statistics Act will 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. Mr. Simailak.

### **Item 17: First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006-2007 – First Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request consent from this Assembly to waive the two day notice requirement to allow the first reading of Bill 1 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006-2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister would like consent from the House to waive Rule 62(1) so that Bill 1 can be read for the first time. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Simailak.

**Hon. David Simailak**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 1 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006-2007 be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Item 18. Second reading of bills. Mr. Simailak.

### **Item 18: Second Reading of Bills**

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-07 – Second Reading**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit West, that Bill 1 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2006-2007 be read for the second time. This bill authorizes the Government of Nunavut to make capital expenditures for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had its second reading and is now referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Second reading of bills. Item 19 in our orders of the day. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Bill 1 with Mr. Netser in the Chair.

We will take a break for twenty minutes. Sergeant-at-Arms.

*House recessed at 15:49 and resumed at 16:17*

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thanks for coming back. We are going to be dealing with Bill 1 during Committee of the Whole. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to start with the review of Bill 1 and start with the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. We will start with the Department of Health and Social Services.

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister for her opening comments on her department's plan. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-2007 – Health and Social Services – Consideration in Committee**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am happy to be here. Thank you for the opportunity to present the Capital Estimates for 2006-07 for the Department of Health and Social Services to the Committee of the Whole. I wanted to introduce my staff; I will have two staff with me. (interpretation ends)

Our department's capital budget is focused on delivering health care closer to home. We are doing this through enhanced services in the regional centres. We are also beginning

the work needed to open new continuing care facilities in the communities with the greatest need for this service.

The department is proposing a capital budget totalling \$22.732 million dollars. This would be allocated as follows:

- \$21 million dollars for new construction including design work.
- \$1 million dollars for furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new Qikiqtani General Hospital.
- \$380 thousand dollars for the replacement of equipment and vehicles, and
- \$352 thousand dollars for renovations at the Taloyoak Health Centre.

The Department of Health and Social Services is giving practical effect to the *Pinasuaqtavut* goal of healthy communities in many ways through this budget.

- Three of the four continuing care facilities called for in *Pinasuaqtavut* are budgeted for 2006-2007. We anticipate two will be ready for the spring of 2008 if this budget is approved and the additional funding is secured for the following years. These facilities will be in Igloolik and Gjoa Haven as I announced this summer. Funds are also identified for preliminary work on a third facility whose location has yet to be finalized.
- The Qikiqtani Regional Hospital will be ready for the spring of 2007, providing enhanced services to both the region and all of Nunavut.
- The new Panguit Health Center will be ready for spring 2007 as well. The timeline has been changed as a result of a site change.

I would note that the priority given to the new continuing care facilities means that our plans for replacing health centers in Arctic Bay, Cape Dorset and Repulse Bay have been moved out a year or two into the future.

- The average age of a health care facility, as a result of the new regional health centres, is now less 20 years old.
- Facility replacement is still a priority for us. The age of a building and the condition determines the priority to be given for upgrading and/or replacement.

You will note that the budget does not identify boarding home facilities in Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

- In Cambridge Bay, the funds voted for 2005-06 will roll over. Design changes ordered by the Fire Marshall meant that the materials needed for the renovations missed this year's sealift. We anticipate the center will be ready in 2007.
- In Rankin Inlet significant work has been done but approval still needs to be obtained from the Federal Government. Health Canada, through the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, is a critical partner in this project. We expect an RFP will be ready by this time next year. We would be looking to the private sector to design, build and operate the facility.

Capital investments by the Government of Nunavut make a real difference in the quality of care we can provide. Our new regional health centres not only bring health care closer to home for clients, but they provide many jobs. And with the ever-growing range of training opportunities available in Nunavut, these are jobs that should and will be filled by people born and raised in Nunavut.

I look forward to your support of the 2006-07 capital estimates for the Department of Health and Social Services. I welcome questions from the members of the committee.

Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Do you have any witnesses you would like to bring to the table now? Please proceed. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

(interpretation) Sergeant-At-Arms, if you can ascertain if the officials are available.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. Could you please introduce your witnesses Madame?

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today, to my right is Bernie Blais, the Deputy Minister for the Department of Health. To my left is Rosemary Brown, our Capital Planning Advisor. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Brown welcome, Mr. Blais too.

(interpretation ends) Does the chair of the committee have any comments for the Department of Health and Social Services? Mr. Alagalak.

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

**Chairman:** Please proceed Mr. Alagalak.

**Report of the Standing Committee on Health and Education on the Review of Bill 1**



**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, I am pleased to make some opening comments on the 2006-2007 capital estimates of the Department of Health and Social Services.

The Committee understands that the department's budget is lower than in previous years as a result of the completion or near completion of the three new regional health facilities. The Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet health facilities recently opened and the Qikiqtani General Hospital is scheduled for opening by the end of the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Members look forward to an update on the final ownership or lease status of the Qikiqtani facility. Members would also recommend that the final costs for each of these major facilities be made public as soon as possible.

Members are aware that there are continuing challenges in hiring and housing qualified full-time staff for the three new facilities. The Committee fully supports initiatives to extend training in nursing and other health care fields to communities such as Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet so that Nunavummiut have the opportunity to train towards filling more positions in these regional facilities. The department's recent X-ray technician course is a good example of this kind of initiative.

The issue of housing for health professionals and staff is a concern, especially in light of the GN's recent announcement that it will withdraw from providing staff housing over time. It is surprising that capital projects under the Department of Health and Social Services still include plans for staff accommodation.

In fact, it appears that a number of accommodation units used by the department to house community nurses, physicians or even transient staff such as visiting health specialists, are not fully accounted for in the GN pool of staff units or in the Department's own capital asset records. The Standing Committee recommends that the Minister and her officials bring clarity to the housing situation for health staff.

Boarding home services provided both within and outside of Nunavut continue to be a source of concern. While members recognize that funding is provided for billeting and boarding services through the federal government's Non-Insured Health Benefits program, the fact remains that with the opening of the regional health facilities, boarding services will be in demand for individuals traveling from neighbouring communities into the regional centres for medical care.

The Committee recognizes that the Minister and her officials are preparing for NIHB negotiations with the federal government and wish the Minister every success in trying to negotiate adequate levels of funding for this important aspect of health care delivery. The results of these negotiations will also have an impact on the negotiation of contracts for boarding services in outlying service centres such as Yellowknife, Winnipeg, Ottawa, and Edmonton.

Committee members were pleased to note the progress made towards establishing community-based Continuing Care facilities, although this has resulted in other urgent capital projects being deferred for a number of years, like replacement Health Centres in communities such as Arctic Bay.

The GN has committed to opening one Continuing Care Facility for each year of our term in office. While Gjoa Haven and Igloolik have been identified as the location of the first two facilities, members would note that the locations of future facilities have yet to be determined.

Members continue to encourage the department to undertake capital planning efforts in consultation with communities to ensure that planning takes into account issues such as local transportation needs, population growth, and other factors as identified by local health committees of council.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I am confident that individual members will have comments and questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Before we proceed, I would like to remind the members of the following. According to Rule 77(1) you each have ten minutes to speak and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once on a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do any of the members have any general comments? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and her officials to our Standing Committee. I just want to comment that you recently opened a health facility in Cambridge Bay and our community is very happy that occurred. I think there were a couple hundred people that showed up and they are very enthusiastic about being able to go to a facility in their home community. I have talked to people from around the Kitikmeot; they're looking forward to that as well; a little bit closer to home.

As the minister and her officials know, I have been a vocal...I don't want to say that I'm a complainer, but I represent the people that come to me. They don't like traveling to Yellowknife and they don't like traveling to Edmonton, and this last summer again, they didn't like traveling to Iqaluit for dental treatment.

So I'm hoping that facility will solve a lot of our issues and problems, and improve the health of our residents and people in the Kitikmeot; we're really looking forward to that.

I may have some concerns about the minister's opening comments about the boarding home. I first started asking questions about the boarding home when I was the mayor back in the year 2000, and I'll continue to ask questions. It was supposed to be ready by the fall of 2004, and it was supposed to be ready this year, and then January 2006. Now

I'm hearing early 2007. I know that's an integral component of the overall 'Care Closer to Home'.

I would be interested in hearing from the minister during questions how they anticipate having the patients who come in from the different communities accommodated as part of that overall facility. The residents of my community have raised concerns over that in the last year and a half, and I mentioned it before.

We have a group home in Cambridge Bay and I think there are only six beds. So we have to foster a lot of kids in our community and there's concern about that.

I would be interested in hearing if the minister has any plans to construct a larger group home in Cambridge Bay or anywhere in the Kitikmeot. I also had elders or their children approach me talking about continuing care for residents in my riding.

I know I had a daughter of a constituent last summer who was very distraught. She was trying to find accommodation for her mother who was suffering from Alzheimer's and it was quite a traumatic experience for her. I think she eventually ended up in a facility in another region for a few months and now she's back in her previous situation.

We have people as well down in Fort Smith where we have to send relatives to visit. I know your department allows a visit once per year for one relative to visit these people. It's very stressful for my constituents and their families when they don't get a chance to visit their relatives, and for the relatives are down south. I'm not sure how we are going to deal with all that; I know it costs a lot of money to make those arrangements.

My community, the hamlet council, and the wellness council have been making very good use of the existing boarding home, we call it the old hostel, but it will be renovated into the boarding home for the new health facilities. They have been using that facility for putting on workshops for alcohol treatment and anger management. When that facility becomes unavailable, it's going to make it difficult for the community to put on those workshops. From all accounts, from talking to the people who'd be on these courses; I mean the building is right across the street from my constituency office, so I get quite a few of the folks come over there every day for coffee or tea and chat about how successful those courses are.

If we can't use that facility any more, then we're going to have some difficulties having those very successful courses. I know the hamlet is very concerned about what the future holds in that regard being that there aren't that many facilities in Cambridge Bay to put on these types of workshops for people who live in the facility, in particular, in the alcohol treatment courses, especially for the ladies.

Those are my opening comments, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome Ms. Aglukkaq, Ms. Brown, Mr. Blais welcome. Just a short comment Mr. Chairman, in regards to my constituents' concerns of the Department of Health and Social Services. During this session I will have more questions for the Minister's department.

But today's concerns come from my communities, for those people that are disabled and cannot speak English who have to go down to the southern medical centres. Sometimes they don't have interpreters or escorts. Sometimes they get assistance from people that are down there, that are already down there to hold meetings.

But I think this has to be done a little bit better. The elderly people that go for medical treatment down south have a lot of problems especially when they have to go see specialists. Sometimes there are specialists that come to Iqaluit and the people in my community have to travel from the High Arctic, and sometimes their flights don't come on time so they are too late to see the specialist that is here in Iqaluit.

So they have to go down south to get specialty treatment, such as people with heart conditions and other patients that have to see a specialist. Perhaps it would be cheaper for the government if the specialist were to come to the communities rather than the patient going down south because that specialist is only one person and it doesn't provide much of a problem for them to travel up north.

Other problems that we encounter are with boarding homes or the facility that provides boarding for the patients. This has been mentioned by the people, my constituents.

There are not enough people to escort those patients and the people have to write a letter requesting that somebody escort them. The nurses in the communities were talked about as well, like to have them change community location rather than having those same individuals over and over again. For them to go to other communities and to experience other people, is one of the things that my constituents talked about. Those are some of my comments and I will have more questions later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Minister and her officials. Some of the concerns that my constituents relayed to me were about the Winnipeg boarding home. The people that use the Winnipeg Boarding Home wanted to know who provides the purchasing of the food because sometimes Inuit people have different ailments.

They wanted to find out about the food that they have to eat because sometimes when you're sick you have certain cravings, but at the boarding home, they usually provide the same kinds of meals even though some patients want to eat a certain kind of food.

Because of the sickness that they have it does not go with their body and they have to be healed. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to find out if the boarding home could serve food according to the condition of the patient.

I wanted to find out if the Department of Health and Social Services can contact the boarding home to provide a better meal service for those people with certain illnesses, and to ask the boarding home management to be able to provide the patients with the certain kinds of foods that they request.

When a person is sick sometimes the patients are sent home before they heal. That's the type of concern that I heard from my constituents. Then they have to fly to Sanikiluaq for many hours and the aircraft is very small and it does not have any washroom facilities. It's not very convenient for those patients that have to travel back home and it's very uncomfortable for those patients.

Perhaps if you can think of those conditions, of the patients, and the long flights that they have to take, and with the new contract that is coming I would like the minister to consider making changes.

It would be good if they can have it in the contract whereby the problems that my constituents experience are considered. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Yes, I understand the member's concern. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have just a short comment Mr. Chairman and I would like to welcome the minister and her officials.

This has been a concern of my constituents as well, in regards to the health facilities, especially in the community of Repulse Bay. The health centre in Repulse Bay, the renovations, or whatever they were going to do, have been delayed for quite some time and a lot of people have been ready for the health facility to be built. I think it was before 2004 when they expected it to be built.

I have talked to people in the communities that have no decentralization. Sometimes they plan for things to be built in the Capital Estimates or in the 5-year Capital Estimates and they keep on deferring it to the future.

And sometimes, some of those health facilities are very old and they need renovations and there is not enough room because the population is growing, too, in the smaller communities. People are moving into the smaller communities. I will be asking questions about the health facilities that have been deferred, I don't know for how many years now.

We have yet to see a health facility but it has been deferred again for what reason I don't know. Maybe the people of Repulse Bay are not vocal enough. Maybe that is the reason why they keep deferring it. As I said Mr. Chairman, I will make a short comment. I will

be asking questions of the department and I would like the smaller communities to be considered as well, like the larger communities, when it comes to better health facilities because my constituents will want to understand what is happening. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Minister of Health and Social Services and I expect that she will do a good job. When we go to our communities or are seeing our constituents, one of the things the people talk about most is the boarding home. The boarding home in Iqaluit is not big enough and they expect with the population growing it is definitely too small and those people that have to see a psychiatrist also stay in the same place. It has been considered that it should be in a different boarding home.

This has been a concern from my community and in her opening remarks the Minister indicated that the health centres in the communities, a majority of them, are new except for Qikiqtarjuaq, which is 33 years old. It is an old trailer and it is not in very good condition. What I would like to see is one built in Qikiqtarjuaq and those are the concerns that I will be bringing up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like to welcome the Minister and thank you that you were able to come to the Keewatin to come to the opening and to your staff. Welcome Rosemary I'm so happy to see you and that you're doing fine.

I would just like to state that these were in the old five year plan, I'm not sure if they were in the old five year plan under capital projects but in the Baffin Region it's incomplete. The Qikiqtani General Hospital is not completed and it's supposed to be finished in 2007-08.

These are the concerns I have that the cabinet ministers, and their regions, and their constituents are spending millions and millions of dollars. If we were to break it down; headquarters, \$350 thousand, Kitikmeot, \$4 million, and the hospital is completed. On top of that it's \$4 million. Qikiqtaaluk, \$18 million, Baffin, \$80,000. And the \$8 million was allocated to the regional hospital and in the Keewatin there are seven communities and there is only \$100 thousand, so, my colleague from Nauyasat has indicated that their health centre is very old. It doesn't seem to be on their radar screen.

So it seems like the smaller communities are getting a lot more things outside of Keewatin and looking at the regions, yes, we're happy about the hospital in the Keewatin but the smaller communities should also be looked at closer even though they're outside of the headquarters.

I will be raising these concerns as we go through them because they're due to the lack of agreement for this. I have a concern about the boarding homes in Rankin Inlet and in other communities. There doesn't seem to be a program from the Federal Government so I would be interested to hear if the federal government will provide that, and also, health insured benefits, whether we should expect that in the near future or in the long term? That's all I have for now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister, Mr. Blais, Ms. Brown, to the witness table.

I had some meetings with my constituents in the last month. They were quite concerned with a lot of things on health and also social services. I will be asking some questions later on, on some of the things that were brought to my attention from the community.

I was quite happy when we had the opening of the hospital in the Kitikmeot and I'm sure that the Kivallirmiut had a good time at the opening of their health facility in their region.

There are quite a few concerns about escorts and for those under 16 years of age. I think they should be having escorts, and also for Elders, especially the ones that don't speak English. There was one concern that was brought up to me, that this Elder wanted to call home while they were in Yellowknife but she did not have an escort. She didn't know how to use the phone.

This was brought to my attention by one of our neighbours from Kugluktuk who happened to be in the same boarding home. This concern was brought to me as to why our elders don't get escorts, especially the ones that don't speak in English and don't understand English. This person couldn't even call home because she didn't know how to operate a phone and she wanted to find out how her grandchildren and her children were doing.

Also I am sure that Health and Social Services provides taxi money from the health centre to the airport and from the airport on their way back home to her home. This individual had come to me and asked me why it is that some of the patients are getting taxi slips and we aren't. She was one of the elders too. That was also brought up to me.

I would like to get right to the meeting and ask a few questions later on. I would like to welcome you here to the Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome. We are happy to see you here, that all of you are here. The member for Rankin North brought it up already but in Arviat we seem to have everything according to the eyes of the government but not as a resident and hearing the concerns from the community.

What we were talking about last year, the midwifery program, and that there was going to be some development in that regard. They don't have any beds that are available. That was one of the concerns that I have and I will be pursuing this matter.

As you know by now, in Arviat, the population is growing very rapidly. Lots of babies but they are not my babies. You all know that there are a lot of Inuit in Arviat. They say in Rankin Inlet the population is higher but not all of them are Inuit.

There is no dentistry program. There is no dentist in the community. There's no equipment but there is space and we should be helping the community of Arviat in that regard. I am pretty sure that you have heard this concern for over a year after the completion of the health centre. The entrance of the health centre is in an area that has a high slope. It is about 45 degrees. There is no parking space.

The elderly find it too slippery, especially if they are wearing kamiks. They find it impossible so a lot of times they have appointments and they miss them because they have no means of transportation to go there. Those are the areas that need to be improved and I will be bringing these up again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. I don't have anybody else on my list. Under general comments, under capital, if you could go up to page six, I'm sure there will be problems. If you can direct your questions under capital because we will be dealing with capital instead of O&M. Health and Social Services, (interpretation ends) under Health and Social Services. Detail, Tangible Assets, Headquarters, Region, Total Headquarters, \$350,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Go to 7. Tangible Assets, Qikiqtaaluk Region, Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$18,080,000. Agreed? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister if she could give us some information on how the decision was made to select the two locations for the continuing care centre in Igloolik. I know there's one in Gjoa Haven and one that's to be determined - if she could give us some information on the criteria that the department uses to select those locations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know, the decision to allocate the two facilities to Igloolik and Gjoa Haven was based on need and I'm going to have the deputy explain the procedure that was followed in conducting the research in determining those two communities as the ideal locations for those two facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Peterson, anything else?

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the minister was going to ask her deputy minister to give us some information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** I'm sorry, please forgive me. Mr. Blais.

**Mr. Blais:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The needs assessment of the Government of Nunavut was basically researched from other jurisdictions and we tried to pull together every fact for what criteria is going to be appropriate and the one we established in the final analysis was looking at the age group of all of the people over 55 years of age.

We also examined the number of adults and children or youth that live outside the territory. We have approximately 52 clients out-of-territory and what jurisdictions or regions they were from was one of the other criteria.

We also looked at the social determinants such as unemployment and social welfare to determine whether we could also address economic needs of those communities as well.

And in the end, the criteria was weighted, there was a five-point rating for all of those, and it basically identified those two communities as the top of the needs assessment tool.

We also determined that initially the direction was for an elder's care facility. Given the population of elders there were simply not enough elders in each of those communities or regions so we recommended to Cabinet that we build a continuing care facility for 18 years and over and because of the out-of-territory opportunity to repatriate some of our Nunavummiut back to the territory; we felt that there would be an opportunity to address that need as well.

So those were the criteria, basically, that were used. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I thank Mr. Blais for those answers. Could the minister perhaps give us an indication of how many continued care facilities currently exist in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Qujannamiik. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list I have is, there are currently ten facilities in Nunavut that provide care for youth as well as seniors as well as people with disabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Could the minister give me a list and provide a list of the locations of the facilities you just mentioned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list I'll provide. It includes individuals, seniors or youth homes but the continuing care facilities in Nunavut are four and I can provide the list to the member.

I can go down the list now. In Arviat, we have a facility in Arviat, Baker Lake and there are two facilities in Rankin Inlet, one in Chesterfield Inlet, which is the Naaja Isabella Home, which we opened this summer. In Iqaluit there is the Pairijit Centre and another one in Iqaluit. There are actually four in Iqaluit and one in Cambridge Bay, the group home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that quick information. It's nice to have that stuff at your fingertips and not have to wait for a day. How many people would be able to be accommodated in these new continuing care facilities in Igloolik? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, It would be 10 to 12 individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Similar to what we're experiencing in Cambridge Bay with the new health facility, do you have to provide government housing for professional staff to look after the patients in the continuing care facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify the question, is he asking me whether it is individuals looking after the facilities that will have to live in the facilities or is he asking whether we provide government housing to individuals that reside in the community and provide for or work in those facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. For the benefit of all, can you just clarify your question?

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for asking me to clarify my question.

I'm assuming that the people who are providing professional care to the patients in the facilities are going to require housing, whether hired locally or hired from outside. If they're hired from outside, will the Department of Health or the government have to provide the employees with staff housing to support the operation of the continued care facilities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In some communities, where we have those centres the people that work in the facility live the community and live in their own homes or in public housing and sometimes some individuals will live in government housing.

And, in some instances, the actual group home parents live in the facility where the children reside. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer.

That's how it works in Cambridge Bay, but similar to the problems we're experiencing with the health centre in Cambridge Bay, we've had a shortage of housing for nurses and doctors. I'm just trying to project ahead and anticipate if we're going to have problems providing housing for any of your professional staff in these communities.

I'm going back to my days when I was trying to find out all this information as the mayor of Cambridge Bay from the Department of Health. It seemed to me that they didn't at the time have this all figured out. They were doing one thing but not planning for another thing, not planning for the boarding home, and not planning for the housing.

They're working on their health facility so I try and anticipate if there are going to be any problems three and four years out, in terms of, you know, if we'll have to provide housing. If you do, then you're going to have to come back to this House and we will have to deal with it.

We are already experiencing that with other departments. I am just trying to get a sense of where we are heading with these facilities. I am sure we are talking about two facilities but you are planning to build one facility per year in terms of this Assembly so it's not just related to Igloolik but every community where you are going to put a continuing care facility.

Can the Minister can give me a sense of where the department is in terms of thinking on providing staff housing 3 or 4 years from now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess to answer the question is we dealing with it today. I could say for now we are okay as it relates to staff housing. Down the road I can only assume. I can't assume or predict what the future will hold but one of the things that we are looking at trying to do in the communities and in Nunavut is to provide training for Nunavummiut.

One example is training nurses, social workers as well as mental health workers, home care workers, and a midwifery-training program so that we are able to hire more people locally and hopefully to minimize our needs for staff housing.

As it is right now we are looking, first and foremost, to try and hire locally for those two new centres that the Member referred to earlier but where we will be four years from now I cannot predict the outcome but what we can say internally is that we are trying to tackle the issue of filling the health care provider positions on an number of fronts and one includes local training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that response. It is refreshing to hear that answer. We've talked about the new health facilities or the hospitals. I know I have talked to your Deputy Minister in Cambridge Bay and he made presentations in terms of nurse training. That leads into my next question. The Qikiqtani General Hospital, are the plans to use that facility similar to Cambridge Bay, to provide nurse training or any other training of medical professions instead of having to bring everyone from down south to train them here and putting them out into the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Member for that question. Sometime during the session I plan to announce some initiatives that the department is undertaking related to training. I am quite excited about the new announcements that we'll be dealing with this year. But of course the facilities will be used to provide training of nursing students in Nunavut and it would be through the Baffin hospital here and eventually I hope down the road at Kivalliq as well as Kitikmeot health facilities. At the same time I am hoping that individuals from those areas are more encouraged to take on professions in the area of health care as they play a very important role in our community. Yes, the health facilities will be used for training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that answer. Has the department carefully looked at what their total savings are going to be from all these

facilities when they come on stream? What will the savings be to Nunavut to have these community care facilities open when the new hospital is operational and the boarding homes fully operational to support the health facilities? I know in the past we have spent tens and tens of millions of dollars sending patients down south to the Northwest Territories or to provinces. I read last year that it is up to \$5,000 per patient per night. You must have done calculations that show what the savings will be to us as a government. Could you give us a bit of an indication what those savings might be? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Clearly the department is working on consolidating and looking at all that information. The areas where there will be savings, obviously, of course with the centres that would be closer to Nunavut and the facilities in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay as an example.

We expect that there will be some decrease in the medical travel funds for providing that service. That is one area. The other area that we are looking at is around the whole area of training and development, with training of local people and hiring of local individuals for professional-type jobs down the road. We are anticipating that there will be less recruitment and retention costs.

Those are some of the categories that are going to be included in the report. As it is right now, we don't have that information available and hope that in a year from now we'll be able to provide that with the two centres open. They just opened a few months ago so we'll have to gather that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Just to confirm that the minister is assuring us that this time next year, when we have this conversation again, she'll be able to table some actual figures to us that show that we have had savings by the opening of these health facilities and not having to send patients down south. Is that what the minister is saying? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to clarify again, the health centre in Rankin Inlet opened two months ago and the one in Cambridge Bay, well the staff won't be moving in there until November so from those dates we should have a better idea and be able to report. I hope to have that information at least a year into the operation of those new facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I am happy to hear that but I would be more confident if you were telling me that you have instructed your staff to start collecting that information and put the systems in place. I am sure Mr. Blais probably has done that but I would like to hear that that is happening. I know every year; a year and a half now we have been at this, and the costs have gone up every year, so it would be nice to start getting some information saying that the costs are going down and that we have a lot of savings on O&M when these new capital projects are going into place that we could use to re-direct towards providing improved health services to Nunavummiut.

If the minister could perhaps assure me and the rest of the regular members in the House that the staff is already collecting this information and will have it available for the House and/or Standing Committee around this time next year to review. We can look at comparisons, “pre” these capital projects and after they have opened. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arreak:** (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very brief question. Today during members’ statements I made a statement in regards to the Qikiqtarjuaq Nursing Station. As I stated it is very, very old although it was renovated and improved back in 1991, the health centre or facility that we have is over thirty years old.

My question today is, have you worked on the renovation plans for that Nursing Station? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** According to the information that I have, the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre was renovated in 1991. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes it was renovated back in 1991, but, have you started discussing constructing a new health centre over there. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Miss Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre, a brand new facility is not currently in the five-year capital book. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In your opening comments, and also in the chair of the standing committee's opening comments, according to the opening statements, the third project that you mentioned, could you consider Qikiqtarjuaq as the site? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Miss Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been no decision made on that as it is, and it is not a health centre. In my opening remarks, I referred to a continuing 24 - 7 care facility, and that decision has not been made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand that, but you talked about the average age of health care facilities as being less than 20 years old. The one in Qikiqtarjuaq, perhaps it's no longer in your inventory because it's so old.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Qikiqtarjuaq is on our inventory list and it shows as a building that was renovated in 1991. So, in calculating whether it's 33 years old, perhaps the original frame is 33 years old but there were renovations made to that facility in 1991. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thirty three years ago the facilities were built and even though they've been renovated they don't even live up to the codes. Even though, even public units, they've been renovated they don't actually become better.

The question is can you start looking into the health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq, if you can commit to thinking about or looking into the health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq, sometime in the coming years, starting from now?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I hear what the member is saying and I want to reassure the member that the facility for Qikiqtarjuaq is in the book. The date / age of construction without the renovation is 33 years old.

We are dealing right now with facilities that are 47 years old, and we're just finishing off those projects. We opened one this month in Cambridge Bay. The 35 year old facility, Rankin Inlet, and the other is 43 years old, and that's in Iqaluit.

So, these three facilities are in the books and as you can see, they are in the capital estimates. Those three facilities alone could eat up the entire government of Nunavut's capital budget. So, along with all the other priorities of the Government of Nunavut departments we do put forth our cases on a needs basis and with all the facilities that we have with the Department of Health, Qikiqtarjuaq is one of those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Arreak.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's good to see renovations done. I'm not overly concerned with the other health centres, but I'm quite concerned about the Qikiqtarjuaq Health Centre being renovated or if you can start thinking of a replacement for that health centre.

Yesterday during the opening ceremonies we heard through the address that the communities that are non-decentralized should be considered. I'm urging you not to forget the smaller communities that are non-decentralized. Even though they may be smaller communities, the services should be comparable to the services that are provided in the larger centres.

You have to consider the health centre in Qikiqtarjuaq and if there are health centres in smaller communities, they should be considered as well. That concludes my questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): I don't think that was a question, so I'll move on to the next member. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to do a follow-up on the questions that were posed by the Member for Cambridge Bay.

As the minister had responded that in Rankin Inlet there are two continuing care facilities, I just wanted to follow-up on that. I think we should have a good understanding of that. When you were selecting those continuing care facilities we understood that they were going to be 24-hour care facilities.

I have also tabled a petition here in regard to the elder's facilities continuing care and that's what they have requested and that's the second largest community of Nunavut; approximately a population of 3,000. And there are a lot of elders there.

I also wanted to do a follow-up. Prior to the selection of the site, they selected Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Igloolik. The minister responded to me and although I'm very happy with your response, the tone of the letter seems like it didn't really want it



because Rankin Inlet has already a continuing care facility, a handicap facility. I'm sure that that handicap facility is not 24 hours. I don't even know if they have professional staff such as psychiatric treatment. Perhaps if the minister or her officials can tell me if there are professional staff in Rankin Inlet.

And also, I think you said that there were two elder's facilities. That's just the housing for elders and there are only four elders living in that facility. If you can explain, (interpretation ends) what is a continuing care facility?

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list I provided to the Member from Cambridge Bay was residential facilities and care facilities. And there are four facilities for continuing care, 24/7, that we announced last year, I believe.

The two I mentioned in Rankin Inlet are Rankin Inlet Adult Group Home and the other one was Rankin Inlet Children's Group Home. During this summer we had talked about the number of facilities in the Keewatin, and I believe that was the angle of the questions I was asked. In Kivalliq, at the time, I had identified five facilities existing in that region and not necessarily by the communities. I hope that clarifies it to the member.

The other question the member asked is if there are 24-hour staff in those facilities and I'm advised for Rankin Inlet Adult Group Home and Children's Group Home that would be the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate the minister's attempt to clarify the question, but I think we need to get the facts straight on that. I don't believe the adult home in Rankin Inlet, there are only four residents there, is a 24 hour facility.

It is a volunteer I know, because one of my relatives had concerns; they had to spend their whole time there voluntarily, whenever the Elders were really too weak, when that individual is sick.

I also recall somewhere in the statements, I think last year, that regionally that facility was cost shared by the housing corporation and so on. Originally it was not designed as a health care facility, it was really an Elder's home, it was residential, I mean, pretty much.

That facility is helpful, but what we were seeking last year was with respect to the petition that we needed a 24 hour care facility in a place like Rankin Inlet because it is a centre where most people come in from other regions and so on. So, for that purpose, I would like the minister to see if she can clearly define exactly where there is a health care facility.

I think you're using statistics and mixing them in a bag and saying these communities have enough, they don't need any more, and the priority goes somewhere else.

That may be fine for defending the government's actions but its good PR or policy to be applied by our own government. So, I think we need a little more respect for presentation as to why it is essential in some parts and not in others.

So, could the minister clarify for me, and the House, to the House, exactly why we don't have a 24 facility on the radar scope or five year plan for places like Rankin Inlet, particularly for Elders?

I know that a youth group home has at least 24 hour care attendants, whether they do have professional care I'm not sure. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of questions in that. I'll try and answer the questions that I do remember.

The Rankin Inlet facility, from what I understand here, there are, in the two facilities in Rankin Inlet, there are 16 beds. There are staff that operate that and the Department of Health covers the cost of these facilities, whether they are for children, adults or disabled people.

I know in the past, the housing corporation provided housing for Elders which is different from people that require 24 hours, 7 days a week care, as an example. One example I can use is the Naajat Isabella Home, where they live in a home and they are looked after 24/7 because of their disabilities.

The varying degrees of these facilities I listed, will differ based on who is residing in the centre. I think all the facilities that I've listed as residential or long-term care are important services, provided to the community, and I'm responding to what facilities that we currently provide for service to Rankin Inlet, and those are the two that I made reference to earlier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as I stated earlier, the Rankin Inlet group home for youth, I think, is a good one, and it has been well received and it continues to provide good service by the staff.

But, I'm not sure they do have, the answer is not coming from the minister or her staff, whether they are professional staff that provide treatment for those very seriously handicapped, in some cases mentally.

I don't think it is just a centre for youth, but it provides care for those who have some type of handicap. But the Elder's facility, there are only four rooms in that facility and it's really what I consider a senior's home and not a health care facility as far as I am concerned. I may be wrong but I will be dealing with that more as a Kivalliq region item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Do you want to respond, Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Member is correct. The facilities are different facilities. There are 24/7, adults, youth and there are a number of situations but I just want to identify that there are different facilities that we do provide assistance to as a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Are you done? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the 24 hours care facility, I had brought a resolution couple of years ago on 24 hour care facility. Before I ask the question I would like to bring this up. A couple of months ago one of our elders passed away, away from the Territory away from his home. And I heard that he had wanted to be buried in his own community and his wish was not met because we don't have a 24 hour health care facility.

And it is not nice to see the family in pain when you hear about these things. Anyways I had a public meeting and again this was brought up to my attention from one of the elders, that they wanted a 24 hour care facility in Kugluktuk. I brought a resolution that was made by one of the elders who is not living now. And the seconder was another elder from Kugluktuk and I had tabled that resolution that came from the elders.

Can the Minister let this committee know if they are going to build another 24 hour care facility in the near future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The commitment from Cabinet is to build or construct four 24/7 facilities in Nunavut and in June I announced the two facilities that we have identified communities for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks for your answer. I also would like to bring to your attention that I got a letter from a person from Fort Smith who happened to...

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Evyagotailak if you could please hold on a second. We are on page 7 in the Qikiqtaaluk region and we will be talking about Kitikmeot and Kivalliq region on the next page. If you have any questions on the Qikiqtaaluk region

now is the time to ask those questions. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Mr. Barnabas. Pertaining to the Qikiqtaaluk region, you may proceed.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2005 and 2006 there was going to be health facility replacement for Arctic Bay and that they would start that in 2007. It was supposed to cost in the neighbourhood of \$7.5 million. In 2007 to 2011 when you see the capital plans it states that it is not going to begin the building of that facility until 2008-2009. Maybe it has something to do with just the planning of that facility.

If I can get some clarification on that first?

**Chairman:** Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. According to the information that I have for the five year capital plan Arctic Bay appears in the books for 2008-2009. Without knowing what the question was, I think there were two questions there. If he can clarify it for me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2005-06 it was supposed to be built but they deferred to 2008-2009. What is the reason for it being deferred is my question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand in the preface here the departments are allocated a target and within that target the Department of Health tries to fit in all the capital projects and from what Ms. Brown tells me, Arctic Bay was put in the books this year for 2008-2009. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Assembly approved \$15,000 for 2005-2006 fiscal year for needs assessment of the Arctic Bay Health Centre. What was the result of that assessment? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultation will take place after Christmas once the capital budgets are dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the new timeline for the replacement of the Arctic Bay Health Centre? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultation will take place, like I said, after December. In the five year capital year we have targeted the design work for the new centre for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are the total projected costs for this facility and when will they appear in the capital plans? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The mains are just preliminary. Once they have done the design work, we'll be able to cost it out after 2008-2009. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my constituency the new schedule for First Air will start on December 10. The people from my constituency will be coming into the new hospital in the middle of the night with the new schedule that First Air has, and the drivers for the boarding home finish at five o'clock. What is going to happen? Are there any plans in place for the consideration of those people? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the member referring to the new scheduled flights with First Air? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas (interpretation):** Yes, that is what I am talking about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If there are patients on that flight and the patients are scheduled to stay at the boarding home, they will be picked up by the boarding home when they arrive, whenever that time may be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Alagalak, if you have any questions on page H-7.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question: what's the total estimated cost for that Qikiqtani General Hospital? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The estimated amount is \$52.7 million and I believe that's also in the capital main estimates. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's the only question I have. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak, do you have questions on H-7 or are you asking about the Kivalliq Region? Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask questions when we get to the Kivalliq capital estimates.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Any questions on the Baffin Region? You can ask two more questions, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When that hospital is completed, what kinds of specialists will be working in that hospital? (interpretation ends) Will there be dialysis capacities; would there be diagnostic equipment such as MRI machines, CT scanners, and mammography machines? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to ask the deputy minister to respond to the programs that will be offered at the new hospital when the construction is completed. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Could you please respond to Mr. Barnabas' question, Mr. Blais.

**Mr. Blais**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As he relates to dialysis, at this time, this is not a program that we will be implementing.

I have directed my staff to do a review of all dialysis patients going out-of-territory from Nunavut to other jurisdictions to determine whether we have sufficient patients to build a dialysis unit. We have already been in discussions with Winnipeg and also with Ottawa about the possibility.

In order for us to do that, we would require a partnership with a large academic or teaching hospital in Canada in order to provide the specialist support that would be required, but we could, in fact, at some future date have a satellite dialysis unit in Nunavut. It could be at any one of the three health centres at this point. We don't know where the critical mass of patients are situated.

The period that we are focusing on now is really chemotherapy as our first priority. We know we have a lot of chemotherapy patients in all three regions. We have a pilot project in Rankin Inlet and our hope is to expand that to build a bigger satellite chemotherapy centre in each of the three regions. And then once we have done that, then dialysis will be our next priority. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** Qujannamiik Iksivautaq. How will the government's recent staff housing policy impact the recruitment and retention of medical professionals such as doctors and nurses? Qujannamiik Iksivautaq.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Ms. Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Health and Social Services continues to monitor the impact it will have on our employees. As Members will note, this policy has just been implemented and only through time will we be able to determine the real impact. As it is right now we are monitoring that. We continue to try and address the whole issue of capacity around health care professions at a number of fronts that I mentioned earlier.

We are expanding the training programs in Nunavut so that Nunavummiut are able to take training in the north and occupy the jobs essential in our communities. As it is right now I can not predict it but I can say that the department is monitoring that impact. At the same time the department will be initiating I guess if you want to call it a survey with professionals on the level of job satisfaction not just considering the issue of housing but around training and the support at the community level and the quality of life, different areas and try and get a real feel why we lose nurses or doctors in the north and what makes the north attractive outside the job whether it be a training program or the quality of life in the community with housing or what have you.

But that is an initiative the department has started discussions on and hopefully we'll deal with it in the next year or so. Again I will say that we will continue to monitor the impact of that and also surveys and interviews of people that we may be losing because of the

housing situation. We won't know this until such time has passed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have any further questions. Go ahead, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you for giving me another chance to ask. I wonder if the Minister can provide us with where there needs to be new construction or improvements of the health centres in the communities that are not included in the 2006-2007 Capital Plans.

As to which communities will be priorities.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can provide a list to the Member of the number of facilities and how old those facilities are and if they received any renovations and what have you. Which kind of indicates what is needed. I can provide that listing to the Members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page H-7 under Qikiqtaaluk. I don't have anybody else on my list. Tangible assets, Qikiqtaaluk. Total Qikiqtaaluk region \$18 million. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Moving to page H-8. Tangible assets. Kivalliq region. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the \$100 thousand it is embarrassing especially when I am sitting in this House. I am sure it is not embarrassing for the Minister for the colleagues on that side. I think these are only for vehicles.

My question is when they were doing the planning I like to supplement on a statement that I made. They said that they are going to wait for the federal government on the boarding home. They know for sure about the boarding home. I wonder if the Minister or her Deputy Minister can tell me when they expect to hear something from the federal government. Do you know the status of the negotiators, if there is going to be cost sharing, or what it entails? Thank you.

**Chairman**: Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. We are dealing with Health Canada to negotiate the Non-Insured Health Benefits rate for boarding homes in Nunavut, not only Nunavut, but also the one in Ottawa.



Health Canada provides funding to operate health boarding homes. The discussions are ongoing and we hope to have a response back from Health Canada in early January. Of course we need to finalize the negotiations with Health Canada before we can do a request for proposals for the boarding home for the Kivalliq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Curley, do you have any other questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, I can't even remember how many years ago it was supposed to be erected, but it hasn't gone through and now I find out it's been deferred again.

At least it's written in the capital plan, but they never seem to follow through with what they have on paper. That being the case, as we can see, it's been deferred until 2009-10, and for it to be completed, 2010-11.

Can the minister indicate to me that these years that are put on there, 2010-11 will be used? Is that the exact target date, because the present health centre we have is not in very good condition. The population is growing and the population is about 800. The community is rapidly increasing in population.

So, for that reason, can the minister tell me that this will not be deferred again in the future, in terms of the expected construction date of the health centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The construction year for the Repulse Bay Health Centre is 2009-10. It will be contingent on this House approving those budgets in those years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's always the case. It's only when it's really necessary that they do the actual work, but the present health centre is two stories and there is housing for the staff there on the top level. Will the present health centre that you're proposing be built the same way where the housing is on the upper level, or would it be just a health centre by itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Repulse Bay Health Centre design has not been completed but the plan at this point in time is to have a separate facility with housing units separate from the health facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Do you have any more questions, Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, minister.

Within the staff housing for the staff, would it be new also at that time, because they wouldn't, so you won't be using the present health centre after that is built? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has not been a decision made as to what we will do with that facility. Until such time as we're further ahead, then we'll be discussing the use of that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The present health centre and the staff, the nurses that work there also live on the upper level and it's very convenient, especially when there's an emergency. It doesn't take very long for them to go, even when the weather is really cold.

They find it very convenient like that. It would be good to factor this into the new design of the new health centre where the staff is living on the upper level. This is mainly a comment, not a question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just be aware when we're dealing with this, I'm in the Baffin Region, but when it comes to Health and Social Services, it's handled by the Keewatin Region.

I wonder, the Sanikiluaq Health Centre, did you find out how old the health centre is in Sanikiluaq? Thank you. That is my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak had his hand up first, but I let Mr. Kattuk go. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Sanikiluaq Health Centre was constructed in 1984, so it's 21 years old. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The population has grown by quite a bit. The health centre is getting older. I wonder what the proposed date is for a new centre to be built in Sanikiluaq? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The departmental target for capital budgets, each year we start off with about \$5 million, and based on that we identify our needs and go from there.

It is one of the facilities that we have listed based on it's condition. I wish I could put all those facilities on our capital books, but I mentioned earlier we would take up our entire Government of Nunavut capital budget, so, we try and allocate the funding based on our targets.

So, right now, Sanikiluaq is not in the books. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When will you put it in the books? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the facilities that are in most need are completed and off the books or if we get additional incremental funding that can accommodate all the lists by community, but right now, I can only say that there are other projects that are more pressing than Sanikiluaq.

So, I can't predict when. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Anything else, Mr. Kattuk?

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the minister can't respond to me today, I can probably deal with her directly and talk about the health centre in Sanikiluaq.

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

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now that we're on H-8, I have quite a few questions here; it's talking about the 24-hour care facility.

There is a resolution that was made from our elders in Kugluktuk to have a 24-hour care facility because, at that time, there were three elders that were out of the territory. Just in the last week, before we travelled here, I had a meeting with my community members. I note this was brought to my attention again that the 24-hour care facility is needed in Kugluktuk.

I would like to ask the minister when they will start with the next two care facilities going up in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some time in the New Year. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister give us the communities of where they are going to select and put the 24-hour care units in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. We're on page H-8. We are dealing with both Kivalliq and the Kitikmeot. After Ms. Minister's response, we will report progress.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I mentioned earlier that we have not made the decisions for the next two; it will be some time in the New Year, but I can assure the member it won't be Gjoa Haven or Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): According to 6 (1), I would like to recognize the clock and report progress. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Qujannamiik. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please be seated. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Netser.

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

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also, 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. Secunder. Mr. Mapsalak seconds the motion. All those in favour? 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. A reminder for tomorrow. A meeting of the Standing Committee on Health and Education at nine o'clock in the Tuktu Room. A meeting of the regular caucus at eleven o'clock in the Tuktu Room.

Orders of the day for November 17:

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. Notice of Motions
15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 1
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): We will adjourn for the day. We will resume again on November 17 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:12*

