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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday November 22, 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 like to ask Mr. Akesuk to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Mr. Premier, ministers and the members. Going to the orders of the day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Mr. Akesuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 017 – 2(3): Public Housing in Nunavut

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to update the members of the Canada Nunavut Strategic Infrastructure Agreement for social housing. This \$40 million initiative, cost shared with Infrastructure Canada, has been extremely successful.

As you know we've committed to build 160 public housing units with these funds. I am pleased to advise you that we will build 170.

>>*Applause*

The Nunavut Housing Corporation is well on its way to completing this agreement within its three-year timeframe, with the majority of units built or being finished, as we speak. (interpretation) The last of these units, in Resolute Bay and Kugaaruk, will be built during next year's construction season.

Mr. Speaker, 170 units is a significant investment in our public housing portfolio, however, it is still not enough to meet the need.

We continue to advocate with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to engage our federal partners to implement the Ten Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

I expect to rise again in this house to update members on our progress in this effort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 018 – 2(3): Support for H&SS Projects

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and Social Services believes in partnerships. Today I would like to recognize the support of Members of the Legislative Assembly in helping the department be accountable to the people of Nunavut.

The opening of the Naja Isabelle Home in Chesterfield Inlet in June was all the better for the involvement of local MLA, Patterk Netser.

My personal tour of some of the boarding homes facilities used by Nunavummiut was enriched by the presence of:

- MLA Steve Mapsalak when I visited the Kivalliq Inuit centre in Winnipeg on October 26,
- MLAs Joe Allen and Steve Mapsalak when I visited Larga Edmonton on October 1,
- and Joe Enook, President of Baffin Larga was also present when I visited Baffin Larga on October 25.

Mr. Speaker, in October I toured the construction site of the new Qikiqtani Regional Hospital with Minister Levinia Brown and Iqaluit Centre MLA Hunter Tootoo.

I must say that this will be a very impressive facility and I would like to thank Minister Brown and her staff for their assistance with this facility. I also had the pleasure of formally opening the Kivalliq Health Centre and the Kitikmeot Health Centre recently.

The presence and support of the Premier, each region's MLAs, the Mayors and Inuit Organizations made these events extra special.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services believes in *piliriatiginni* - working together for a common cause. The staff work very hard at sharing information and responding to issues.

We also recognize the importance of keeping elected representatives informed about developments. MLAs, Community Health Committee members, and municipal leaders all bring different perspectives that enrich the process overall. This is in part of bringing care *closer to home* in our view.

On behalf of the Department I would like to give a sincere thank you to the Members of this House who have lent their time and expertise to helping us develop and deliver new and innovative social and health services for a large and diverse territory.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 019 – 2(3): 2006 Energy and Environment Calendar Art Contest

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the Department of Environment, in cooperation with Natural Resources Canada, has chosen artwork by Emmett Goose of Gjoa Haven for the Nunavut. winner of the Energy and the Environment Art Contest.

Emmet's artwork will be presented in the nationally circulated calendar *2006 Energy and Environment Calendar*. Approximately 135,000 calendars are distributed to households, schools, and businesses all across Canada.

Emmett is currently in grade 7 in Qiqirtaq High School in Gjoa Haven.

>>Applause

The theme of the contest was, "Taking Action on Climate Change Through Wise Energy Use." The intent of the calendar is to promote alternative energy, encourage energy efficiency, and raise public awareness to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Emmett's colourful artwork focused on wind power, waterpower, and reducing, and recycling for a healthier environment. His drawing reflects the potential of Nunavummiut to make a significant difference.

Thank you to all entrants of the contest. It is inspiring to see our young people taking action to raise awareness on wise energy use in Nunavut and Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 020 – 2(3): Certificate of Recognition Pangnirtung Waste Treatment Operator

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the Environmental Operators Certification Program has awarded Mr. Billy Qaqqasiq of Pangnirtung with a Certificate of Recognition.

>> *Applause*

This recognizes the hard work and dedication of Mr. Qaqqasiq in the operation of the Pangnirtung sewage treatment plant.

As the regulatory environment continues to change and evolve, our municipal infrastructure for drinking water and systems to treat our wastewater become more complex. With this, the training for our municipal employees becomes even more important.

Training of our municipal employees has been recognized as a high priority, not only in technical matters, but also in matters relating to finance, health and safety, and a variety of other areas. The Municipal Training Organization has a key role to play in providing a range of training options for hamlet employees.

Mr. Speaker I am pleased to state that Mr. Qaqqasiq's award stands as an example to other municipal employees. It highlights his accomplishment and the importance of the on going efforts of the Municipal Training Organization to train municipal employees.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 021 – 2(3): Summer Student Employment Equity Program

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform my colleagues of the success of the 2005 Summer Student Employment Equity Program. This summer, 150 students were hired in departments across Nunavut. Of those students hired, 79 percent were Nunavut Land Claims beneficiaries. Due to an increase in funding this year from \$700,000 to \$950,000, the program was able to hire 20 more students across the territory. This will provide more of Nunavut's future leaders with valuable and relevant work experience within the Government of Nunavut.

As in the past years, there was significant demand for GN summer student jobs and the Department of Human Resources received 384 applications for the program. The number of applications this summer was far more than the number of positions available.

This summer's program also reflected improvements based on the recommendations of a review conducted by key stakeholders. These changes focused on simplifying the program, changing eligibility requirements to best reflect the needs of Nunavut students, and creating an appeal process for applicants. Students were provided with jobs in a timelier manner and faced fewer obstacles and issues.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ministers' Statements. Minister Kilabuk.

Minister's Statement 022 – 2(3): Intelligent Community Awards

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform this House that on Friday, November 18, 2005, we learned that Nunavut, through the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, has been recognized by the Intelligent Community Forum, a non-profit think tank based in New York City which, each year, shortlists what they consider 21 of the smartest communities worldwide.

“The Smart 21 Communities of 2005” places Nunavut in a prestigious group that includes some of the world's best known cities, as well as the smallest towns. Ten countries from four continents are represented. From this group of 21, seven finalists will be chosen to compete for the “Intelligent Community of the Year” award. The final selection will be made in June 2006 in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, it is worth noting that last year's award winner was Mitaka, Japan. The Canadian finalist was Toronto. For the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation to obtain this level of recognition, in less than three years, is a remarkable accomplishment, which is now recognized worldwide.

The Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation has put in place a network that will improve economic opportunities in every community and now it has brought international recognition to Nunavut once again for its innovation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me as I offer my congratulations to the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation for their excellent work on behalf of all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Item 3, Member's Statements. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 047 – 2(3): Repulse Bay Power Outages

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the unacceptable power outages in the community of Repulse Bay.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents in Repulse Bay have told me that power outages have been occurring with too much frequency. The community wants to see this situation addressed. Mr. Speaker, many of residents told me that they have had household appliances like televisions, stereos, and home computers destroyed by surges in the power.

These surges often occur following a power outage when people think it is safe to carry on with their activities. Mr. Speaker, I have raised this issue before. I want to see steps taken to investigate and fix the problem.

Mr. Speaker, even now I had a call that they had to rotate the power from one side of the community to the other.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be asking questions on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 048 – 2(3): Childcare Programs

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to bring up an issue of childcare programs.

(interpretation) I have been told by my constituents that for childcare they're paid \$30 a day if they look after children during the night and during the day. That rate is applied for one day, during the night and during the day. And that \$25 they pay if their children are in childcare and yet they get paid \$30 for 24 hours and they have to get Enfalac and pampers.

For the maintenance of these children, a lot of times, those people who are looking after the children don't get a penny. Even though they are looking after them, they have to get up during the night because the baby needs feeding and they are not given any kind of compensation. They are providing blankets, a room ...

(interpretation ends) for the minister responsible for Government of Nunavut policy and childcare, should visit the Government of Nunavut policy to make amendments to meet the needs for adjustment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 049 – 2(3): Community Addictions Volunteers

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of problems associated with alcoholism that many communities in Nunavut face. I would like to recognize community volunteers who are working to bring Alcoholics Anonymous programs to communities.

Mr. Speaker, every Member in this House has seen the tragic effects of substance abuse on their communities. Domestic violence and absenteeism from work and school are some of the most obvious results of substance abuse.

Mr. Speaker, in my community of Kugluktuk there are options for people who want help. There are Alcoholics Anonymous or AA meetings. Mr. Speaker, these meetings are not ideal for everyone. The meetings do not allow couples to attend together as they are split into meetings for men and meetings for women. I believe that couples should have the opportunity to seek treatment together and support each other by attending meetings together.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that members of the community are trying to start having meetings that both men and women can attend at the same time. I would like to voice my support for these individuals.

Later today Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions on what the GN is doing on the issue of substance abuse.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 050 – 2(3): Vaccination of Dog Teams

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) I rise today to raise an issue of some urgency to some sled dog owners of the high arctic; the lack of stable Nunavut-wide vaccination program to protect our dogs from distemper.

One of the first duties of Nunavut's First Assembly was to choose an official territorial animal. Members proudly chose *qimmiq*, the Canadian Inuit dog, to be that symbol. Now the future of our territorial animal is being at risk due to government inaction.

Mr. Speaker, it is not just the symbol that is at stake. Outfitters organizing polar bear hunts for sport hunters bring in revenues of close to \$3 million each year to this territory with nearly half of that going to Inuit in our communities. These hunts can only take place by dog teams.

Mr. Speaker, that is not all. We have a number of athletes who hope to compete in the Arctic Winter Games dog mushing event in Alaska this coming March. They will only be able to do so if their dogs are vaccinated and have the certificates to prove it. Mr. Speaker, after the distemper outbreak of 1987, the government provided for the vaccination of dog-teams across the territory. Since then, the government seems to have taken this responsibility less seriously.

Mr. Speaker, there has been some confusion over which department is responsible for administering the sled dog vaccination program. Before division, the Department of

Renewable Resources handled it. Then it was transferred to the Department of Health and Social Services. Then the Department of Sustainable Development took it back, only to suspend the program.

Mr. Speaker, sled dogs are an integral part of our culture. Travelling by dog team is a traditional activity that Inuit are known for across the world. It is important that a healthy and vibrant tradition can be passed on to our children.

Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our territorial symbol, for the health and livelihood of our communities and for the future of our cultural heritage, I urge the government to address this issue at the soonest possible time.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions on this issue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 051 – 2(3): Congratulations to Billy Qaqqasiq

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate Billy Qaqqasiq, who was recognized as the Pangnirtung wastewater treatment operator. Mr. Speaker, for your information the people of Pangnirtung had a meeting in the community hall when the certificate of recognition was given to this individual.

One thing that I am very proud about is that Mr. Billy Qaqqasiq went to Vancouver to train to become a wastewater treatment operator and there was one other individual who was given the certificate of recognition and this other individual was from Africa.

They were given the Mobil prize and again, I'm very proud of Mr. Qaqqasiq for being the recipient of this certificate. He worked extremely hard and gave himself completely to complete his certification. I extend my congratulations to Mr. Qaqqasiq and his family.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 052 – 2(3): Thank First Air for Hospitality

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Member for Iqaluit East had his hand up first but I can understand that you want to save the best for the last so I will let him go after me.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to rise today and acknowledge and thank some officials that were here in town yesterday and invited us, the Members of the Legislative Assembly, to a meeting with them last evening at the Discovery. They are Bob Davies, Jim Ballingal, and Rick Lefebvre from First Air, thanks to them for welcoming all the Members here last night.

It is always a pleasure to see those individuals in the community and staying in touch closely with what is going on the territory. I would like to on behalf of all members that were in attendance last night thank them for their hospitality last night. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 053 – 2(3): Expanding Coverage on Cell Phones

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recently wrote to Northwestel about extending their cellular coverage or reach here in Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, cell phone coverage can be found all across Canada and in remote and rural areas of our country.

In our case here in Iqaluit coverage is limited to between 8 to 10 kilometres in optimum conditions. If cell phone coverage could be boosted to a 35-kilometre radius, for example, then more residents would have an opportunity for safe, secure, and cheaper communication access.

Last spring during a massive ground and air search we were not able to locate the missing people and they were not able to contact us. If cell phone coverage had been available there may have been an opportunity for the searchers to locate the lost persons earlier.

During boating season contact with the community in case of an emergency could be facilitated faster. Northwestel wrote me back and explained there were logistic as well as financial issues in regard to extending cell coverage as requested. I suggested to Northwestel in a follow-up letter that possible solutions may exist.

We welcome the Northwestel announcement of moving from the antiquated analog system to a digital system. We look forward to a positive response from Northwestel on expanding coverage and I will update the House when I receive the response to our latest correspondence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Going to Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Simailak.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like recognize the Mayor of Baker Lake, David Aqsarniq, who is here in Iqaluit today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 050 – 2(3): Staff Housing Impact on Employees and Savings

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation. On September 13, 2005, the Government of Nunavut announced the new GN Staff Housing Policy. The policy defines Cambridge Bay as an emerging market and over ten years it would phase out providing GN staff housing in my community.

My question for the minister is, can the Minister tell the House today how much the Government of Nunavut will save over time by not providing GN staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister Responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not exactly sure what the savings would be but it would be substantial. We use approximately \$34 million on GN staff housing. We usually get back \$10 million. The savings would be substantial and the monies that we'll have saved would be used to build new housing.

This information, I am sure, will be under surveillance by the communities that are going to be affected by this change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I was curious to know what the savings would be. Obviously they've implemented a policy, but they don't know what the real numbers will be.

Can the minister assure me that any savings that are a result of this new GN staff housing will be directed to new public housing and not be directed to other government priorities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will keep a close eye on the savings and re-direct them to the housing program throughout Nunavut. They will be used for housing Nunavut-wide. We are making this change so that we can increase the number of houses that will be going up into the communities and we will do all that we can to make sure that we use our money wisely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I hope that the minister is saying that he will provide that information update every year to us about what the savings will be and where the money will be directed into new public housing.

My supplementary question for the minister is, can the minister tell the House what impact the Government of Nunavut anticipates that this new Government of Nunavut Staff Housing Policy will have on the recruitment and retention of doctors, teachers, and nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the gallery Glen. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that was a very good question from Mr. Peterson...

>>*Laughter*

...I've never seen applause like that before. (interpretation) We'll make sure that this program... well, could the member rephrase his question because I couldn't hear it properly with all the clapping going on. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): If the member would rephrase his question. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's the first time that anyone's clapped for one of my questions.

>>*Laughter*

I couldn't hear myself talk either. My question for the minister was, could he tell us what impact the Government of Nunavut anticipates that this new staff housing policy will

have on the recruitment and retention of doctors, teachers and nurses across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not going to find out what kinds of effects it will have at the beginning of this change, but I'm not exactly sure how, what kind of change it will have on the wait increases for one, two, and three bedrooms.

But, we will monitor the process and once we have an indication of what change it has and what affect it has, then the government will have a better understanding of what kind of effect it has on the doctors, nurses, and teachers. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answer. I'd feel a lot more comfortable for this Government of Nunavut Staff Housing Policy if the Government of Nunavut knew before they permitted the policy what the impacts were going to be rather than implementing a policy and finding out three to five years later that it was a bad policy to implement.

My final supplementary for the minister Mr. Speaker, is, can the minister tell the House if the new Government of Nunavut Staff Housing Policy applies equally and fairly to all Government of Nunavut employees, including employees working for our crown agencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Everything will be included and we will have to work closely with the crown agencies, but the way I see it, this change to the housing policy... we'll probably see something positive in the future.

We'll be able to bring more benefits to the people of Nunavut and to the Government of Nunavut employees. I could also inform the member about what kind of effect it will have on the crown agencies.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Center, Mr. Tootoo.

Oral Question 051 – 2(3): Environmental Review Timetable

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the same minister in his capacity as the Minister of Environment.

Mr. Speaker, last Thursday I asked the minister some questions in regards to review periods. My last supplementary question, last Thursday I asked him if any of these

reviews had been ordered to have been done in less than the 60 to 90 days that he had indicated they were required to be done by law.

He didn't answer that, so I would ask him again today if any of those reviews have been ordered to have been done in less than the 60 to 90 days that he had indicated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, we will have to review these but we will try to make sure that we review them within the 60 to 90 days.

We would like to be able to follow the rules of the law because these laws are very important and we would not like to break the law. As ministers, we would like to be able to follow the rules and we will be trying to keep up with the 60 to 90 day review. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my response in this; the minister indicated they are doing their very best to try and not break the law and do their reviews within the 60 to 90 days which makes it seem like some of them have been taking longer.

But my question was, have any of these reviews been ordered to be done in less than 60 to 90 days, yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have to do the review on these. The review system that we have...and we would like to be able to abide by the legislation as a government. Like I said we will try our best to do the reviews within those time periods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Your first supplementary. I'm sorry. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I liked it better when you said first supplementary. If I may state the same question, the minister still hasn't answered other than he has already indicated that they tried to work within the law, if one would read between the lines, he had indicated that they don't. But my question was, have any of these reviews been ordered to be done in less than the 60 to 90 days? How hard is that to answer, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like I said earlier, our department is looking into the documents that were given to us. It's going to determine how long it's going to take us to look through the environmental impact statements that have been given to us by the mining companies.

I believe that we could make sure that we meet the law at 60 to 90 days, that's what we are going to do. If it takes 60 to 90 days, we will do 60 to 90 days, and if the papers were well done, we can make the decision, but we are going to make sure that we go to the regulations that we have to meet as a department.

So, again, as a government, as a Department of Environment, we are going to do our very best to make sure the environmental impact statements are well done and that we have put forward some comments if we have any concerns.

Again, if we could do it in less than 60 to 90 days, that's something that we could look into. But then again, I have not been asked to do less than 60 days yet, if I am, we are going to do our very best, but then again, we are going to make sure that we follow the procedures or the regulations that are applicable to Environment. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think in all of that, we finally got an answer, we have not been asked to do that, but it's my understanding that he had indicated; was there one review that was ordered to be done in less time, and say ask if it was ordered to be done in less time, and I'm just wondering if he could respond to that; if the department had been ordered to do this review within a 30-day period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think 30 days is a fair number. If it's going to take 30 days, it's going to take my staff to review the work for 24 hours, seven days a week to look into the binders that were given there. But then again, we're going to make sure that we work closely with the water board, review board, or planning commission to make sure that we meet the criteria that's been given by the board.

So, we are going to do our very best and, as a territory, and a lot of development going on in our territory, we want to be the champions of the environmental protection. So, we're doing our best to make sure that we meet the criteria, and also to make sure that we review all the environmental impact statements as carefully as we can. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Oral Question 052 – 2(3): Repulse Bay Power Outage Update

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke about the unacceptable number of power outages in the community of Repulse Bay. They have experienced power outages again just recently. And, it's not strong enough so that the community can have full power, so they have been alternating.

Can the Minister tell me what has been done to date to investigate and fix this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. Earlier this morning a feeder line went down in the community of Repulse Bay.

Mr. Speaker, because the feeder line went down, there was a power outage. We tried to get a line crew in from Rankin Inlet but the weather is down in Rankin Inlet, and indeed the airport was closed down, so we were not successful.

We have arranged now for a charter to leave Iqaluit with a line crew and a repair crew to ascertain exactly what is occurring with the feeder. That crew will be in the community shortly; will ascertain what needs to be done to rectify the problem and at the same time, look at some of the issues while they're in there, on the concern that has been raised about increased power outages. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you can count how many times we've had power outages in Repulse Bay, I think we would be the community with the most power outages. That being the case, there has been a loss of home appliances. What would the corporation do in regards to the damage done to those appliances? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like almost any utility across the country, there are instances where power surges on line and so on, cause shortages and malfunctions to electronic equipment, whether they be radios or TV's and so on.

On a case by case basis, the precedent has been that the utility is usually not liable for those types of losses but again, it depends on a case by case situation and so, if there are issues that have arisen based on concerns with, usually there are surges, or power surges that have occurred on the line, then that's something that we have to look at.

But, generally speaking, Mr. Speaker, in cases across the country, power corporations in general are not liable for those kinds of losses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response. What about the people that own their own homes and have a power outage and the appliances that are damaged cost a lot of money for those homeowners.

Would the homeowners be able to get compensation from the Power Corporation and can they get a discount of some sort in their power bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from time to time this question has been raised across Nunavut not just specifically by power outages, by equipment of the power plant, but there could be other atmospheric situations that occur which cause power outages and so on.

As I said earlier Mr. Speaker, in most cases the Corporation is not liable for those types of losses and we do look at it by a case-by-case basis to ascertain what has occurred. So I would suggest for the Member when the crew gets into Repulse over the next several hours and makes the necessary repairs that there may be an opportunity to look at what losses occurred. In the meantime, if the Member can get some information from his constituents on what losses they have suffered in Repulse then I'll have an opportunity with the Power Corporation to look at it. Again in most cases the Corporation is not liable for those types of losses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response. Can the Minister report back to me on what sort of problems cause the power outage, because the generator is not that old and I don't feel it had anything to do with that generator because it is quite new. Can the Minister get back to me on the problems that we have been experiencing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member has said earlier in the House there seems to be some history of power outages recently in Repulse. So when the crew get into the community they will be looking at the factors that caused not only the current situation with the feeder line but the ongoing issue with the engine or the generators that the Member is referring to.

Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to update the Member in a formal letter if the House is not in session at that time or if the House is in session. I will speak with the Member and update him on what has occurred and what we will be able to do to rectify the problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 053 – 2(3): Funding for Community Based Programs

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

Can the Minister tell me what funds are available through the department for a community-based program that addresses addictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in terms of providing an exact figure on contributions to the community I don't have that information available but I will present that tomorrow. But one of the things that I would like to say is that there are a number of initiatives within the department related to addressing addictions through the mental health division and in each community.

Mental health services again depends on the addiction and the number that refers to. So perhaps he can clarify that point in his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Perhaps if you can re-phrase your question, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the minister is, can the minister tell me what funds are available through the department for community-based programs that address addictions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Overnight I will review the main estimates and get that exact figure for the member. I don't have that information available in front of me. To assist in that process I would also like the member to clarify what type of addiction that the member refers to, because there are different types of addictions; addictions to alcohol; addictions to narcotics; and addictions to other things. So if the member can assist me by specifying that area it would be helpful in getting that information for him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I made a statement on alcoholics anonymous, AA meetings. My supplementary question is, can the minister tell me what resources her department offers to volunteer organizations to deal with addictions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of mental health services offered to all Nunavummiut through the health centres, or social workers, or the mental health programs and addictions workers. There are also, in some communities, alcohol and drug counsellors that provide assistance to volunteer groups, such as the AA group that he makes reference to. Some of these committees are volunteers, but there is assistance from the Department of Health, through the mental health division, to provide assistance to committees of this nature.

I can provide again, tomorrow, the exact number to the member related to funding available to alcohol addiction type programs and services in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 054 – 2(3): \$500,00 Funding for Emergency Measures

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Search and Rescue organizations. From the minister responsible last year, in the supplementary main estimates, the minister agreed that this \$500,000 was to be used for community search and rescue teams. This funding would be used for the search and rescue's priorities.

I would like to ask the minister how much funding has been utilized from this \$500,000 that was allotted to search and rescue organizations, because they go through difficult, challenging periods during the winter. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my colleague is right. The Legislative Assembly approved \$500,000 to be allotted for search and rescue teams in communities that we have expended. They are going to hold their annual meeting in December in Iqaluit and it is going to cost money for that meeting. Also \$320,000 will be used for search and rescue GPS, binoculars, first aid, HF radios; they will start using that at the community level.

The expenditures will be reported after the meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My supplemental question,; this \$500,000, it states that this was allocated to be used for the communities' priorities. Will they be using funding from that? We had agreed to it for different reasons.

I would like to hear from the minister about that project she talked about, perhaps if she can table the project information in regards to what has been expended because we need to support the community search and rescue organizations. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank my colleague. Yes, I will be able to do so.

I will be able to table the reports and also, I forgot to mention that \$60 thousand is going to be utilized for additional training programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister would be really appreciated if this went ahead.

My supplemental question: did you notify all the communities that this funding was available? Did you ask the communities? Did you write informational letters to the communities that this \$500 thousand funding is available? I was wondering if she could respond to that?

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into his question, from my deputy minister and my officials and I will get back to the member with the information. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 055 – 2(3): Legal Aid Services to the Communities

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Justice. Earlier this month, our minister met with his federal counterparts, and also the territorial ones at their annual conference.

One of the issues that they discussed was the need for more funding for legal aid from Ottawa. My question is this Mr. Speaker: what steps is the department taking to improve the delivery of legal aid services in our territory, in our communities? Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Justice, Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last year, we've done a confidential review with the legal services board on the needs for funding, an external review.

And we've been working with the legal services board to find ways to improve the legal services being delivered throughout the territory. We've also worked on training Inuit lawyers. We saw graduates this past spring. So, we're trying to find ways to provide better services to the people of Nunavut.

So those are some of the steps that we are taking in this area. But, I must say that we are continuing to work with our provincial and territorial colleagues to increase funding in this area because it's always an issue that drains a lot of resources within the department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in our communities, some individuals are arrested.

When they are arrested, are they told that they have the right to call legal aid, or a lawyer? Are these individuals that are jailed, are they given their rights? Thank you.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, lawyers have to be made available and the prosecution has to be notified at all times.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The parents who want to see their family member who is incarcerated, sometimes they are denied by the RCMP when they want to go see their family member that is incarcerated. They're not even allowed to make a phone call to the incarcerated individual.

Perhaps when that occurs they are violating the human rights of this individual. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sometimes during the investigation they cannot talk to anybody outside and nobody can visit them when they are in an investigation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are the rights of the individuals posted at the local detachments in our local communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was an issue where one of the RCMP Officers was confused and he was called and told about those rights because some individuals have rights to see their family members. I know when this occurred it was rectified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 056 – 2(3): Informing Communities when Deferring Court Cases

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

Along the same line as the question that was just posed, in my constituency many people are concerned about the individuals that have to go to court and are awaiting their court date because many court dates are deferred. When the court date actually occurs they don't even know whether they should say guilty or not guilty.

Is it applicable when court dates are deferred that the community should be notified ahead of time?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for Justice, Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this has been a difficult and challenging issue when we run into problems and we have to abide by the Acts. They have to ensure prosecutors and defense lawyers and the judge all know their procedures.

That is why this is the first time that we are sorry that at times they don't follow them. But we had provided additional funding to the judges court circuits so that they could travel to the communities and we have made the funding available and increased the funding annually so we can have less problems. So these are the issues that we have had problems with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had asked a question in regards not just in the view of people who are awaiting their court dates but also the other people.

Can the department explain to the communities why they defer court dates and what kinds of benefits occur from that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are various cases that are deferred and sometimes the lawyers don't show up to the court cases and so there are various reasons why they defer the court cases. So I cannot respond to you because they are done on a case-by-case basis. They have to abide by the procedures and rules so we try to allocate more funding so that we can have fewer problems. I hear the Member's concerns.

In review of last year the court circuit traveled around 40 times per year. So next year, they are planning to go to the communities 55 times. So the number of visits to the communities by the court circuit is going to increase to expedite the process. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is, "Should the communities be informed as to why they defer court in the communities?" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can ask the people who are responsible to have clear communication with the community as to what their reasoning is in deferring cases, because a lot of people are affected by that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Yes, the minister just informed me that they have increased the circuits to the communities, even though the cases might be deferred. Once they hear that the court is coming into the community and then they go to the court, appear before the court, are told that their cases are deferred, and they are not informed as to what will be happening. For those clients, can this be fixed where it doesn't become a problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are usually a number of reasons for deferring cases. Some of them we can deal with and are willing to deal with them. I can work with my colleague, the Minister of CLEY, as to how they can provide more assistance to the people who have to appear before the court because we have to use our customs and traditions in the practice of our court system. We might have

to make amendments through the federal Acts and we need their assistance while we are working on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 057 – 2(3): Vaccination of Sled Dogs

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the sled dog vaccination program. Perhaps this now would be the Minister of Environment.

Can the minister describe what program is in place to ensure that sled dogs are appropriately vaccinated against rabies and distemper? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I respond to that question, I need to clarify that under the *Environmental Health Protection Act*, the Department of Health is responsible for the vaccination of dogs. So, through the environmental health officers, the department organizes dog vaccination, in partnership with the local by-law officers, as well as the RCMP in most communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for answering this question. Can the minister clarify, for this House, how the sled dog vaccination program will be coordinated this year and in the future? (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I understand from the Environmental Health Division is that it's an annual event that is organized through the environmental health officers.

Perhaps I can share with the member when the communities will be visited by the environmental health officer or where there is training offered at the community level, where vaccinations can be delivered outside of Health, perhaps through the wildlife offices, I can provide that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister commit to me that sled dog owners across Nunavut will receive distemper and rabies vaccinations for their dogs in time for the upcoming Arctic Winter Games? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to the member to have dog vaccinations completed prior to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 058 – 2(3): Improving Airline Services in the Kivalliq Region

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister Responsible for Economic Development.

Last year I think I brought this up a couple of times in this House, and we were told that this was going to be looked into about the constant problems with airline transportation that carry passengers and their effects.

So, for this year, the Keewatin residents, a lot of times the people who are not given an opportunity and a lot of time they go to Kuujuaq. As Inuit we are not treated first class at all.

We're treated like second-class citizens. Even if we have first class tickets they're treated just the same way. I want to ask the minister again, because I haven't heard anything further on this, and he agreed that this would be looked into. What is the status of this now, or have they heard anything that the airlines over there need to make improvements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Responsible for Transportation, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to apologise to my colleague in regards to the airlines, if this had been a request through my department.

But I'd like to tell my colleague that even though they have certain expectations, but if this is an ongoing problem, then those communities can be assisted through our department, to those carriers.

And, the expectations of those people and the communities, and I will get more information from my staff, and get back to him. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Especially people who go on medical travel, sometimes they even go on the airplane and then they're taken off the plane again because it's too full.

According to the airline's regulations, passengers are allowed two pieces of luggage and there are no questions asked, and another carry on that will fit under the seat. But that is not the case.

What happens is you can only have one piece of luggage, only if they have room on board. I would like to ask the minister, I am not blaming the airlines; I'm not trying to put down the airline companies in the Keewatin.

But, the regulations and policies, and what you said that you were going to do, I want you to remind them again. If you have written a letter to them, I wonder if I can get a copy of that letter so those different organizations will get a copy, and this will help us a lot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 059 – 2(3): Crown Corporation Housing Policy

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Energy and Education.

And, Mr. Speaker, maybe it'll answer my colleague from Cambridge Bay's question earlier that the Minister of Housing couldn't. In a recent letter to me the Minister revealed that the Qulliq Energy Corporation runs its own staff-housing program for its employees.

It appears that the recently announced staff housing policy does not apply to the Qulliq Energy Corporation even though the Government of Nunavut has gone on the public record saying that policies like this should apply to both departments and crown agencies.

I am pretty sure that the Minister of Housing was cc'd on that letter. My question is this Mr. Speaker. Why does the Minister support one policy for his Qulliq Energy staff but a different policy for the teachers for the Department of Education, which is also his responsibility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member raises two very important points. One being the regulatory body that is known as a crown corporation and indeed where crown corporations generate their own revenue stream and have the accountability of an independent board that governs and so on.

They have the opportunity under Canadian corporate law to direct their own policies and so on. In the case of the Government of Nunavut where we actually have employees of the Government of Nunavut under the Public Service Act, then Mr. Speaker, the policies of the government, it would lay and be appropriate that those employees would fall under those rules and regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the Minister could say that the crown corporation does have a lot of money to be able to spend its own money on housing and that is why that they are in a big deficit and we are always bailing them out.

Mr. Speaker, my question is this. Can the Minister explain how this housing policy for his staff, the new staff housing policy will help him as the Minister of Education recruit and retain qualified teaching professionals throughout the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I might be mistaken, I believe the question was on the Nunavut Power Corporation staff housing and not in regards to the government's staff housing policy, which the Member had the opportunity to question the Minister of housing on earlier.

I can say, as with all housing in the Government of Nunavut and with its agencies and boards, the power corporation is no different and indeed rents are also increasing within the power corporation's housing stock. I do want to clarify Mr. Tootoo's earlier assumption when he said about the oodles of money or the amount of cash flow being delivered by the power corporation.

As we are all aware that the turn around of over \$5 million from the last projections is an astounding turn around. Something that the Members of the House and indeed the people of Nunavut should be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister is hearing things, but I never said oodles but he talks about this big turn around. The corporation as far as I can recall is still in a deficit.

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister, and my question wasn't for the Minister of the Power Corporation, I was asking him, as members recall, how you can support one policy for one ministry on and a different policy with his other hat on.

So I guess my question, since we know what the staff housing policy is for the Government of Nunavut, will the minister reveal to this House and the public what the

housing benefits the Qulliq Energy Corporation receives in contrast to the new Government of Nunavut Staff Housing Policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think a couple of points need to be brought up. First of all, housing is not a rite of passage, or rite of an employee, indeed, housing is not a negotiable issue because it not part, and does not perform part of the collective agreement.

The housing stock, which is controlled and run under the auspices of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, falls under the guidelines of the Government of Nunavut. As I indicated before, indeed the housing stock that is controlled by the independent corporate body, known as the Power Corporation, runs under the rules and regulations of the Power Corporation. Indeed, in the writing, in the letters that Mr. Tootoo had sent me, I tried to outline those policies and concerns.

I can say for the record Mr. Speaker, that the power corporation rules and regulations in there for staff housing, including allocations, for this fiscal period include rental increases and will continue to include rental increases, similar to what we have seen in other jurisdictions when we look at rental accommodation for staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From that response I can take it that the minister is not willing to provide that information to the House. They want to keep us in the dark.

My next question on that I guess, is if they're exempt from the staff housing policy, and this government has said that it wants to streamline all of its policies for all the crown agencies, are there any other policies that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is exempt from? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Canadian Corporation Business Act, and other federal regulations and legislation, there may be instances where a crown corporation would be exempt from different types of applicable legislation. Indeed Mr. Speaker, they may be actually indemnified for different types of legislation depending what the legislative act would say.

The quick answer would be Mr. Speaker, that when you look at a corporate body, the legislation, the rules governing that corporate body are a little bit different from what we see in a public government and the rules and regulations that the Government of Nunavut, the ministers of the government, and indeed, the MLAs would have to follow. That is no different Mr. Speaker, than any other jurisdiction in the country, and certainly is no different than any other crown agency, board, or corporate body.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 060 – 2(3): Update on Influenza Epidemic

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Every year about this time the Department of Health and Social Services organizes flu vaccinations. There was a news release last month in that respect. The past year's priority was to organize flu shots to help protect the more vulnerable residents of Nunavut, such as elders and children.

This year they are offering universal coverage. The flu shot is available to everyone at the public health centre. My question for the minister; can the minister provide an update on the status of this year's influenza vaccination program and clarify how effective it will be in the case of a flu epidemic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct that every year we launch the flu shot season. The department launched that on October 17 and in the past that program was only made available to vulnerable individuals, as well as our seniors.

This year we've opened that option to every citizen in Nunavut. In terms of the numbers of how effective it will be in the number of people that actually have flu shots, we'll have a better idea after this year is over and the winter is over.

So I'm hoping that Nunavummiut will take the opportunity to get their flu shots and, once this year is over we'll have an idea as to how many people actually went and got their flu shots and the number of people that were treated for flu-like symptoms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for that good answer.

I'm hearing reports from back home that some people who have had their flu shots are in fact coming down with the flu, so it would be interesting to hear what the results are.

Mr. Speaker, my supplementary to the minister. A number of stories in the news have been raised in respect of a very serious Asian flu that is transmitted through birds to humans. I was watching that on TV last night actually.

Recently, there have been stories of this bird flu reaching Canada. Can the minister update this House on what measures are in place to combat bird flu if it is identified in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is aware of the potential the influenza pandemic may cause in Nunavut.

We have been working with partners in other agencies in southern Canada related to the issue. Nunavut also has purchased and stockpiled antiviral drugs and they are on stock in Nunavut, in partnership, again, with the Federal Government.

In addition, the department has taken several other steps to ensure that Nunavummiut are protected from public health threats, including the pandemic influenza. We're conducting ongoing disease surveillance to ensure early identification.

We're also participating on the Nunavut Territorial Emergency Response Committee. We are a part of the committee to ensure that all aspects of planning related to this are included in responding to an issue of this nature, should it be in Nunavut.

And, we are regularly participating in national emergency planning committees, such as the Canadian Pandemic Influenza Committee. So, there is work under way and the department participates regularly with the national groups to respond to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for her detailed answer.

Mr. Speaker, we know that influenza and the bird flu are only two types of viruses that can infect a population and cause an epidemic.

Can the minister clarify her answer and tell us what kinds of emergency response plans are in place should a community or region in Nunavut be hit by a new pandemic virus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department participates, as I mentioned, in a committee that responds to emergency issues; one being something of this nature.

Depending on the seriousness of the issue, or where it's at, or the number cases found in Nunavut, then the planning would be according to that. Right now, we don't have the

situation, luckily, in Nunavut, but we are a part of a group that would be involved in responding to planning, how to address the issue.

But, on our part as well, we have purchased the... we have stockpiled the antiviral drugs and are part of a working group to try and deal with the situation should it arise. To respond, exactly what steps are in place to respond to an issue in a community, that I don't have, but I can reassure the member that we are a part of a group, a team that is involved in the planning related to a situation like this should it arise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information.

Mr. Speaker, as everybody knows, if a pandemic hit Nunavut, we very likely wouldn't have the resources, people, or facilities, to deal with the pandemic, so it's very important that we plan ahead for these things.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut's *Public Health Act*; the legislation that grants authority to individuals such as the Chief Medical Health Officer to deal with pandemics, or other such health crises in Nunavut, is extremely outdated. Can the minister provide an update on what progress has been made to introduce a new *Public Health Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the legislation the department is looking at is updating the *Public Health Act* for Nunavut. We initiated the process of reviewing that and plans are underway to consult and discuss what improvements or updating the *Public Health Act* requires for Nunavut. We expect the consultation to be started some time this year.

We had tried to advertise a position to take the coordinating role for the review of the *Public Health Act*. We were not successful in finding a candidate to take on that responsibility and we are going back to the drawing board as trying to get the resource into and lead to coordinate the efforts of reviewing the *Public Health Act*.

With that, the department also requested an extension on the timeline to complete the review of the *Public Health Act* by another year. It's a very outdated *Public Health Act* and there's going to be a lot of work involved in consulting with Nunavummiut on updating that, as well as the members.

So, currently, the process has been initiated and we expect it will be completed within the next year and a half. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): I would like to return to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Speaker (interpretation): The member would like to go back to Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Go ahead, Mr. Simailak.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to welcome an individual from Baker Lake, who has been there for many years. He has worked extremely hard and was a representative of Baker Lake, Mr. Glenn McLean.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery, Mr. McLean. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Mr. McLean. It's a little known fact that Mr. McLean used to live in Cambridge Bay. He was a former hockey star in Cambridge Bay, him and I represented Cambridge Bay at the Arctic Winter Games trials one year in Yellowknife. It was a very high-scoring series. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. And for your information, you are only allowed to recognize an individual one time. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 006 – 2(3): Status of Casual Employment

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for the Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Human Resources; the status of casual employment.

- 1) Expressing the data in the same format as that which was provided in Return to Written Question 002 – 2(2), what is the status of the Government of Nunavut's casual employment in its departments and Crown agencies as of September 30, 2005?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Kilabuk.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 024 – 2(3): GN Department of Economic Development and Transportation Ministerial Meetings Report

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document. Government of Nunavut, Department of Economic Development and Transportation Ministerial Meetings Report for Northern Development Ministers Forum in The Pas, Manitoba September 14-16, 2005.

Energy Ministers' Conference in St. Andrews, New Brunswick on September 18-20, 2005. And Council of Ministers responsible for Transportation in Calgary, Alberta September 20, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Ms. Brown.

Tabled Document 025 – 2(3): Third Annual Report Municipal Training Organization October 2005

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to Table the following document. Third Annual Report, Municipal Training Organization, October 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Mr. Picco.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 001 – 2(3): Federal-Territorial Negotiations on Early Learning and Childcare – Notice

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give Notice that on Thursday November 24 I will move the following Motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Quttikuk, that this House urges the Federal Minister of Social Development, the Honourable Ken Dryden, to work with the Members of Parliament for Nunavut, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon to modify the funding formula for the early learning and child care initiative as it applies to the three northern territories so as to provide base funding and per capita funding in order to adequately meet the needs of our children.

And further, I move that this House urges the federal minister to recognize that Inuit are entitled to the same benefits as other aboriginal Canadians throughout Canada and to reconsider his decision to exclude Inuit from the recently announced \$100 million federal program for aboriginal Canadians.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First reading of bills. Item 18. Second reading of bills.

Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters, Bill 1 Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-2007, with Mr. Arreak in the chair.

We will take a break for 30-minutes.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:21 and resumed at 15:59*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak) (interpretation): We can resume our meeting. We are now in Committee of the Whole. During the Committee of the Whole we were dealing with Bill 1. (interpretation ends) Mr. Evyagotailak.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Madam Minister would you like to go to the witness table with your officials? Thank you and welcome Madam Minister and your officials. For our information Madam Minister if you could introduce your officials.

Bill 1 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-07 – Community and Government Services – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is Tom Rich, my Deputy Minister, and to my right David Akoak, Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Welcome Mr. Rich and Mr. Akoak. We are page J-14 and 15. Any questions on that page. I have no names on my list. J-15.

(interpretation ends) Tangible assets Kitikmeot region. Total Kitikmeot J-15. Total Kitikmeot region \$3,816,000, Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): The other page.

Chairman (interpretation): Yes, Kitikmeot is agreed. J-15. \$11,904,000, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is very important that the storage and distribution to the communities...

Chairman (interpretation): Can you hold on a second please? We are not on J-16 yet. We are under total tangible assets \$11,904,000. Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): We are J-16. Community and Government Services, Petroleum Products under J-17. Tangible assets. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes. What I wanted to say was I would like to ask the Minister, in regards to the delivery to the Kivalliq region, I think the fuel contracts are extended already. I would like to ask the Minister or the Deputy Minister when this fuel contract will be tendered once the contract has lapsed.

Chairman (interpretation): Madam Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different re-supply ships that come to Qikiqtaaluk bringing fuel supply. There are three of them. The contract for re-supply was renewed for another two years.

(interpretation ends) The renewal was conditional on Woodward's agreeing to implement equipment safety and environmental procedures based on the information received from Transport Canada.

It was also conditional on scheduling improvements to reduce late seasonal shipment. Woodward's has fully complied with both conditions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): We understood last year that the contract for re-supply had an option whether to be extended for one year. But now we understand that it's a two-year extension. When was it renewed? And, which region was that re-supply ship?

Is it one, or is it more?

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

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

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract renewal was done late last spring and it was renewed for two years.

The basis for the renewal was the fact that it offered significant economic advantage to the territory to do that. There was a no price increase clause in the renewal, which allowed us to continue with the same price for the contract, even though the fuel operating costs are increasing every year; the costs of operating the ships are increasing every year.

So, we realized a significant savings over the two-year renewal period of the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): One of the questions that I asked, I did not get a response for. Is it for one region, or is it for the whole Eastern Arctic, Hudson Bay re-supply?

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract was renewed for the Kivalliq and Kitikmeot Regions. The contract, I'm sorry, let me try that again, was for the Kivalliq and Baffin Region.

The contract for the Kitikmeot Region is done as part of the contract arrangements through the Northwest Territories and we join with the Northwest Territories on their contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the response. Is this contract a single contract, delivery contract for both regions? It's not a separate contract for Kivalliq or Baffin? Is that what I understood? Thank you.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's a single contract for both regions.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The deputy minister indicated to this House that there were significant savings. Is it also profitable for the company, in view of the fact that you have ensured the Government of Nunavut at least gets significant savings from the joint arrangements? Thank you.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can only assume the company feels it's profitable, that's why they entered into the contract to provide the service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. With respect to the consultation that was carried out in the region, I believe, my understanding was for dry cargo. Was that also a fuel contract? Was that also involved? Or, was it just a dry cargo consultation of the interest groups, focus groups, at least the company that does business with the shipping companies.

Maybe the deputy minister can clarify that for us. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We're on page Petroleum Products Division. Madame Minister.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have heard from Nunavummiut, and I have heard from Nunavummiut that in regards to contracts for re-supply, and I would like to get my deputy minister to talk about the petroleum products contract and the dry goods contract.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The consultation that was carried out was for the dry goods contract only and not for the fuel contract. The dry goods contract was not renewed and it will be tendered later this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: I appreciate the clarification; that's important to this House. I have a further question with respect to the delivery of the petroleum products.

In view of the energy prices that are increasing lavishly, I believe they have yet to be fully impacted on Nunavut, we likely will next year. Is there a likelihood that the fuel contract would remain continually separate from the dry cargo historic arrangement that used to be part of the Kivalliq Region?

You indicated that there was significant savings, and if that is the case, that same rate is important for the people of Nunavut. We also see the significant possibility of increased costs next year with the cost of energy, at least it will come up on Nunavummiut when new purchases for fuel are bought some time next year.

So I would like the minister or deputy minister to explain that the department will likely recommend that the fuel contracts remain independent from dry cargo. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Companies seem to prefer separate contracts; cargo and not fuel contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: I certainly understand; there's an independent fuel company like Woodward that fully enjoys that benefit, but historically, that was not the case with the Kivalliq Region.

Mr. Chairman, if you would understand that there was a long-term arrangement before the delivery of dry cargo along with the fuel contract. So, are we seeing now, in view of the fuel energy costs going up, that we will likely never see...unless there's some cheap way to come about having a joint contract with dry cargo and fuel in the foreseeable future? Am I correct in that kind of a strategy? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask my deputy minister to answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's obviously difficult to speculate too far in the future, but I can say that we have had, over the last year or year and a half, discussions with a number of shipping companies, three in number that I can think of at least, and all have indicated that the particular direction they see is volume shipping, and as a result of volume shipping for both dry cargo and fuel cargo, they see the best economic scale coming from having separate contracts; you are going to use larger ships, which reduces your costs for both dry cargo and fuel cargo.

Interestingly enough, even in the Western Arctic, on the delivery there, which is still combined dry and fuel, this year there was an experiment to try a separate fuel and this went around Alaska by NTCL because, again, looking at the volume in a larger ship that could deliver to the Western Arctic.

So, based on that, I would say it's fair to say probably, at least in the short to medium-term, a separation of the two. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: That's important information for the Assembly. Obviously, there might be some optional consideration in the long run. With respect to petroleum delivery to communities, the government still has a significant role I think in purchasing of petroleum products from the markets in southern Canada.

Has there ever been any discussion with the petroleum companies, whether or not they should take responsibility for delivery, itself, rather than the government entering into separate delivery contracts with fuel tankers? Any thought to that kind of a plan?

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I will have my deputy answer that. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have the advantage that the minister hasn't had over the past two years having some discussions with shipping companies on this. It's my understanding that most of the major oil companies have got out of the direct shipping business. They are no longer, by and large, interested in that. They do some on a small measure, but essentially they've separated their operations now, so that their primary operation is the refining of fuel and not delivery. They are not particularly interested in having joint contracts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is about it.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. We are on page J-17. (interpretation ends) Petroleum Products. Tangible Asset. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and her officials for joining us again here today. I have a few questions here pertaining to the Kitikmeot. The reason I ask about the Kitikmeot is because I don't see any reference to Kitikmeot tank farms. I thought I'd ask these questions just to clarify a few things.

Can the minister explain to me how her department determines if a community tank farm is up to capacity for a community? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In each region, the regional staff visit in consultation with the communities. It's an ongoing process and issue because a lot of these tank farms are getting smaller for some communities, where they need to be larger.

It has been told to me that it's in the capital plans, when we look at the capital plans we see there which ones are a priority in the communities of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. In Cambridge Bay the tank farm there is owned by a private company so how would you ensure that their tank farm is up to capacity for the community? The reason I asked that question is because the hamlet council told me that they felt that the community needed a larger tank farm for the community.

I am just wondering how you interact with the private sector, a private sector that owns the tank farm in terms of ensuring that the community's future needs are met? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I forgot that Cambridge Bay is slightly different from other Nunavut communities. It is true Nuna Kit, I believe, privately owns the tank farms there. We meet with the company and we cooperate with each other. It is their responsibility to ensure that its capacity there is adequate. We will continue to work with that private company to ensure your needs are met. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Could I ask the minister to ensure or commit that her department is interacting or meeting with the Hamlet Council, they are talking to the private sector to make sure that our needs are met so that I can take that to the mayor and council when I get home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be possible and I will speak with my staff in the regional office and meet with the municipality and meet with the private company there in dealing with the tank farm. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that commitment. On the same lines of my earlier question about capacity. How does the department determine if a tank farm in a community is up to code compliance. What is involved in that process to ensure that they are complying with your territorial and federal regulations and codes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Normally they do annual checks and at this present time they are doing a study that will be done in the winter months. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell me if all the Kitikmeot communities' tank farms are being reviewed to ensure that they are up to capacity and up to code compliance, looking forward to the next 5-10-15 years.

The reason I ask that question, Ms. Minister, is the communities are getting larger and I haven't seen any tank farm work occurring in the Kitikmeot for several years that I am aware of. We've seen it elsewhere, but not in the Kitikmeot. I am wondering if the Minister and her officials have any plans on the books somewhere to replace or upgrade some of the tank farms. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the upcoming winters, for example in Kugluktuk as it is a growing population their needs are getting greater for 2005-2006, \$100,000 was set aside and also for Kugaaruk there has been a study done. They have set aside funds to be utilized for 2005-2006; \$274 million have been set aside for this reason. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. I don't see that information in this section that the minister referred to. The kind of dollar figures that I am thinking are probably in the 2-3 million range that would replace an entire tank farm. That is the kind of figure that I am thinking about in the next 5-10 years. I am wondering if the minister if she can indicate if her department is looking ahead and working with the Kitikmeot communities to ensure that their tank farms are up to capacity and compliance and possibly for upgrades or replacement for the next decade. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was speaking on the current year 2005-2006 on these capital projects. And there is always monitoring happening and making sure that we comply with the capacity in the communities. It is important to note that which are the priorities and working with the municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister again. I'm not clear on what the Minister is saying. She is saying there is on-going work. I am trying to get an answer if there are any plans to replace any of the tank farms in the Kitikmeot to upgrade or replace the tank farms over the next 5-10 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to direct the deputy minister to respond to that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the next five to ten-year framework, there are no identified fuel tank farms in the Kitikmeot Region that are scheduled for complete replacement. Based on the capacity studies that we have done now, they should be sufficient, certainly in that five-year period, if not longer than that five-year period.

As the minister indicated, we constantly work with the communities on that. We look at the capacity of the tanks, the code issues, we also work at the consumption issues on a regular basis. We combine that with population statistics and growth and population to do projections for five to ten years.

So, right now, with the changes that are being done this current year in Kugluktuk, in Kugaaruk, which are both capacity issues to increase the capacity, it looks like the capacity will be good.

I can say that, obviously, we are dealing with 25 communities in capacity. We have done a large number of capacity work in the last five years and have 14 projects scheduled in the next five years. So, there's a lot of work being done. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rich. That's great information to know. I'm sure the Hamlet Council of Cambridge Bay will look forward

to sitting down and talking to your officials. They are being quite progressive over in Cambridge Bay.

They are planning forward for the next five to 10 to 15 years because they recognize that Cambridge Bay is the administrative centre, there's tremendous growth in the community, and they have to anticipate all of these growth factors. Obviously, the tank farm is going to be a key area, not only because of natural growth, but there's the mining in the area that's coming and they will probably be taking some of their fuel from our communities. So, we have their needs and our community needs.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) We are on page J-17. (interpretation ends) Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask firstly, I didn't quite hear it... (interpretation ends)... the local fuel delivery contracts, when are they up for tender, Madam Minister? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract will be up in two years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think you were talking about the re-supply ships. What about the local community fuel delivery contractors, are they included there? I need clarification on that part. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A number of those are long-term contracts for five or ten years and they go on a different basis in different communities, so it depends, a little bit, on the community that you are talking about when the local delivery contract might be up for tender again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Another question I have, I told the minister that after we ran out of fuel that I don't see any funding available to enlarge

the fuel tanks, maybe they were not completely full. Can the minister tell me if we are going to get more fuel in Arviat than last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Based on the deliveries this summer the inventory level on hand in Arviat and the diesel should be sufficient until 2006 re-supply arrival in mid July 2006.

Arviat does not have fuel tank capacity problems. The problem this past summer related to an estimate in PC fuel needs we received that turned out be low. We had also plans to top up the supply in Arviat and Rankin at the end of 2004 re-supply season as a precaution.

However the port at Churchill closed in the 2004 season earlier than anticipated and no further fuel delivery was possible. A review of the existing fuel inventory prior to the first ship of the 2005 season indicated to be expected low levels in Arviat and the tanker was scheduled to make a drop of a 100 thousand litres of diesel to sustain the community until the scheduled re-supply dates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and I would like to thank the Minister for that answer. But what she was talking about there was a slight misunderstanding in regards to the Churchill port.

Maybe because they were not informing each other properly that they didn't put in enough and I was bringing this up in the House. Can the Minister give me a clear indication that we will not run out of fuel this winter or this spring since there will be adequate fuel there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister indicated the shortfall this year was due to the fact the estimate that we received from Nunavut Power Corporation was unfortunately too low for the amount of fuel they required. Both Petroleum Products Division and Nunavut Power Corporation have worked closely together correct that.

We increased the amount of diesel fuel that was ordered quite substantially this summer. And based on the usage in Arviat and also Nunavut Power Corporation usage there

should be no problems with fuel in the community until the re-supply next summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You said fuel ordered to be delivered to Arviat I assume that the fuel ordered was delivered prior to the fall of 2005. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, as a matter of fact I am pleased to say with the result of the three re-fuels to Arviat this summer a total of almost 5 million litres of diesel fuel was delivered and a total of a little over 800 thousand litres of gasoline was delivered, which are good reflections of the quantities that were ordered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Rich. I am hoping that there won't be bad gas in Arviat with the 100 thousand litres. I wonder if the minister could, if she can't answer the question now, assure me to write me a report of the capacity of the fuel tanks that we have, including tanks in Arviat? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can provide that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know over the last number of years since the fuel delivery system changed, and we have a new supplier, I know that there has been a tremendous increase in spills.

I am just wondering why, if that is one of the reasons, we have this money in here for spill response equipment. I know the minister indicated earlier, or the deputy, I can't remember which one, that the contract was renewed because the contractor fulfilled some of these requirements that had been pointed out that have been deficiencies in the past. Would there have been any spills this year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to say that no, there were no spills this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I guess the fuel that they were short of in Arviat wasn't the fuel that got spilt in Coral Harbour.

One of the other things that I have concerns about, I asked a question as far as what was ordered, and what was delivered, and I know that last year I know here, for example, and there was a number of communities that didn't get what they ordered. I hear, I think, it was over half a million litres of Avgas that they were ordering, it was 800,000 litres that they were shorted, that led to some additional costs to the company here that distributes fuel.

At the time the contactor told the local cartage company that handles the storing and distribution of the fuel, that was some kind of a draft problem with the vessel that they had, but since indicated then that it actually wasn't that, that the fuel actually went somewhere else.

I am just wondering if the minister, or her staff were aware of that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I will ask the deputy minister to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's always a bit of variation from year to year because the ships carry fuel for multiple communities, and everything from the amount of capacity that is available in the tank to how much has been off loaded in a previous community, affects small variations in the amount of fuel.

The member is correct. There was a lower than desired last fuel shipment into Iqaluit last year, a year ago. That resulted from the late arrival of the ship. There were a number of problems last year with the shipping season. There were, in particular, some ice problems that were encountered several times, Coral Harbour, for instance, twice and others, which delayed the shipments into Iqaluit.

So the last shipload was, in fact, quite late in November, and the ice had started to form in November, and as a result of that the Coast Guard requested that the ship not be filled to full capacity. That is probably the capacity issue that you were referring to, and as a result of that, it came in with less capacity than we would have liked to have it come in.

It was still sufficient, it was roughly the same as the previous year's order. It was still sufficient to last a year by our estimates and in fact it is true in fact it has lasted a year.

We are delighted to say that we've been getting good capacity this year in them so I don't think we will see that same instance happening again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to bring to your attention we don't have a quorum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We will ring the bell. Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The deputy indicated that it was the Coast Guard that asked the company not to fill up as usual but I thought the vessels that they use are supposed to be ice class vessels so it shouldn't matter whether there was ice or not.

I know and I'll go back to the First Assembly when this whole issue of this contract and the dealings and the questions the members had at the time. We were assured that the type of vessel wouldn't have a problem at all making the deliveries would be the same or better than what was being used by the previous contractor.

Now we hear maybe it was the kind of boat it was, not to fill it up. Maybe if I can get a little bit of an explanation as to why they would be asked not to bring in what they are supposed to bring in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think they are ice class and also there is a mixture of conditions that impact the shipping. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess it goes back to something that I said and keep going back as I said a few years ago that you get what you pay for. The government is saying they are saving millions of dollars on this and I don't believe it is totally accurate when you compare the apples and apples and not apples and oranges. But you get what you pay for paying less and we had a considerable amounts of spills, shortage problems.

I know the deputy indicated earlier they were short 800,000 litres of I think it was of Jet A last year. He is correct in saying that they didn't run out.

Does he know how close they came to running out. One day. One day longer and they would have run out of jet fuel. In order not to run out to make it to that one day before the ship they had to pump out the big tanks of the sludge of stuff at the bottom. Get it recertified and use that until they got this year's shipment arrived.

Even though it was the same as last year we all know that the demands in all of our communities are growing. And they need more. The air traffic and I think this is one of the busiest airports in North America.

If we can't count on the supplier to provide what we have asked for and put us that close to some real problems then I really the question their ability to fulfill, I mean does that, by doing that, does that, have they fulfilled their end of the contract?

So I really think that they went ahead and reviewed, renewed it for another two years, but these kinds of considerations should be taken into account because you could have a medevac sitting here that couldn't leave because there was no fuel. Someone could have died.

You could have had the scheduled airlines not being able to go anywhere because we didn't have any jet fuel. I really urge them to look at this a lot more closely with the supplier, because it scared me when I heard that; how close we actually came to running out.

I really hope that is something that they'll take to heart and look at them when it comes to renewing the contract. I know here, they ran out in Arviat, other communities. I think the minister or the deputy indicated that they had to fly in fuel into a whole bunch of different communities. Pangnirtung had to get fuel flown in.

I guess the question to ask is: how much money has the government's department spent in flying fuel around the territory, and from where to where? Maybe I can ask that question and get some kind of response. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the member is raising a very big concern. We're trying very hard to work with the suppliers and to look at all areas to ensure that we have adequate fuel for the year.

Our usage of fuel is going up every year. Only up to one community this spring, which was to Repulse, I think that's a pretty good record. However, we will do our best. It's hard to tell from year to year where it's going to go low and which communities will be adequate. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess in the last year then, the minister is saying that it's only one community that they had to fly fuel into? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is correct. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes I'm accused of being a stickler on what I hear for words.

Earlier when the deputy was responding to my colleague's question from Arviat, he had indicated, I think there was five million litres of diesel delivered, and 800,000 litres of gasoline delivered.

He said that was a good reflection of what was ordered. If it was just a reflection of what was ordered, what was actually ordered? Or, was it more or less than what was ordered? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will now ask the deputy minister to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding is they got what they were ordered. I don't have the specific information on the completed order with me here. I don't have the information on the specific orders here.

But, my understanding is they did get what they ordered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): We're on page J-17. Tangible assets. Headquarters region. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to ask two other questions on this issue in regard to that one fuel delivery contract. I think it has been approximately three years since that contract was awarded to Woodward's and the government has stated that there's a major costs savings in dealing with them.

I think it was three years ago that the contract was awarded. Was Woodward's the lowest bidder, or was this sole sourced? That's my question. I would like the deputy minister to explain if Woodward's was the lowest bidder.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, they were the lowest bidder. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. There was a clause that had an option to renew; I believe it's going to be next year. Are you going to be tendering out, using the tendering process, when it expires?

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Rich.

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, when the extension expires, the intention would be to re-tender the contract. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, my next question was brought up earlier by the Member from Cambridge Bay.

The information was given to us in the fall in regards to the petroleum products and the evolving regulations for fuel and storage. Exactly what regulations are they? Are they in regard to the environment, or spillage, or to the tank farms? Exactly what regulations are these? Are they federal or environmental? I think that it would be best if you explained all of this to the Assembly. I think it's for capacity alone. I would like an explanation on that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, those are very good points that the member is raising. It's for the environmental reasons and those are proposed federal regulations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I truly believe that they are related to the environment, but they are actually federal enforcement rules. Is that what we are trying to comply with, it was never really all that clear during your presentation, what are you trying to comply with? Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps the deputy could add to that. Thank you.

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sorry if I confused things, and you are quite right, I did use two terms together; code compliance and regulation and that's the term that we tend to use for shorthand. There is a capacity issue, you are also quite right.

So, when we are doing our checks with tanks, we are looking at capacity issues, just the volume, of whether there's sufficient capacity for the consumption of the community.

The code compliance regulations have to do with the Environmental Protection Acts. Those are federal regulations. The Federal Government, about three years ago, served notice that it was going to increase or make stricter the regulations on fuel tanks. That applied to federal lands, the territories and First Nation reserves in the south and DND facilities in the south.

And, that's what we've been working on with the Federal Government to see how those will apply here. Those have not yet come into affect. It's still uncertain when they may come into affect. And, we've been working with Qulliq Energy Corporation and others to look at the impact that those would have on the fuel tanks in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My last question has to do with, just mainly for the record, exactly what the status is of the original plan of Community and Government Services, to transfer petroleum products to Qulliq Energy Corporation?

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

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

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

Mr. Rich: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the short answer is that's off the table. That is no longer under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the minister. I believe there will be considerable savings for the government. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. At this time I have no other names on my list. We're on page J-17.

(interpretation ends) Tangible assets. Headquarters region. Total headquarters region. \$107. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$1,720,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Going onto J-18. Tangible assets. Kivalliq Region. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was already brought up earlier, but it wasn't directed to Repulse Bay.

For the last two years, we have run out of fuel and we had to have fuel flown in. That's been happening for the last two years. My question is if this year we will not run out? We've been getting a lot of boats coming into Repulse Bay and they use quite a large amount of fuel.

I'm sure that this is one of the contributing factors to us running out of fuel. If you would respond to that, my question is: is there going to be enough fuel to last for the whole season, or for the full year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with you. A lot of people do go to Repulse Bay and I'm sure that was the case this summer, especially during the bowhead hunt.

I'm sure that they consumed quite a large amount of fuel. I think it's going to be better this year as the size of the tanks was increased and that was just completed this summer.

They're going to be able to have a larger capacity, and there is going to be approximately 150,000 litres, so there has been a 50 percent increase. We're hopeful that there will be enough fuel available to that community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much for your explanation. Well this is not exactly a question but it is for information. We had heard that there was large problem this summer. We had to fly in a pump and I am not sure what the problem was but we had to get a replacement pump there. The hamlet on more than one occasion tried to tell the contractor about the problem and they talked to Rankin Inlet but nobody listened.

We had a problem where, if you are trying to fuel one drum and it would take approximately 50 minutes to fill that drum. There were individuals that were going to be going out hunting and they had to get their gasoline two days ahead or two days before they left. If I wanted to leave tomorrow I would have to get my fuel two days ahead, in

advance. We had this problem for a very long time and I would like to know why nothing was done about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We apologize it had to happen in Repulse the way the member is explaining. We understand that there was a problem with the pump. The Member is very correct in that. Also there was confusion over the problem. I am pleased to say that it is been corrected and rectified and hopefully it will never happen again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the Minister because this was very inconvenient for us and the people in Rankin Inlet, the Petroleum Products Division in Rankin Inlet, have to be considerate about the problems that we relay to them, that there is a problem. And if you can perhaps relay that message to the people in Petroleum Products Division in Rankin.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. We are on page J-18. (interpretation ends) Tangible assets Kivalliq region. Total Kivalliq region \$2,700,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total tangible assets. \$4,520,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: J-4. Community and Government Services. Department summary. Detailed expenses. Total capital expenses \$21,697,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are we agreed that Community and Government Services is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister and staff. Do you have any closing comments?

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I would like to thank the Members of the Committee as well as my staff for assisting me as a new minister for this department. They have a lot of patience and I'd like to thank them and I would like to thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akoak and Mr. Rich. At this time before we begin with the continuation of the other departments we will break for 5 minutes. Thank you.

>>*House Recessed at 17:05 and resumed at 17:15*

Chairman: We have a quorum. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation to make his opening remarks.

Bill 1 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-2007 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In response to the suggestions of our stakeholders we have made several improvements to our corporation's capital plans for 2006-07 and beyond, with an appropriation from the Government of Nunavut of \$20,588,000 and additional confirmed funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation of \$4,580,000. The total capital for 2006-07 so far is \$25,168,000.

Also we are having discussions with the federal government regarding incremental funding for housing. I hope to rise in the House before the end of this session and announce additional funding for next year and beyond. Although this is never guaranteed I am very hopeful that the contribution for housing in Nunavut will occur.

Improvements we have made in our capital plans highlights:

1. First, a Material Assistance Program styled after the popular Homeownership Assistance Program. The new program will assist Nunavummiut to become homeowners. We will make sure that clients who are ready to accept the responsibility of homeownership are given that chance, while ensuring the construction of a well built, energy efficient home.
2. Second, a Senior and Disabled Homeowner Maintenance Program to ensure that our elderly and disabled homeowners will have the necessary preventative maintenance tasks performed on their units. As well, a small amount will be made available to provide for some demand maintenance.
3. Third, an additional \$1 million for the Home Repair Program.
4. Fourth, funding for the replacement of units sold through the Tenant to Owner Program.
5. Finally, increased support to our Local Housing Organizations through Mobile Equipment Funding. These changes bring the model in line with the Government of Nunavut standards for mobile equipment. As well, the model has been updated for current vehicle and freight costs.

Both staff and public housing will be built in 2006. A critical part of our new staff housing policy is to make sure we can properly house staff in our communities. About 20 Public housing units will be built with GN funds. As I mentioned earlier, I am hopeful for additional federal funding and when this occurs I may also request additional funds from the GN.

Funding will continue as usual for the modernization and improvement of both public and staff housing as well as the Fire Damage Replacement Fund.

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to meet with you today. I look forward to a meaningful discussion and we will be pleased to hear your comments and to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Do you have any witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Yes, I do. I guess we'll hear the comments from the Chairman as we sit in the witness table?

Chairman: Does this committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms could you please escort the witness here.

For the record minister, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Peter Scott, the President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation and on my left is Abraham Tagalik, Vice President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the Witness Table, Mr. Scott and Mr. Tagalik. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chairman of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development, I am pleased to be able to provide opening comments as we begin the review of the 2006-2007 capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee had the opportunity to meet with the Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation in September to review the draft 2006-2007 capital estimates.

Committee members are pleased by the minister's efforts to respond fully to member's concerns and requests for detailed program-specific information.

(interpretation ends) Committee members are pleased that the minister has responded positively to the repeated recommendations of the committee by introducing the new Material Assistance Program. Members look forward to the possible expansion of this program as public awareness and interest increases. Committee members also look forward to reviewing the success of this program after the first houses are constructed.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased to note that tenants are beginning to take advantage of the Tenant to Owner Program and purchase their units.

Members remain concerned that insufficient funds are being allocated to programs for existing homeowners, such as the Home Repair Program. In the past, this committee has noted that the cost of purchasing a home in Nunavut, while high, is not the primary barrier to homeownership. The costs of operating and maintaining a home can be staggering and this can act as a disincentive to homeownership. Recognizing the significant costs related to homeownership in Nunavut, committee members urge the minister to allocate more funds to such programs as an additional incentive to homeownership.

Mr. Chairman, members remain concerned that local housing organizations are not playing as much of a role as they could be in reviewing applications that are made under the corporation's homeownership programs.

Members recognize that the LHOs have limited resources and encourage the minister, in his efforts, to expand both the role and the funding for LHOs in delivering housing programs.

Mr. Chairman, members recognize also that the GN's Staff Housing Policy has recently changed and remain concerned that GN staff, in some communities, are living in substandard housing with few options for private accommodations. Qualified and committed nurses and teachers are critical to the health and wellness of our communities.

Members noted that new staff housing units will be built in Whale Cove and Chesterfield Inlet in 2006-2007. Members urge the minister to keep in mind that there are few private rental options, especially in the non-decentralized communities, and to continue replacing staff housing units to ensure that those positions remain filled.

Mr. Chairman, members were discouraged to note that only \$5 million has been allocated for public housing in 2006-2007. This represents only 20 new units. Twenty new units will not make a dent in the need for housing in even one community.

Members remain concerned that non-competitive bidding may be occurring in some communities and is artificially driving up the cost of constructing public housing. In the past, construction of units in some communities was delayed because all of the bids received were too high.

Committee members urge the minister to explore all options to ensure that units are built on schedule and within budget, including having the local housing association taking part in construction and review possibilities of expanding the use of public, private partnership.

Mr. Chairman, members know that the number of recent ITK announcements focus on housing and raise concerns that federal funding for housing in Nunavut will continue to be extremely limited. Members were further concerned to note that the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook states that, quote, “The initial response to the 10 year Inuit housing panel from the Federal Government was not positive, stating the project was too ambitious”, unquote.

The standing committee is frustrated and disappointed that the Federal Government has not announced a new funding agreement for housing in Nunavut. Members ask that the minister be candid and open with all regular members with respect to the status of negotiations with the Federal Government, rather than having members learn such disheartening news from other sources.

That concludes my comments on the 2006-07 capital estimates for Nunavut Housing Corporation. Mr. Chairman, individual members may wish to raise questions or make comments as we proceed.

Mat’naluvik.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Before we proceed I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the chair, a member may speak more than once to the matter under discussion but not until every member who wishes to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that wherever possible, you ask your detailed question during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do members have any general comments on Housing Corporation? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Minister, Mr. Tagalik and Mr. Scott, welcome.

The chairman of the committee already mentioned these comments that I’ll be making in regards to inadequate housing in Nunavut communities.

I’m happy to say that the minister made an announcement that one of my constituents will be one of the communities that will be allotted some housing. For those people who own their own homes, they are elderly and they can’t speak English.

Those are the people that don't have anyone to do home improvements in their houses, especially in the smaller communities. And, they don't know which southern place to order their materials from.

For the Local Housing Organizations, they don't have any opportunities to talk with the local housing authority as well. There's an individual that is from the minister's riding that is a person who helps out the people with their own homes.

There are a lot of elders that don't speak English that would like to be able to talk with the local housing authority. There's also a problem with the re-supply that is late or delayed in bringing materials. There's also a rule whereby they have to have insurance.

Sometimes it's not adequate that the Housing Corporation does not ship materials on time and that creates a problem because there's only a certain amount of time that they can build houses.

There are old houses that need renovations and some of them were built back in 1945 and in 1970s because I have seen some in Arviat and in my community and other communities in Nunavut. Those old houses, like there are old houses, such as old matchbox houses that usually get renovated. The foundation is rotten at times.

When they do renovations, they usually spend an amount of \$300,000. I know there's a lack of housing in most Nunavut communities, but if they are going to use \$300,000 to renovate an old house, I think they have to destroy those old houses that were build years ago and replace it with a new one because it will probably cost a lot cheaper.

I'm going to be asking questions later on when we go through page-by-page of the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Do members have any comments on the Housing Corporation? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his officials for coming today.

I was very disheartened, I have to say, when I read the 2005 Economic Outlook, which I think most members have read and I am sure most government officials have read because the authors have spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the housing situation up here. I think they had presented some very hard, cold facts made with statements that were very revealing, in terms of the fact that there's a critical shortage of housing here in Nunavut.

Every community has housing issues Cambridge Bay is no different than Iqaluit, or Clyde River, or Arctic Bay, or any other community, but we have tremendous overcrowding in Cambridge Bay. I think there are 50 to 60 people on the waiting list over there. I'm sure that it's probably as high or higher elsewhere in Nunavut.

We read in the newspapers all of the time, I think this week, I heard this considerable discussion about the alcohol and drug situation in Nunavut. I think a shortage of housing and overcrowded housing contributes to a lot of that.

The Kitikmeot Inuit Association's annual general meeting was held last month in Cambridge Bay and I just recently received a copy of the resolutions and the elders from the Kitikmeot passed their resolutions. They are directing or asking the Government of Nunavut and the Government of Canada to address the housing crisis in Nunavut because they feel that it's contributing to the breakdown of the social fabric in our communities.

You get, two, and three, four generations of families living on top of each other, with each other, in very small houses. I'm not sure how, well I know... I don't have the answers, none of us have the answers here, and I know you guys put together with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., The Nunavut Ten Year Inuit Housing Action Plan.

Our chairman said, mentioned in his opening comments that it didn't get a very favourable response in Ottawa. I'm going to be very interested during the section when we start asking questions. I'll ask you some questions about exactly why the situation in Ottawa, why it seems like our requests for help up here are falling on deaf ears.

It can't continue because we have serious problems up here. Our future as a territory is in peril if we don't have housing. You talk about all the other good things; economy, putting people to work, all that good stuff, but if we don't have houses for them to live in, it's going to set us back and it's going to continue to affect our health, the wealth and prosperity of our citizens.

We can talk about putting people to work and that people will be able to buy houses but the reality is; to buy a house in Nunavut is beyond the means of most people. You need \$300,000 to \$400,000 to \$500,000 to buy a decent sized house and then you'd be into the bank for 20, 25 years.

And, on top of all that, you still have to meet your basic daily needs to buy food, fuel, and all the other costs associated with raising a family. So, I don't think it's something that every family in Nunavut has the option of buying their own house.

I think it was two years ago where the housing corporation said it costs \$225 per square foot to build a house and then I think it was last year where the number increased to \$330 a square foot.

So, the costs are continuing to go up. So, for citizens, or residents to build their own houses, I think it's almost impossible. It's beyond their reach. So if that's the case, then we as a government and the Federal Government have to look at ways, and seriously, not keep talking about it. We have to get down to the brass tacks here and recognize that there is a crisis in Nunavut.

I know I read in news releases and press releases from ITK. The government response to the Inuit housing crisis is utterly lamentable. Another one; the Government Proposes Creation of More Red Tape. So, they're doing their bit down in Ottawa.

I've got a few more headlines here. Another one here, press release: Photos Illustrate Inuit Housing Crisis. So the story is out there. I just don't know where it's being heard, if it's being heard.

I know the minister invited the federal minister, Fontana, to Nunavut last spring. I think it was May, or sometime in the last five or six months. So, I'd be interested in hearing what he expressed to you first hand, when he was able to visit some of the communities and see what we have in terms of housing in our communities.

One of the best ways to open the eyes of officials in Ottawa, ministers and MPs is to invite them up here, take them to a couple of communities and give them a tour of some of the houses and show them first hand what we're facing here. I'm hoping that you can tell us that he had his eyes open wide and that they're doing something in Ottawa to help us.

I know the Premier and some of your other colleagues have been hard at work over the last couple of years as well trying to talk to the federal officials to seek some help. I don't think its fair of the Federal Government to expect Nunavut, on its own, to work their way out of this.

The reality is you can only put \$5 million towards public housing and that's 20 houses when you need 2,000 right now just to meet current needs. That's like plugging dikes. That's not going to do the job.

We owe it to our citizens to really tackle this problem and bare down. I know our Standing Committee is looking at throwing our weight behind us as well. I think the chairman will be speaking about that later during our session.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Do any of the members have any general comments on the Housing Corporation? I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed to the page-by-page review of the department estimates, starting with the page L-6. L-6. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) Fire Damage. Nunavut Various. \$1 million, (interpretation) which community is it referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. These are for future fire damage replacements. We currently or have already have work done on the fire damage replacements. We don't know how much damage there will be, but this is more like a contingency fund. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, it doesn't apply to the previous fire damaged buildings? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): The units that have been damaged, we have to have a clear indication of how much it would be approximately to replace those buildings in case there were more fire damaged units, but the fire damage replacements, we have to have a clear understanding as to how much it was. So, that's what it's there for. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) That \$1 million, it seems like they are expecting to buy fire damaged units. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): This funding is always there as \$1 million and in the past it was always like that but if it was increased then we would spend more because we don't know how many units we will lose due to fire. But this is more like just in case, it would be very ideal if we didn't have any fire-damaged units. In the past, it has always been like that. So, that's why it's like that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) About the Tenant to Owner Program. That \$1 million, how would that be spent under the tenant to owner program?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Tenant to Owner Program, it give them an option to buy the unit that they're in to own, so they can't exchange with other tenants just because they're interested in buying that unit.

It's for that program. So, that's how it is at this time. Maybe in 2005 it might become clearer as to how many units are being bought by the tenants from that program. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The tenants, if they are interested in buying the unit, then can he or she can dip into that \$1 million to renovate it? So, they can access that \$1 million? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, that \$1 million is if somebody purchases, for example, if you happen to buy the unit you're in, which is owned by the housing corporation, then that \$1 million is available or is there in order for us to construct another unit to replace that unit that was bought by the tenant so we'll have more available. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You stated that I would have to be a tenant in order to buy the home. Or, is it possible to buy a unit if you're not a tenant? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Under the homeownership program, there is also some support to increase the number of homeowners, which is, in this case, the Tenant to Ownership Program.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you. That was all I had.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Page L-6, Nunavut Housing Corporation, information item. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Detail of Capital. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To follow up on the issue that was brought up by my colleague, the Tenant to Owner Program has \$1 million in it. How does it actually work?

There are some individuals who buy the older type models and they also buy those suspended basements that were owned by the government. Is that what this \$1 million is used for? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you were to buy a house that you're renting, we would have to build a new house in order to replace the unit that you bought. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you buy a unit, the new homeowner is usually burdened with the renovations that have to take place. For example, they might have to jack up the house, or to replace the insulation that has rotted. This \$1 million is divvied up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): If Mr. Barnabas was to buy a house that he is renting, and if this unit was less than ten years old, the government would then build a new unit the following year to replace that house. There is a program that is called the Home Repair Program, which will have another \$1 million in it. They could apply for that pot of money in order to renovate the house that they just bought. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this information made available to the tenants who buy their unit, because they use their own pocket to renovate their homes?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I am sure that the member is aware that quite a while ago we put together a brochure on which programs are available from the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We try to make sure that the information is made available to the general public in Nunavut. We try to make sure that all information is available to everyone out there. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I'll leave it at that. I'll have other questions later on. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make it clear in this program, but I am hearing a little different, the way the set up was in the Kivalliq I think. But, understanding that fire damage replacement is \$1 million, whenever a house is burnt, you use this to replace it.

But, on the Material Assistance Program, my understanding of these, for the whole of Nunavut, is that this program is used for the retrofit of the homeowner, for those houses damaged by age, or well-used homeowner's resident. I assume that this is the program.

Also, the Tenant to Owner Program, in my understanding, the homeowner, or the person proposing to purchase a house from somebody, regardless of who owns the house, is given assistance according to their income, of up to \$25 thousand. I thought that this \$1 million was for that purpose. But according to Minister Akesuk's statement, it is a little different, that I have never heard before. It is being replaced by the one being bought by the Housing Association. I've never really had experience with that one.

I wonder if he could explain it further with the component that I've talked about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Material Assistance Program is new. It's like a HAP house, like buying a HAP house. Like if you wanted to buy material, and that is what it's going to build; a new house for a certain person that applies for the Material Assistance Program. So, that's new.

Under tenant to own, like I said, if Mr. Barnabas bought a house, it would have to replace the house, because the Arctic Bay, he's from Arctic Bay, if he bought a house that's owned by public housing, it would have to build a house to replace that. But the person, who bought the house that belongs to public housing, can apply for a retrofit under home ownership.

So, that's where we are and I hope that's clear. If I didn't answer you clearly, I could probably get Abe or Peter to add a bit more.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Not the actual budget for the region, of providing renovation funds for the homeowner, and the assistance to provide equity to the purchasing of a new house, where are these monies stationed in the estimates? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, if I clearly understand Mr. Alagalak's concern on retrofits, on retrofit Government of Nunavut funds, we have them listed on page-by-page and region-by-region.

I don't know if I answered his question or not. Or are you talking about another item that's on L-6? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I might have been lost a little bit here in the estimates, but my understanding is that clients do receive assistance to purchase their house in the community of up to \$25,000 as form of equity.

Where does this money come from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I'll get Mr. Scott to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: The Homeownership Program budgets are broken out by region. So there is a regional allocation for the homeownership, and that includes the Down Payment Assistance Program and the Repair Program, under the Home Repair Program and Emergency Repair, and whatnot.

So, it's in the detailed information items broken down by region. The district offices in each region then identify a client for either down payment, or for home repair. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I'll bring it up later on. Thank you. I'll leave it at that for now.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to welcome the minister and his officials here with him today.

The last time I saw Mr. Tagalik I think was on some flatter country than around here. It's nice to see him again. There were some things running around out there too. Not like around here lately, anyway. That's for sure.

Mr. Chairman, my first question is, I think in the minister's opening comments he had indicated that they're looking at building 20 public housing units this year, and hoping to build some more.

I was on a standing committee that just did tours around the different communities across the territory, and I noticed these strange looking things in all the communities, they had this space frame, I guess if you want to call it, for these houses. It looked like a Rubik's cube or something like that, of putting something together.

I'm just wondering, where did that come from? Has it been proven to be effective, because it looks pretty awkward and funny? So, I would like to get an explanation of that from the minister. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I will get Mr. Tagalik to answer that question since there is one being built in that community. So, he will have a better idea if it's working out good or not. So, I will get Mr. Tagalik to answer that question.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tagalik.

Mr. Tagalik (interpretation): Thank you. In Arviat, when you put in the piles, it doesn't work very well because we don't have a rock foundation down there. We are using a different concept in Arviat where, even if they are shifting, we are using that to see if it works.

With some communities that have rock foundations, we can use the piles like in Iqaluit and in the other communities. But, if there's bog and permafrost, usually what happens is the piles come out of place. It's perfectly fine, pretty expensive, and you have to install them before the frost comes in.

That was the first time that I saw space frames while I went to Arviat, but it's working pretty well with the people who construct the housing. We are not exactly sure what's going to work the best in Nunavut.

We're even thinking about having cement foundations for the housing. We are using different types of bases or foundations for the houses, but we are trying out the space frames in Arviat.

Even if they are shifting on the ground, and even if one of the space frames is not there properly, it will keep the house (no interpretation).

Chairman: Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sorry about that, it had nothing to do with the Vice-President of Housing Corporation's response that inspired that.

I know he indicated in some communities it can be rather expensive and painful, in some cases, when piles come out. But this thing with the space frame, is it very expensive? I remember years ago they used to have screw jacks, which basically, you could do the same thing. I'm just wondering, I know the space frame concept, because I know they were doing some Mars experiments up island, a little further up North here. I'm just wondering where they came up with that idea? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I will get Mr. Scott to respond to that. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have thought a former employee of the Housing Corporation would have known the answer. But, I'll provide it to him anyway.

Am I out of order? I'm sorry.

The cost of space frames is quite similar to the cost of providing piling. The advantage with the space frames over, lets say screw jacks, which could be less expensive, is that they self level the building.

So, if there's any movement in the gravel pad underneath, there are multiple points of contact on the foundation of the building that adjusts automatically so that you don't have to maintain the level of the house on an annual basis, which is required under our preventative maintenance scheduling.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Scott. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I think that it is a very good project. As we are experiencing climate change I think this might solve the problem for building our houses and making them stay there for a longer period of time, because we are trying to adapt to climate change. I think that there are ways of trying to find out how to build houses better, due to climate change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess when I was working for the housing corporation we were still grounded. I'm sorry.

Mr. Chairman, I do have some more questions but at this time I would like to recognize the clock and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We have a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Thank you, Minister and your staff.

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Orders of the day, Item 20, Report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Chair, Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, 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. Who seconds the motion? Mr. Netser.

>> *Applause*

The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? Abstentions? The motion is carried. Item 21, Third Reading of Bills. Item 22, Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meeting tomorrow of the regular caucus at 10:30 in the Tuktu Board Room. Orders of the day for November 23:

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): A reminder that the status page dated November 22, that is attached to your order paper, identifies the response to Oral Question 011 – 2(3), taken as notice, is due tomorrow.

This House stands adjourned until November 23, 2005. We will start the meeting again at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:11*

