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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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

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(Iqaluit West)
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(South Baffin)
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(Uqqummiut)
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Steve Mapsalak
(Akulliq)
Chair, Standing committee Ajauqtiit

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

Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)
Chair, Full Caucus

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
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Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday November 23, 2005

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allan Evyagotailak, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, 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. Evyagotailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 023 – 2(3): Absence of Premier Okalik

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the members that the Honourable Paul Okalik will be absent from the House from November 23 to 25, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 024 – 2(3): Nursing Recruitment for Nunavut

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is national news that there is a shortage of registered nurses throughout the country. It is expected that this shortage may only get worse. As members know, we now have our own Nursing Education Program in Nunavut, which has resulted in four graduates so far.

I would like to inform the House of the steps that we are taking to respond to the nursing shortage within Nunavut. The Department of Health and Social Services is recruiting nurses through long-term contracts to provide us with quality healthcare until the day when Nunavummiut can staff most of these positions, after graduating as nurses.

Mr. Speaker we are now in the process of hiring over 50 international nurses. These are all registered nurses who are very excited to be here. The nurses are going to be assigned as follows:

- 16 nurses will go to the Kitikmeot communities;

- 20 nurses will go to the Kivalliq communities; and,
- 11 will remain in the Baffin

The remaining nurses will staff a float pool to fill vacancies, as they arrive in the future.

The department offers a five week long orientation that covers clinical, cultural, and logistical topics to make the transition for the incoming nurses easier. So far 16 international nurses have made to it to Nunavut with another 11 nurses due this week.

When the process is over there will be only a handful of vacancies in our nursing ranks. The use of short-term agency nurses will be low, which will result in significant cost savings.

These nurses are of the highest calibre. We expect that there will be fewer medevacs and more use of unique-to-Nunavut resources, such as Telehealth. I have personally written to each mayor and council to ask them to support the nurses arriving in their communities whether they come from overseas, or southern Canada. Community support is an important factor in keeping our nurses, and we need them.

I would ask each member of the House to lend their support to our new nurses. I can tell you, they already have a very positive impression of Nunavut based on the comments I have heard to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 025 – 2(3): Miramar, KIA, and Education: Working Together

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. I am pleased to inform the members today of our successful camp held in the Kitikmeot this past summer. This is the first such summer camp and it came about through a working partnership between Miramar Mining Corporation, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, as well as the Department of Education.

The Miramar Mining Corporation generously sponsors 16 youth in the Kitikmeot to attend the Kimberlite Career and Technical School in Yellowknife.

The students who participated were from Kugluktuk, Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, and Taloyoak. All students received a career and technical studies credit for their high school program for learning welding or carpentry skills. The experience of travel and exposure to different environments has provided them with increased confidence to further their education.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fine example of how Inuit organizations, the private sector, and the Government of Nunavut are working together to provide meaningful growth

opportunities for our youth. This type of initiative can ensure that Nunavummiut receive the skills that allow them to participate in the development and expansion of Nunavut's economy.

Mr. Speaker, we are encouraged by the success of the camp, and are supportive of Miramar, and other private companies, along with Inuit organizations that seek to sponsor similar programs across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 026 – 2(3): Elders Strategy: Promoting Elders Needs

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Elders have always played an important role in Nunavut society. During the summer of 2004, the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth held a series of regional elders' workshops in Baker Lake, Iqaluit, and Taloyoak.

Participants in these workshops identified elders' needs across Nunavut and highlighted the importance of passing on culture and language knowledge to the next generation.

Resulting from those important workshops, later today, I will be tabling the Elders' Strategy, entitled, "Promoting Elders' Needs." Mr. Speaker, this strategy is an important document that will provide the framework in which our department will continue to address elders' needs and issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 027 – 2(3): Improvements to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. I rise today to announce improvements to NDAP, the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program, which will support and promote long-term homeownership.

Currently, downpayment assistance is provided in the amounts of \$15,000 for an existing home and \$25,000 for a new home. The higher amount for new construction was intended to stimulate new housing starts.

In Iqaluit, where the current program has been extremely successful, the limits of assistance will remain unchanged.

However, as of December 1, 2005, more assistance will be provided to new homeowners in the emerging and non-market communities. In the emerging market communities of Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, clients will now receive \$30,000 for the purchase of an existing home and \$50,000 for a newly constructed home. In all non-market communities, clients will receive \$45,000 for the purchase of an existing home and \$75,000 for a newly constructed home.

(interpretation ends) The final improvement will see the program changing from an outright grant to a forgivable loan over a ten-year period. This will ensure that only those individuals who are ready to make a significant commitment to Nunavut will benefit from the funds. It will also improve the Nunavut housing market and reduce the practice of flipping properties for a profit.

Mr. Speaker, I trust the members will agree that these changes represent a significant investment towards the promotion and support for homeownership, especially in our emerging and non-market communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' statements. Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 054 – 2(3): NTI Annual General Meeting

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today again to address the issue of the Kugluktuk crisis shelter. As you are all aware, I made a statement in the House and asked questions about this important issue earlier in our sitting.

(interpretation ends) Over the last week, NTI has been holding its annual general meeting in the Kitikmeot. I was pleased to see in a news release that NTI has come out in support of the Kugluktuk shelter.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to support efforts to keep the Kugluktuk shelter open.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 055 – 2(3): Substance Abuse FAS

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to follow up on an important issue raised by the Minister of Health and Social Services earlier this week.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for reminding us of the National Addictions Awareness Week. I fully agree that substance abuse affects many aspects of community and society. Mr. Speaker, my statement today speaks for that segment of our society that is affected by substance abuse unknowingly and involuntarily.

Mr. Speaker, children with FASD, I'm referring to those individuals of FASD, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder. These individuals are affected because the mother drank alcohol while pregnant. Many individuals with FASD have high rates of mental and learning disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, research and statistics in other jurisdictions in Canada and in other parts of the world have shown that FASD is best addressed from an early age. The diagnostic assessment of FASD or FAE, fetal alcohol effect, only becomes more difficult as the person gets older. The longer the person goes undiagnosed, then the longer they continue to develop difficulties without the necessary support and resources.

Mr. Speaker, children with FASD or FAE, often have problems in school and need support and assistance to overcome the difficulties they face. Without support systems in place, children continue to develop and have problems with learning in this society.

It is no secret that a significant number of inmates in our prison system are likely suffering from FASD. Mr. Speaker, awareness is the first step. Assessment and diagnoses come next on the route to detecting a form of FASD. Following that, support systems, special education, treatment programs, specialized training can all help individuals suffering from FASD to ultimately lead healthy and independent lives.

Mr. Speaker, the one thing about FASD is that it is entirely preventable. The cure Mr. Speaker, is for mothers to not drink alcohol while they are pregnant. I urge the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education to continue with their good work in encouraging safe and healthy lifestyles in our youth, our mothers to be, our families and society.

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

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 056 – 2(3): Hamlet of Grise Fiord Feasibility Study

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to share with members the news of an exciting new venture that is being undertaken by the Hamlet of Grise Fiord.

The Hamlet recently began a study on the feasibility of bottling glacier water for sale in the South.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues often raise the issue of natural resource development in this House. A major focus has been on mining. Diamond mines, gold mines and precious gems. Grise Fiord's crystal clear glacier water is an important renewable resource that can be developed for the benefit of my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I have often stood in this House to remind the government of its responsibility to support economic development and job creation in non-decentralized communities. Mr. Speaker, I would like to encourage the Government of Nunavut to offer all available assistance to the Hamlet of Grise Fiord in their exploration of this opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hamlet of Grise Fiord on undertaking this initiative.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 057 – 2(3): Pangnirtung Elder's Camping Trip

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand today to say to my colleagues that in September, there were some Elders that went out on the land to do berry picking and other activities.

On September 6-15, the Elders were taken outside of the community of Pangnirtung to Qannaruluk. They were Peepeelee Kunilusie, Sarah Qasaq, Elisapi Shudlutaq, Mary Sukulaq, Mosesee Qijaqjuk, Barnabus Qupee, David Veevee, Inukie Akulukjuk, and one of the coordinators, Ishulutak.

They were very happy to be out on the land and I went to see them when they were out camping. I would like to thank the person that was assisting them, as well as Eva Maniapik. They also went out to transport them and I would like to say thank you to Jaco Qaqasiq who transported the Elders to the camp and back again to Pangnirtung. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Member's statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 058 – 2(3): Third Annual Christmas Social

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like stand today and thank and acknowledge the efforts of the Frobisher Inn and Nunastar Properties Incorporated. Last night, as all members will know, they received an invitation to attend their Third Annual Christmas Social, an event that seemed to become the Christmas Social event of the season.

There was excellent food, excellent entertainment from the Kitikmeot, and to thank Mr. Doug Cox, the President and CEO for inviting all the members, and the people from the government, and the community to attend and enjoy their Christmas cheer and I wish them all the best over the Christmas season and a Happy New Year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' statements. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Ms. Brown.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Question 011 – 2(3): Waiving of Inuit Employment Clause

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Tootoo on November 14, regarding the request to waiver the Inuit Employment Clause on the Kivalliq Health Centre project.

Sanajit Clarke, the contractor did request a waive of the penalty fees regarding Inuit labour. The contract required 32 percent for Inuit labour, but only 25.71 percent was achieved overall.

The contractor stated that they had received 29 percent Inuit content on the main project work, and requested consideration for the waiver of penalty fees. Their argument was that most of the slippage in Inuit labour came about through the work required by way of change orders, and that this work was more trades and technical related.

The department did consider the technical nature of the change orders and the fact that the major mechanical sub-contractor, who was using mainly Inuit labour, went bankrupt during construction. However, despite these arguments the request to waive penalties was denied and a \$58,322 penalty was applied to the contractor's holdback. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Ms. Aglukkaq.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Member for Kugluktuk asked me a question on how much funding is available for alcohol and drug community-based programs. The department's budget for alcohol and drugs is \$949,000, plus under Vote 2, there is funding for Solvent Abuse Programs, as well as training for alcohol and drug workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Item 5. Recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral questions. The member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions**Oral Question 061 – 2(3): Tabling of URRC Report**

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a question for the Minister responsible for energy. I know over the last year there has been a lot of controversy, one might say, over the Power Corporation and its plea to increase and look for extra funding.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Power Corporation was required to submit requests or an application for a capital stabilization rider to the Minister and to the Utility Rate Review Council and my understanding Mr. Speaker is that the application was submitted and returned within the legal timeframe to the minister.

My question to the minister is, will he provide this report to the members and table it in this house? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: (interpretation) Minister Responsible for Energy Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. Unlike other businesses in Nunavut, the Power Corporation is regulated through the auspices of legislation and that legislation is the Utilities Rate Review Council. In this case through the general rate application process this past spring the Utility Rates Review Council recognized that there were some financial needs of the corporation and as we've talked about in this House before; number 1 is that the rates are too low, the rates have not increased since 1988 and indeed the only rate increase in seven years was on April 1 of this year when we actually increased the rates by three cents roughly across the board.

The second part of that is the capital stabilization rider application by the Power Corporation, how they can finance their capital expenditures and that is in two parts. The first part was the decrease in two communities, of their existing rate, a considerable amount for those two communities and a small amount, less than one-tenth of one percent which is applied to all the bills across Nunavut to make up the difference in the capital.

Once all those reports are completed from the Utility Rates Review Council, and I'd hope to have those in the next couple of weeks, I will make them public and make them available to the members. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The minister himself indicated that he did receive a recommendation from the Utility Rates Review Council to make some changes including the decrease and the slight increase. That's the report I was referring to. Would he be willing to commit to tabling that report and not the final report, as well as the final report that he's planning on receiving in a couple of weeks?

Speaker: Mr. Picco

Mr. Picco: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The Utility Rates Review Council capitalization fund request was submitted to the Utility Rates Review Council. I received it as the member indicated on September 29 and the ministerial instructions can be found on the website of the Power Corporation, so that's available to the public, it's there for them.

What's pending right now is the rebalancing of the rates to reflect the cost of capital and I haven't received that report yet. That's the report I would hope to receive in the next couple of weeks. That's still pending.

The second part that is pending is actually the fuel rider. The recommendation was for 3.98 cents. I've instructed the Power Corporation to collect the 3.98 cents on the fuel rider. The Utility Rates Review Council is now reviewing those numbers that were submitted by the Power Corporation and if those numbers prove to be too much then rebates to the customers would happen, to all customers in Nunavut who pay their power bill.

They would get a rebate if the Power Corporation has taken in too much money based on that rider. At the same time if the 3.98 cents on the fuel rider is not enough, then there may have to be another increase but again that would depend on the Utility Rates Review Council.

Again Mr. Speaker, it's very important that people know that there is a check and balance on rates and that check and balance is provided by the independence of the Utility Rates Review Council.

Thank you Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. The minister again has already indicated that these reports have been returned to him and that some of the information is on their website. My question for the minister is, in the capital stabilization rider application that was put

forward by the utility through the minister to the Utility Rates Review Council, what amount did they actually ask for or indicate that they needed in that application and what was the amount that was granted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through the process the URRC identified, not the Power Corporation, the URRC identified that the Power Corporation was short \$12.5 million. The URRC only recommended an increase in revenue of \$8.4 million, which was a shortage of \$4.1 million.

So, for the Power Corporation to pay all of its wages, its salaries, its oil costs, and to be able to keep up with our clients, for example, you just heard yesterday about concerns with Repulse Bay with capital expenditures, the Power Corporation asked for extra money through a capital rider, and indeed, the URRC came back and said, yes, we accept that. We have given you something out of rebalancing, which means the two communities in Nunavut came out as being one, who are paying too much money for their capital, they received a huge decrease in their capital expenses, and their rates in those two communities and the rate across Nunavut, that was increased by less than one tenth of a percent to make up that amount. That was part of the capital rider's extension.

The second part is still pending and that's the actual amounts that will be put into a capital rider if needed, and that has to be ascertained by the URRC.

So the difference that Mr. Tootoo is talking about would be to accommodate between \$2 million and \$3 million which is forecasted to be the deficit by the URRC, and how or what mechanism the Power Corporation would be using to do that; whether a rate application, a general rate increase, or a rider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the minister is very clear in stating that it was the URRC that determined what the need was by the corporation.

My understanding of the application and the request that came from the URRC to the utility was for them to offer a plan to recoup or to come up with this money that it needs, that is requested for capital and to figure out what they needed for capital and the plan on how to correct it. I guess the minister is basically stating that they are in the dark, they don't know what they need; that they have the Utility Rate Review Council determine what their need is for them.

Again, I ask: what did they ask for in that application that they need for the capital stabilization rider? There must have been an amount in the application from the utility that it said it needed and that's something for the Utility Rate Review Council to review, look at, and determine whether it, indeed, was accurate or not.

So my question, again, to the minister is: what did they ask for and we have heard part of what they have received, is that it, what is the total amount that the utility asked for that it needed in the capital stabilization rider? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm trying to explain what has occurred, again, the file, and I guess the quick answer is, so we could be clear, is that the Power Corporation is short of about \$5.6 million in capital costs, which means the money is spent on capital.

So, the amount asked for by the corporation is for \$5.6 million is what their deficit is. But the URRC already came back and said at one point, we don't want to have a situation, in any fiscal year, where rates shock at more than 15 percent. So the URRC is being guided by that.

So, the quick answer for Mr. Tootoo is: the amount being asked for is what, at least, the Power Corporation has factored in to be the shortage for the deficit amount in their capital fund; \$5.6 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 062 – 2(3): Approval of School Health Curriculum

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Education. For many years now, you and I have been members of the education council when we were setting up the curriculum in the Qikiqtaaluk region. The Kindergarten to grade 6 curriculum has to be set up and they're only working on the high school curriculum.

My question to the minister of education is; I will ask it in English. (interpretation ends) Our health curriculum in schools, is it approved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Education, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct; health is a required subject for all Nunavut schools. The health curriculum teaches family life education. It teaches children about making healthy choices. So the short answer for the member is that the health curriculum is an approved curriculum in the schools.

Indeed, it is safe to say that our health curriculum used in Nunavut schools is actually recognized by the World Health Organization as the outstanding curriculum in the area of health education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The health curriculum; does it contain family planning information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the health curriculum includes family life education. It's discussed in the classroom. Depending on the grade level before the health curriculum is used, and when you are talking about sensitive issues, like the family life issues, the parents and guardians are contacted by the individual schools, to receive permission from the parent so that their children can be involved in this type of program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do all schools in Nunavut teach this curriculum? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sex education is also taught in the schools. Sex education in all of its forms. That includes something that we have been talking about the last few days in this House. It is important that our young people are given the proper information, good information so that they can make good choices. The family life education talks about safe sex in all its forms. That is taught in school.

The member is correct, that is a component of the family and health curriculum that is in place. This curriculum has been recognized by the World Health Organization; probably one of the most esteemed bodies in the world; recognizes this curriculum as an outstanding curriculum in our schools. I think that is something that we should be proud of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to HTLV-1 and also sexually transmitted diseases; are they included in the curriculum too? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about safe sex, we talk about safe sex in all of its forms. There is only one way to protect ourselves from sexually transmitted diseases and that is through abstinence.

In the meantime, young people are taught safe sex practices, which is use a condom; not sharing intravenous needles, and so on. That is not something that we should be

embarrassed about; that is something that we should be communicating with our children on a regular basis.

There are a lot of issues out there affecting our children. One way to dispel and de-stigmatize these types of issues is to have open communication with our children. Open communication is started at home and can be reinforced Mr. Speaker, in our schools and that's part of what the health education curriculum talks about.

So the answer to the member's question is a resounding yes. Mr. Speaker, I think that's something that we should be proud of. We need to get information to our children, good information, Mr. Speaker. And that starts at home and is reinforced in the classroom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 063 – 2(3): Clarification on FASD Research

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke about the importance of early assessment and diagnosis for individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. Mr. Speaker, in the News North earlier this week, as well, there was an article called, *Nunavut Rife with Fetal Alcohol Syndromes*.

One of the biggest problems currently facing Nunavummiut, and all Canadians, it is Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. FASD specialist for the territorial government, Whiney Bansfield, said; "I'm aware of those statistics. I also hear that it is really just the tip of the iceberg."

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister: can the minister clarify for this House what initiatives and resources are currently in place to research the extent of this disorder within our population and to address it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I go into responding to the question about what we're doing in Nunavut, I think it's awfully important to also talk about what we're doing on a national level around FASD.

The Government of Nunavut is one of the territories that's involved with the development or research of FASD in Canada. We are working in partnership with the western provinces to come up with ways of researching and assessing the magnitude of the problem in Canada.

The other area that we're facing in that is, after that collection, we're looking at trying to deal with ways to seek support from the federal government on FASD initiatives or prevention type programs. Currently as it is, there is no specific FASD type program at the national level. That's recognized by the western premiers, but what we're doing right now is collectively working together not only on the assessment side, but also on the design of programs.

When a person has FASD, that person's life is affected for the entire duration of their life and everything in terms of their education, or their jobs or learning is affected. So, it affects a whole bunch of other elements or other departments. So, we're working in collaboration with jurisdictions to research what's happening in other provinces and other territories around FASD and collaborating on that. To answer the member's question, we are, again, part of that research network at a national level.

Again, the work has just been initiated and we're looking for that result fairly soon. The other area that my department has been working in partnership with is the Manitoba Clinic for Alcohol and Drug Exposed Children. Again, the purpose of this is to establish partnerships which include consultation, training, and mentoring of individuals with FASD. The FASD initiatives that we're also preparing are two pilot projects in communities of the Kivalliq and Qikiqtani.

We continue to work with community agencies and have delivered a number of training programs in communities where 20 have participated and to date, across Nunavut, we have trained 60 individuals on FASD, on assessment of FASD and working with children with FASD. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that long detailed answer, information. I'll be looking forward to reading the Hansard tomorrow and I'm sure so will other people in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, just over a year ago the Yukon Government set up a program to assess children for FASD in the Yukon instead of sending them out of territory for assessment. Can the minister tell us whether her officials have collaborated with her counterparts in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories on the issue of FASD assessment and diagnostic measurement tools in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I responded earlier in that we are a partner of the western provinces and the three territories are part of that. During those discussions, we exchanged with other jurisdictions information on different types of initiatives that are being undertaken and we are aware of the Yukon's initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. I'm aware that the Yukon is doing some good work over there. So, it's good to share that kind of information; I'm glad to hear that they are working with our northern counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify for the House whether her department is working with the Departments of Education and Justice to address the issue of FASD within the school population and the prison population in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The FASD initiative in Nunavut; initiatives are in partnership with Health Canada First Nations Group; the research on it, but they also include Inuit organizations; NTI, QIA, KIA, Pauktuutit, Health, Education, Justice, Status of Women, and community members. So, there are a number of people involved in the initiatives to address FASD. Yes, the Department of Education is involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I hope she also means that the Department of Justice is involved.

Mr. Speaker, the minister outlined a lot of initiatives that the Government of Nunavut is doing. As we know, initiatives cost a lot of money if they are to be successful. FASD is a huge social problem. The FASD specialists said it is probably just the tip of the iceberg.

I'm aware that in January of this year, the Rankin Inlet Liquor Warehouse was opened and this probably brings a great deal more revenue to the territory. Can the minister clarify for the House whether she has considered the possibility of supplementing existing programs by accessing some of the extra revenue from the sale of alcohol and allocating it directly to alcohol awareness programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank the member for that question.

One thing I would like to just highlight is that the goals of the FASD program in Nunavut is to develop and promote territorial approaches to prevention, intervention, care, and support to individual families and institutions like education, again, to create partnerships, community-based training, again, as well, to increase awareness of the impact of FASD, and to increase awareness to young women of the impacts of drinking while pregnant.

The total funding available, in Nunavut, for FASD this past year is a little over \$400,000, and of course, that is not enough to address the impact of FASD in our society. So, I will take the member's comments and seek support from the Department of Finance; whether that's an option that we can consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 064 – 2(3): Wait Time for Cancer Patients

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are still a lot of Nunavummiut who are passing away while they are waiting to go to the hospital.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health; after their meeting last month with the federal government and the provincial and territorial ministers, they were dealing with waiting times. I would like to ask the minister: how great of a problem is it for patients who are waiting to be treated, especially with cancer patients, and how are you trying to reduce that waiting time, especially with the cancer patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct in that the health ministers across Canada, as well as the federal health minister have been addressing the issue of wait times in Canada.

The Wait Time Initiative at the FTP level relates to five areas, one of them being cancer. Right now, as it is, we are trying to address benchmarks at the national level; what should be acceptable wait times in the categories identified by the first ministers two years ago.

For Nunavut, when an individual requires immediate treatment, those individuals are sent to Iqaluit, Ottawa, Winnipeg, Yellowknife, or Edmonton. So in terms of Nunavummiut waiting to be seen; that number is very low. It is very low because we have very good service arrangements with the hospitals and facilities in the southern jurisdictions. If a person requires immediate treatment, that individual is sent to one of those locations where there is a hospital. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is important that the minister does respond, not only to this House, but to the public exactly as my first question was and it was not answered.

How long is the wait list for Nunavut residents seeking treatment for cancer? What's specifically being done to reduce the wait time for Nunavummiut? My supplementary question is where do patients in the Kivalliq suffering from cancer go to for treatment?

Are the wait times for patients in the Kivalliq longer or shorter than patients waiting in the Baffin or the Kitikmeot?

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member asked three questions in his second question so I will try and answer all of them. The wait time for Nunavut for the services people require when they need immediate treatment is there. When individuals require treatment immediately, they are medevaced to the centres.

In the Keewatin, people are sent to Winnipeg for cancer treatment. That service is not available yet in Nunavut. The waiting time that we make reference to in the FTP levels identifies the five categories, which I will provide the member.

The waiting time we have in Nunavut and the service that we get from the hospitals is very, very good as compared to the rest of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister attempting to address this issue but I really believe it's much more serious because we do have a huge waiting list in Nunavut. Patients continue to die without receiving medical treatment. I believe this government has to do more to really keep track of patients that actually need treatment and cannot get treatment, otherwise they are going to become attached to the provinces' waiting lists. That is why it is important.

My final question, at the 2004 First Ministers' meeting it was agreed by December 31, 2005 benchmarks for wait times are to be developed for five priority areas, which the minister outlined: cancer, heart diagnostic imaging, joint replacements, and sight restoration. Benchmarks represent the maximum amount of time patients should be waiting for specific procedures.

My question is; what improvements can we expect to see in Nunavut in these areas?

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is important if a person has cancer and dies of cancer without treatment, I would like to know the specifics on that because that is a very serious issue and a very serious problem if people are dying without being treated. I would like that clarified by the member because I do not want to leave the impression to Nunavummiut that this is happening.

So, if the member after can maybe provide me with some specifics on that, I would follow up on it. The December 31 issues related to the wait times is being presented to the first ministers meetings where the Premier is at, or will be at this year, before December 31.

As I mentioned, in Nunavut, our wait time is next to nil when it comes to treatment in northern areas because the difference between us is that when we require service or treatment in those five areas, the patients in Nunavut are sent to Ottawa, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Yellowknife, or here for treatment and we have a very good arrangement with those hospitals.

So when a person requires any treatment, we receive that service from those agencies and hospitals immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly will help the minister in giving her some. I really don't believe that what we're... what I'm doing is, I'm not accusing the government of not treating our patients.

It is a fact, and it is a fact, and I have had relatives who have had no treatment because by the time they were diagnosed with cancer, it was too late. Even less than one year ago, I do have a personal relative who died, and it was beyond treatment. So, we had to accept that reality.

So I'm asking the minister: will you do a bit more to really keep track of those serious diseases that need tracking in terms of waiting lists? We need to take part in reducing the wait list for our patients that need treatment.

Will the minister undertake to release and provide information to the public on these areas? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to the member to provide that information.

And, one of the things that I would also like to add is that with the new hospitals being established in the Kivalliq, as well as in the Kitikmeot and here, the whole issue of early diagnosis will be more available to Nunavummiut and that's one of the reasons that getting treatment closer to home and having those facilities available to provide early diagnosis is the overall goal to address some of the concerns that the member raises.

I will commit to providing that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 065 – 2(3): Homeownership Funding

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would direct my question to the Minister Responsible for Nunavut Housing Corporation.

Just before the Committee of the Whole yesterday, we were told that individuals who want to get homeownership, you said that it was available. When will that become available? I would like to get that information. That is what I'm asking him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding, if this is agreed to at this session, will become available immediately, once it's approved. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, for his response.

So, how many would be able to get some from that funding? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. I don't really understand his question.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The money that is set aside for this program, as he stated, once it's approved, and we'll probably approve it anyway, because we have a shortage of housing... so, how many houses would that be able to build? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I believe that we are requesting material for assistance programs. It will be for ten homeowners because we have talked to the federal government and they really approved of this idea, and if this goes through, then we can have more negotiations as to how else they can help us. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated ten units. So, will they be scattered like in the Baffin, the Kivalliq, and the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, they will be reviewing as to which communities will qualify and we will make it available to all Nunavummiut. If this succeeds, we will be able to make improvements in the upcoming years.

But at this time, I can't say which communities will benefit from that program. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will some of it go to Kivalliq...especially in the Keewatin, the smaller communities, they have a regional office in Arviat; they don't get very many visitors. So, a lot of times we don't even know of those different programs that are available. I wonder if he will be sending his officials to visit the smaller communities to announce the program that is available. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will try and do everything we can to make sure that the public will become aware of the program because we are going to have to order materials before the sealift in order for them to start construction. Yes, to his question, our staff will assist the communities in any way they can with the program that is being offered for housing. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 066 – 2(3): Wildlife Regulation Reviews

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Environment. Just a couple of days ago, I asked the minister about wildlife regulations and that was being worked on. Was it handed over to you before it was completed? Did you check into this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Environment, Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are currently working on this and we can check into it further.

In my last response, we gave all of the HTOs in the communities correspondence, even though they have reviewed this, but we wanted to get written submissions from the HTOs or from the public because we didn't want to make any mistakes on these regulations and we were willing to work with NWMB and NTI in regard to the regulations.

I have not checked into this further; if this went through that way, but if it's not completed, then the HTOs can review those regulations in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister, before the end of this session, respond to whether the wildlife regulations are missing because we only have a short time left until the end of this session. Will the minister be able to provide the House with the information whether all the regulations were passed out, or given to the hunters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the last workshop of the HTOs, they reviewed the wildlife regulations. I will look into whether the regulations were given out to the hunters and trappers, in whole or in part, for their review. After I find out from my staff I will provide the members with that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regulations have been dealt with. The review has been dealt with. Perhaps not in just a few days. I think it was reviewed for about three days, or so. I am sure it wasn't reviewed in just three days. I seem to understand the minister is saying that the Nunavut Government is saying that there is lack of funding for the review?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We went to the regional offices in Nunavut for the review of the wildlife regulations. They were paid by the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 067 – 2(3): Energy Crown Corporation and Letter of Expectation

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question again is for, none other than the energized, Minister of Energy. Before I start my question, I just want to say, "Hi Brian."

My question to the Minister is this; in May of this year letters of expectation to Nunavut's Crown agencies were formally tabled in this House. In a letter dated April 28, 2005, the Minister of Energy put his signature to the letter to the Chairman of the Board for the Qulliq Energy Corporation. Under the minister's own signature, the letter said, "The

immediate priorities of the corporation will include complying with both the letter and the spirit of applicable GN policies, particularly with respect to human resource policies and practices.”

My question is very simple. “Has the Qulliq Energy Corporation followed the minister’s directions and complied with the GN Staff Housing Policy and other HR practices? Yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Qulliq Energy Corporation, the power corporation, is guided and ruled by different pieces of legislation. That legislation outlines how policies and procedures work. One example of that was the adoption by the power corporation of the GN Employee Handbook, and excluded payroll book.

In the short answer to the member’s question the answer is yes. Indeed, the power corporation has moved forward to take into account, not only some of the financial concerns of the corporation, but the logistic, the administrative, and the human resource issues that are raised in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don’t know if it’s yes or no; yesterday it was no and today it’s yes. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, again, the minister threw up a spectacular smokescreen in his responses to me with reference to mysterious federal rules and regulations.

Mr. Speaker, I think we all know that we make the rules and issue the directives for how our territorial crown corporations operate. The morale of our public employees will be undermined if there are different sets of rules for different people.

Will the minister commit to tabling, in this House, the relevant policies and guidelines that apply to Qulliq Energy Corporation employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would commit to reviewing the issues around the public service, but the member has to be reminded that the Power Corporation employees are employees of the Power Corporation; they are not employees of the Government of Nunavut.

Indeed, the Power Corporation is an independent body outside of government, and at the same time, because the Power Corporation is 100 percent owned by the government as the major shareholder, then some of the rules, or directions, and so on, are associated with that ownership, flows through the corporation itself.

So I will commit, to the member, to bring forward the employees' handbook, as endorsed by the GN, which is the GN Excluded Employees' Handbook, which we follow as a corporation, which outlines the issues, I think, that the member is talking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aside from the handbook, I think that's something that you could probably get online through the GN's sites.

Has the new collective agreement between the Qulliq Energy Corporation and the union been signed off yet? And if it has, will he table that agreement in this House as well? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can comply, again, in fairness and the openness of transparency, I will table the collective agreement just signed off by the Power Corporation, which includes the entitlements and so on.

And I just want to put one little caveat on that, and that is to make sure that I can do that, I don't want to table information that may be detrimental or of a personal or confidential nature, but what I will do is table that agreement, in full, in the House with that caveat that I just mentioned. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also to shed some more light on the deep darkness of the corporation that the minister is responsible for, the darkness the corporation is responsible for.

I would like to ask him if the Qulliq Energy Corporation has formally responded to the minister's letter of expectation that I referred to earlier with a progress report, and if so, will he also table that in this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I first want to say that I am proud of the work that the corporation has done over the last few years and to the corporation; no one in the public or any other position or job in Nunavut probably has gone through more criticism than the Power Corporation employees. They do a fantastic job for us in very difficult weather conditions and in a very difficult climate area. So, I want to take this opportunity to thank them for that work.

Over the past several weeks I have had an opportunity to meet with members of the board, because I just appointed, as the member knows, new board members. We have

gone through the policies and recommendations that have been brought forward to the Crown Agency; those letters were tabled here in the House.

I am pleased to say that the board, through the chairmanship of Mr. Merkosak, has responded very favourably to those recommendations and I think part of that can be demonstrated by the turn around that we have seen in the corporation because they've actually started working on some of the logistical, administrative and financial issues that we have been discussing in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 068 – 2(3): Financial Restraints for GN

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Last week when the Minister of Finance gave his fiscal update it was revealed that we are now projecting an operating deficit for the 2005-06 fiscal year of just under \$9 million; I think the number here is \$8.7 million.

According to a recent news release the deadline for the appointing of an expert panel on equalization and territorial formula financing report to be submitted has been pushed back until sometime next year.

In the minutes of the Hansard of Wednesday, November 16, I asked the minister about this. The minister said at that time, "At this time I cannot really give him a definite answer." My question for the minister, since he had a week to think about it; can the minister tell us that the Financial Management Board has made any specific decisions or directives with respect to financial restraint measures or hiring freezes, and if so, what has been decided? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The FMB has not made any decision on that yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Finance for that answer. I'm not sure that I should be thanking him for that answer. I will because it gives me information for my next supplementary question. If our government does decide to run a deficit for 2005-06, will the government need to borrow an amount in order to pay its bills? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot answer that question at this time because it has not been discussed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell us if the Government of Nunavut has guaranteed any more debt on behalf of Crown corporations, such as the Qulliq Energy Corporation? If so, how many loan guarantees has it made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not made any new loan guarantees as yet. There have not been any new guarantees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister of Finance, again for that answer. Some time ago it was revealed that the Qulliq Energy Corporation was in arrears to the Petroleum Products Division of the Department of Community and Government Services.

Is the Qulliq Energy Corporation up to date for its fuel purchases? If not, how much does it owe? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps if the member can ask that question to the Department of Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Oral questions. The Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

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

Speaker (interpretation): ... just a minute ...this is part of some of the comments that you made during one of the Question Periods. Could you reply to Mr. Peterson's question again? Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They needed to make some adjustments last year and we have completed that. I believe that there might be some new ones, but if there is none we will deal with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 069 – 2(3): Commercial Power Hook-ups

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well I wasn't going to respond to that because I'm not a Minister. I have a question in regards to the starting up of new businesses.

My question is directed to the Minister Responsible for the Power Corporation. In my riding there are hook-ups required. How does it work for businesses that are just starting up and their connections?

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On hook-ups for electric power there are two processes, one for residential hook-up, and the other is a commercial process for hook-up.

They are slightly different. In a commercial hook-up, because there's energy amounts being used and the different capacity and loads being used for example, there are different codes that are in place.

In most cases, the power corporation would need drawings and so on to facilitate those hook-ups. Residential hook-ups are a little more straightforward. So I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) How long is the waiting period for a customer? Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each community has different waiting times depending on the amount of time that is being facilitated or done in that community.

As an example, if ten new units were being built in Arctic Bay, then we would have been in contact with the contractor there for the electrical hook-up, and that person, the contractor, would contact the power corporation and say we need x number of hook-ups, permanent hook-ups done, in a certain time frame, then that gives the power corporation the lead time to fly into Arctic Bay.

So, if the contractor said we need it for the end of July, then we would try and be there at the end of July to try and facilitate that. If we needed a hook-up immediately then that could take a week or two weeks depending on when we could get a crew into the community.

And again, it depends on whether it's a residential hook-up or commercial hook-up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to getting connected, is there a fee connected to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is a deposit requested by the power corporation when we do hook-ups.

The amount varies depending on the residential and the commercial amounts. So, if the member has a constituent who would like a residential hook-up, then that request would go to our local office and then that would be facilitated when the line crew are available.

If there is a commercial hook-up, then there are more drawings for example that need to be done, there is more work that needs to be scoped, a deposit has to be put in place, and then we would arrange for a crew to go in to do the hook-up. So there is a fee put in place.

At the same time, when you do, that fee is put in place, that fee is recoverable back to the client if that person moves or what have you. The amount is there on their bill, shown as a credit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is it possible for the minister to send the employees up there if it was an emergency case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In any community in Nunavut, the first priority for the power corporation is to get the power on.

A good example was, over the last couple of days in Repulse, we weren't able to get a crew out of Rankin Inlet which services that region and that community. We actually arranged quick as possible to send another plane and a different crew in from Iqaluit to service Repulse.

So with notification of a power outage that can't be handled locally, then the operator in the community contacts the power corporation and then we're able to facilitate an immediate response to that outage. That's the first priority of the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Item 7, Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 007 – 2(3): Directives, Instruction and Order

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Chairman of the Financial Management Board and Minister Responsible for the Crown Agency Council.

Mr. Speaker, within the meaning of the *Financial Administration Act (Nunavut)*, what directives, instructions and orders have been made since January 1, 2005, in respect to Government of Nunavut departments and Crown agencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): If you would bring up the written question please.

Written questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Written Question 008 – 2(3): Directives, Instructions and Orders

Mr. Tootoo: This question is for the Chairman of the Executive Council, that's our Premier. It is again regarding directives, instructions and orders.

Within the meaning of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* what directives, instructions and orders have been made by the Executive Council in Nunavut since January 1, 2005, with respect to Government of Nunavut departments and Crown agencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Written questions. 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. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 026 – 2(3): 2004-2005 Qulliit Nunavut

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish table the 2004-2005 Qulliit Nunavut Status of Women Council Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Minister Akesuk.

Tabled Document 027 – 2(3): Nunavut Housing Corporation Annual Report 2003-2004

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Nunavut Housing Corporation's Annual Report 2003-2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 028 – 2(3): News Release: Miramar Mining Announces \$43.5 Million Private Placement with Newmont Mining Corporation

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a news release from Miramar Mining entitled: Miramar Mining Announces \$43.5 Million Private Placement with Newmont Mining Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, Newmont Mining is the world's largest gold producer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 029 – 2(3): News Release: NTI Calls for Funding for Women's Shelter

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a news release: NTI Calls for Funding for Women's Shelter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 030 – 2(3): CLEY's Promoting Elders' Needs

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the following document from the Department of CLEY, it's in regard to promoting elders' needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 031 – 2(3): Annual Contract Data Report 2004-2005 and Leased Properties Report

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the documents in regards to last year's contracts for 2004-2005 and also housing rentals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Simailak.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2005-2006 – Notice**Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2, 2005-2006 – Notice****Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4, 2004-2005 – Notice**

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 25, 2005, that the following bills: Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2 2005-2006; Bill 3, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2 2005-2006; and Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4 2004-2005; will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Kilabuk.

Bill 10 – An Act to Amend the Nunavut Elections Act – Notice

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: I give notice that on Friday, November 25, 2005, I shall move that Bill 10, an Act to amend the *Nunavut Elections Act* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Orders of the Day. 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. Evyagotailak in the Chair. We will back here at 3:30 p.m.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:13 and Committee resumed at 15:45*

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

Chairman (interpretation): Good afternoon. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we have the following items to deal with: Bill 1. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your Committee would like to continue dealing with capital estimates for the Nunavut Housing Corporation and once that's finished, we will start off with the Department of Education on capital estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Are we in agreement that we first deal with Nunavut Housing Corporation?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister of Nunavut Housing Corporation and your staff, please go to the witness table. Minister Akesuk, for the record, please introduce your staff.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-2007 – Nunavut Housing Corporation – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right, Peter Scott, President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and also to my left, Vice President of the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Abraham Tagalik will be here with me. And also before I start, we have copies of the Homeownership Program and the Home Repair Program; I would like to give these copies to the members. They are broken down and have more detailed information.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk and your staff, welcome to the Committee of the Whole. Yesterday, we were on page L-6. Questions on page L-6? Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's nothing directed for elders. So I would like to get an update on what's happening with this, especially for the elders who own their own homes. I don't see any assistance programs for the elders, although we had seen \$1,500 that could be used by the Elder Homeowners Repair Program.

In my community of Coral Harbour, there are quite a few elders who own their own homes and they run into a lot of difficult problems because all they receive is their elders' pension. They don't even qualify for income support. Individuals told me that he has used the Nunavut Housing Corporation as an old company. Back in the Northwest Territories days, back then, the Hudson's Bay Company didn't really care whether the elders died or not. That's the viewpoint of some of the elders that we have and all they receive is the elders' pension.

Although it states here, \$1,500, but is there any other assistance program for homeowners that are elders? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We discussed a new program that will assist these special needs or disabled individuals. Those programs are available for assistance programs. They are broken down and when we go to that appropriate page they are allocated to each region of Nunavut. One directive for elders, and for the disabled persons, who are in the Homeowners' Assistance Program. That is the only program that we do have. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We see elders who live in public units when they are at the age of 60, they don't pay rent for the unit, and everything else

is paid for. The elders who own their home become envious. The elders say that when we start owning our own home we start getting poorer and poorer. They don't even provide any form of assistance.

We see the elders that own their own homes are treated differently than others. They do receive the repair program but they are not eligible to receive another repair program only after the five years. I might be wrong but the elders complain that there's not enough funding to maintain their homes.

Since an elder owns their own home they can't even own their own boats. When they want to move into a housing unit, they can't even move and they don't even have any transportation. They have to try and keep up the payments for services. Our elders should be considered more because they lack funding.

Perhaps the minister can make a commitment to make sure that there's maintenance funding for the elders that own their own home. Provide them with additional funding, or set aside some additional funding. Could the minister commit to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I understand. Your point is very well taken. In my constituency this has been a concern too. If I remember correctly the fuel subsidy is provided by Income Support. Starting in September and ending in March, I think that one of the departments provide some assistance. It would be good to make sure that this information goes to the elders.

Perhaps that assistance for elders, we should review the assistance for elders because this year this \$1,500 is the first time that we provided senior citizens with home repair, and for people with disabilities.

I know that it'll become clearer after we have utilized this program for a year. That way we can have a better idea of what is needed in assistance. We would like to work with the members of how we can adjust this better to make sure we provide more assistance to seniors and disabled persons.

The elders at the age of 60 stop paying rent. We can review this and I am committed to working on the senior citizens programs. It'll become clearer after we have used this for a year. Then we'll have a better idea what is needed by the elders. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser: (interpretation) Thank you Mr. Chairman and also I would like to thank the minister for committing to provide more assistance to the elders. We hear, as the Nunavut Government, we say that we have to respect our elders and show them more respect and I thank you for that.

I don't see, on Page L6, (inaudible) I don't see the Home Improvement Program. And, looking at the capital estimates, did you take out the HIP program or do we expect to see another program along the line?

Chairman: (interpretation) Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: (interpretation) Once we are on Page L10 you'll be able to see it and also on Page L12 as well. Grants and Contributions for those that you've just stated, it'll become clear as we go through those pages. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Akesuk. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation) I'm done.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask a question again. For this \$5 million in public housing, because it's in this bill that needs to be approved in this House during this session, if we don't complete it today it will probably be completed by tomorrow, those public houses, which community are they going to? Which community is receiving the houses from this line item? Could the minister update us on that? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mister Alagalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon Olayuk Akesuk: (interpretation) I apologize. The communities that have units constructed will not be receiving units. We are going to build two units in the communities. I think there are 12 communities in which we will be constructing units for public housing. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Perhaps, Mr. Chairman, I didn't quite understand him or hear him. I just agreed to part of...last year they were using the point system and said that it was really important. The communities that have the most need for housing, those that are the most overcrowded communities, are you going to use that criteria?

Chairman: Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are (inaudible) the first time there were seven, there were going to be ten, including the communities that did not get units last year. That's how it's going to be. If there was additional funding we would try to build additional units but we could only build 10 units with this funding. There are going to be 10 communities that will be receiving public units. The communities that received construction last year will not be receiving any.

Chairman: Mr. Alagalak

Mr. Alagalak: (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Chairman, last one. The communities that were included in the 10 communities that are not in dire need of units, just looking at the community, even though there is no need for housing and just because you didn't build units last year, are you going to include them in the communities that will be receiving units?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the communities have a shortage of units in Nunavut.

There is a long waiting list. If we had adequate funding, we would like to build but, we have to consider the communities that did not receive any units. All the communities have a long waiting list. So, we would like to respect them too.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask that they construct units that are joined together like duplexes.

I was wondering, do you have any plans to construct units that are houses on their own? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, we would like to construct units that are cheaper made, but some time in the future, if we were to receive additional funds for public housing and the programs for homeownership, when you provide homeownership, they use single dwellings for that.

But, to date, we've been constructing apartments, or duplexes. We have reviewed to make sure that we can build more units. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of times my constituency they ask these kinds of questions and they request information in regards to that and I thank the minister for responding.

Now I know what answer to give to my constituents. The material for houses usually come in the fall, and they start building in the fall time. Because of the cold weather coming, they build homes really fast because they have only about three months to build them.

When the materials come in, in the fall, I wonder, wouldn't it be better, or has this been thought of, where they start building them in the spring time? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe those communities that are allotted homes, it's up to the individual communities as to how they wish to build those homes.

This certainly can be considered by the Local Housing Organizations. Because of a severe shortage of homes, they wish to start building them right away. This can be up to the discretion of the community. If they think it would be better for them to start building in the spring, but as we all know, we want to get houses as fast as we can so they can be inhabited as soon as they finish. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm only talking about public houses.

Yes, we know that they want to start constructing homes right away when they get the material. They may not be built properly because they are in a hurry to finish them and the weather is getting too cold. The life expectancy of those units is lower. I asked a question; if it can be considered that they can start constructing when the weather is nicer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. Maybe in some prominent communities, the springtime and summer is longer, but for those other communities, it would be up to the discretion of the individual communities. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realize that this will be considered and we certainly appreciate the construction workers. We are hearing that all of the materials didn't come in so they have a shortage where the materials were landed and it has been considered that they would be brought up by plane. You certainly can assign that money into building homes. I wonder if they are considering that; it will cost a lot to fly them up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For about five or six years, with this present government, we are trying to look at different ways to build houses and to do the best we can.

Sometimes we have no choice but to fly some materials in and we certainly can look into this. Our staff can look at some ways as to how to improve this situation to make sure all of the material is shipped up at the same time. Your concern is well taken. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his staff.

First of all, I just want to make a comment. As an individual MLA, what I want to say is that the Nunavut Housing Corporation; I just want to let the minister and his staff know that not very many people are thankful for what they do, but this is pointing fingers. We are certainly proud that you work really hard and not too many people seem to thank you, either from an MLA or from the public, but we understand that your hands are tied too, sometimes, when you are dealing with social housing, and I would like to thank the minister for working so hard, but we want our concerns to be known.

So, for that reason, I have no doubt that you are working hard and the information that we are getting to improve, we will certainly expect those.

My concern was what the MLA for Arviat raised, asking where those units will be given to the communities; which communities are they going to, that \$5 million.

I believe they'll be about 20 units. I am kind of hesitant to approve something when I don't know which community they'll be going to. (interpretation ends) It's just like giving a blank cheque for \$20 million and I am promising to build 20 houses in unknown communities. That would not be a good service to the public.

I will be asking later that we defer that item until the minister has tabled that. It could be today, but that information should be printed and should be given to all members, as we deal with it. We are not rushing; we have all week to approve your budget yet.

I have other comments that I want to deal with. One is first of all you made a statement the other day that you will build how many odd houses. You indicated that you built 270 units or something over three years. You stated that the other day in here.

Anyways just to get it on the record. When the public listens to that they could see that this could be a new program, but it is a program that has been going on for two years about your distribution of housing during the last years indicated that 85 units were built

in 2004-05, about \$97,000 last year, 2005-06. Last year it was approximately 20, if you were lucky you will probably build a bit more with \$5 million for this year.

I just want to put that on the record. This is an ongoing program and it's expiring with the federal contribution side. We look forward to seeing an extension, at least a new program, as you negotiate with the federal government. We give you all our blessing and support for that.

The minister doesn't really have to address that one. I am just pointing those for the record.

We live in probably one of the most expensive places for building housing in all of Canada. I know for the record that the cost of shipping is a significant part of any housing budget that the government has. Does the minister and his staff know approximately what percentage of the cost is related to freight for housing; like public housing. We have a benchmark of roughly \$250,000 per house.

Could the minister indicate too for the record roughly what the percentage of the cost is for freight costs for delivering a house, total cost of the house. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It differs from year to year so it's kind of hard to pinpoint as to what percentage it is. Maybe my staff knows more about the percentage freight that he is inquiring about.

Those communities that we have agreed to make new houses are Pond Inlet, Kimmirut, Gjoa Haven, Taloyoak, Cape Dorset, Coral Harbour, Arctic Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq, Baker Lake and Rankin Inlet. Those are the communities that will be getting new houses. If we were lucky enough to get some funding, it would be good to do all of the communities.

I will be meeting with the Federal Minister of Housing in the month of December as to how he can make improvements. Maybe one of my staff, the president or the vice president can elaborate more as to what percentage of it is spent on freight. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I was wondering whether one of the staff members of the minister might be able to respond (interpretation ends) about the last part of my question related to freight costs, what percentage, roughly, is the freight cost for building units in Nunavut?

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister Akesuk. Okay, Mr. Scott, sorry.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to give a rough, ballpark percentage, I do have a breakdown between material and freight, but the last couple of years, has been roughly 40 percent of our total construction cost. So that is as related to material and freight.

The best guess on that is probably a little bit more than half of that amount would have been the freight component, but to get better numbers, I could get them from the office and provide them to the minister to give to the member.

So, the labour, over the last few years, constituted about 60 percent of our total construction cost, which has been a switch from five to ten years ago, when the ratio was the other way around; it used to be about 60 percent for material and freight and 40 percent for labour. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Scott. Minister, when you refer to your staff, please give me their name right away, that way I can just go direct to them. Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Scott. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is quite important, Mr. Minister and Mr. Scott, but I'm not fully convinced that those approximate rates are up to date or not.

I think it's important that, if at all possible, the department do sort of a statistical evaluation of all of the costs that were incurred during the last I don't know how many years. The longer the better, at least five years, if we can have that stat document; it's important for us to know where the public money is being spent. I don't think we should be doing it out of the sky and grab anything solid from there.

I know that the private sector does its cost analysis. I know they have a pretty good idea of where their costs are going. They are not going to release that information now, but I think it's important that the Housing Corporation does that because the cost of living in Nunavut is the most serious issue for consumers and people of Nunavut. If they don't understand the cost of delivery in the government we're not doing the public or the consumers any good. We need those figures.

I believe the transportation is the most complicated and the most important part of the family and business relationship in Nunavut. It's for that reason that I'm dealing with this.

My second part leading to that is: has the Housing Corporation ever considered ways or modes to deliver or reduce the cost of shipping materials to communities for public housing?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we talk with the federal government or when we have a meeting with the provincial government, we try to make it very clear as to the best way for delivery purposes of those. I think it's going to

be in April and May, if we try to access some funding from the federal government. And, it's very expensive. There was somebody that came up to try to find out how much it would be, the cheapest way to deliver, or for those housing materials, and the best way for delivery to the communities.

We tried to explain to the federal government that the best way to deliver to the Kivalliq Region, say for instance, from Manitoba, we tried to relay those messages to them. Say for instance, if we can have Arviat as a port to deliver materials, and what would be the cheapest way to deliver materials from which province, to the Baffin Region, the Kitikmeot Region and so on.

We can find out and do a survey to find out the best way and the cheapest way to deliver materials to the communities. Thank you.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the things that we are looking at for the 2006-07 sealift season is using containers for our bulky materials that are coming, as opposed to crating everything. A tremendous amount of cost is associated with crating all the material, and the use of containers puts a substantial reduction on some of the freight and marshalling costs of the material.

So, that's one thing that we're looking at. We haven't done the complete analyses of that. It looks good for next year. We are required to use the Government of Nunavut approved shippers and we comply with that requirement. So we don't have a lot of flexibility on using alternate shipping routes or shippers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, I appreciate that response. I think that's something that could be applied right across Nunavut communities.

Although, I think when you look at the marine shipping companies throughout, most of them are container based. Obviously anything to save costs, crating is probably one of the most expensive and labour intensive kinds of ways of picking and, like nickel and diming right across the country and when you add all the costs into, that's time consuming.

So, I appreciate Mr. Scott's response to that and I look forward to hearing further exactly what the cost benefits analyses that they're doing... would eventually find it's way through the House, and I look forward to dealing with that a bit more even through the winter session.

But, I do have further question related to freight issues. Whether we like it or not, I think the Government of Nunavut plays a big part in continuing the policy of monopoly. Maybe the minister would probably say no, they don't support monopolies, they like competition.

No, this government continues a marine shipping monopoly. There are three zones for shipping in Baffin. Even if the dry cargo contract ends and the government re-tenders it, with the same criteria for three zones in Baffin, Fox Basin, High Arctic, and South Baffin area, even if one shipping company is the lowest bidder, they will not be given all three contracts for those areas. You know that.

So the government will issue one part of it to a shipping company and the other part to another contractor. Kivalliq is another zone that is independent of the Baffin communities.

The government buys into this monopoly, or promotes it. We don't have a free-market system. Would the Minister of Housing take part in analyzing whether or not having a free-market for marine shipping would be a benefit for reducing the cost of shipping of goods and services into Nunavut communities because the bulk of the public infrastructure is handled through the Housing Corporation.

I just would like to ask the minister to see whether or not that is worth thinking about for the next five to ten years down the road. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contract services for shipping are done by CGS, but Mr. Curley is saying that he would like the Housing Corporation to try to find out the cheapest freighting company that could provide shipping to the communities. I think we would work with CGS to find out the cheapest freighter to freight those materials to provide the communities with the material and that is what we'll try to do. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley, your time is up so if you have any further question you may raise your question after the members have completed their questions. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for letting me have the chance to ask questions. We really appreciate the work that the Housing Corporation is doing, but the communities expect to be provided with services, especially the homeowners.

Last summer I got a telephone call from President Scott in regards to one of my constituents from Coral Harbour, who spoke to an Arviat official from the Nunavut Housing Corporation, he was expecting to have his home renovated, or upgraded. We were very happy that that individual was able to get his house improved in Coral Harbour and he is also an older person.

So the individual was very much expecting the material for renovating his house, but whenever a ship comes in, the individual would go to see whether the material came in

yet. It is not just one person that I know of, but something happened why he did not get the material for renovating his house this summer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I am sorry to hear that and I apologize to the member on behalf of the member's constituent. Perhaps it was the people that were doing the shipping of materials. We will assure the member that we will try our best to make sure that the material is put on board the ship, perhaps next summer. Thank you.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we would say if we were in his shoes because...I wonder why they are saying that when they don't go through with what they promised.

There was also an individual whose house was being assessed, measurements taken of all his windows, and all the renovations that had to be done, and that individual expected his house to be renovated.

But I feel that those individuals that were expecting those kind of replacements or renovations done to their house should be given a letter of explanation of why it didn't happen because it gets maddening. I received a telephone call and they were very upset about it. So, they should be given a letter of apology, an explanation of what happened; why they didn't get their houses renovated, or the material didn't come in, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We will do that and we will make sure that these individuals will be given an explanation.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the minister and his officials back to our Committee of the Whole hearings.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to follow up on some comments we made yesterday just to get some more information about what's going on down south in Ottawa in terms of lobbying efforts.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Nunavut and NTI put together the Nunavut Ten Year Inuit Housing Action Plan. I'm just reading some stats here on some of the information; facts on Nunavut housing. The number of households reporting the need of housing, there are 3,000, number of homes needed to keep pace with growing household formation, 273 annually. The average cost of a new home; \$250,000, and then the percentage of these

homes; 20 percent, which equates to 790 of 3,638 publicly owned or maintained homes of the Housing Corporation that are now over twenty-five years old.

My question for the minister; when I read that kind of information and the authors of the 2005 Nunavut Economic Outlook say it's a very comprehensive report, when I read those kinds of numbers, and I'm sure others read them, it gives me a real sense of a crisis in Nunavut.

When you take that information to your federal colleagues, the Prime Minister, Minister Fontana, and I don't know who else down there, your colleagues from provinces across Canada who I'm sure support you, what do they tell you? Do they give you a sense about what they are thinking is going on up here or are they not thinking? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the Minister of Housing for the Government of Nunavut, I do my very best to send the message to all other jurisdictions, of course, the federal government to make sure they know this is what we are going through.

Hopefully, the FMM will have a better idea of the housing situation here in Nunavut after they see the documentary that ITK did. So, I think it's important that, after the FMM, that I go see the federal minister. I have talked to him a few times, he visited Nunavut this year, he visited four communities, and I got him to tour some of the old houses that are still being lived in. So, I think he's got an idea of what we are going through.

Again, the \$1.6 billion will be a big topic in FMM, and right after that, I want to make sure that I get briefed on what the decisions will be before they actually do it. Myself, as the minister, I have tried my very best to send my message. I think ITK and NTI have done a great job promoting that too, and we are certainly involving them. We want to see the Ten Year Housing Strategy implemented over the next 10 years.

We're asking for \$1.9 billion for a 10 year period and I think it's even going to cost more than that in 10 years time. Again, we're going to make sure that we work hard and we do our very best to make sure that we send our message.

Also, we're not the only Inuit in the jurisdictions of Canada. Quebec has certainly been on our side, so is Newfoundland and Labrador and other provinces. So, I think we're sending our message to them, and I think after asking them, we'll have a better idea of what we're getting in the future and that's not the end of it.

I think there is still a lot of work like Mr. Curley said earlier. We do our very best to make sure that we try and meet the needs of our people in Nunavut with the housing crisis that we have in every community.

So, I believe that we're doing our very best and hopefully the federal government will open up their ears to help us out in the future. And again, a lot of Aboriginal, it's being used again, the word Aboriginal... on the last communiqué in our meeting, we said look, let's put Inuit in there, because most of the time we don't qualify for Aboriginal programs that are there for other Aboriginals.

So, our message, or my message during the meeting was to make sure that they put Inuit in communiqués now so that we will be recognized under programs that will be delivered in the future. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Akesuk. When you have questions to L-6, ask your questions. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Chairman, the Nunavut Economic Outlook made a comment in the report. They said that the initial response to the proposal from the federal government was not positive stating that the project was too ambitious.

So, I take it that they read it. Could you elaborate a little bit on what that statement meant? Why did the federal government say it was too ambitious when it presents a more realistic current situation that we're living right now? This isn't a pie in the sky dream stuff. This is stuff that is on the ground now happening.

Why did they say it's too ambitious? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The word ambitious, the federal government never consulted with us, with the comments that they put in the Nunavut Economic Outlook.

Again, my job as the Minister for Housing is to make sure that we send our message, I send my message coming from the territory, from the standing committee, from the people that are involved in housing.

Again, that's something that I would make sure that I mention in the next meeting with the Federal Housing Minister, to say look; I don't think these are appropriate. I think it's something that hopefully they'll learn in this FMM if the documentary or the presentation about the housing situation here in Nunavut is delivered in FMM. I hope that will send the message and open their ears more widely to our concerns here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister again for that comment. In an ITK press release, on June 14, in reaction to the government's response, the President

of ITK said: "... that Inuit as a whole suffer 54 percent overcrowding in our homes, seven times the national average. This results in hidden homelessness that isn't covered under regular federal funding to fight homelessness."

I know the President of ITK is attending this First Ministers' meeting in Kelowna this coming weekend. Or, this coming weekend. According to the media reports he's taking his photographs with him. So, hopefully that will help open a few eyes there, or hearts. Yeah, hearts, eyes, pockets. It's an election year coming up probably as well so.

In your opening statement yesterday you stated that you were having discussions with the federal government regarding incremental funding for housing. Are you at liberty to clarify what you meant by that, or what kind of incremental funding are you referring to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Minister Akesuk.

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

Chairman: Thank you Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The 10-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan speaks to a long term sustainable plan and what's on the table with the federal government as everyone is aware is 1.6 billion dollars across Canada in a two-year fund that must be spent by March of 2007.

So it doesn't address even the front end of the 10-Year Action Plan and we are looking at any contribution that we can get even a share of the 1.6 billion dollars as a bit of a down payment to the long term housing plan.

We did meet with Minister Fontana on the 13th of November and discussed what we would like to see out of the 1.6 billion dollars for a national housing budget.

Our request to the federal minister was for 500 housing units over the two-year period that this money is available, 250 units per year.

We are optimistic, but I wouldn't take that to the bank. That is what our request was. In addition to that we have also asked for renovations to houses as well as a federal contribution towards the Materials Assistance Program that we have some money in this budget for. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Scott. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Mr. Scott for that answer. I guess the nature of the business that you are in is that you have to be optimistic and see the cup as half full rather than half empty.

These are pretty daunting statistics that we are talking about every year. Unless we address them somewhere and get those resources from somewhere they will just continue to get worse and worse. I don't even want to think of where we will be in five years if we don't get immediate help. I'm hoping that your meeting with Mr. Fontana went favourably, although I'm sure he has competing demands on the \$1.6 billion that you are talking about.

I wanted to ask some questions specific to page L-6. Do you have a community by community list of the public and social housing requirements that we require in Nunavut, like what Cambridge Bay needs, what Arviat needs?

In your own information we need 3,000 new units to alleviate existing demands. So you must have the numbers by community somewhere. Is that information available? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't have that list right now but we can certainly look at putting that together sometime. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you Minister Akesuk. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I get a commitment that you will provide that information.

I can see looking at the numbers that this 3,000 is just a ballpark number. I'd like to know if it's based on hard, cold data and the 273 houses that they are projecting per year, how do you arrive at figures like that? Can I get a commitment from the minister that that information will be provided to us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Peterson. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As long as it's not next week, probably in the next sitting or even after the next sitting. It's a lot of work to put together. We have 80 PYs that are very busy. We want to make sure that we do what the MLAs want. We'll do our very best to come up with the list. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In this day and age of computers and databases, and so on and so forth, you just punch a key in and you have all that information. I know you had to put that information together for your strategy, and then the authors of the outlook used it. I was just assuming that you have it somewhere. It is based on data that you got from the local housing organizations, and your district housing office.

I look forward to getting that. I'm hoping that I could get that information not tomorrow, maybe not next week. I don't want to get it at a point of time where it is of no use to me. I want to get it within the next two to three months so we could look at it and start thinking about things. I'm sure that members of my standing committee would be interested in getting that information as well.

Another question that I have is related to the 20 houses. Last year, you presented a methodology that was based on four formulas that you somehow collated and then you arrived at a ranking system for 23 communities, and then we approved funding for the housing last year for several communities and now you're proposing ten this year.

Are you using the same methodology? Are you moving the next ten communities up the list? Is that how you did it? And then there will be six communities remaining, five or six?

I remember Cambridge Bay was the twenty third, it was right down at the bottom. Will this be the methodology or formula that you continue to use this year and subsequent years to allocate 20 houses this year, it might only be ten houses next year, for all we know. Can I get a comment from the minister on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: When you are asking your questions, please go through the Chair, that way the minister will answer and the answers will be on record. Rather than just waiting for yes and no. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the way we are going to do it, unless we get the 250 houses that we want to build next year from the federal government, we'll certainly look at different ways of making sure that we get houses in every community. I think that's what we are going to do. We want to at least get houses in every community. It started last year, or a couple of years ago, going on this year and the next year. That is what we'll do. Then again, if the federal government decides to give us money to build houses for the next couple of years; that's 500 units. We'll look into it. We are making sure that everybody gets their fair share of houses. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Based on what we've seen today from the federal government I am not going to hold my breath on the 500 houses. The fact remains that we are probably going to get short changed again. I'd like to be an optimist and see that the cup is half full but then there is the reality.

I guess the reality leads to my next question for the minister. If there are no federal dollars that come into Nunavut, where does the Government of Nunavut, or Nunavut Housing Corporation start cutting so that we have funds available to provide more houses in our communities in future years? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: I think we have started. The new housing policy will probably help us out to build more houses in the future. That will benefit towards public houses and that's what we are trying to do is trying to promote homeownership to have people build their own houses. Maybe with the savings that we gather, we probably could build more houses.

Again, \$5 million is not enough and it's coming from the government, and there's not a penny from the federal government that we are building these 20 units. Hopefully, we will have an idea of how we could build houses in the future from the government and we don't want to stop until, I don't think we will ever stop trying to build houses in Nunavut.

Again, the homeownership program will probably help us, in the long run, to have more houses and public houses built. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for those points.

Again, I mentioned yesterday, in my opening comments, homeownership isn't for everybody. I appreciate that you are providing funds for new homeowners, but it's a very expensive proposition, a lot of responsibilities, and then you have mortgage payments, interest payments, you have your fuel costs, power costs, utilities costs, insurance costs, and then your annual maintenance cost, which could be quite substantial. To be able to own a house, you have to have a job and most of the good jobs are already taken across Nunavut.

We are going to have to depend a lot on the private sectors to start developing and creating jobs. You have to get all of the departments involved to get the economy rolling so that you can put some people to work who can afford to buy or build their own homes.

What the reality is, at some point, we are probably going to be faced with having to maybe cut in various departments so as to be able to provide housing for people in Nunavut, public and social housing. We can't have entire families, let's say three generations of a family all living in a little 900 square foot house. It's just not acceptable. We will be faced with those kinds of tough decisions if we can't get any serious help from the federal government.

That was just a closing comment, Mr. Chairman, it's not really a question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to give the minister a chance to provide that detailed information to exactly which communities, I never mentioned to him, but he did say how many each, considering the community orally presented a contained number

of units at all. That is important to us before we approve the item on this page. Would the minister approve or agree if we can skip that line item and leave it to the last detail to tidy it up?

The reason for asking that question is because the number of units proposed for the amount of money allocated here, it begs the question, really. Will these units be labour-only or will they be designed, shipped, and built by a contractor because one will obviously have an impact on what the unit cost of those buildings will be. So, that's my first question: will they be labour-only or a mix of the two?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Scott to answer that question and I have the list here. So, I will be handing that over to him. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The plan, right now, is to use our material/supply contracts to purchase the material and ship them into the communities, and then go with a separate labour-only contract with the construction of the duplexes.

Because the projects are small; there are only two, two bedroom duplexes, we'd like to look at doing as many community based projects as we can in these 10 communities, using possibly our Local Housing Organization as a general contractor, or through a project authority agreement similar to what we did in Chesterfield Inlet, or Repulse Bay, or even the Clyde River project from last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that response was clear. I appreciate the President of the Housing Corporation.

My next question is also related to that. One is that when the Housing Corporation decides that they will only mainly be labour only, obviously someone has to do the design, as well as choose supplies.

How are the supplies determined when the government chooses to go through labour only contracts, or build provisions for these units in Nunavut?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We go through a public tender process. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes, the public tender process, is that guided by the NNI Policy, mainly the companies that are listed in the NNI Policy of the government, qualifies to be awarded the successful bid? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we follow the NNI policy. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. What I'm trying to arrive at is whether or not, when you follow the NNI, are there actually companies that actually have the capacity to supply you the value or the competitive prices that are available in the market place?

Or, do you simply try to satisfy the NNI government policy instead of getting value for their money through the... getting the best buck for the dollar? Is that the component? Or is it: just really try to satisfy the NNI Policy, whether or not the company that are not in the list, obviously normally, probably bid somehow?

So, I would like the minister to articulate a bit more rather just saying yes and no answers. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought yes and no answers were good.

When they ask questions yes or no, I tried my best. I guess I'll direct the President to answer that question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've used the public tendering process, public advertising the material tenders, and we always have. And, particularly for the last two years, two years ago, Iglu Supplies was the successful bidder, and this past year it was Umingmak Supplies was the successful bidder.

Iglu is not a northern, not an NNI or northern supplier. Umingmak is. We've provided copies of our tender documents for the material supplied to some of the larger national building supply companies.

Some of them have approached us for copies of our tenders and that. None of them have ever submitted. It's always... the last two years it's only been Iglu and Umingmak that have submitted tender responses to our call for public tender. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I appreciate the answer. I know that there's one major supplier in the eastern part of Canada like Montreal, I don't know whether they are planning to supply Baffin Island communities or not everyday. Mr. Scott could probably explain to that. I don't want to give the name.

What I'm trying to get at is by the way of saving costs of shipping and getting materials, and reducing costs of building, the buying component is important. Do we need to find ways to restructure the market or whatever, or is that too much of a task in asking the government because our legislature got a public expenditure that we need some information of exactly whether or not the delivery and supply; the supplier, whether or not they are an actual competitor, or is the Housing Corporation hindered by the policy or not in reducing costs?

These are the things that we want to know because, not that we are going to chase you with a knife, but eventually, somehow, those studies should really be conducted further so that there's justification for public expenditure are really proved now as the best possible way.

So, my question is: currently, is the policy that's crafted by the Housing Corporation is working, in your view? If not, if there needs to be any changes with respect to contracting supplies? Will the minister indicate whether or not, to the House, that he would refer it to looking into that further to provide options for buying material from the competitive companies, whether or not they are northern-based or southern-based? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will look into that, and I would like Mr. Scott to respond to the question.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned earlier, one of the things we are looking at is changing from crating our material to containerizing. This is as a result of one of our concerns in not being able to attract other suppliers, other than the two major suppliers that have been bidding on our supply tenders.

I think part of the reason the large national companies haven't engaged in tendering on our material tenders is because they are not familiar with the process of transshipping and using the ports in Montreal and Hay River, in particular. If we remove that, maybe the training requirement or the requirement to package our material goods, I think we can attract more interest from the national companies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Scott. I appreciate the frankness of the response.

The people that do have a relationship with the northern suppliers, as well as the building contractors, I think they have a pretty good understanding of the market. So, they can hire or make partnerships with the major suppliers. That's what I'm getting at. Not just that the big companies will take over the supplying, but our northern contractors...

Right now, the way NNI policy invites southerners to come and joint venture with them, our investors in communities are now able to go down and we pick up some partnership deals with those companies. That's what I'm trying to get at. I think there could be a mix of the two to make the best value for the money for building housing units; can reduce the cost of building units in Nunavut.

My other question has to do with the Tenant to Owner Program. I appreciate that program but also there is a similar concern, maybe in Cambridge Bay. There is not a whole lot of understanding by potential owners what buying a house really means. It has become, in some cases, the people are now facing obligations to enter into all these requirements. Many of the houses that they bought have to comply with the national building codes. When we say national housing code it means that the insurance companies have to have certified housing that all their electrical, everything in the house is certified, protected and everything.

I am not personally really convinced that Tenant to Owner program has all the information that the potential buyer should have. The reason for saying that is I'm not fully sure that they normally are aware whether the house that they are interested in buying is really has a value maybe for that individual.

It could be thirty years old, more than twenty years old. If they have been living in it for thirteen years they really sort of have an emotional attachment to the location, and what not, regardless of what the condition of the house is.

What I am trying to get at is does the minister, or his staff have a program that would assist in actually giving the tenant a program of appraising the value before they enter into an arrangement with the Housing Corporation to take over the homeownership.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We are currently working on a homeownership session of how we can assist those people more. We'll let them be able to review as to what it takes to own a home. Those units can be appraised, or evaluated by the Nunavut Housing Corporation staff and along with the homeowner who is interested. Those are the things that we can provide as to how those people can be assisted from our department. Thank you.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. For that reason I brought this up – the Tenant to Own Program. It's very attractive but those are very old units. The modern ones now that I mentioned, the Rankin Inlet Home Access, maybe it's a different program. Those are very hard to sell; nobody wants to buy them.

If we are going to offer them that, even if they are given those units and if you explain the cost of maintaining that unit, all these things; it'll be overwhelming for those prospective homeowners.

When you want to buy something you don't want something that is too old. Those are the things that you have to make available to the prospective homeowners, because those are obligations that you have to look at a certain unit for quite a number of years. Maybe those things can be put on paper so it can be understood by the tenant. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we are willing to do that and we are willing to, for those prospective homeowners explain the pros and cons about the house that they are about to purchase. We try and make it attractive for those tenants and we have made adjustments, especially if they are going to make units, new units. Thank you.

Mr. Chairman: Thank you Minister. Mr. Curley your time is up. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's very nice to see the Minister and his staff back here in the chambers. I know they enjoy coming here quite a bit. I wish they could do it more often.

I know the President indicated yesterday that I had the pleasure of working for the Housing Corporation, one might say back in it's glory days when just in the Baffin region alone the capital budget was \$15 million or anywhere between \$12 million and \$15 million, and it's, as I said in the past, that it's pretty disheartening when you look at the overall budget for the territory is less than that now for capital than what it used to be for just one region.

One of the things that was done back then and Mr. Scott alluded to it earlier with these management agreements with the LHOs was to try and maximize local participation in the capital projects which is something that they are looking at and I was glad to hear that they are looking at that again. Also one of the things that worked well back then when almost anyone could work for the Housing Corporation, they even hired me Mr. Chairman, was the fact that they had a two year capital delivery cycle.

Is that anything that they may look at revisiting or try to look at again? Because it allowed for more flexibility with some of the issues that we have heard raised here today

a two year cycle would alleviate some of those problems and I'm just wondering if that is something that they are looking at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Tootoo. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): I think we've gone a long way and I think we are better than before in our job so, I don't know Hunter, we don't have \$15 million to spend in one region right now.

I think there are ways of trying to figure out what we could do better and your suggestion is another way of trying to figure out what we could improve. I think we could certainly look into that suggestion.

Again we don't have the money that the Northwest Territories did, these days we are doing our very best to meet our housing needs and any suggestions that will help us out as a corporation are welcome again. I think we will do our very best to meet what we are trying to do for our people. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you Minister Akesuk. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can attest that we are doing better as far as people running the show if you know Mr. Scott and some other people remember some of the other people we had to deal with at headquarters and us in Nunavut would just sit here and just shake our heads sometimes.

Sometimes some of the decisions they came up with and some of the projects they tried to do, for example, the house relocation project and some of these things, you know we are behind as far as resources go and I think some of the issues that were raised here today, Mr. Netser, you know basically, people's stuff missed the boat. I think a lot of things are just timing related. By the time the approval goes through for the funding and that, in some places it's too late for everything, once everything gets finalized.

I guess that's... I'm just wondering, and I welcome and look forward to the minister updating the members of this House as to why they're not going back to a two year capital budgeting cycle for housing.

It would be something that would be beneficial for Nunavummiut and could potentially help stretch our housing dollars a little further with more advanced planning. Will the minister give us an update once they've looked at that option? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we're certainly looking to that, and we'll certainly inform you again.

We're doing that in the Kitikmeot, two year capital building delivery recycle. So, if we have to do that, we'll do that in some other regions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I don't have names on my list. Nunavut Housing Corporation Information Item. Nunavut Housing Corporation details of capital. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the minister, but I have another question.

When we were in the standing committee stage, there had been some studies done in regards to housing. It's tied up with the operations and maintenance. I just want to find out from the minister when the housing study ends... can you elaborate on the status on those studies?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll get Mr. Scott to answer where we are with the studies that we're doing in our department under Nunavut communities or needs. So, maybe Mr. Scott could answer that question.

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

Mr. Scott: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I probably should ask for some clarity or clarification because Mr. Peterson asked earlier about doing specific community needs studies, or needs surveys to get statistics on each community.

Is that similar to what Mr. Curley is looking for, a needs study on each community?
Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Well Mr. Chairman that is probably related to it. I remember last fall that we referred to it during the committee. There were a number of surveys going on.

What we were promised was that these eventually would be provided to the committee or the House. I'm just trying to get an understanding of exactly which studies have been conducted now. Or have there been other ones that have been conducted?

One is the needs study, which obviously relates to a survey of each community. I'll decide if that was a similar response to the one the MLA received. I wasn't paying too much attention. It was someone else asking. Thank you.

>> *Laughter*

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

Mr. Scott: A comprehensive needs survey or study, territorial-wide is not right now in our business plan for next year.

There has been some talk with CMHC in partnering with CMHC on doing a housing strategy on a few communities. I think Minister Fontana, or his staff mentioned that when they were in Rankin Inlet. We have been meeting with CMHC and discussing that with them, and we'll continue to move along that line with CMHC. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My last question really has to do with the Material Assistance Program that CMHC carries out and provides to successful, eligible applicants. In view of the fact that some communities do not have a whole lot of financing available for the construction of these eligible applicants, do you have any kind of construction financing cost program for those people? Or is the construction costs part of that Material Assistance Program?

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) We are the people that will be providing the material for those people that are provided with homeownership and we provide them with the assistance in how to go about building a new home. We will be working with those clients to provide assistance throughout the beginning to the end of the building of their home.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I want to be clear. The Material Assistance Program is quite different from getting financing for a construction costs. It still costs an individual to put up a building, even if they are successful in getting material assistance.

I heard one story that a whole lot of new material is sitting in one successful applicant's house, haven't got around to constructing. The material is deteriorating. So what is the point of really giving a whole slew of material if the construction cost is not part of it. They have no room of having a line of credit with the bank to put it up. They probably don't have a whole lot of capital, or ability to hire contractors. They can't follow a blueprint or anything.

What happens to those kinds of people? Thank you.

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

Mr. Scott: Because of the limited number of MAPs used that we'll be able to deliver if our budget is approved, it's only ten units; \$1.5 million. We are estimating that the

material and the freight costs for the housing packages will be about \$150,000 per client, as an estimate.

The program requirements are slightly different from the old HAP program that some of the members do remember, in that the eligible client will be required to secure financing for the construction of the house and they will be required to find a contractor, or an eligible and qualified contractor to do the construction.

We want the first round of MAP clients to be very successful so we are looking for the very best clients with the best capability of succeeding through banks; using bank mortgages and qualified contractors to make sure that the units get built. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: That is all.

Chairman: Nunavut Housing Corporation. Detail of capital. Grants and Contributions. Headquarters region. Total headquarters region. \$8,210,000. Does this committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. L-7. L-9. L-10. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Grants and Contributions. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$5,760,000. Sorry, L-10. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$5,760,000. Does the Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. L-11. L-12. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Grants and Contributions. Kivalliq Region. L-12. Total Kivalliq Region. \$4,287,000. Does the Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Nunavut Housing Corporation. L-13 and L-14. Grants and Contributions. Kitikmeot Region. L-14. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$2,331,000. Total Grants and Contributions. Sorry. Total Kitikmeot Region. \$2,331,000. Does the Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Total Grants and Contribution. \$20,588,000. Does the Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn to page L-4. Nunavut Housing Corporation. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditure. Total Capital Expenditure. \$20,588,000. Does this Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are we agreed Nunavut Housing Corporation is completed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thanks again, for the Committee of the Whole to go through the capital projects for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, and again, thanks to Peter Scott and Abraham Tagalik, and the interpreters have helped, as well, during the couple hours of me sitting here at the witness table. Thank you, very much.

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

>> *Applause*

What is the wish of the Committee? Thank you. We can go on to the Education Department. Does this Committee agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Minister, go ahead.

Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-2007 – Education – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would agree that the beginning of the opening comments for the Department of Education and then the Committee's opening comments and then probably recessing for the day to continue in the morning.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here today to discuss, with you and the Committee, the proposed 2006-2007 Department of Education Capital budget.

The Department of Education's 2006-07 capital budget is a significantly strong budget, the proposed expenditures of \$19,737,000. This budget allows the department to undertake 14 projects Mr. Chairman. Fourteen projects which includes six new projects at the planning or the design stage. They also consist of the design of a new trades school and folk school.

While specific program details are currently being reviewed and clarified, we are keen to enter the design phase of these projects in this fiscal year. Mr. Speaker, over the past six years, the Department of Education has developed and modified a comprehensive school facility database.

The database enables the department to set the priority for each project and this is based on the rankings of the current facility's condition, utilization and program requirements. A similar database for Arctic College Community Learning Centres is also being established.

Now, this proposed capital plan includes an equitable balance between school and college requirements. Furthermore, there is a considerable amount of construction in the communities of Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, and Sanikiluaq during the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Along with the construction Mr. Chairman, the department has addressed the bussing requirements. The bussing requirements have included the purchase of two new busses for Kimmirut and for Igloolik in our 2006-07 capital projects.

Once approved by this Legislative Assembly Mr. Chairman, the busses will be ordered for next spring and indeed will arrive on next summers sealift. Thank you.

The department has proposed comprehensive planning and design work for future projects in Cape Dorset, here in Iqaluit, Pond Inlet and in Rankin Inlet. These projects support multipurpose facilities, partnerships and student training as fundamental elements in construction contracts.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the delivery of capital programming is focused on delivering projects to our communities. It should be understood that we attempt to provide the greatest project value to the largest number of communities in the most expedient manner.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Do you have any witness? Sorry. Does the co-chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Yes Mr. Chairman. As the Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and Education, I am pleased to make some opening remarks as we begin deliberations on the capital estimates of the Department of Education.

The department's proposed capital budget of nearly \$20 million includes school projects, Nunavut Arctic College projects, funding for the planning and design of a Nunavut Trade

School and funding for what the Minister refers to as a Nunavut Folk School but which is referred to elsewhere as the Nunavut Cultural School.

Members were pleased to note that two of the goals announced at our Arviat Caucus Retreat are a step closer to reality. It will be important to establish how the Departments of Education and CLEY will be coordinating efforts towards the creation of the Nunavut Folk School and the Nunavut Heritage Centre.

With respect to the Nunavut Trade School, Members are aware that NORAD's Forwarding Operating Location, or FOL, site in Rankin Inlet is being considered as a possible location. While the Committee notes the Minister's optimism regarding this site's potential, Members would advise the Minister to develop a sound contingency plan in the event that the FOL site proves unworkable as an effective Trade School.

Members look forward to regular updates from the Minister on these two important initiatives. In particular, the issue of governance for each of these new institutions should be addressed sooner rather than later. For example, it is not clear whether the Trade School will be considered a Nunavut Arctic College facility.

Members are aware that the Department sets its priorities for school projects based on rankings of school conditions, usage and program requirements. Members were disappointed not to receive more detailed information on these criteria for new projects that were selected for the upcoming fiscal year compared to those that were not.

Members would once again request that the Minister provide a copy of the School Building Condition report to the committee in order to promote transparency in the decision-making process.

Members were pleased to note that the Minister and his officials have begun to implement the committee's suggestion to communicate and seek input from community groups and authorities on planning and design aspects of community projects. However, it should be stressed that when commitments were perceived by the public to have not been met, this calls into question the communication process.

Committee Members note that the proposed purchase of school buses now appears as a separate item within the capital estimates. This type of purchase lacked transparency in previous years.

The committee continues to support the department's plans to provide accommodation for students enrolling in post-secondary programs at Nunavut Arctic College. The lack of housing is frequently raised by Nunavummiut as a barrier to taking advantage of learning opportunities.

The standing committee notes the recent GN announcement that it will withdraw over time from providing staff housing. The committee recognizes that the Department of Education is not responsible for the allocation and availability of staff housing units.

However, members are aware that the new policy may have an impact on the recruitment and retention of critical employees, such as nurses and teachers, especially in Nunavut's smaller communities.

The standing committee recommends that the GN's staff housing policy be rigorously monitored from the earliest stages.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. I am confident that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you. Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does this committee agree to bring the witnesses? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recognizing the clock, I would like to report progress.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please be seated. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Committee has been considering Bill 1, 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, a seconder? Mr. Alagalak. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Quirke.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder tomorrow, a meeting of the full caucus at ten o'clock in the morning in the Tuktu boardroom.

Orders for the day for November 24:

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
 - Motion 001 – 2(3)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 1
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): We will reconvene at 1:30 p.m. November 24, 2005.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:44*

