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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Jobie Nutarak (Tununiq)
Chair, Management and Services Board

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq
(Nattilik)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Responsible for Status of Women's Council

Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)
Chair, Standing Committee on Infrastructure, housing and Economic Development

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(Iqaluit West)
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(South Baffin)
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Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Chair, Regular Members' Caucus

Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

Hon. Ed Picco
(Iqaluit East)
Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration

David Alagalak
(Arviat)
Chair, Standing Committee on Health and Education

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
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(Akulliq)
Chair, Standing committee Ajauqtiit

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources

Levi Bamabas
(Quttiktuq)
Chair, Full Caucus

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

Patterk Netser
(Nanulik)
Deputy Speaker

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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

Tel (867) 975-5000 Fax (867) 975-5190 Toll-Free (877) 334-7266

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Monday November 21, 2005**

Members Present:

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

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon Mr. Premier, and members of the legislature. Orders of the day. I would like to inform the members that Peter Kattuk will not be in the House due to family matters. He is in Montreal. Ministers' statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

**Minister's Statement 013 – 2(3): National Addictions Awareness Week
2005**

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. National Addiction Awareness week is the time to celebrate the joys of an addictions free lifestyle. It is a time to honour each other.

Across Nunavut communities are holding a wide range of activities to celebrate healthy living. They are holding a sober dance, honouring outstanding community members, or having feasts.

National Addiction Awareness Week takes place on November 20 to 26 this year. It's important to remember that at any time of the year people can get help here in Nunavut. When drugs and alcohol are a problem we have addiction counsellors, wellness workers, social workers, and mental health workers who can help.

Substance abuse is a devastating health problem affecting many aspects of Canadian society. The Department of Health and Social Services works with community and government partners to help Nunavummiut live in a society increasingly free of substance abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 014 – 2(3): Pan Northern Projects – 2007 Canada Winter Games, Whitehorse

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to update the House on the upcoming 2007 Canada Arctic Winter Games that will be hosted, for the first time ever, north of 60 in Whitehorse, Yukon. Through the signed Pan Northern Cooperation Accord between the three territories, a variety of projects have been undertaken to promote the North.

By involving all three northern territories in the co-hosting of the 2007 games, an enormous opportunity is created. The scope of hosting the games changes significantly, and in effect, the north will now be hosting the south. All three northern territories will now be able to share the spotlight in the time leading up to the games and during the actual games themselves.

Opportunities will be created to present their people, culture, and lifestyles to a national and even to an international audience. In addition, northern businesses will be provided the opportunity to promote their products and services across the country and to link themselves to all of the positive forces associated with youth, sport and healthy, active lifestyles. A number of initiatives are being undertaken by the territories.

The number of programs and deliverables are only limited by the imagination, enthusiasm, and commitment of the Pan Northern partnership. I look forward to providing you with additional updates as we move closer to the games in February of 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 015 – 2(3): Strategic Investments Program Update

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to update my colleagues on the Strategic Investment Program. It's a \$4 million program designed to help develop the capacity and the knowledge needed to enhance economic development opportunities in Nunavut.

This program was created this year and resulted in a total of 65 applicants submitting 101 funding proposals from 18 communities. The total value of the proposals received was for in excess of \$19 million. This is a tremendous response to a brand new program and shows that Nunavummiut are keenly interested in developing the economy of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, a total of \$3.6 million was approved from the initial submissions. The sheer volume of the projects submitted shows that there's a continuing need for this program. It also points to the need to better integrate the SIP program with a \$6 million targeted

investment program of the Federal Government. We remain committed to working with the federal government to ensure maximum use of growth programs in promoting economic development in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut, I wish to congratulate all of the successful applicants and wish them success in the future with their projects. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 016 – 2(3): Release of Draft Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform my honourable colleagues of the release of the working draft of the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, guided by the Iqanajaqatigiit Agreement, the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated struck a working group to develop this strategy.

Membership of the working group is drawn from a broad representation of agencies involved in adult learning in Nunavut. I would like to personally thank Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated President Paul Kaludjak for support of a process that has been very positive and has moved forward in a very short time.

Mr. Speaker, the resulting draft focuses on the changes needed to make the learning system here in Nunavut functional and seamless while providing Nunavummiut with the means to actively participate in the economic growth and development of our communities.

The 29 strategies and associated actions suggest actions in practical ways which we can move forward over the 20 years to make our adult learning system the envy of Canada. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage my colleagues for those interested in adult learning to obtain a copy of this document and give this careful consideration. We are encouraging a public review of the draft to ensure that we have captured all the issues and identified all of our options.

After we have received input from Nunavummiut we will revise the document accordingly. In the meantime Mr. Speaker I will table later today the draft of the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Going back to Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 041 – 2(3): Congratulate Taloyoak Regional Soccer Teams

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate two winning soccer teams from Taloyoak today. Recently the two teams from Taloyoak attended the regional tournament held in Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, the juvenile boys under 16 soccer team took home the gold and the girls under 14 also took home the gold.

I would like to congratulate the coach of the boys team Peter Aqqaq and the coach for the girls team Magin Pizulau for their hard work. I would like to congratulate Robert Tucktoo, Sean Alookie, DJ Neeveeachak, Peter Ittunga, Simon Tulurialik, Damian Alookie for the boys teams and from the girls winning team, I would like to congratulate Niomie Alookie, Cecile Lyall, Patricia Lyall, Tammy Pauloosie, Pamela Manilaq, Sandra Aqqaq, Steven Aniqsaq and Annette Jakyo. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 042 – 2(3): Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project

Mr. Peterson: Koana, Uqaqti. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the House on the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project, also known as BIPAR.

Mr. Speaker, BIPAR has been at the core of the Kitikmeot's economic development strategy for a number of years. Many good people in the region have been working for many years to help push this project forward, and to make the case for the federal and territorial governments to invest in this key project.

Mr. Speaker, economic modeling by economists from the University of Saskatchewan showed that construction on this mega-project and access to the Izok Deposit owned by Inmet Mining would provide 17,000 person years of employment and generate billions of dollars in economic activity and tax revenue.

Mr. Speaker, since the late 1990s, a committee headed by the Kitikmeot Corporation has completed several technical and environmental studies. Mr. Speaker, the GN contributed 1.5 million dollars to those studies while the federal government contributed \$3,000,000. The private sector has funded the balance.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit organizations and businesses in the Kitikmeot are leading the project. It holds untold potential to contribute significantly to Nunavut's future economic growth. Inmet Mining conducted two feasibility studies in 1995 and 2003 on their Izok Project.

Both indicated that their deposit is not economic without a road being in place. There are many other potential mineral deposits in the Slave Geologic Province that have economic potential if the deposits could be accessed.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook stated that infrastructure “projects will never be built if the decision is made exclusively on economics. Cost-benefit analyses miss far too many intangible social benefits, especially in depressed regions.”

The report also noted that “at this point key stakeholders in the federal government have not viewed these projects from that perspective.”

Mr. Speaker, in a recent speech to a Vancouver resource conference, the Premier stated that “we are pushing the federal government to join with us, Inuit organizations and private businesses to develop the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project.” I want to thank the Premier today for his commitment to BIPAR, and for taking our message to the rest of Canada.

I request unanimous consent to complete my statement.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for letting me continue.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie Lyall, the President of Kitikmeot Corporation recently attended the Northern Transportation Conference in Yellowknife where BIPAR was discussed. He told participants that he is taking the project to the Government of Nunavut because it is too big of a project for the Kitikmeot Corporation to do it alone.

Mr. Speaker, there are many partners in this project, including the federal government, who are looking to the Government of Nunavut to make a serious commitment to this project.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook concluded that “the most significant upside risk to the forecast is the possibility that the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project receives approval from the Nunavut Impact Review Board and is able to raise the necessary capital to begin the construction.”

Mr. Speaker, with the GN firmly involved as a proponent, a strong message would be sent to Ottawa and the mining industry that this is a key infrastructure project that must proceed in Nunavut if we are to unlock our mineral potential to create economic wealth and social well-being for our citizens.

I will be asking the appropriate minister questions about the status of the project during this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 043 – 2(3): Emergency Shelters Needed

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk about what my constituents have said about the community halls being very small. We have seen on television from the American people about emergency shelters during a natural disaster. Today our recreational facilities are not very big and in the case of an emergency they would not hold all the people in a community. The facility that we have in my community, if the power house shuts down, that would be a great disaster in my community.

For that reason Mr. Speaker I feel that the recreational facilities have to be meet up-to-date standards. Some of those facilities are over 22 years old even though the community is growing. For that reason, there have to be emergency measures standards met by the hamlet in the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 044 – 2(3): Chesterfield Inlet Housing Infrastructure

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in regards to the people that I represent. The Chesterfield Inlet Development Corporation was given a negotiated contract to build houses. I could say today that they started on September 20 and they employed eight people. They only had one southern construction manager. I have seen those houses that were done but I am sure that if it was tendered there would not be any northern content.

I would like to congratulate them for they will be completing the houses on February 8, and I would to invite the Housing Minister to be able to see those buildings that they constructed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 045 – 2(3): Restorative Justice Society

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I start my statement I would just like to take this opportunity to thank my Constituency Assistant, Amanda Ford, for making my tie nice and clean and helping me pick the appropriate shirt to wear today. I would like to thank her for that.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work taken on by restorative justice groups within Nunavut. You may have heard the Chair of the Iqaluit Restorative Justice Society, Ms. Annie Nattaq and her committee members on the radio last week as they described their work and the value of practicing restorative justice here in the community of Iqaluit. As a part of Restorative Justice Week, they also made presentations at schools and elders' facilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Iqaluit Restorative Justice Society is a group of trained volunteer mediators and elders who work with victims and offenders to come up with out of court solutions that focus on healing relationships between victims and offenders.

Offenders are referred by the RCMP, the Crown, or courts to the Iqaluit Restorative Justice Society and participate in either victim-offender mediation, or an elder panel meeting, depending on the nature of the offence.

Mr. Speaker, restorative justice provides an alternative to how we think about crime and how we respond to crime; it puts forward community based solutions. Although restorative justice practices are not unique to Nunavut, the concept of healing relationships between victims and offenders is strongly rooted in Inuit community life.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all members to join to me in extending our best wishes and support to all the members of the restorative justice committees and commend them for their good work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 046 – 2(3): Soccer Trials in Iqaluit

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past weekend, the regional soccer trials were held here in Iqaluit. The tournament was well attended throughout the weekend. Teams from Dorset to Hall Beach, Arctic Bay, Igloolik, Pond Inlet, and Iqaluit participated.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the coaches, the officials, and all the volunteers who helped make this weekend an all around success. I also would like to send special thanks to the staff of Inuksuk High School, who billeted many of the students at the school and volunteered their time to help organize the event. I would also like to thank Mr. Barnabas for helping me present the medals to the participants at the end of the event. Thank you, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Speaker, the Territorials are being held here in Iqaluit during the week of December 2, and we look forward to hosting the teams again here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge a couple of individuals from Hall Beach; pages, their chaperone, and also my Constituency Assistant, Jake Iqitugiak, and also on that side, a young page, a new page, Lena Kuppak, and also Sharon Pialaaq.

So I would like you to acknowledge these two individuals for being the pages for this week from my constituency. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Just a moment. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 042 – 2(3): Concern on HTLV-1

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

Mr. Speaker, over the last few months here in Nunavut, there has been some concern over a disease that has been discovered. I would like to take this opportunity to, first off, thank the minister for, as she had indicated last week, meeting with the regular members and her Cabinet colleagues to brief us on this new disease. Just after that and around the same time, they went public with that information.

My question to the minister, I know since that announcement was made, there has been a lot of concern over the knowledge of this disease and I'm just wondering if you could explain, for the record, when the department became aware of it and why they decided to wait, if they did indeed wait, to let the public know about it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department became aware of it some time in June, that HTLV-1 existed in Nunavut.

One of the first things that we did, first of all, was to research the whole issue around what HTLV-1 is. It's a very rare disease that existed in one other place in Canada and that was in, I believe, British Columbia.

Once we had discovered HTLV-1 was present in Nunavut, we then worked with public health agencies to start planning to get an idea as to how widespread the issue was. We also worked with Canada's Chief Medical Officer in that area.

So the answer is that we discovered it in June. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering if the minister could explain why the department decided to, if they knew about it in June, to not inform the public about it until the time when they did later in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we became aware of it, first of all, we had to deal with the immediate families of the individual and the impacted family and we had to sit down with the family to explain what HTLV-1 was. Secondly, we had to figure out how widespread the problem was in Nunavut and further researched that through the health centres as well as the families that were impacted by HTLV-1.

We also went and collected a team of individuals to research what HTLV-1 is. HTLV-1 is a very rare disease that can exist in people who may never be affected by it. But because of the incidence that we experienced in May-June, we had to then research, further, the situation and educate our staff, educate our professionals, and then do information in preparation for release. We didn't want to create a panic, we also wanted to research and do a public health information session so that people in Nunavut are receiving the correct information around HTLV-1.

And, the issue was that we needed to form a team to get a real handle on the situation before we started to talk about it publicly because we didn't know, at that time, how broad the issue may be, and to some extent, we won't know that until the testing has been completed in about six months from now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that there are only certain methods by which this disease can be transmitted, and my concern and probably the concern a lot of people is without knowing anything about it for a few months, was the fact that there could be more infections or that the disease could spread as a result of ignorance of the public knowing after the Department of Health did. So was that one of the factors that was looked at on deciding whether or not to go public with it at the time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. HTLV-1 is a very, very rare disease that only existed in one other province in Canada. HTLV-1 has also been found in other countries outside of Canada.

So when we discovered HTLV-1 existed with a person from Nunavut, we needed to go back and research and work with the Canada Public Health Agency on what do we mean by HTLV-1 and research as to how people can catch HTLV-1 or how it spreads. We needed to do that research, plus at the same time, we needed to contact the family where HTLV-1 was discovered to figure out the impacts of it.

So what we have done from that point on in gathering all of the information was to, first of all, test individuals that may be contracted, with the assistance of the Canada Public Health offices, and with that, we then prepared the information sheet related to HTLV-1 and prepared all of the health centres.

We talked to community health representatives, we talked to the regular caucus, we talked to the media, we put out media advisors to try and educate what HTLV-1 is in Nunavut because it's so rare and it has never existed in Nunavut before. Our job was to educate our own staff what HTLV-1 was, how people can be tested, and what are the symptoms of HTLV-1.

So there were a number of steps that were taken and right now we continue to advise the general public what HTLV-1 is through different sources. One example is through our community health representatives, community health education committees, or hamlets, and local radio shows.

There are the different ways we are trying to get the message out, but we needed to gather our own facts as to the extent of it, what it is, how it's contracted, and how to prevent it. So all of that was gathered and we were able to go to the public to educate Nunavummiut what HTLV-1 was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there was probably close to five months that the Department of Health knew that this disease was out there before informing anyone about it.

I was just wondering, is the minister stating that they, in fact, didn't take, elicit or didn't worry about the possibility of the disease being spread in that time period, in the first five months that they knew about it, by not informing the public of it so that people could take preventative measures right away instead of waiting? I guess that's my question and that's what a lot of people are wondering. If you knew, how come you didn't let people know right away? And if you didn't, was the opinion or the safety of the public not one

of the things that was taken into consideration once it was discovered in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we discovered HTLV-1, there was immediate contact made to the family impacted. We needed to find out what HTLV-1 was, how it was spread, and we needed to get the team, as well as the support from the Canada Public Health Agency involved in researching and assisting in Nunavut's response to the issue.

People can have HTLV-1 and never be affected by it, so it could have existed prior to June. So, we continue to work with the public agency office, as well as our health centres to get a broader understanding as to how widespread HTLV-1 is.

But in terms of taking the necessary steps to educate the public, it's no different than what the practice or the procedures that we would follow in the case of Tuberculosis or AIDS or any other type of disease in Nunavut. So, the procedures followed were through the normal course of action.

As well, we worked very closely with the Public Health Agency of Canada in our procedures. The National Chief Medical Officer is Dr. David Butler-Jones, who assisted the Nunavut Government in the procedures in the review of HTLV-1. He has written us and advised us that he was to confirm his support in the involvement of his office. We continue to work with him, but through their support in dealing with a rare disease like HTLV-1, they were satisfied with the procedures that we followed in conducting our research, as well as advising the general public as to what HTLV-1 was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 043 – 2(3): Training for H&SS Employees on Information and Privacy Issues

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

It is clear that more work needs to be done with respect to tightening up the department's practices as they relate to protecting the privacy of Nunavummiut and preventing the unauthorized disclosure of personal information.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the 2004-2005 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut, which was tabled in the House last week, includes the following recommendations, and I will quote: "I would be recommending that the position of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Coordinator for the

Department of Health and Social Services be given a full-time billing and that this person be given responsibility not only for coordinating and answering access requests, but for dealing with the very significant and real privacy issues with this department, in particular, has to deal with on a daily basis.”

My first question is: what training and guidance is provided to Health and Social Services employees on their responsibilities with respect to privacy issues?

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The training of departmental staff, who are the internal coordinators when ATIPP requests occur, are no different than any other employee in any other department that’s responsible for ATIPP training or coordination.

I believe that training is conducted through the ATIPP coordinator for the Government of Nunavut and I believe that position is located either with Justice or Executive. The training offered again, is no different than any other ATIPP coordinator in the various departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it’s the usual training, I don’t think the Privacy Commissioner of Nunavut would be recommending such an action.

There is a lack of real thought in the policies of your department. The Minister told the House last week that the leaked investigation into the Clyde River incident took place. Can the Minister account to the House and to Nunavummiut the specific steps that were taken in conducting this investigation and tell us whether this was done under oath.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the article appeared in the paper and I contacted my department, the deputy contacted the person that was also interviewed during that time. The Health Inspector/Chief Medical Officer for the department of health, because his primary responsibility was to do the public education around HTLV-1, we contacted him to see if there had been any other interviews with his division with the media. The response we got at that time was no. We also contacted the paper to see who they made reference to in relation to the senior government official which I dealt with Thursday and Friday.

On Friday, I also took the opportunity to speak to the media about who this was or from what government the senior official would be and the only response I received from the media was that again there are three levels of government so there is no clear indication of which level of government that came from. So we have done our part in terms of investigating internally.

All information internally is taken seriously and I think we have done our part in investigating the issue around the paper. The other situation that I would like to add and table today, I have all the copies of the article relating to HTLV-1, issue and when you go through those articles, there are a number of sources and a number of people interviewed outside of the government and I think that has to be noted in that situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: My question is not answered Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister if the investigation and the questions that were asked and answers received were taken under oath.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member is asking if my employees swore to the Bible to the interviews for this particular issue in terms of an oath. No that was not done. The investigation took place with my department through the senior officials in terms of the division responsible for the public health education related to the HTLV-1. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, the issue of disclosing personal information is a serious issue. Nunavummiut would seek protection from the government that their names and communities would not be disclosed to either the press or anyone by the senior ranking officials in the government. It is I believe misuse of personal information contrary to section 59 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act that we are dealing with. Why has not the Minister instead of carry out an internal review of what may have happened, actually asked the Minister of Justice or the Information Commissioner to carry out the investigation. If not can the Minister tell this House why she has not asked the Department of Justice to help in this case.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member is suggesting that the Department of Justice conduct an investigation in terms of how the information got to the paper, I'd be glad to request that with the Premier's Office, the Minister of Justice.

But I want to also re-assure the Member again there are two levels of government and we don't know for sure which level of government the newspaper makes reference to in the paper. I take the issue around privacy very, very seriously and I think the issue around Members in the House requesting information related to medical, I have had to also write letters to Members of this House and members of the legislature about the sensitivity of requesting information on medical clients, again, to protect individual's medical records.

I believe that I have written to each and every member about that because you are, in my opinion, requesting information on people that I have no right to release under ATIPP.

So I do take this issue very seriously and I will ask the Minister of Justice to see if he can conduct an investigation in regards to the procedures. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 044 – 2(3): Government of Nunavut’s Position on the Bathurst Port and Road Project

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Mines. In my members’ statement, I spoke about the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook indicated that the biggest upside risk to their forecast was if the BIPAR funding was secured. What this means is the project would significantly skew their forecast; employment would increase, tax revenues would be generated, and so on.

My question for the minister is: what is the Government of Nunavut’s official position on BIPAR? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister for Mines, Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to apologize to my colleague. I understand it in English, but I wonder if he can clarify his question; I didn’t quite fully get his question.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson, can you clarify your question again?

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be clear this time. I am talking about the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project; the acronym is BIPAR. The Nunavut Economic Outlook indicated that the biggest upside risk in their forecast was if BIPAR was to get approved and funding was secured. What this means is that employment would increase, tax revenues would be generated, there would be education, career, and contract opportunities. There are potentially 17,000 person years of employment, billions of dollars in increases to our federal and territorial GDP.

My question for the minister is: what is the Government of Nunavut’s official position on the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleague for the clarification. Our position, is the government has been and continues to be in full support of the Bathurst

Inlet Port and Road project. That's still the message that we convey and forward to the Federal Government in seeking support from them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. The Commissioner's Address, last week, indicated that the Government of Nunavut plans to use half of its share of the Northern Strategy Funding for economic development. Can the minister tell me: will any of this funding be used for the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, at this time, I'm not in the position to indicate, to my colleague, where the funding will be approved from that funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. We all know that significant investments would be required to make the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project a reality. The minister mentioned in his earlier answer that they are trying to get this message across in Ottawa. Can the minister tell the House, today, what progress has been made to get Ottawa on board in supporting this vital initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will indicate to this House, at this time, that my department officials are continuing to support and have further discussions to push this file forward. But to my colleague, I will commit to getting a most recent update on those discussions and provide it to my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the minister for that commitment to give me an update; I'm sure the folks back in the Kitikmeot look forward to that.

Mr. Speaker, the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project will require serious commitments by many partners, both public and private. By the public I mean by municipalities and territorial and federal governments. They are going to need a lead proponent from the territories. I'm wondering if the minister could tell the House, today, if the Government of Nunavut has considered becoming a lead proponent in the project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do agree with my colleague that this will take a whole number of team players to see it through and I agree that this government needs to be a leader in promoting this project.

As I said, the government committed, in representing my department, as one of the leaders in this file, and also further seeking the support from not only the Kitikmeot groups, but also within the government so that we can, united, push this in seeking the support and financial resources this project rightfully deserves from the Federal Government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 045 – 2(3): Coordinator of Patient Travel Location and Organization

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, and I hope it's not on anything rare this time, I hope.

Mr. Speaker, the department's 'Care Closer to Home' strategy aims at reducing medical travel costs by providing more services here in Nunavut. At the same time, however, certain medical procedures we know can only be performed in the South.

Can the minister describe what departmental organization is currently in place to coordinate and manage patient travel for services outside of Nunavut and clarify, for the House, where the positions that administer this function are located? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the member repeat the last point of his question? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last part of the question is asking the minister to describe what departmental organization is currently in place to coordinate and manage patient medical travel for services outside of Nunavut and clarify, for the House, where the positions that administer that function are located. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and a thank you to the member for clarifying that.

The patient travel, it is our approach to respond to requests by steps. When there's a requirement for care outside of the community, the nurse in charge or the nurses will make the referral for the treatment in Yellowknife, in Winnipeg, or in Ottawa.

So the individual that makes the referral contacts the regional office travel coordinator. In the case of the Kitikmeot, that is referred to the Kitikmeot regional office in Cambridge Bay. They then make the arrangement for the individuals to travel to wherever the appointment is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister confirm that there are still plans for a medical travel coordination centre for all of Nunavut that is described in her Department's most recent Business Plan. And also clarify to this House where that is going to be located. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that function is being reviewed and if we do decide to go forward it will be in the upcoming year's Main Estimates. As of right now we have not made a decision and we continue to review that whole procedure further. We also, personally I have concerns right now as it relates to how for example medevacs would be coordinated outside the territory or within the territory wherever it is located.

It is one that I am monitoring in terms of our research to whether it makes sense to Nunavummiut to centralize this. At this point in time we have not made a decision and we continue to evaluate the concepts - once we make a decision and once it goes through the new year Business Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess regardless of a decision coming forward are there plans for where that function will be located. Will it be located here in Iqaluit. Will it be located in Rankin Inlet or will it be relocated in Cambridge Bay. I am trying to find out if the Minister can indicate what places are they looking at for relocating that function. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as it right now we have not made a decision on where that will be located. We are looking right now to see if it makes sense to centralize that function in Nunavut. I am not quite convinced that centralizing that function will work in Nunavut especially when we have 26 communities and three time zones in coordinating the arrangement of travel as well as medevacs.

So I am taking this very slowly in terms of investigating that to know the impacts of centralizing functions. Sometimes centralizing a function makes sense and other times it does not make sense. So in this particular one I need to review it further and talk to my staff before we make any decision on whether that is the direction that we want to move forward in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have said in this House before and all Members know with Iqaluit being the capital, our capital of Nunavut, that went through a whole decentralization process where there were hundreds of jobs that were taken out of the capital. The time when it was finished Mr. Speaker, I asked the Premier and he said that it was done and that there would be no more jobs moving outside of Iqaluit.

So my question to the Minister, I am looking for a commitment regardless of the decision that they come up with that none of those positions will be relocated for medical travel out of Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my previous hat I was the administrator for moving the decentralization plan positions out of here and I know exactly what the Member is concerned about. One thing that I would like to say is that currently the organizing of medical travel is done through three regional centres, Iqaluit, in the Kivalliq as well in the Kitikmeot. Centralizing in one of those regions will cost jobs, that we know. We don't know whether this is a direction that we want to proceed with at this point in time.

I'm very aware of maintaining the decentralized numbers and I will commit to keeping decentralized numbers in each community. So, it is one we have not made a decision on yet and once I have reviewed the information on whether centralizing medical travel makes sense or not, I would be pleased to communicate that with members of this House our decision and our findings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Oral Question 046 – 2(3): Adequate Emergency Shelters

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Members' Statements, I made a statement regarding the emergency services and there is a requirement to have facilities that would be large enough to accommodate the population of a community.

Is there a review done on whether the size of the buildings are enough to accommodate a community?

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the member for asking that question.

If a community has emergency crews or emergency measures and police, they have plans that would be put in place in the event of an emergency. I understand very well where the member is coming from.

We have to have plans in place. Community and Government Services has been working with each of the communities and also with the regional staff that go to the outlying communities to ensure that those plans are in place.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Maybe to rephrase my question, Mr. Speaker, the size of the populations are increasing in the communities. What was considered a small community 22 years ago has dramatically increased in population, but the community hall has stayed the same size as it was 22 years ago.

My question is; are these community halls large enough to accommodate the population in a community, and are there reviews done to make sure that they meet the population size?

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course there is a requirement to make sure that there are reviews done.

There are some communities that have community halls that are too small and the health centres have to meet the requirements. We have 42 schools and that is a huge chunk of the government pot of money. We have the Nunavut Infrastructure Advisory Committee which is now in place. They'll be reviewing the capital plans.

They will also be prioritizing which community will go first in doling out these monies. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 047 – 2(3): GN Response to NAM Resolutions

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, this year and last, I tabled the 2004 and 2005 Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting resolutions in this House. The resolutions addressed the important issues raised by the Mayors of Nunavut communities that they directed to the Government of Nunavut for action.

My question for the minister, Mr. Speaker; would the minister tell the House if the Government of Nunavut has reviewed and responded to the 2004 and 2005 Nunavut Association of Municipalities AGM resolutions?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the member rephrase his question please? Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every year, the Nunavut Association of Municipalities holds an annual general meeting and it's usually in April. At the end of the meeting, they pass resolutions that the mayors have brought up on behalf of their constituents. They are basically Nunavut-wide, common to all Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, to pass these resolutions, they need to direct them to the Government of Nunavut for action. They have asked me on two occasions to table the resolutions in the House, which I have done.

My question for the minister: has her department taken those resolutions, reviewed them, and responded to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities for the fiscal year 2004 and the fiscal year 2005? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Community and Government Services, Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We review the resolutions and deal with them. If there's a requirement for the framework or if there has to be another review, we do that also; it's a long process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her response. Could the minister probably just give us a little bit of a clarification to the House of how her department deals with NAM and their resolutions when they receive them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The resolutions that the member is talking about that come from NAM, there are different resolutions from

different communities. So the deputy ministers usually review those resolutions and decide on what to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities represents 25 communities, but has one executive director, so you can imagine it's a lot of work for her to follow-up every year on resolutions and whether there has been action or not.

So can the minister tell the House whether her department actively tracks NAM AGM resolutions from AGM to AGM until the issues that they identify are resolved to the satisfaction of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My department, CGS, has a tracking system. What they do is that they track down those resolutions and deal with the ones that have not been resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's reassuring to know that the Community and Government Services does actively track resolutions. Mr. Speaker, can the minister commit to table the Government of Nunavut's responses to both the 2004 and 2005 NAM AGM resolutions in the House this week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would like to thank the member for his question.

Even though I was not the Minister of Community and Government Services, I can ask my staff to provide the results of the resolutions, and with them, I can table them in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 048 – 2(3): Update on the Affordable Energy Fund

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the current, unattached Minister of Energy. I was looking through some old papers, looking for some articles a couple of weeks ago, and I happened to come across an article with the honourable member's photo in it, talking about why they were freezing power rates.

At that time, that was June 9, 2003, one of the things it said in there at that time, was ...within the next year that the power, in addition to, during this fifth financial year, Nunavut Power will design an affordable energy fund...

I would just like to ask the minister that since 2003 how their designing is going? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister for Energy, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to say to the House, and I am sure that all Nunavummiut are ecstatic in knowing that Mr. Tootoo reads on a regular basis and is able to do research back to 2003.

In June 2003, the announcement that the member is talking about, when we froze the rates for one year, that was after the process that we had in place with the URRC. I asked the Power Corporation to come forward with the General Rate Application, which is the process that we just went through.

The affordable energy fund is a hypothetical fund which was called for in the Ikuma 1 and 2 Reports. There is no fund. It's hypothetical. Hypothetically speaking it may happen at some point in time. It hasn't occurred. It is something that I still believe is good for Nunavut, but we haven't been able to bring forward with the support of the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the minister is saying don't believe everything you read in the paper put out by the government, with his picture on it. In the past I have also asked the minister about this particular fund and the minister of the day indicated that it would be part and parcel of the total General Rate Application. I believe that he had indicated that based on getting advice from the former minister, that that is what it would be. It would be part of the General Rate Application.

Was the affordable energy fund, as the minister of the day indicated, part of the General Rate Application that the corporation put forward, or was the House being misled at the time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek clarification from the member and ask him if he is referring to the affordable energy fund, the AEF, that was proposed in 2001 and 2002, which was mentioned in 2003 June 9 article of Nunatsiaq News, and is that the same fund that the member has brought up this past spring when we tried to vote some money in the House, that he voted against? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Can you clarify your question, Mr. Tootoo?

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that is the first time a minister asked a regular member a question, another first in Nunavut. And it wasn't the Nunatsiaq News, it was a News North article that I was referring to.

I read the question from Hansard. It was May 13, 2004 when I asked the minister if it would be in there and he indicated on page 71, "It will be part of the comprehensive package when we put everything together in one, and put it all forward with the General Rate Application."

That is what I was referring to, the affordable energy fund that is outlined in the Act to Amend the Power Utilities Act, and certain other Acts in consequence. So, it has nothing to do with... I don't know where he's... the lights aren't on over there. I don't know. But, it's got nothing to do with the Petroleum Products Division Fund that he was referring to. It has to do with doing what they say, instead of just saying nothing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe, I stand to be corrected on this Mr. Speaker, but, the minister he is referring to is Minister Simailak, and I believe Mr. Speaker, what they were proposing to do in the GRA application process that came forth, and as the member knows, we just went through that in the Spring of 2005.

So, Mr. Speaker, when you put together plans, I'm sure Minister Simailak had said that in 2004, which at that time, that was the intention. But, Mr. Speaker, as we know, things change. Between May of 2004 and indeed January of 2005, in that seven or eight month period, things changed.

Mr. Speaker, the comprehensive GRA package was brought forward, went through the Utility Rate Review Council, went through a public process and indeed, ended up with the recommendation of the \$0.03 increase to the rates on April 1, 2005.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for telling us what we already knew.

But, still, my question to the minister, as was indicated; was any thought of an Affordable Energy Fund included in the General Rate Application, as put forward and stated in this House by the minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Affordable Energy Fund was a fund that was, the idea, the genesis of that fund, came out of the *Ikuma II* report, and the idea was to take all monies, all dollars, all values voted in the House for energy related matters, including subsidies, including fuel purchase and so on.

I believe there was about \$200 million in total and those monies would be transparent. You would see where those monies were being spent and it would give a better idea for the people of Nunavut to see what the total cost of energy and energy related matters would be.

Mr. Speaker, in the context of putting forward a General Rate Application, all factors including employee expenses, operations and maintenance costs, the actual cost of producing and generating electricity in a community, would be contingent on the dollar values that would be presented, meaning Mr. Speaker that those costs had to be factored in.

In this case, the Affordable Energy Fund are monies that have already been spent. They're monies that are in the process that have already been budgeted for. So, Mr. Speaker, in that context, that was the inclusion that I believe Minister Simailak had spoken about in the package.

Did the GRA itself contain amounts of monies that would be included in a rate increase, because that's a general rate increase, the general rate application, the GRA, did that include monies to be budgeted for.

Mr. Speaker, my remembrance of that, that it did not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It did not, I guess was the short answer to that and I appreciate the minister for transparently putting that out there.

As he indicated, the whole idea behind that was for transparency and openness on what it does cost for fuel, which was the genesis behind it, was the word that that the minister used.

Is he saying that they don't want to be transparent and let us know what the government spends on fuel, or is it that they don't know what it is that they spend on fuel? Because, I mean, that was like three years ago, they said they were going to do it. And, it still hasn't been done.

So, is it because they don't want us to know what it is? Or, they don't know what it is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's very important to be clear. Mr. Tootoo is bringing in about six different issues and they're getting mixed up.

Fuel is only one component of the Affordable Energy Fund. The Affordable Energy Fund idea was to include all the costs that were associated with providing electricity, and energy related matters in the Government of Nunavut, whether that be purchasing fuel for furnaces, for schools, and for hospitals and so on.

Whether that be the fuel purchased to produce electricity or Mr. Speaker, if that included what POL has to buy every year to supply Nunavummiut. Whether it be AV or aviation gas and so on. Mr. Speaker, we had tried in the past session to set up the Qulliq Fuel Corporation, QFC, Mr. Speaker, I believe there was a half million dollars for that in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, the Member knows that this was voted against by the House. And Mr. Speaker, the money wasn't forth coming to set up the Qulliq Fuel Corporation. So there are few different issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Oral Questions. You have 3 questions that you can ask during Oral Questions. I ran out of paper. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Oral Question 049 – 2(3): Five Hundred Thousand Dollar Deletion from Petroleum Product/Energy Corporation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you and thank you. Mr. Speaker, I know that Mr. Picco, the Minister for Energy is looking forward to this. He indicated that there was half a million dollars that was deleted in the budget for Qulliq Fuel Corporation. Maybe he can enlighten me or remind me and that was my understanding that that was put on hold by the government itself.

So they didn't need it and they didn't plan on doing anything with it during that time frame. So maybe you can tell us indeed that this is something that they didn't put on hold. That they were going to go forward with. My recollection Mr. Speaker, we voted that out because of the government put it on hold for another year and they were going to look at that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Energy, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to delay the proceedings in the House. I will just answer very quickly and say the Member is wrong. He is incorrect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to go back and look at Hansard and read it. We can do that Mr. Speaker and see what the Minister said at the time. Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister is that half a million dollars that was in there and it was deleted in the budget that it was to facilitate the transfer or looking at the transfer of Petroleum Products to Qulliq Fuel and the government indicated that they put this on hold and they weren't looking at it and I think they tabled that vote as a result of some questioning by Members on this side of the House.

As a result of that money being deleted that it was just to facilitate the transfer and with that money gone has there been any positions that have gone by the way side as a result of that funding being deleted. Were there PY dollars involved there or as far as we know it was facilitation fee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Member's memory is a little bit faulty. Mr. Speaker, they were arranging things with the Qulliq Corporation. We had registered the name Qulliq Fuel so there is a registered name under the auspices of the Power Corporation. The \$500,000 that would have been voted Mr. Speaker, was to set up the Qulliq Fuel Corporation which would have been the sole entity that would have purchased all the fuel supplies for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the idea would have been to coordinate that with the energy fund which is something that we talked about where all the money would have been voted for all the energy related matters, would be transferred because it was in one item in the budget itself. The half million dollars that we had put forward in the Assembly to begin the process of setting up the Qulliq Fuel Corporation, as a corporation, as a corporate entity included monies for example for reviews of some liabilities that might be in place, environmental concerns, clean-up of fuel storage tanks, and so on, because those were the assets that would have taken over by the Qulliq Fuel Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I will ask the minister to check Hansard tomorrow because he said under the auspices of the Qulliq Power Corporation, but it's Qulliq Energy Corporation, which Nunavut Power is a subsidiary under, according to the Act, as far as I know.

My question that the minister never answered was there any lay-offs, or people that were out of a position because that funding didn't go through? He had indicated that it was all just for liability issues and things like that. Were there any people's salaries that were included in that amount? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation is a legal entity created by the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* in 2003. It replaced and expedited the mandate of the former Nunavut Power Corporation. QEC operates under several different brand names. It operates under Nunavut Power; it operates under Qulliq Energy; and the Nunavut Energy Centre.

At the same time we have also registered the trade name of Qulliq Fuel. So maybe that helps refresh the member's name under corporate structure of the power corporation. So there were positions available within the Qulliq Fuel Corporation, and when that money was not available to us then we had to refocus the process for the Fuel Corporation itself because there was no money to begin that process of setting up the corporate entity, known as Qulliq Fuel. At the same time we had registered that trade name. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the minister is, in the departmental budgets and business plans it shows PYs associated with the department in that. As far as I can recall with that half million dollars that was deleted out of there, there was no reference to any position to go along with it. So was that money being kept as an excuse to make some changes, or where was that funding coming from before? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to be very plain, if the money had been available, the \$500,000, then we would have moved to the process of setting up the Qulliq Fuel Corporation. Having a corporation in place, the Qulliq Fuel Corporation, would have meant the transfer of some of the staff that were already in the government, whether they would have been from POL, or other government departments, who would've been working directly for the Qulliq Fuel Corporation. As the money did not get voted in the House, we didn't transfer those positions, for example from POL. 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. Item 8. Returns to written questions. Item 9. Replies to opening address. Item 10 in our orders of the day. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 12. Report of committees on the review of bills. Item 13. Tabling of documents. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akasuk.

Item 13: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 020 – 2(3): WCB Annual Report 2004

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to Table the Annual Report of the Workers' Compensation Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Tabled Document 021 – 2(3): Letter to Andy Scott Minister of Indian Affairs & Northern Development regarding Food Mail Program

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter I wrote to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Mr. Andy Scott in regards to food mail. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Please send these Tabled Documents to the table officers. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 022 – 2(3): Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements March 31, 2005

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to table the Nunavut Lottery Financial Statements at March 31, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 023 – 2(3): Working Draft Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy October 2005

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I gives me great pleasure to table the Working Draft of the Adult Learning Strategy, October 2005. 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. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Motions. Item 17, First Reading of Bills. First Reading of Bills. Item 18, Second Reading of Bills. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19, Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters. Bill 1, Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-2007 with Mr. Arreak in the chair. Before we begin we will take a break and return at 3:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House Recessed at 15:10 and resumed at 15:42*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): We'll start now. (interpretation ends): In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with, Bill 1. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Community and Government Services. After that we wish to proceed with the review of capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Madame Minister, please proceed to the witness table along with your officials.

Thank you, Madame Minister. For the record, please introduce your officials.

Bill 1 – Appropriation Capital Act Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is my Deputy Minister, Tom Rich and on my right, Mr. Doug Sitland.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Welcome. (interpretation ends): We're on page J-6, Community and Government Services, Capital Planning and Technical Services. Detail of Capital. Grants and Contributions, Qikiqtaaluk Region.

Do the members have any questions on this page? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and her officials back to our Committee of the Whole. The City of Iqaluit has contribution agreements for \$4 million annually. I think it expires in two years.

What will be the status of the funding to the City of Iqaluit after two years expires? Will you renew a long-term contribution funding arrangement with them or will you force them to look elsewhere for funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank my colleague for raising that question. At this time, I don't know, and we haven't had any discussions in regards to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know with capital planning, the City of Iqaluit is much like the Government of Nunavut, they do their five year planning. I know most communities do that.

If the funding agreement expires in another two years, I'm sure that they want to have some certainty beyond that from the Government of Nunavut, whether they're going to have access to this \$4 million or not. So perhaps Mr. Chairman, the minister's officials could provide me with some more clarity in terms of whether the Government of Nunavut is assisting the City of Iqaluit beyond the next two years in terms of five year capital planning? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will be having discussions on the five year capital plan in the upcoming winter and the gasoline tax funding will be included also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. The \$4 million is a significant amount of money for the City of Iqaluit to receive every year.

What would be the likely consequences to the City of Iqaluit if they didn't have access to this \$4 million? Would that prevent them from leveraging other funds for capital projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends): The funding has provided the city stability to allow them to make long range decisions. Beyond the current agreement, the Government of Nunavut has not decided on a formal method for the city. They are a tax-based community. They use taxes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. in the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook, there is a reference to a \$650 million municipal infrastructure deficit. Could the minister comment on the amount of infrastructure deficit that the City of Iqaluit has? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask my Deputy Minister, Mr. Rich to respond.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a precise figure here. What we do, I would have to total it up. What we have is a long list of needs and priorities that we work with on a regular basis with the City of Iqaluit.

I don't think in the last year or so we've actually totalled that up to get a single number. I can say though, that likely, over the next six to nine months, we will have a single number because part of the requirement for the city, and in fact all hamlets, to do over the next year, is a long range capital plan, a five year capital plan.

So, we're using the ending of this contribution agreement that we have for capital with the city and the occurrence of the new gas tax funding and the MRIF funding to work with communities to develop that long range capital plan.

They're not in place yet, but they will be in place over the next year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rich for that response.

On this new committee that you've formed, for the municipal infrastructure, does the City of Iqaluit have a seat on it or are they one of the three Nunavut Association of Municipalities representatives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that committee will work and do a lot of good work. I know when several years ago when I was Mayor of Cambridge Bay we heard the City of Iqaluit had their own contribution agreement with the Government of Nunavut. We were wondering how the Hamlets could get their own individual agreements as well. We learned we have to be a municipal taxing authority like the City of Iqaluit since they are the only municipal taxing authority. I know at one time you were looking at a couple of communities in Nunavut to become municipal taxing authorities.

It could be a bit of a concern to the residents of Iqaluit if the \$4 million or some other amounts were not available on an annual basis to help with their municipal infrastructure projects, and of course, as a municipal taxing authority you have to raise your own taxes. I would be interested to learn how the discussions are going with the Government of Nunavut and the City of Iqaluit in terms of their participation on this advisory committee in the next 6 months to a year before reconvening again next year. Those are my comments for that page. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. This was not a question. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had a follow up to that also because it raises again the opening remarks on that page. There are other Nunavut communities besides Iqaluit that would love to see very healthy chunk of capital. No strings attached kind of a

fund. I really think that during the last three years anyways it has hamstrung the communities' infrastructure funding that they needed at the expense of a tax base community that enjoys the extra monies.

I often wondered about it mainly because prior to the vote on division as well as the headquarters, Iqaluit was not a healthy community because it was under the public administrator and I really believe that it was mainly political that the community, the City of Iqaluit, the Town of Iqaluit was reinstated back, the Council, mainly due to the proposal for the headquarters location.

And financially, I don't believe the Town had recovered as the public administrator stated at that time about the situation. I think it is a fact that the government admitted that the City was unable to carry out tax based revenues to cover their requirements and the Government of Nunavut had to come up with a \$32 million fund over 6 years to deal with this stuff. The Minister must be able to say, which she does not for the smaller communities, that they would have to live within their means.

Can you make sure as Minister that this is the case, as a Minister that you recommend to the Cabinet that the City of Iqaluit will have to live within their means as well like other Nunavut communities. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Either the community is a tax base, or it isn't.

But, certainly the town can recommend itself that they decertify themselves as a city. And also, if the public administrator can decertify them as a town, the town could decide also that they cannot live within the means of the limits of the tax status, then they can take some recommendations themselves.

They shouldn't be looking with both ends out and say we're doing a great service for the people of Nunavut. But, that's my point. The other point that I have is that we're making quite a bit of a contributions to the city programs, gas tax fund as well as the new deal for cities contribution, as well, MRIF.

Government of Nunavut significantly carries those capital works. I want to follow up with the Member from Cambridge Bay, alluding to how the capital works and all are carved out, assigned. Certainly I think the minister and her staff has significant influence how this capital works funding is spent or distributed to categories of programs that require funding.

One area that I find that doesn't appear to be in any strategic screen of Nunavut is the municipal roads, whether or not they are the responsibility of transportation, it doesn't matter. But, the roads must have long term support. I was in Northern Quebec for two weeks some time in October. The small community of Salluit, is enjoying a paved road all the way, I believe to the airport.

And, not only that community, but most of the larger communities and the small communities are on a strategic plan so eventually their community roads will be paved, mainly for the purpose of control of dust in town to the public.

Has that ever been raised in the department? If so, what can come out of this, the desire to have paved roads in small communities?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regards to the gas tax and the Municipal Rule Infrastructure Funds, those pots of money can be used and I had a meeting with my Canadian counterpart, and I believe that we can access monies that would provide those types of infrastructure in the Nunavut communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Chairman, I think that would be great if that can be looked into, but I would like to ask the Deputy Minister whether or not that has ever been considered as a possible investment for the roads in Nunavut communities, like we did so in Iqaluit and is being done very substantially in the Northern Quebec Region?

Is that the kind of thing that might go far in the future for federal programs?

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The question of roads and maintenance of roads is one that comes up, the member is quite right, quite regularly in our discussions with hamlets.

We have raised it in our discussions with the Federal Government. To date, the one avenue that we've had is the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, which does have in it the category of funding for access roads. And not precisely what you're talking about but at least it does help and that is certainly an issue in many communities.

That is there and is eligible for funding. The reluctance that we have been running into with the federal government for funding is the fact that right now the infrastructure funding is tied to the Kyoto Protocol in reducing emissions so they tend not want to use it to do road work within communities. However, we have raised it and we'll continue to raise it.

So we are also hopeful that having the MRIF funding and the gas tax funding and those other things, that it would free up more of the Government of Nunavut money which then would be available to use for road work. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very helpful response. I appreciate your answer. I do realize that Northern Quebec probably enjoys more sources of funding as they are governed by the Province of Quebec. But it would worthwhile to find out how their own northern communities are developed, especially their road programs if they have them. Would the Deputy Minister find out exactly how they are funded, that's something that we may want to learn from if that is possible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will certainly explore that item. I do know with the discussions with some of the officials there that some of their funding for roads that connect communities of course comes from Hydro Quebec and from the companies working on that. So they have access to quite a bit of funding for that. In addition to that we will certainly pursue the issues with them about what other source of funding goes with that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rich. We are on J-6. Qikiqtaaluk region not Northern Quebec. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I'll just say thank you. I got my response.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have a question on that block funding agreement. I know that over the last number of years infrastructure in our capital has been a concern. If you look back to the creation of Nunavut and all the infrastructure funding that was pumped into Nunavut, that is too bad that there were a lot of things that were overlooked like a lot of the social infrastructure wasn't looked at and some of the problems that would occur as a result of Iqaluit being the capital and even the municipal services like the roads and the utilidor and the water and sewer delivery. Everything.

A lot of those things were overlooked and at the time my understanding of it was the City was in a situation where they would be able to leverage funding if they were given some kind of block funding agreement with the government. Also it is my understanding that all of the projects that were identified between the City and the government were projects that were to be approved by the government. I know with myself and my former colleague Ma'naman from Qamanijuaq who used to sit beside me here use to say, there would be a lot of scrutiny as far as keeping an eye and monitoring and evaluating the program in light of past experiences.

I just want to ask in this block funding agreement, from the department's stand point, has the City been living up to their end of the bargain and doing what they are supposed to be doing throughout the life of this agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that to the member. Infrastructure pressures on the city are extraordinary and require a flexible agreement and also the city contributes to all projects. The fund they have provides the city stability to allow them to make long-range decisions and all projects are approved by the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know a few years ago around the time when this agreement was brought forward, one of the things said was that it could possibly be a template, or a model to be used by other communities, if they chose to go tax-based. I know at that time I believe your community of Rankin Inlet was looking at going to a tax-based community. Whereas my colleague pointed out earlier, that since the taxpayers of the community pay for most of the services offered by the government, in turn they are able to work out others kinds of different arrangements, like this block funding agreement, you said that allows them to leverage other funding and create plans.

Hopefully, we can see other communities move forward in this model and take charge of their own destiny. If you look at it here, our city council, I think that about 80 percent of the funding that it gets or it needs to operate its services, come from the taxpayers of Iqaluit. If we could point out that the education tax that was being collected by the taxpayers here in Iqaluit that went into general revenue, was our contribution, whether knowingly or not, to the rest of the territory. I am glad to see that go over. I wish it would have went towards education in Iqaluit.

Given the nature of the agreement, is the department satisfied with the progress that the city's been making when they are monitoring this agreement? Also, if that is the case, if there is some type of extension to continue looking at the option of looking at some kind of similar type of situation, if the city chooses to see it that way? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member. It won't happen overnight but over time, I am confident that it will get there. For instance in Iqaluit, the first few years were slow and now they are getting a lot better. We have a draft paper on moving to tax-based on status that may allow others to move into a tax-based status. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that, and I look forward to it. I am sure, as her worship, Ms. Sheutiapik, and the councillors here would probably say that it is much better in making those decisions in your own community as to what projects you want to proceed with happening, instead of someone sitting somewhere else making that decision for you.

I just want to go back to the evaluation and the monitoring of the whole agreement. Is that something that's going satisfactorily, as far as the department is concerned? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I have my Deputy Minister to respond to that? Thank you.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At the staff level, we meet almost monthly with the City to review projects in progress. I can certainly say that in the first couple of years of the contribution agreement, work was very slow. There were capacity challenges in the City in terms of having the right staff and having staff available; having some difficulty in filling positions as we all have at times in professional positions.

Over the last two years, the work in the City on the part of the capital plan has progressed quite rapidly and they have quite a few projects underway now. So, I would say that our early concerns about the slowness of the projects have now largely been addressed and the City is moving along effectively on the capital plan.

I should also say they faced some particular challenges; the member outlined what some of those challenges were and we would agree with those challenges. They had some difficult choices to make about the approach that they would take, for instance, with their waste water treatment plant and facilities; they have addressed that and they are moving along quite rapidly now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that our colleague from Cambridge Bay pointed out that this agreement is coming to an end. I'm just wondering if the City so chooses to do so with the government, and they probably would be willing to look at trying it again; extending the agreement. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's too early to commit to another agreement for Iqaluit. It also depends on federal funding too and also, it's an FMB decision. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I certainly look forward to finding out whether or not they are planning on renewing a similar agreement for the future.

My next question has nothing to do with the contribution agreement, but there's something...I know that earlier on during the year, I talked to different people around the City and one of the things was that the City actually set up a task force or a working group on is the idea of looking at a deep sea port facility here. And that's something that I don't see in any of the Community and Government Services capital or the Transportation capital, but I'm just wondering if that's something that would flow through this department that the City would show us to move in that direction, or if it would be through another department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member for bringing up those various issues. In regard to the deep sea port fisheries, I believe it's the Department of Economic Development and Transportation. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Anything else, Mr. Tootoo? I have no other names on my list.

We are on page J-6. (interpretation ends) Community and Government Services. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Details of Capital. Grants and Contribution. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$4,503,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Turn to page J-7. (interpretation ends) Grants and Contribution. Kivalliq Region. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Looking at this page, for the seven communities in the Kivalliq Region, Rankin Inlet is going to try to have a certain amount of money for capital spending for those seven communities and it has been ongoing like this for quite some time, even the offices of Community and Government Services in Rankin Inlet seem to have so many people working over there and they have to look after everything.

Looking at the \$272,000 for the Kivalliq Region, it doesn't seem to be enough. It just seems like it's just for a half time employee. There is not really enough for that region. Like, they didn't seem to have enough money to buy capital items.

I just don't know what the employees of Community and Government Services are going to do with that small amount of money. Is there any funding on the side besides this \$372,000?

Chairman (interpretation): Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my Deputy Minister to respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding you see here reflects only special funding that is available under the capital budget for distribution to various communities in the region.

It's not the funding that the department goes on, like for instance, for its normal operations and maintenance in terms of operations. So, it's only specific capital funding. The three are regional block funds, which provide some additional capital funding for urgent needs in the communities and the region.

The mobile equipment repair, which again, is a small fund which is available to help out when there are particular conditions or particular issues that arise. In addition of that, of course, each hamlet has its own operations and maintenance funding that comes as part of the municipal funding program.

So, this is just really special capital funding that is available each year for urgent or emergency situations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand what the deputy minister is saying.

Thank you for the clarification, but what I'm talking about is capital expenditures only. I'm not talking about the operations and maintenance part of the budget. I will have more questions later on, looking at the other regions that are going to be expending capital money.

There is a huge amount of money that is allotted to other regions but the Kivalliq Region doesn't seem to have that much money. It seems like, looking at the figure, I'll just leave it for now but I will have more questions as we continue. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. We're on page J-7. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask while we're here before we go into the other part where it has the other capital projects on there, when the department is

administering the projects for another department for capital stuff, would that show up in this section, or later on in the other section where it shows specific projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the question of the member, there will be some money allotted in Economic Development and Transportation and Justice.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we were reviewing the Department of Health capital budget, I was asking some questions in relation to the health facility in Rankin Inlet. I was told by the minister and the deputy that it was Community and Government Services that was administering that project.

So I am wondering if this page is the appropriate page and I'll ask that question or the questions on that or wait until we get to the project by project description for the stuff in the Kivalliq region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my Deputy to answer that question because a lot of it is going to be technical areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The specific capital budget for a project such as the health centres in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, up here is under the budget of the Department of Health. So the Member is quite right it doesn't show specifically in here or anywhere. On the other hand, because we are managing the project, the Minister of Health was quite correct in that we have the specific figures to respond to those questions. So I guess it is the call of the Chair on where that should be dealt with because those specific budget items don't appear in our budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rich. We are on 2006-2007 Capital Estimates. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chair I guess on this one, that I understand that there have been a considerable amount of change orders and some different code changes since then. I think that those would fall under capital total. I am wondering why we are not seeing that in the capital project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get my Deputy to answer to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The expenses are under the overall capital budget for the Department of Health, so they appear that way and of course when the project is done they'll be reported under that project. I do have the figures or the information the member was interested in, in terms of it and I am asking for direction from the Chair if he wishes to provide that information because it isn't specifically in here but I did bring that information with me in regards to the change orders etc. on the two projects in question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Fire away please.

Chairman: Fire away. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: The questions that were raised by the Member with regards to the two health care facilities had to do with change orders and in particular change orders that resulted from electrical and fire marshal code issues. And if the Chair would forgive me for a rather a lengthy answer here because it is technical subject and I will try and make it as brief as I can.

Healthcare facilities are complex facilities and do not fall under only the regular, like an office building for instance, codes. But they fall more under strict requirement that come from the Canadian Standards Association and they are so called zed codes, there is a category of codes that start with a zed and a numerical designation. Those are both electrical and fire in nature. And they are specifically intended for health care facilities.

They have to do with things like back-up power and how you hook up oxygen equipment and the particular electrical and fire safety requirements. Oxygen for instance is a fire source or adds to a fire source so you have to take particular care. It also impacts on how you are going to use the health facilities.

There are three different level of use of health facilities which have to do with the types of programs offered but also get involved if patients stay overnight in the facilities. Both facilities were classified as CC facilities which are defined as no overnight stays. But as the program developed the health officials working with us realized that in fact overnight stays would be necessary in the facilities. It was not possible, particularly with our transportation situation, people coming in from other communities. So that required some changes to the code classification that were not there in the original design.

That difference between the two classifications was resolved in stages, as we approached the stage of completion, we were able to determine what was required and those codes and those inspections were done.

To summarize that in the two facilities, if I start first with the Kivalliq Health Centre facility, in that facility there were 34 changeovers, to date, total. The value of the changeovers was \$1.4 million, and that is out of a contract value of \$13.2 million, so that is about 11 percent of the total value of the contract involved in change orders.

The change orders that were because of that code change, that I mentioned to you, were actually relatively small, their value \$171,000, and that was electrical. There was no cost to any change orders that were required for the fire safety changes. So there was zero fire code changes – they were all electrical changes.

So the Kitikmeot Health Care facility, that had a contract value of \$11.6 million, change order value was \$1 million. That is an eight percent change order value. There were 36 total change orders. The electrical code changes cost \$188,000, and the fire code changes were \$89,000. There were a small number of code changes there.

In most cases, when we looked at these types of changes they were not huge. They were, obviously, because of the dollar value that is involved, there were two types of it, some were construction changes, the construction changes don't cost us because they are things that happen because of the contractor working on it. The contractor agree to the changes and other things that were done, whatever, that required a change, and some were design changes, which were required, as I said, by those design requirements.

So I am sorry, Mr. Chairman, for the long answer. I used my time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy. I think that is a good use for this. This 11 percent, this \$1.4 million for the Kivalliq Health Centre, on a normal project, is that something that would be considered high, normal, or low? Just to get an idea. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Again, could you please answer that, Mr. Rich. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich, please.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We normally expect, approximately, ten percent. So the eleven percent on one is within that general range, the 8 percent on the other is, in fact, better than what we would expect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The \$171,000 on that one was because of the electrical changes, so that leaves \$1.2 million of other changes. I just wanted to get an idea of why they needed that amount. That seems like a considerable amount of changes, although they expect 10 percent but \$1.2 million is a lot of money extra on something, considering it was already paid for.

I am just wondering if I can get an idea on what some of those changes were? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We are on page J-7, Grants and contributions. Ms. Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my deputy, Mr. Rich to respond.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned, there are 30 more change orders and they're fairly technical in detail. They range on the particular position of piling to facilitate access to a door, that sort of thing.

I don't actually have the full list of what all of the changes were on it. They are construction involved changes that resulted as the result of some design changes that were made. There may have been a change necessitated by an interpretation of the plans for the particular building, whatever.

As I said, 10 percent is actually quite within the normal range of what you would expect. One also has to remember that both of these are complex facilities that require not just the normal entrance and exit for instance, for people to go into the building, but ambulance entrances, etcetera.

They also have extremely complex heating and air handling systems. Some rooms for instance have negative and positive pressure, depending on the use of the room. So, in designing any building like that, in designing it for a northern environment, it's not out of the ordinary at all to have 10 percent change orders required. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they're developing the budget for a prorogued facility or any project like that I guess, then would it be safe to say that they are basically contingency, which are what these are, things that you are going to come up, that you're not expected to have an extra... you're planning, you say, you can plan on 10 percent, that basically, then on all these projects there is a 10 percent contingency for things like this? Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, my colleague is right. That's the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and her staff for providing that information. He'd indicated that there is a list out there. I'm just wondering if you could provide that list to us, with the cost values for each one. Again, I don't need it today, but it would be nice to see.

Also, this is just a comment and I look forward to asking the minister at some point during question period on getting the content of that project. Like, how much of it was under NNI for Inuit, local, northern and other... you know, where, out of all that, where did our money go? To see if it actually went to where it was supposed to.

I look forward to asking that question to the minister in question period. I'd like to see the information on the change orders too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. That was more of a comment. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Yes, we could provide that information that the member is asking for. We'll have that made available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Tootoo, are you finished? Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, just for the record, Madame Minister, or deputy, I did raise a question on these with the committee members during the standing committee.

If review of the estimates, we compared the mobile equipment allowance from last year, which was only \$430,000, it had increased to \$1.660 million, this year. Could you just maybe explain as to why the mobile equipment has been reinstated back in to this year, with significant increases? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I ask Mr. Sitland to answer that please? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mobile equipment for our communities is an essential item for them to clear snow from roads to maintain access to public buildings, etcetera.

Every community requires it, every piece of equipment has a limited life, and historically, we have been far behind in replacing that equipment in accordance with its standard lifespan. So, for example, we say a typical loader lasts 12 years, so you have to replace every community's loader every 12 years.

We haven't been able to do that in the past and that's why we identified a mobile equipment repair program for each regional office to put a bandage, if you will, on those pieces of equipment that are falling behind.

We also recognize that you can only defer things so long before you need to replace them. So, a lot of the heavy equipment is really just a lifecycle replacement of those pieces of equipment that are beyond their useful life. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I appreciate the response. Just for the record, I know some of the communities appreciate it, like Rankin Inlet had desperately been calling to move the loader because the new dump site will now be significantly longer matured than the old one. So, that's a welcome sign and we appreciate your responding to the request of the municipality.

I do have one question, though, with respect to the purchasing of the small vehicles, particularly, the small mobile pick-up trucks and that kind of servicing truck. Exactly how does the procurement process apply as to where and who do we send it out to; how is it done so that the contractors can respond to you?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member points out a good point about the new dump site in Rankin Inlet and about the equipment. The question that he's asking: it's done through public tender. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: The reason I asked that question...we know that, but exactly who does it go to? Where is it sent to? Does it go out to certified dealers or just registered with an NNI as an agent for someone because there have been some concerns with respect to honouring warranties and guarantees that they repair the requirements of those mobile equipment, particularly the trucks and smaller vehicles. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to your question, we try to use the tendering process. Also, I will have Mr. Sitland to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a public tendering process, so we post ads in papers if the government purchases these pieces of equipment. So, we do post them in all of the relevant northern papers. If it's a large, bulk order, we may advertise in other locations.

I also do believe that we send it to those companies that typically have been awarded the purchase of vehicles in the past because we know that they would likely be interested in bidding again. We don't limit to who we send to. I guess that's it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response. I don't know whether CGS have received any complaints from some municipalities, but certainly, I have heard legitimate problems that there are now too many, what I would call, middlemen acting on behalf of the dealers down South, who register with NNI, who are actually just construction companies, and they have no certified licenses for maintenance, or repair work, or carrying out warranty on behalf of a dealer.

Now is it possible to turn them down and actually abide by sound procurement practices and get actually value for our money but not to take away the legitimate northern businesses who provide maintenance and warranty services who do have warranty services agreements with the manufacturers and really do cross reference checks properly so that our municipalities are not hung out to dry and actually get their equipments working if there is a manufacturing problem. In particular last year in one community I can provide that to the Deputy Minister but I don't want to release it in here. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will have my Deputy Tom Rich.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have not heard any specific complaints about it. I have heard of it a couple of years ago. I have heard about that. The member is quite right in what I call a delicate balance between honouring and encouraging the NNI and the

development of local companies and the local expertise on a specific subject. So we don't really want to rule out legitimate valid local dealers who are now doing that service.

In the specifications and requirements under the tender we do have an opportunity to make sure and we encourage people in their specifications to list all of those requirements that are critical requirements. And having access to warranty services is typically in our requirements for vehicles that we advertise ourselves and we require them to be a certified licensed dealer where it is licensed by a particular manufacturer to avoid that problem.

If it is something that is purchased by the Hamlets in their own tenders, for example a pick-up truck or 4X4, that is something we don't have any control over what they purchase but we will certainly give them recommendations if they call us and we've had times we've assisted them in developing their own specifications for equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the response. I think Community and Government Services must at least provide advice to the community whether they are solicited or not because there is guarantee that might become significant to the municipality who don't really have additional funding capacity or abilities to access any free market funding for their equipment. I want to say this because there has been tremendous misunderstanding not only by individuals in respect to NNI policy.

I think some contractors not Inuit are complaining that it is too costly to do business so they just discredited NNI policy outright whether it is any good or not. I think to try and address that by disapproving those orders where the contractors say they are mobile or transportation agents. I am not sure if this is a sound procurement management practice.

Where I am coming from in this is where Article 24 in the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement is I think is a very well worded policy. Policy it is, but not a detailed management document and the management side is the responsibility of your department as well as the other side the Government of Nunavut department. I really truly believe the problem lies with the managers of the contracting agents in the government. They interpret them too loosely and some locations are rubber stamping who is saying they are agent for someone or without credentials.

That can really backfire on the government and I have personally tried to be very cautious how I respond to the complaints of the NNI. Because in short I do support the NNI policy and I believe there are too many loopholes, too many loose provisions in there that could give the impression at the southern manufacturer that they are actual service agents for major manufacturers.

So, I just want to caution you. Would you be prepared to maybe prepared to ask your officials to maybe do a little more diligence in reviewing businesses contracting groups and so on and as well as suppliers. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (Interpretation): Yes, what you're saying is very true. (Interpretation ends): To register under NNI, it requires consultation between Economic Development and Transportation and NNI.

Of course, our Department, Community and Government Services will bring this up with the NNI monitoring committee.

(Interpretation): Yes, I will be pushing for this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. I don't have anybody else on my list. We're on J-7. (Interpretation ends): Grants and contributions. Kivalliq Region. Total Kivalliq Region, \$372,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We'll go onto page J-8. (Interpretation ends): Total Kitikmeot Region, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister expand a little bit on what the regional block funding will be used for in the Kitikmeot Region, the \$288,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Indeed, I could try.

Under block funding for the Kitikmeot Region, they have various... the total amount is divided among the hamlets in the region. It is paid directly to them. It replaces older programs of separate projects, funding for roads, sidewalks, site development, and play spaces, guided by standards and criteria, but basically administered by the hamlets themselves.

And, Mr. Chairman, it also provides for extraordinary repair of qualifying hamlet fleet units. That's under mobile.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. We have five communities in the Kitikmeot Region, but we also have two other communities that I represent, Umingmaktok and Bathurst Inlet.

Is there any money through Community and Government Services for those two communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends): For Cambridge Bay, \$56,000, and Kugaaruk, \$33,000, Taloyoak, \$46,000, Gjoa Haven, \$49,000, Kugluktuk, \$54,000, Grise Fjord, \$19,000 Resolute Bay, \$21,000. Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay have been moved from the Baffin Region block funding project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Again, is there any funding available for the other two communities in the Kitikmeot Region? The communities are actually in the Kitikmeot Region, Umingmaktok, and Bathurst Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. The block funding is only for the original communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Minister. How would those two communities access funding for their community needs? if, in fact, your department is Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I have the deputy minister respond to that question, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our capital funding approval out of the total umbrella is, by and large, restricted to incorporated communities and the two communities that you are referring to are not incorporated communities. They fall under an outpost, or might fall under an outpost camp designation, which the Department of Environment looks after, as opposed to us.

There might be from time to time special funding approved by FMB for those communities, but they don't fall under the regular Community and Government services funding formula. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rich, and Ms. Minister. That always confuses me because the two communities have fairly sizable populations. Umingmaktok has a school; they have a Hunters' and Trappers' organization building; they have a store; they have kind of a health centre; they have an airstrip; they have maybe ten houses that are occupied, another eight that are unoccupied; they basically have everything that community has, and yet some people call it an outpost camp. They are not an incorporated community, but I think they have community-type needs.

I know that the Housing Corporation provides services in terms of repairing their houses. Your department provides fuel services. You also have a tank farm down there, and barge delivery every year.

I am wondering how we could help those communities with their community needs. I appreciate what you said about the Department of Environment. Their budget for outpost camps in the Kitikmeot is \$50,000 per year and to me these are a little bit bigger than, probably, a typical outpost camp. They are more like small communities and they have year round populations.

I am wondering if the minister can comment on how the Community and Government Services, or the government, overall, can help the folks down there with their community requirements. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, for that member. They have a seasonal population for many people in their community. Environment is how we fund seasonal funding requests. (interpretation): I can ask my deputy to supplement my response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I respectfully disagree on that. They don't have a seasonal population; they have a full time, year round population; there are elders; families; youths; and infants living in these communities. They live and work there. Particularly, in Umingmaktok, I think there are close to 20 people there and over in Bathurst Inlet there are ten. I know that Bathurst Inlet is always confused with the Bathurst Inlet Lodge. The Lodge is operational three weeks in the year but the population lives there year round. Your department re-supplies it with fuel on an annual basis, so it is not a seasonal population; they live there year round.

To complicate things, if they were forced to move from those two communities to Cambridge Bay, that will put a very serious dent in our available housing. We have already had 50 people on the housing list. So, all those people live there that require

houses, we would need another 15 to 20 houses. They would like to continue to live in their communities and they need some community support on this.

I know the definition of outpost camp, but that doesn't really describe what's down there. I know you say that it helps incorporated communities, but I think these are communities that also need help and I don't think they are quite outpost camps and they are not incorporated communities.

So, I am wondering, again, Mr. Chairman, how could the Department of Community and Government Services help the two communities down there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have never been there, so I'm just going by the stats that are provided to us and if I ever stayed there, I think I would agree with the member that it's not a seasonal population, however, I take that back if I'm mistaken.

We have worked with the Environment Department; I guess as it stands now, I think the Department of Environment will be looking after that area until they become incorporated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to clarify that we don't have a quorum at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. We will wait a few moments. Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. We now have a quorum. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for her comment. I don't think they are going to ever become incorporated communities because they are just not large enough, but they are communities in the minds of the folks down there in the Kitikmeot.

So, I don't know how to get around that mindset, but the Kitikmeot Inuit Association even has a board member from down there; every community has a board member. Because of that, KIA considers them as communities as well. I hope your staff will take a serious look at it. I have no more questions on that page. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. That was not a question. We are on J-8. (interpretation ends) Grants and Contribution. Kitikmeot Region. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$398,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Grants and Contribution. \$5,273,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn to page J-9. Community and Government Services. Capital. Planning and Technical Services. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister describe what the geomatics is for? I think there's \$175,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It's for aerial photography; it's critical to undertaking community planning and zoning. Primarily, it's for investigation and providing visual references in the event of emergencies. Capital standards and criteria call for the updating of community photographs every five years. But, to date, only one community, which is Iqaluit, has been updated. This program is to establish baseline data and infrastructure to begin implementation of a satellite program for the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it then, this \$175,000 is to upgrade geomatics for the other communities in Nunavut? Is that funding adequate for the work, or is that just some communities this year, and then they'll do some more next year and so on and so forth? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's correct, it's ongoing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister tell us which communities are scheduled to have their geomatics updated in the next fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the Kitikmeot area, they would be dealt with in 2006-07, and the \$700,000 would be used for the Kitikmeot area. Thank you

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page, the Quarry Management Program, \$467,000, could the minister tell the House what that is for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'll attempt do that. It's for granular materials vital to many hamlet operations, including land development, capital construction, road maintenance, and solid waste management.

Many hamlets have inadequate sources and equipment and resources to meet this need. The revolving granular fund, which addresses needs by costly blasting and crushing, has ended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister tell me which communities in the Kitikmeot Region are going to participate in the Quarry Management Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll let Mr. Sitland respond to your question at this time. Thank you.

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

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this point in time, we haven't addressed community specific needs. This is an initial program to look at a new way of managing granular resources in a fair and equitable manner across the territory.

In the Kitikmeot Region, in particular, we are aware of at least three problem communities being; Taloyoak, Kugaaruk and Kugluktuk. Those are three problem communities, but there are many others across the territory.

What we want to do is have a common approach to managing granular resources in all communities. It is a multifaceted approach and this money is really to get us going on that approach and find a way to do it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Sitland and Minister. Could Mr. Sitland perhaps expand on what he means when he refers to them as problem communities? Just give me a sense; I guess your granular resources are running out. Does that impact community development or what is the lifespan of the reserves?

Could he give us that kind of information? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the previous page we just actually just approved something that is called granular studies. What that is, is small planning studies in individual communities and in the Kitikmeot there are small studies.

In the case of Kugluktuk in the Kitikmeot region, gravel is obtained in a place called Seven Mile Island and they have to actually do a winter haul of gravel in the winter which is more expensive. There is an adequate supply there but of course you can only do it in the winter time so it is difficult to get. In the communities of Taloyoak and Kugaaruk there are very limited supplies. As the Minister has indicated that the granular material or the lack of supply have a negative impact in land development and infrastructure development, management of solid waste disposal facilities and all of these things.

So the lack of granular resources is impeding those and that is why it is a priority for the department to begin work on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Sitland. Are there other Nunavut communities whose immediate granular supplies run out where it affects their community development. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Sitland to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In Nunavut there are a few communities in which there are very critical needs for infrastructure in granular. It is always possible to generate granular materials through a drill blast for operations. You drill into rock and you explode it and you create gravel but it is a very expensive process and so it means it is more difficult to get granular products.

But the communities that I characterize as critical need and this is not in order of need but geographically; Kugaaruk and Taloyoak in the Kitikmeot region, Repulse Bay in Kivalliq region and in the Baffin region Kimmirut and Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sitland. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question under J-9 in regards to the \$167,000 set aside for the quarry management program. The airstrip in Chesterfield Inlet, well it used to be gravel but they are putting the size of small rocks there now. It is no longer gravel. Does it qualify to access money from this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Sitland to answer that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Dealing with Chesterfield Inlet there is a problem with gravel or granular material. We recently I believe started construction of an access road to Checkers Lake and we believe there is a site for granular out there which will address the on-going need for the community.

In the case of airports they have a specific requirement for high quality gravel so they usually have to do something to the gravel to improve it. So they have over and above need for gravel sources. As part of our overall work for gravel we are going to work with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation to ensure that we have a common approach on granular requirements for departments and with communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Sitland. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I would like to thank Mr. Sitland.

As I stated earlier, the airstrip's condition in Chesterfield Inlet is eroding. We have to work on it as soon as we can. I would like you to take that into consideration and consider Chesterfield Inlet as one of the priorities. Could we do that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the member representing Chesterfield Inlet, where I used to live. I believe that is under the responsibility of Economic Development and Transportation when it refers to the airstrip. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Mr. Sitland stated that he will work closely with the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in regards to granular

requirements. Are you going to be doing that as soon as you can in order to rectify the problem of the Chesterfield Inlet runway? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. We will then look forward to something happening on the airstrip in Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): I have no other names on my list. We are on page J-9. (interpretation ends): Total Qikiqtaaluk region. \$342,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Moving onto J-10 and J-11. Tangible Assets. Qikiqtaaluk region. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-11, I would like to make reference to an issue on page J-11. I would first of all like to welcome the minister and her officials. We all know that our Speaker cannot participate when we are in Committee of the Whole, which is a parliamentary procedure and he cannot take part in the debate.

(interpretation ends): I would like to ask some questions about the new community hall and arena project in Pond Inlet. I am certain that the Speaker will review today's Hansard carefully. We are being asked to approve just over \$1 million in 2006-07 for this project. According to the substantiation sheet for the project, the total amount will be \$2.94 million. The hamlet of Pond Inlet is concerned that this project may be postponed.

I would like to ask the minister, or her officials, to provide a detailed update today on the status of this project and to indicate what response they have provided to the Hamlet's letter to the minister on November 17, 2005? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also thank my colleague for his question. (interpretation ends): We are looking at options and designs of the whole facility. The response should be available next week. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the community hall does not get built in 2006-07, what is that money going to be used for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister indicated, we are looking at options now.

For instance, one of the options we are looking at is a potential phased approach to the construction of it. There are options that involve looking at the existing facilities and what possibilities there are for modification and improvement with the existing facilities to fit within the funding envelope. We are doing this very rapidly now so that we don't lose any time for the next construction season.

So, at the present time, we still think that work can move forward in the next construction season to use that money. The question is finalizing those options so that we can present them to the community to get the reaction and agreement with the community on what the most desired option is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Have you or your officials communicated with the hamlet about the total estimates for the proposed complex? What estimates did you give them? What new agreements did your department come up with after the architectural engineering was done?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Sitland to respond to that question.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This project is in the pre-design phase. What we do is we have a consultant go out, and based on functional need, they do a pre-design and an estimate of the cost. The estimate of the cost of this facility, and there were three options, but they all range in cost of \$7-7.5 million for the entire facility.

We looked at options to reduce the cost, but because we don't have a full design, you can't actually change design items. Really, the only changes that you can make at the pre-design phase are changes in use.

So, as we indicated, we looked at options of either phasing construction or retrofitting existing facilities. We are examining those options, and some time next week, we hope to have a decision on the way to proceed. We will do this with the community and they will have a say in what's ultimately chosen for that facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Is this in reference to my earlier question about the possibility of delay due to massive cost increase, almost double your original estimate as the information given to the hamlet by your senior staff? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the member could repeat the question, I didn't quite get it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did you get my earlier question; there might be a delay because of the change in the figures of the funding, like the hamlet gives one figure and you guys give another figure. Because of the higher cost, would that defer that building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Sitland to respond to that question.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We hope to have a decision next week on our course of action. After examining all of these options, we will talk with the community, and then once we have jointly decided on the course of action, we will proceed.

We are hopeful that we can still meet the schedule as originally contemplated, but we are proceeding as best we can in using the funding, I think, the wisest possible way. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What are the total figures that have apparently been presented to the hamlet, not in the capital estimates, all the way up to 2011? That's five years ahead. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I ask my deputy to respond to that question please? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The project estimates we prepared in the summer, in July and the substantiation sheets show that at that point in time there was an estimate of \$2.9 million for the project.

As Mr. Sitland mentioned, regrettably during the planning process over the summer and the fall, the estimates we then got for the preliminary design came in almost double that cost. We don't have at this point in time, additional funding to put into it, so that's why as he mentioned, we are looking at the options for the facility and what can be done on the facility.

The figures that were presented to the community this week by our senior staff in Pond Inlet were to, in fact, advise them of what the costs had come in for that preliminary design work, so that they were aware of it, and then also to assure them that we were looking at the options that were available and, as he has said, get back hopefully next week to them, with some options of what we can do to deal with that cost problem.

It does frankly present a problem, because at this point in time, the money in the budget is not sufficient to cover this particular design, but there may be alternative designs we can use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will you commit to writing to the hamlet with detailed information on this project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): That's it.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On J-13, is that part of what we're discussing right now? Can we ask questions on J-13? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): No, we're on page J-10 and J-11. After you approve those pages, we'll go to J-13. We're on J-10. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I have a question on the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund to do with projects. Resolute Bay sewage and water works is part of that. I would like to ask a question. The Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund has given some money. I'll say it in English.

(interpretation ends): It is significantly important for Nunavut to be given a share of the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund. My question to the minister and her officials is; how much more money can be expected from CSIF over the next five years? Is CSIF funding that appears in the five year plan guaranteed in spite of the upcoming election?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like Mr. Rich to responds to that question.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have available, through the Strategic Infrastructure Fund, \$20 million over the next three years.

That \$20 million is already committed, so it is guaranteed notwithstanding what happens in the next election. There are indications that the fund might be renewed and extended, however that is subject to the next election. But the \$20 million we got in the first instance is there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Rich. I have no more names in my list. We are on J-10 and J-11. Tangible assets. Qikiqtaaluk region. Total Qikiqtaaluk region \$5 million 658,000. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Moving onto J-12 and J-13. Tangible assets. Kivalliq region. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like we heard that Repulse Bay and Chesterfield Inlet have inadequate granular deposits. I just wondered if the department has thought of getting granular deposits from Coral Harbour to bring them by those barges from Coral Harbour to Chesterfield Inlet and Repulse Bay. I think it would

be cheaper. Has the department had any thoughts of barging granular deposits from perhaps Repulse Bay to Chesterfield Inlet in the summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I like that idea of what the Member has raised because I know that it would cost money again but because it is part of the other community granular deposit. I remember I know there are a lot of barges that go out with no load and I think we can look into it but I will get Mr. Sitland to answer part of the question.

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

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Member recognizes there is an imbalance of granular materials across Nunavut. Coral Harbour is blessed with a great source of granular materials whereas other communities practically have none.

Part of the projects for granular in the territory is going to look at all sort of options available to us. That is an option and we haven't looked at it yet but we are not going to rule it out. We need to find ways of having granular resources as a sustainable resource in all of our communities and we don't want to ignore any of the options that will be available to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Sitland. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Yes, I am sure you would know how much it would cost because they have to blast the granular in order to make gravel for the airport. And they know how much it would cost. And the Minister knows about the very good granular in Coral Harbour. If you could do a feasibility study and set aside some funds to see if this is feasible. Perhaps if a Member from Repulse Bay could propose this and I propose this for Chesterfield Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in a learning process. Yes, we will look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Minister. We are on page J-12, along with J-13. (interpretation ends): Tangible Assets. Total Kivalliq region. \$3,088,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Moving onto J-14, it's part of page J-15. (interpretation ends): Tangible assets. Kitikmeot region. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is for the minister. Could she give me an update on the solid waste site? It seems like it has been a three year project in Cambridge Bay. Could you give me an update on where that's at these days? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me find the page. (interpretation ends) The solid waste site fencing, it has to do with the prevailing winds which cause debris on roads creating clean-up costs, and negative environmental and other impacts. People and wildlife can access the site causing potential liability and safety issues. We will be enclosing the area and the fencing will alleviate the problem. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for answer. Is the solid waste site fencing is for the existing solid waste site, or is that going to be for a new solid waste site? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want Mr. Sitland to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The solid waste site in Cambridge Bay is an interesting problem. We are running out of capacity in that site. However, two options exist to us. We have the option of either increasing the site so that we would be able to continue to use it. As the member knows the sewage lagoon flows through the site, and so we have a concern with the sewage lagoon flowing through the solid waste site.

As of yet, we have not yet made the decision on whether we are, in fact, going to build a new site, or if we are going to expand the old site. As part of the expansion of the old site it would include fixing this problem of the lagoon flowing through the old site.

Regardless of which site it is, we do want to fence our solid waste sites because they do present problems that the minister had indicated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Sitland. I know it was an annual ritual when I was the mayor. Every year I would get calls from the constituents about the garbage blowing through town. It was good for the kids because we would have an annual garbage clean-up day and we'd pay them a dollar to two dollars a bag, so it was

good for the local economy and for the kids. It was quite a mess, depending on which way the wind blew, and it blows across the ocean there, as well.

My other question, sort of related to this, is the status of the metal waste site that is adjacent to the solid waste site and sewage lagoon that you just mentioned. The three are right there. I know we have talked about it in the past as well. How do we contain the waste out there and dispose of it because it's just getting to be too much to handle. If the minister or Mr. Rich or Mr. Sitland could update me on that please? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Certainly. I will ask Mr. Sitland to answer that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bulky metal waste sites across Nunavut are a problem to us and *Pinasuaqtavut* actually speaks to one of the challenges with bulky metal waste sites, in that we're supposed to explore the repatriation of used vehicles.

Together with the Department of Environment we are doing some work on that, however from my departmental point of view, it's even more than just bulky, or used vehicles that we can look at repatriating to the south.

So, we are looking at ways to get rid of some of these things; bulky metal wastes in our waste sites. Some communities manage the facility very well. If you go to Cape Dorset for example, it's managed very well there but it's mountains of the stuff.

It's a significant challenge in all of our communities. I'm not entirely certain of how Cambridge Bay is doing with their facility, but it's part of our overall strategy to look at solid waste sites across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I don't think that the ownership issue has been resolved. The hamlet of Cambridge Bay, I think they consider themselves the managers of the solid waste dump and the bulky waste. But, the actual owners of the facilities are the Government of Nunavut, so I'm not entirely sure if that's all been cleared up or if it ever will be cleared up.

It represents a problem for the hamlet over there and more so nowadays, because you've got a lot of contractors and mining companies, expeditors that seem to be using the facilities to dispose of some of their perhaps hazardous materials and the hamlet has difficulty in... you can't be out there 24 hours a day watching the road, to see who's going out there to dump stuff.

It became a bit of a contentious issue this summer with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs officials involved and some of the mining officials. I think we have propane canisters out there, we have fuel barrels that haven't been properly disposed. We have refrigerators that may have Freon in them, depending on how old they are.

We have numerous old vehicles. We have our old school, or, the school that burned down, the entire school is out there in the bulky waste dump and I don't know what else. It's a step down memory lane when you go out there. You can go back 30, 40 years of history.

There is just not enough room and it's causing some serious problems for the community growth out towards that area. Then the tourism, you know when you're taking tourists out there; you have to drive right by it. It's quite a mess. If you're flying over head, it's not very attractive. I'm hopeful that your department can do something with bulky waste; not only in Cambridge Bay but, right across Nunavut, in terms of repatriating some vehicles and other materials. That was a comment on that Mr. Chairman.

I wanted to ask about, not specifically Gjoa Haven, but about community halls in general. The community hall on the page here is in Gjoa Haven. I read in the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook where the author said that 50 percent of the community halls are past their useful lives.

Has your department done any assessments by community, to determine which communities' halls are past their useful lives. Why is that? And, have you done any work, in terms of which communities should have their community halls increased or upgraded, over the next five years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation ends) Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I would like Mr. Rich to respond to that regarding the community halls. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we do to capture information on facilities in communities is to work through our regional offices with each hamlet to gather information into an overall capital database and that capital database is filled with information not only on the age of the facility, but the current status of the facility, what sort of quality it is, or what sort of construction status it is.

The second thing we are doing, as part of the work with the Infrastructure Advisory Committee that was recently established, is to develop a rating scale with the Infrastructure Advisory Committee that will be able to look at those facilities and look, in

particular, for the three main factors; the age of the facility, the capacity of the facility, in terms of the size of the community and planning for future size of the community, and the intended purpose of the facility in how well it meets those needs. So, that will unfold as the work of the Infrastructure Advisory Committee does so that we will have a good picture of all of the community facilities.

I would say that the gas tax funding is one we are particularly aiming at addressing issues such as community hall facilities in communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you, Mr. Rich, for that response. I know that community halls are very important to communities. It's important that we plan carefully to provide communities with community halls. I know our community hall looked like it was going up in flames last May and I had visions of the two to three year turnaround before we would have a new community hall. They use it for so many functions in our communities. It's important that we have community halls in all communities that are up to the size and standards that we require. So, I'm glad to hear that you are working on that kind of stuff.

The other question on that page, again, it's not very specific to Kugaaruk. but I will go back to the same report, the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook. The report said that there's a 65 percent failure rate for sewage lagoons in Nunavut. I'm not quite sure what they mean by failure rate; does that mean that, every year, 65 percent of sewage lagoons in Nunavut are failing? What exactly were they saying when they made that statement? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will let Mr. Sitland respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sewage lagoons, a lot of them are very outdated, a lot of these things were built in the 1970s as people moved into communities, they simply found a place to dump waste water somewhere out on the tundra. They haven't received much attention for the last 15, 20, 30 years. And so, as communities have grown, these facilities are now undersized.

When we say failure, it doesn't necessarily mean that the thing falls apart and it's gone; it relates to inadequate treatment. A lot of communities have water licenses and as part of the water license, the effluent from the lagoon has to meet a certain standard. In some cases, it's not meeting that standard. It can mean things like undersized rather than having capacity for the community for one year's generation of sewage, it's undersized and they may have to decant twice. There are all sorts of different problems with these.

We are, though, investing significant amounts of money from our own funding, as well as from the Strategic Infrastructure Fund, and we will continue to invest infrastructure funds into sewage treatment infrastructure and we hope that over time we can close that gap. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Sitland and Madam Minister. I guess when it comes to allocating scarce capital infrastructure funds the top priority I guess would be for water and sewage systems because the federal government have their regulations and criteria and they have their system for fining mayors, fining governments, municipal governments. We are basically in a situation of upgrading and building new facilities for water and sewer and it is going to leave less money for other things like community halls and fire halls and things like that. Would that be a correct take on what I am hearing. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Water and sewage services are usually given a priority because that they pose safety hazards and I'll let Mr. Rich add onto the response.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We actually are in a much better position this year than we are in a year ago because of the signing of the gas tax agreements and the municipal role infrastructure fund agreements and also because of a year ago the strategic infrastructure fund agreement.

So over a 5 year period of time between the strategic infrastructure fund, the gas tax fund and the Government of Nunavut's own funding, we will be investing approximately \$75 plus million in sewage and water and solid waste sites. And that's quite considerably more than we planned two years ago to invest. I should also say we then have access to funding through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund where we are particularly targeting community halls and recreational facilities in other communities.

I apologize I misspoke of gas tax for that. I got reversed in my mind. That Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund is \$16 million plus the matching contribution of the Government of Nunavut is \$16 million so that gives us \$32 million to invest in those other non water and waste facilities in communities. That is something that we didn't have at all a year ago, because as you suggested all of our funding was diverted to the high priority health and safety issues of sewage and water. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rich for that explanation. Will that continue. Will we be able to in the next five years get back to providing basic needs in the communities, fire halls, and municipal infrastructure and not put 100 percent of our money into water and sewer and solid waste? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) It is going to be on-going with the MRIF funding with that in mind and it will be on-going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that this is probably a tough question to answer for the minister and staff, depending on the federal election. Are there any initiatives underway in Ottawa, with your department and federal officials in terms of negotiating and lobbying for additional municipal infrastructure funds? I know last year you had that document prepared that you were using in Ottawa for lobbying purposes.

Is there anything happening in Ottawa that you can tell us about that we might bring some good news? Or perhaps it is all on hold until after the federal election? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, everything is pretty well on hold at this point because of the upcoming election. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I suppose that will be something that every one of us, as MLAs, ministers, when the candidates come knocking on our doors, we could sit down and talk about our infrastructure deficit in Nunavut, and quote them the numbers, \$650 million, and a few other scary numbers like that.

That is just a comment, Mr. Chairman, I still have some other questions in that area. Thank you.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have questions from J-15. On sewage lagoons and water treatment plants. I am pleased to see the funding for the sewage lagoon and the water treatment plant in my community.

On Tuesday I tabled some pictures that were taken inside the pump house in Kugluktuk. As the minister knows, the hamlet has been having some difficulty keeping one of the pumps in line.

I would like to ask the minister, or her staff, if the repairs to the pump house will be included as a part of the water treatment plant's project? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is correct. The CGS is aware that the pump house is the oldest component of the system when they do some repairs on it. A few minor projects that CGS has engaged some consulting to look at is minor repairs for 2005. Major upgrades need to be addressed as part of a larger problem to address in the salt water. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thanks, Minister. Can the minister tell me how her department is working with the hamlet of Kugluktuk to address this situation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would let Mr. Sitland respond.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Sitland.

Mr. Sitland: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On what I will call the smaller issue of the pump house, we are working with the community to address the problem with the pump house. We hope to have it at least fixed in the interim this year.

As the member likely knows, there's a larger problem with the water in Kugluktuk. In the springtime the water is very cloudy, and then in the fall, salt water comes and affects the quality. The water problem in Kugluktuk is likely our most challenging problem for water supply across Nunavut. A number of consultants have looked at different solutions, but so far, we haven't got it completely right. We are going to actively engage the community and elders in finding different solutions to those problems. It may be a re-location of the intake, for example, it may be a different source.

We are going to look at all of the information that we currently have and go back to the community and sit with them to find out what information that they have, and then move forward, and hopefully, implement a solution that is going to address all of the problems very soon.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Will the minister commit to ensuring that the long-term solution to the problems with the pump house, including an investigation on the intake pumps, and ensuring that they are secured properly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I will do that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Madame Minister. You'll note the time is getting close to 6:00 and we have to go down for supper in order that all the members have to go too and get ready. I would like to make a motion that we report progress. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please... All those in favour of the motion? Opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Thank you, Madame Minister and your staff, Mr. Sitland, Mr. Rich.

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: 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. To the motion? Seconder, Mr. Kilabuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meetings for tomorrow, Standing Committee Meeting on Government Operations and Accountability at 9:00 in the morning Tuktu Room, followed by a meeting of the regular caucus at 11:00 in the same room.

Orders of the day for November 22:

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 Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): We will reconvene November 22, 2005 at 1:30 in the afternoon. I look forward to seeing the Members of the Legislative Assembly at dinner. We will see you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:01*

