



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 12

Wednesday November 30, 2005

Pages 626 – 692

Iqaluit

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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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

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

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

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk
(South Baffin)
Minister of Environment; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board

Joe Allen Evyagotailak
(Kugluktuk)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Chair, Regular Members' Caucus

Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)

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

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

Hon. Peter Kilabuk
(Pangnirtung)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Government House Leader; Management and Services Board

Hon. David Simailak
(Baker Lake)
Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board

James Arreak
(Uqqummiut)
Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

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)
Chair, Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability; Chair, Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges

Patterk Netser
(Nanulik)
Deputy Speaker

Hon. Levinia Brown
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Community Government and Government Services

Officers

Clerk
John Quirke

Deputy Clerk
Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant
Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk
Susan Cooper

Sergeant-At-Arms
Simanek Kilabuk

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

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	626
Ministers' Statements	626
Members' Statements	630
Returns to Oral Questions	636
Oral Questions.....	637
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	657
Written Questions.....	657
Returns to Written Questions	658
Reports of Standing and Special Committees	658
Motions.....	660
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	667
Report of the Committee of the Whole	691
Orders of the Day	692

A.

Daily References

Wednesday November 30, 2005..... 626

B.

Ministers' Statements

044 – 2(3): Nunavut Inspections by WCB (Akesuk) 626

045 – 2(3): Gasoline Quality Report (Brown)..... 627

046 – 2(3): Mineral Exploration (Kilabuk) 628

047 – 2(3): Children's Dental Initiatives (Aglukkaq) 629

048 – 2(3): Nunavut's Grade 12 Graduates on the Rise (Picco) 629

C.

Members' Statements

074 – 2(3): FOL Site for Trades' School (Alagalak)..... 630

075 – 2(3): Recognition of Joe Joanasie (Akesuk)..... 631

076 – 2(3): Premiers' Meeting in Kelowna BC (Arreak)..... 631

077 – 2(3): GN Approach to the Education Act (Tootoo)..... 632

078 – 2(3): Support for the Pangnirtung Fishing Industry (Kilabuk)..... 633

079 – 2(3): Prepare Nunavut for Proper Training in the Mining Industry (Barnabas)..... 634

080 – 2(3): Talented Artists & Musicians of Cambridge Bay (Peterson) 634

081 – 2(3): Opening of Rehabilitation Centre in Iqaluit (Picco)..... 635

D.

Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 071 – 2(3): Workshop on Shamanism (Tapardjuk)..... 636

Return to Oral Question 083 – 2(3): Changes to Down Payment Assistance Program (Akesuk)636

E.

Oral Questions

099 – 2(3): Disregarding the Priority Hiring Policy (Tootoo).....	637
100 – 2(3): Status of the Peary Caribou Issue (Barnabas).....	639
101 – 2(3): Five Million to Non-Decentralized Communities (Mapsalak)	641
102 – 2(3): Status of Mining Issues (Evyagotailak)	642
103 – 2(3): Defining Shamanism (Netser)	644
104 – 2(3): Update on a \$60,000 Sole Source Contract (Curley).....	646
105 – 2(3):Strategy to Combat Youth Suicide (Peterson).....	647
106 – 2(3): RCMP Dog (Alagalak)	650
107 – 2(3): Nunavut Education Act (Tootoo)	652

F.

Written Questions

09 - 2(3): 2006 Arctic Winter Games (Evyagotailak)	657
--	-----

G.

Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 003 – 2(3): 2005 Fuel Re-supply (Brown).....	658
---	-----

H.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 001 – 2(3): Interim Report of the Standing Committee on Health & Education no the Review of Nunavut Arctic College (Alagalak).....	658
--	-----

I.

Motions

002 – 2(3): Extended Adjournment (Kilabuk)	660
--	-----

003 – 2(3): Ending Domestic Violence in Nunavut (Kilabuk).....	661
--	-----

J.

Bills

Bill 01 – Appropriations (Capital) Act 2006-2007 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee.....	667
Bill 01 – Appropriation (Capital) Act 2006-2007- Justice – Consideration in Committee	672
Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 2, 2005-2006 – Consideration in Committee.....	684
Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (O&M) Act No. 2, 2005-06 – Consideration in Committee.....	685
Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (O&M) Act No. 4, 2004-05 – Consideration in Committee.....	685

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday November 30, 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, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

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

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 044 – 2(3): Nunavut Inspections by WCB

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues. I am pleased to announce that this year, for the first time, the Workers' Compensation Board safety officer has visited all communities.

At the beginning of 2005 Nunavut operations committed to visiting each region a minimum of three times throughout the year. To date, safety officers have conducted a total of 594 industrial inspections, and 31 mine inspections throughout Nunavut.

With the expansion of mining exploration and development in Nunavut, mine inspections and site visits have recently increased. In addition, safety officers made nine visits to DEW Line sites to monitor ongoing clean up.

The safety officer's role is to conduct safety inspections on any business operating in Nunavut. Their purpose is to insure the minimum safety standards are present in all work places. The visits emphasize injury and illness prevention and the necessity of safe work sites for both workers and employers.

As a priority activity, the Workers' Compensation Board is developing a strategic safety plan that will identify communities and business categories that may need additional help in workplace safety.

It will also identify those communities and companies with good safety records. In conjunction with this plan the Workers' Compensation Board is also developing worksite specific programs to increase awareness of Workers' Compensation Board support available to employers. The Workers' Compensation Board will work more closely with employers to establish safety strategies in the workplace.

With this type of program and increased work site visits the goal is to reduce workplace injuries and illness across the north. I am very pleased to recognize the increased efforts of our Workers' Compensation Board to protect our workers.

Good safety prevention, Mr. Speaker, not only reduces the costs to the employer and the health care system but also reduces the pain and suffering for our loved ones by unnecessary work place accidents.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 045 – 2(3): Gasoline Quality Report

Hon. Levinia Brown: Qujannamiik, Uqaqtiji. I have tabled a report on the gasoline issues that took place last winter. The report describes the combination of circumstances that most likely led to individuals in nine communities experiencing engine performance problems with the gas from the Shell refinery.

The gas supplied met all our specifications. The problems were caused by combination of factors, including the high-octane rating of the fuel, the removal of the MMT additive, the extreme cold conditions and the hard use we make of our vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, Petroleum Products Division and Shell responded to the problems and took action to correct it. While it did take time to correct the problem, it was because of the difficulties both parties had in identifying the problem and developing a method to address it. When a solution was found, the fuel was treated. Shell has also taken steps to ensure that the same problems do not occur with this year's fuel supply.

I would like to acknowledge the cooperation that we received from Shell. I would like to thank them for the compensation program they established for spark plugs and the process they established to investigate more serious engine damage complaints. I realize that there are those who do not feel that enough was done. However, given the combination of factors that led to the problems I feel the response was appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, the report makes recommendation that I believe will help us reduce the possibility of similar events in the future and better prepare us to respond when issues arise. I have accepted those recommendations and the department will immediately implement them.

With the cooperation of the Department of the Environment, we are establishing and will publicize a formal complaints process. There will be a contact in each community and a means to track issues and respond more quickly.

My department will approach the Alberta Research Council, major fuel suppliers in the north, and snowmobile manufacturers to undertake research into the fuel needs in Nunavut. Particular attention will be paid to the unique needs of small engines in typical heavy use on the land. The researchers will also be asked to address the question of the appropriate octane levels to specify.

A review of the Petroleum Products Division structure and staffing needs has already begun. A particular focus is being placed on ensuring that Petroleum Products Division has the appropriate structure to deal with quality issues and consumer complaints and to respond quickly to issues.

Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut we operate vehicles in extreme conditions and put them to hard use. We must continually work with fuel supply manufacturers to deal with those circumstances. I feel the recommendation in the report and the steps I am taking to address them will help ensure the ongoing supply of high quality fuel to Nunavut communities, despite those harsh conditions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 046 – 2(3): Mineral Exploration

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update this House regarding mineral exploration activities in Nunavut. This year, for the second time in a row, private industry has invested over \$170 million in their search for minerals.

The Government of Nunavut is pleased to see this kind of investment in our territory and we want to encourage the sector to continue to explore new possibilities and to help us build a strong, vibrant economy for our residents.

Deposits of minerals are extremely rare, very difficult and expensive to find. For that reason, the Government of Nunavut is developing clear policies that will continue to attract investment, ensure our environment is protected and help the industry remain strong as we move forward with the economic development of this new territory.

This spring I will be tabling the Nunavut Exploration and Mining Strategy that will outline our plans for working with the private sector, in an effort to build a strong foundation for our future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 047 – 2(3): Children's Dental Initiatives

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most people in Nunavut are able to access comprehensive dental services thanks to Health Canada and its Non-Insured Health Benefits program. The Department of Health and Social Services delivers the program on behalf of the Government of Canada. Our key goal is to prevent tooth decay through a number of preventative initiatives.

First we promote breast-feeding because it helps prevent damage to the teeth; second we offer the First Smile program that teaches proper tooth brushing and oral hygiene, members would have received the sample of the information kit this morning. Lastly, we apply a fluoride/varnish coating to children's teeth at regular intervals.

However, dental problems do arise. Health Canada recognizes that despite our best efforts a backlog of patients has built up over the past few years. At the start of 2004 – 2005, 747 patients, mostly children, needed a variety of dental work.

Health Canada is providing \$1.3 million over two years for the Children's Dental Initiative. The Government of Nunavut dental teams use the operating room at the Baffin Regional Hospital, instead of waiting for operating rooms in Yellowknife, Ottawa, or Winnipeg. A specialist is brought in for the pediatric dentistry and special services as needed. Patients in turn are brought in from communities by charters or scheduled flights.

This benefits Nunavummiut in two ways. Patients get the treatment that they need in Nunavut much sooner than before and where some of the staff speaks Inuktitut. Costs are much lower, allowing us to re-direct savings to other health priorities.

By 2006 – 2007 the average wait time for dental extractions will be two to three months compared to two years in Yellowknife. This is a direct result of the collaboration between the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 048 – 2(3): Nunavut's Grade 12 Graduates on the Rise

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Today I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the recent Grade 12 graduates, their teachers, and those who supported them during their academic journey.

Education helps people make positive choices and contributes to the development of our territory. All governments understand that equal opportunity and equal access across

Nunavut is fundamental to our success. Since the community-based high school initiative was established, the number of Grade 12 graduates has steadily increased.

In the 1999-2000 school year there were 128 graduates. For the 2004 – 2005 school year, we saw 172 students graduate. Of this number, 155 were Inuit.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the number of graduates in the 2004-05 school year increased by more than 30 percent from the previous school year. These graduates have gained the skills, knowledge and confidence to play a key role in building our economy and our government.

They are role models for the youth of Nunavut. Please, join me in encouraging our graduates to take advantage of further training opportunities as they become the leaders and builders of Nunavut. Qujannamiik Uqaqti.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's Statements. Orders of the day, Item 3, Members' Statements. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 074 – 2(3): FOL Site for Trades' School

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my concern over the Department of Education's plan to use the FOL Site in Rankin Inlet as a trades' school for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we are under the understanding that the Federal Department of Defence could, at any time, request that the FOL facility be vacated within 24 hours, even though trades training may be underway.

Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that it is a good idea to use infrastructure that was designed and built by the federal government for a totally different purpose. There are too many risks with this plan.

Mr. Speaker, I am further concerned that the Department of Education has only considered the three regional centers. I want to recommend that consideration be given to establishing trades training centers in the communities of Arviat and Baker Lake, both of which are centrally located in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, we know that at least six or more different types of trades will be in high demand in Nunavut. It does not seem wise to place all of our trades training programs in

one location, especially if access to the facility in that location may be subject to a sudden and indefinite interruption.

Mr. Speaker, I suggest that the feasibility study for the establishment of Nunavut's first Trades Training School take into consideration the options available in the communities of Arviat and Baker Lake.

In my view, Nunavummiut will not support a risky plan to use a federal military facility as the home for their trades training programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Member's Statement 075 – 2(3): Recognition of Joe Joanasie

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I rise today to share with the House the successes of Joe Joanasie of Cape Dorset.

(Interpretation ends) Joe enrolled in the electrician program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, which is also known as NAIT. This first year program is normally eight weeks long.

When Joe was encouraged to work at his own pace, he completed the course in three weeks. Mr. Speaker, I have always known that Inuit are most innovative, given the right opportunities for succeeding in our changing world.

Joe Joanasie proves this. Please join me in congratulating Joe Joanasie from Cape Dorset for his hard work, dedication, and success at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 076 – 2(3): Premiers' Meeting in Kelowna BC

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the Premier had announced positive information about his meeting in Kelowna, in regards to the agreement that's going to have an impact on us for housing, education and health.

The residents of Nunavut will now be informed of what is happening. Although we have heard information and announcements before, we later on realized some announcements don't actually go ahead. So I am urging that the Premier announce to Nunavummiut, which issues do not go ahead.

It'll be appropriate for Nunavummiut to hear an announcement. At times they seem to be forgotten. The information of the announcement that was made yesterday I hope that it will go well so that Inuit of Nunavummiut will be given news that is informative.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 077 – 2(3): GN Approach to the Education Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems like there are a lot of educational statements today. So I will make fun of education as well.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise a concern regarding the government's approach to developing new legislation. Mr. Speaker, for some time now we have been looking for our government to bring forward a new made in Nunavut Education Act.

During the term of the first assembly Bill 1 was brought forward and did not do well in the eyes of the stakeholders, the public or the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, during the first assembly extensive discussions on Bill 1 were held with various stakeholder groups such as District Education Authorities, teachers and Inuit Organizations.

Extensive public consultations were held by the department and then again by the Standing Committee. The public consultation tours were probably the most comprehensive ever undertaken by this Assembly.

The written submissions on Bill 1 that were received by the Standing Committee on Health and Education were very impressive and the levels of detail that they provided. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this second assembly the government once again committed to bring forward a new made in Nunavut Education Act.

Mr. Speaker, what new developments have we seen as a result? We have seen a copy of the same proposed legislation that was rejected during the first assembly being circulated.

The same community consultation tours are underway, although I've heard they've been temporarily halted due to lack of resources or manpower. Mr. Speaker, given the government's commitment to bring forward a new Act, how can they not provide adequate resources and manpower to get the job done properly?

The department is using previously developed material. The department is tracing the tracks that a lot of people felt were going in the wrong direction made by previous government officials and committee members.

Mr. Speaker, when can we expect some real progress on this file? Surely the extensive work done and feedback collected by department officials over the past 5 years should be some use in establishing the direction the stakeholders wish to go in developing a new legislation accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and the Minister of Education. I know it was hard not to say no. I appreciate it and my fellow colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, surely the Standing Committee's report on the first assembly will not go unheeded. Surely the extensive comments in these written submissions will be taken into consideration. Surely, the government would like to get it right this time.

I note that Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated has expressed its own disappointment in this government's proposed education bill. I would suggest that in the new year the Department of Education makes a fresh start in developing Nunavut's education legislation and sit down with the Nunavut Federation of Teachers, the DEA's, the Regional Inuit Organizations, and NTI for full and complete discussions of the issues.

I sincerely hope that the department does what it failed to do on Bill 1. They failed to go around and inform people of the things that they were changing, what was taken out, what has been added, and why those changes were being made. It's only in that light that the public will get an understanding of what in the Education Act is to be included in there and why changes have been made. I believe that's the only way that the government will get any support for such things if they continue to go on and just let people guess at what's been changed and why.

My guess is that that Bill probably will follow the same route as Bill 1, and we certainly don't want that to happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 078 – 2(3): Support for the Pangnirtung Fishing Industry

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, I mentioned the ship in Pangnirtung, affected by a 155-kilometer high wind. This is the same ship that unloads the turbot and shrimp for the fishery. They will be fishing until mid-February. There are over 700,000 pounds that have been unloaded to the Pangnirtung fisheries.

The Pangnirtung fish plant has fish to clean and I know that they never get enough tonnage. In the past years the fisherman, due to bad weather, at times cannot deplete the whole total allowable harvest. This, in turn, causes unemployment.

So I rise today to give support to the Pangnirtung fisheries and the fishermen. They have been requesting a quota, considering they are the only Nunavut turbot fishery that can sell turbot outside of Canada. Those are the only offshore fishermen. The Pangnirtung fisheries and the fishermen are requesting more support. I rise today to give them more support. Their goal is to operate on their own. The only time they can function on their own is when they get enough quota. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 079 – 2(3): Prepare Nunavut for Proper Training in the Mining Industry

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on the issue of the mining training starting soon. We should be preparing early. As we already know there was a mine in your community for 26 years. There was an agreement that 60 percent of the employees had to be Inuit and they were to get proper training. This agreement was way behind so only five percent Inuit were employed at the time, even though they had asked for 60 percent.

At the pace we're going right now, if we're going to employ Inuit, we have to start training them right now so that they can take over the positions in the mine. If they don't start right now, we'll be importing miners from southern Canada.

They'll be taking over the jobs in the north. My colleague from Arviat said earlier that this training has to start right now to prepare the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 080 – 2(3): Talented Artists & Musicians of Cambridge Bay

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell the House about the many talented artists, performers and musicians in Cambridge Bay.

For many years, our residents, tourists, dignitaries, ambassadors, Members of the Legislative Assembly and others have had the opportunity to watch our performers and take part in cultural events.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, it may be fair to say that they are our community's best ambassadors because they are well known and admired around the world. I think they might be the most photographed and videotaped people in our community. We are very proud of them and their dedication and commitment to their chosen field.

Some of our performers and musicians have distinguished themselves on the national stage. On Friday, November 25th, 2005, Tanya Tagaq Gillis won the Best Female Artist at the Seventh Annual Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for her throat singing.

Everyone at home was very happy that she was recognized for her unique singing talents. She is already a role model for many of our younger kids in Cambridge Bay who are practicing their throat singing.

The Ikaluktutiak Drum Dancers have also made a name for themselves outside of Cambridge Bay. This group, lead by Julia Ogina, Jerry Puglik and Elik Tologanak, has performed at nearly every event in our community for years. Residents and visitors alike always look forward to their appearances. Their combination of singing, drumming and dancing is a form of story telling that creates powerful imagery in their audiences.

Six members of this group – Julia Ogina, Quentin Crockatt, Jason Pudjuk, Leon Haniliak, Kayla Aknavigak and Jerilyn Kaniak – are performing in the production of Kiviuq for APTN.

I would like the members of the House to join me in congratulating the performers and musicians of Cambridge Bay on their many achievements and to wish them continued success wherever they are in the world. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 081 – 2(3): Opening of Rehabilitation Centre in Iqaluit

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to comment on the opening last week of the Rehabilitation Centre here in Iqaluit. Four services, including audiology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, as well as pediatric treatments will be available. These will be available for the first time under one roof here in Nunavut. That is a momentous change for healthcare in the territory.

Rehabilitation services address developmental delays, physical impairment, access and mobility issues, cognitive disabilities, mental health, hearing loss, and speech disorders.

Physiotherapy helps clients in pain through non-surgical treatment of affected muscles and joints. Occupational therapy helps the client with their environment achieve greater function, through modification of behaviour and setting. Audiologists assess and remediate a client's hearing impairment or balance problems.

How will Nunavummiut be able to access these rehabilitation services? Please contact your healthcare provider, or you can also call the Centre at 975-5970 if you have any questions about the services they offer.

Minister Aglukkaq and her health team are to be congratulated for moving forward on this initiative. Now many of our constituents will not have to go south for many of these treatments. In most cases, many of these constituents and patients are elders. So congratulations to Minister Aglukkaq and the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Going to the orders of the day. Item 4. Returns to oral questions. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Item 4: Returns to Oral Questions

Return to Oral Question 071 – 2(3): Workshop on Shamanism

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was asked by the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Nanulik, Mr. Netser, question No. 71 – 2(3). The title is: *Shamanism and Wicca Instruction*.

The question he asked on November 24, 2005, was in regard to any information regarding any workshop or courses that are held on Shamanism.

Further research into the question revealed that the member was referring to an information session hosted by the Department of Education for their staff. These informal sessions on different aspects of Inuit culture are regularly held by various departments to cater to the interests and requests of staff.

Upon request, Tutarvik members are often available to assist their colleagues on specific topics such as Shamanism, family kinship, social order and incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles. They are usually invited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Returns to oral questions. Minister Akesuk.

Return to Oral Question 083 – 2(3): Changes to Down Payment Assistance Program

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week, Mr. Tootoo asked me about the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program and I committed to looking into his questions. For the reference, that question was number 083-2(3). I rise today to provide a response to members on the changes to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program – NDAP.

Since the program was introduced in 2000, Mr. Speaker, two hundred and sixty-one (261) Nunavummiut have received down payment assistance.

Mr. Speaker, this includes one hundred and twenty-five (125) Iqaluit residents, or forty-eight percent (48%) of all approvals. In our emerging market communities of Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay, sixty-seven (67) clients have been approved, which represent a further twenty-six percent (26%).

Mr. Speaker, in all other communities there has been just sixty-nine (69) approvals since division.

Mr. Speaker, our Capital city, and to a lesser extent the emerging market communities of Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet, have several advantages that our other communities do not. Residents of these communities have wage economies Mr. Speaker. This allows Nunavummiut to build up wealth to purchase a home.

There are range of housing options Mr. Speaker. These include rental housing, Cooperative and condominium housing, non-GN staff housing and several homeownership options.

There is also, Mr. Speaker, several contractors who are in place and are ready and willing to construct residential buildings.

Mr. Speaker, these factors are currently not present in our other communities. For these reasons, the improvements to the Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program will now focus on our non-market communities.

I will rise in this house during our Fall 2006 sitting to update members on the successes of our revised Nunavut Downpayment Assistance Program – in all of our communities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 6: Oral Questions

Oral Question 099 – 2(3): Disregarding the Priority Hiring Policy

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister Responsible for Finance.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I questioned the Minister Responsible for Human Resources on why positions are cancelled and he indicated in his response that sometimes they are cancelled for Article 23 consideration.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister of Finance is in the particular case of the manager of the Liquor Warehouse, here in Iqaluit. Why or how did the Minister allow his department to disregard the priority hiring policy in this particular instance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to my understanding, they have managed to find a qualified person. That position was originally a term position. So, for that reason, Human Resources were asked to put a stop to that advertisement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding that there are a number of people working down there that are beneficiaries.

One of them, Mr. Speaker, has been there for six years and has acted in the managing capacity. Does the Minister or the Department's officials feel that that isn't adequate experience for running that facility?

If the person was good enough to act in the capacity in the past, why did they not consider that individual? My understanding is that individual even applied for the job. Why did they go looking elsewhere instead of looking at an individual that is already there?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have all the information but I do know this person was hired because he was qualified. The warehouse is in better working condition now.

That person was asked if he can work for one year until the person he replaced comes back on June 1, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this is a perfect example of what I indicated yesterday. The priority hiring policy of the government seems to be a policy of convenience, being used when is convenient for departmental officials.

Mr. Speaker, there was an individual that had 6 years experience and has worked in an acting capacity in that position. Why didn't the Department of Finance go to that beneficiary and ask him if he is interested in filling that term position for one year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): As I stated earlier I don't have all the detailed information but I will try and get more information. I can state that I'll inform my staff to be more careful in what procedure they're using. I will make sure that our staff looks into this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it is only fair that all people applying for positions in Nunavut are treated equally and fairly. And, not conveniently, the government's own policy disregarded. Like I said it is a perfect example of showing that it is a policy of convenience and I think some steps need to be taken to tighten up these practices. The Department of Human Resources has an Inuit employment division within its department. Maybe there should be a position for policing things like this.

It's kind of like having Parks and Environment and splitting them up. Maybe they should be looking at moving the Inuit employment division out of the Department of Human Resources; maybe under the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, making it a secretariat and giving it some teeth to actually do something about things like this.

We have to make sure that people out there are being treated fairly and not missing out on employment opportunities because someone else is a close friend or knows somebody. Actions like this give that perception out there. We wonder why people are feeling frustrated at not being able to obtain employment with the government when there are situations like this going on.

Will the minister commit to thoroughly looking into how and why this flagrant disregard for government policy happened and report back to the House? Thank you Mr. Speaker

Speaker: Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: (interpretation) Yes I will look into this further as to what procedure was taken and why they went that route. As I stated earlier, I will make sure that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Oral questions. Member for Quttiktuq, Mr. Barnabas.

Oral Question 100 – 2(3): Status of the Peary Caribou Issue

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. (interpretation ends) Earlier this year, we heard

concerns that the federal government was considering listing the Peary caribou herd as endangered under the *Species at Risk Act*.

In July, the federal Minister announced that the government would be consulting with NWMB on this issue. The communities of the High Arctic want to be involved in this issue. Our hunters and Elders expect that their traditional knowledge will be heard when making decisions in this area.

Can the Minister update us today on the status of the Peary caribou issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of now, the national recovering strategy for Peary caribou has been developed at management council consultations with Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord.

As of now, the NWMB and DOE staff, the technical staff are reviewing the documents. We are reviewing how we are going to approach this. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, I heard a concern that a unilingual Elder was not allowed to board a helicopter that was surveying a herd. We know that unilingual Inuit travel on airplanes every day, so I cannot understand why this could not be accommodated. Can the Minister assure me that local Elders and hunters will be consulted when population studies are being conducted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. As the Department of Environment, our mandate is to work closely with all of the HTO members of all of the communities to do a proper consultation and research any animals that we want to research. So, I believe that as DOE, we will all work very closely with HTO.

For the Elder, I think that safety was the concern due to proper insurance coverage in case the chopper crashes. So, we will certainly work very closely with the Elders and the communities that are affected by any research being done here in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank the Minister for giving that response.

(interpretation ends) We know that a federal election is now underway. What issues and priorities will our Minister be bringing forward next year when the next federal Environment Minister takes office? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Myself, as the Minister of Environment, and our new Environment Department colleague will certainly work very closely with each other to make sure that we have good communication and use the Land Claims Agreement procedures to conduct any consultations that have to be done within Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 101 – 2(3): Five Million to Non-Decentralized Communities

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

In the Commissioner's Address that was delivered in the House early this month, it indicated that the government plans to invest \$5 million in community economic development with an emphasis on supporting non-decentralized communities.

Can the minister tell us, today, how he will consult with non-decentralized communities such as Repulse Bay and Kugaaruk in allocating these funds with other non-decentralized communities? Could the minister respond please?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This \$5 million will be geared towards the smaller communities.

We haven't made any plans yet on how it's going to be organized, but we would like to know what kinds of concerns the communities have. But, I can tell the Member that this \$5 million is geared towards community economic development in the non-decentralized communities.

But, at this time, we haven't made any decisions on how it's going to be structured. These monies are coming from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, the smaller communities usually have to set up capital projects and there is very limited employment.

What kinds of projects or programs will be considered for funding under this plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, once again. As I stated earlier, we haven't figured out what we're going to be using this pot of money for at this time.

But, we're going to be looking at the most economical and beneficial means. We are currently working on it and I'm sure that the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation will put this money to good use and to make it a design so that the smaller communities can benefit from it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When will we start to see announcements being made on the allocation of these funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you. The Minister of Economic Development and Transportation will be able to make an announcement after our winter session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 102 – 2(3): Status of Mining Issues

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister Responsible for Mines.

As the minister knows, mining is the key to the economic future of the Kitikmeot Region, as well as Nunavut as a whole.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I'm concerned about the issues of uranium mining in the Kitikmeot Region. The Coppermine River area has uranium mining potential. I have heard concerns that development in this area has been slowed down because of the problem filling seats on such regulatory bodies as the Nunavut Water Board and the Nunavut Planning Commission.

Companies are having trouble getting permits. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister update us today on the status of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for mining, Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: The information that I have in relation to vacant positions is that the position is a joint effort between Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Government of Nunavut. So, Mr. Speaker, I will definitely find answers to my colleagues question on this matter, in relation to the vacant position.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Minister's department is working on the Nunavut Mining Strategy.

Can he tell us how close the strategy is to being finished and if the strategy will also address the issues of uranium mining? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The report will be released in this coming winter of 2006. And as my colleague referred to, this strategy will set out the vision of mining. I won't have the specific information for uranium to update my colleague at this time until later on in the winter of 2006.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Minister. As the Minister responsible for mines how are you working with the Kitikmeot communities, including Kugluktuk, on mining issues?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the working relations with the Kitikmeot region on this file my staff is dealing with the work necessary to advance this plan. But I can assure my colleague that the key stakeholders of my department are working with their key stakeholders to complete further discussions on this strategy. And, I will remain committed to providing to my colleague an update as this work progresses.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you Minister. Mr. Speaker, what goals does the Minister have for 2006 with respect to developing the mining strategy?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The preparation for the mineral exploration and mining strategy is near completion and as I indicated to my colleague I am expecting this part of the work to be done sometime in December next month and will be released in the winter of 2006. Those are the events that are taking place in the next couple of months, at which time I will share with my colleague and the House an update.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 103 – 2(3): Defining Shamanism

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to forward my question to Mr. Tapardjuk. I would like to thank him first of all for responding to a question that I posed on November 24 on the subject of Shamanism.

Can he define to this House what Shamanism means? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): I'm not sure how we can define Shamanism, but my understanding is the Inuit culture used it a long time ago. From what I can remember such people as Aupilaarjuk did a workshop at Arctic College. He did an information session for the people taking the course. He talked about Shamanism stating that Inuit people long time ago used to have the use of shamans. This is as far as I know. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure why I asked the Minister what the definition of Shamanism is (interpretation ends). The definition of shamanism in the Miriam Webster Dictionary is a religion practiced by indigenous people of far northern Europe and Siberia, we are a part of far northern Europe? that is characterized by a belief in an unseen world of gods, such as demons, and ancestral spirits, responsive only to shamans, and also to any similar religious activities.

Having heard that the Department of Education had workshops in shamanism means that they are promoting religion. Is that true, Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): It's a belief. It is not a religion. I don't think we can call it a religion, it is a belief, but it is not a religious belief. We could call Christianity a religion, but Shamanism is not a religion, but it is a belief by the people.

For instance, healing the sick, Inuit had this tradition, whereby moving things that aren't spiritual. That is what I understand shamanism to be. It is not an organized religion like Anglican, Catholic, Pentecostal, and those kinds of denominations. Shamanism is a belief but not a religion. They just wanted the people to be able to have a belief in Shamanism that way.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been with elders before and they pray to something that they believe in that is not visible. To me Shamanism is a religion. It just seems like they are trying to convert you into Shamanism from Christianity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): In English he quoted from the dictionary, he said that it's a religion. I'm trying to say is that I don't think it has anything to do with religion. It's just a belief that they have as aboriginal people to practice Shamanism. I have heard that they used people... it's not quite the same as religion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I was raised with Elders in the Kivalliq Region.

At that time, when they practiced Shamanism they didn't know anything else. They didn't know religion at that time. But, when Christianity came, they saw a better practice and that's what they use now.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Yes, I have heard that as well, that Inuit had different practices, and they had different laws and it was very strict, so they went according to what they believed in.

So, when Christianity came into the communities, they believed that Christianity or religion was better for them and they wanted to practice that Christianity and they didn't want to use Shamanism anymore because of the difficulties and the hardship that they

were encountering. They, in turn, went to practicing Christianity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 104 – 2(3): Update on a \$60,000 Sole Source Contract

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Earlier this week, the government tabled a number of reports on his contracted activities in the 2004-05 fiscal year. One item that drew my attention was a \$60,000 sole source contract with Hill and Knowlton Canada, a well-known lobbying firm.

Given that the Minister's department already has a well-staffed office in Ottawa, can the minister tell the House what this firm has actually accomplished to earn \$60,000 in fees, and why our own officials couldn't do the work?

Speaker (interpretation): Premier. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that Hill and Knowlton are used by the Members of Parliament as advisors. This \$60,000 was for their operations. Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for his response.

I have another question. Can the minister confirm whether the Government of Nunavut has also contracted with the Earncliffe Strategy Group, and if so, what is this contract for and how much is it worth?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we use the Earncliffe Strategy Group; I can't say how much we're going to be giving them. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister explain the process by which it selects those lobbying firms and tell the House why the Government of Nunavut chose to sole source them?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They're a lot cheaper than using our own staff and they have assisted us greatly when we meet with the federal government. They advise us on things that we should know and they have helped us in what kinds of things that we should be doing when we have talks with the federal government.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to be clear, that one contract for Earnscliffe strategy group was not responded to. I would like the Minister to take that as notice and provide information later to the House the amount of the contract and exactly how much it is worth during this fiscal year. It is not listed under contracts.

Can the Minister confirm that he can provide that information later? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a yearly \$60 thousand fee and it is usually the same amount that we pay them every year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 105 – 2(3):Strategy to Combat Youth Suicide

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education.

The Minister's department is responsible for an entity within the department called Nunavut's Promise to Children and Youth. According to the business plan this body is supposed to be developing a 5-year strategy for children and youth that will include coordinated programs and services.

My question to the Minister is, what are the three most important tangible things that this body has accomplished over the last year to help combat youth suicide?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's question.

The Nunavut Promise for Youth in an inter-cooperated group with the department. It is a departmental group. They work on the logistics of delivering programs and services on behalf of youth and children in Nunavut.

For example, Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows the youth initiatives like youth centres and so on are found under Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Education looks after the K-12 side and Mr. Speaker, some of the other departments involved, like Justice, are trying to come up with a strategy for some of these challenges.

Mr. Speaker, we also have the Embrace Life Council, which is one of the recommendations that came out of a motion by all Members of this House when I was the Minister of Health two years ago. And, that group, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Government of Nunavut and all Nunavummiut have been proactive in working on a coordinated strategy for suicide.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answer. Mr. Speaker, according to the department business plan, this entity has, and I will quote, "...continued to work to develop an inventory and database of resources, policies, programs and services for children and youth in Nunavut and continue to develop networks nationally and across the territory to develop a strategy on the needs of Nunavummiut."

My question for the Minister is, can the Minister tell us what the actual status of the 5-year strategy is for children and youth as referred to in the current business plan?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier this project is a promise. We call it Nunavut's Promise to Children and Youth. We have a coordinator with the Department of Education who has been working with a multi-departmental team task force to review recommendations and ideas and issues to help bring forward proactive solutions to issues that deal with youth across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the inter-departmental group has come up with ideas and plans. The position is funded and one of the things that we have been looking at, I know that the member has been a champion, and indeed, has done yeoman service, on the opportunity and the issue of a child advocate. That is something that this working group has been looking at. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister. We are hearing a lot of what they are doing but I'm not seeing a lot of what they are doing. I am starting to think that maybe this entity isn't well funded, or well staffed.

Can the Minister, just to clarify to the House and to me, tell us what exact human and financial resources are available to Nunavut's Promise to Children and Youth? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier the position of Nunavut's Promise to Youth coordinator works within an inter-departmental working group, or committee. That committee includes the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Social Services, Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, as well as the Department of Justice.

The money in that committee or working group is a renewal of a pan-Canadian strategy that plays off of some of the other opportunities and issues that have been dealt with in other jurisdictions across the country. We are linked with other jurisdictions in a similar strategy. Some of them have a little different need, but basically, the members might have changed but their mandate has remained the same.

As I said earlier the issue around the child advocate is something that has been researched and looked into. There's also opportunity to sharing of focus; looking at the health of students. When I say health of students, I'm talking about academic health, curricular health, extra-curricular activities, and so on, that goes on with some of our youth.

Those are the types of topics and issues that we have dealt with. I would hope to be able to deliver a statement in the House updating the members on what Nunavut's Promise to Children and Youth is. The member's questioning has given us the opportunity to bring that forward here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister again for that answer. I look forward to seeing that information. I will get more specific detail about what this entity is doing.

That leads to my final question. This entity is a part of his department, accountable to the minister. Can the minister tell us how we can expect it to act as a strong, independent voice for children's needs if it is part of the overall Government of Nunavut bureaucracy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is just confused a little bit on the role of the coordinator, under Nunavut's Promise for Youth and Children. Our coordinator works as a school health coordinator, as I just mentioned earlier, in trying to fulfill the child and youth promise that we've made. For example, healthy classrooms, healthy playgrounds and inter-coordinating services that we are delivering to our children.

The Member is speaking more of an advocacy role where the position would be an advocate for children and because of that would need the independence away from government.

That is part and parcel of the good work that the Member has done on the issue of the child advocate where under separate legislation a child advocate would be able to advocate on behalf, and for children, outside the auspices of a bureaucracy, like the Department of Education, Justice or Health.

I hope that clarifies what the position is. The position is a coordinator. A facilitator of programs and services is not an advocate in the traditional sense that the member is thinking about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Oral Question 106 – 2(3): RCMP Dog

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister responsible for RCMP, or for Protection Services. Last year, not just last year, we had heard this being mentioned, that the RCMP dogs were starting to help Nunavut to alleviate drugs or illegal substances in Canada and Nunavut, and also, he was helping to alleviate bootlegging.

We had heard that the dog was available in Nunavut. We keep hearing about this. Could the minister update us on if we are still utilizing the RCMP dog? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The RCMP dog's name is Bart.

A total of \$2.5 million worth of drugs have been seized, so it has been very helpful to alleviate the drugs that are coming into Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you. Are we still using the same dog? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the dog is sent out to the schools to teach children how the dog is used and the dog is also used on emergency cases and the dog is very beneficial, although he doesn't only work for those areas.

I would like to hear any suggestions on how we could use the dog. The dog has traveled to the communities. Although we never know where the dog is going to visit, when the municipalities request the services of the dog, then the dog is sent to the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we keep hearing during the session here that Nunavut is a very huge territory and vast country and we have a lot of issues to deal with.

Could the minister consider... Mr. Bart is the only dog that works for our vast territory and we know that the dog is quite busy. One time they had to turn down a community when they requested the services of the dog.

Have you ever considered getting another dog? Perhaps call him Bart II. Have you considered that Mr. Speaker?

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would want the dog to have an Inuktitut name because it's a good dog and it stops the trafficking of drugs.

At this time, yes, we have to watch the dog because it's quite expensive. We'll have to review it in the future and I thank my colleague for being very supportive of this. We have to look at the operations and maintenance for the dog.

Our resources are quite limited, so I'm sure it will be quite hard to get another dog, but some time in the future we'll be able to consider it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Rankin Inlet, the liquor warehouse is making a lot of money and I'm sure you could get a lot of money from that to perhaps get a second dog with an Inuktitut name.

My last question Mr. Speaker is: could the minister update the communities on the process of requesting the dog's services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To date, the municipalities have to make a request when they have a concern. So, they meet with the RCMP and the RCMP officers meet with the whole community.

So, that's how the dogs go to the communities, but I can't tell you when the dog would visit the communities because we don't want to let the drug traffickers know when the dog is coming in. If your communities requests a dog, then perhaps they could come out to your communities. Thank you.

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

Oral Question 107 – 2(3): Nunavut Education Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Education.

I know the minister was using a fine word this morning or earlier today when he talked about yeoman service and I'm sure that he's giving it his best in the Department of Education.

Earlier I spoke of the government's process towards introducing new made-in-Nunavut legislation to address our education needs.

Can the minister clarify, for this House, why a previously rejected piece of proposed legislation is again being brought forward and distributed on these consultations, when on the inside it says that this Bill was deferred by the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I listened with some intent and interest to the member's statement earlier. All I can say is that I heard the statement and the information that was given; I can't say there was accuracy there and the accuracy was there's actual consultation on the *Education Act*. Other than that, I didn't find much accurate there.

So, I'm glad the member asked me the question so I could probably clarify it.

There was an information binder given out during this process and there was a lot of good work done on the Act, the whole previous Act because it was an Act, but it never came forward to the House to be an actual Act, the draft. So, we incorporated the things that were already agreed to by all of the stakeholders in the previous draft, as well as the

comparison of the current Act to find out what should be involved in the new *Education Act*. A binder was given out; a CD-ROM was prepared, and so on.

So, I think there's some misinformation out there. We are not saying, 'Here's the old Act, use it.' What we are saying is, 'Here's the draft Bill that had gone through second reading that there were some concerns with, why go back and try to do the whole thing again?'

That was the feeling as well as the support that we had in the standing committee, from my Cabinet colleagues, and from our consultation with NTI and others.

So, that's what we have done. We are not saying that we are going to use the Act that never went forward. We are saying, 'Take the best of what was available at that time and use in that in the comparison to bring back or bring forward a new piece of legislation which incorporates the very best of the current Act and the very best of the work that was already done and incorporate that into a new Act.'

So, I hope that helps clarify the issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for clarifying that and I'm glad to hear that he was paying attention earlier on.

He indicated and said, 'Why go back and do that again?' I had someone attend for me the public meeting that was held here in Iqaluit because I was out of town on standing committee business and the package that got brought back to me, all it was a copy of that draft Bill 1 that only made to second reading, and on the inside of it, it said, 'This Bill was deferred by the government.' And the departmental officials said, 'I'm here to listen to you.'

There was no proposal of we are taking this out of this Act or this draft we are taking this out of our existing Act. This is what we are changing.

Maybe I'd like to ask the Minister if he can clarify it. Again why go back and do that again. It has been done twice already. The Standing Committee and the government has gone and listened to people and what their concerns were. We had this report from the first assembly nice and thick with all kinds of submissions and suggestions. Have they not taken that information, developed a new draft piece of legislation to go around and ask people what they think about it, instead of going around with the same old thing that we are here to listen to you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the issues with the previous Act that was struck, it was a draft legislative Bill that came forward, that the Member is correct, Standing Committee hearings were held and so on.

The public at large and indeed the Standing Committee said there was a lack of public consultations. That the words the committee had heard and the members had heard and so on were not reflected in the Act. So taking that information forward Mr. Speaker, there is no Act to look at.

We got the current Education Act, the previous draft Bill and I think Ms. Thompson is doing an excellent job by going out and facilitating debate on what would you like to see in the Act. Number one. Number two the information that the Member says is one page that thing that came back and it wasn't in great detail.

For the record. I'll read it for the record. Some of the work that has gone on in the process and the packages have gone out. There has been a comparison binder, which looks at the current Education Act, Bill 1, and the Education Act that was proposed in 2002. It points out the changes. A CD-ROM has been prepared and distributed summarizing Bill 1 and the differences from the current Education Act. Cassette tapes have been prepared with the Legislative Specialist speaking about possible changes to the Education Act, including various issues for use on all local radios. A brochure outlining issues arising from the Education Act consultation and a discussion paper which outlines and distributed for the public in anticipation of the public meetings.

The other point the Member made in his statement was that for some reason the public consultations had stopped and that is not true. Last week, we had meetings in Pangnirtung and this week we are in Igloolik.

So, Mr. Speaker, this process is going forward and we are doing extensive consultative hearings. The Deputy Minister of Education just recently again met with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to go over some more concerns they had and we have to remember when on a piece of legislation, once we get the draft bill prepared from all the consultations we've heard, it will come here to the Assembly, to the members and the Standing Committee.

And, the Standing Committee at some point will take that out again to the public to make sure there is a check and balance in what's been offered. And then, for ratification again to the full House. Mr. Speaker, I've been given a task by the Premier to bring forward a new Education Act during this term and I've committed to the Premier and to my Cabinet colleagues and to the House that I would hopefully have that Act in place by 2006. That is the timeline I am working under. I believe I'll be able to meet that time with the assistance of Nunavummiut and the Members of the House.

I think again this process has been very thorough and fair and it does do exactly what the member is talking about. It creates some debate on the draft act, which of course is not

even an act because there is no legislation written. It's comments and ideas to Bill 1 and from the current Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just to clarify for the Minister he indicated it wasn't a Bill. It was a Bill, it was Bill 1. It received two readings and failed to get brought forward by the government to get third reading because they knew it wouldn't pass to turn into an actual Act. But it was a Bill and it got first and second reading. It was Bill 1 and maybe the Minister needs to be more educated on legislation.

But it was an actual Bill that came forward. Mr. Speaker, the Minister also indicated that he is looking at bringing something forward by the next year. Mr. Speaker, I know a few months ago the Minister's staff was on the radio indicating that there would be delays because of the lack of manpower and resources.

I'm just wondering if those things have been brought forward and addressed. Also he indicated all these lovely things that the department is handing out as information packages. How come the only thing that was given out at the public meeting here was that old Bill 1 that never got third reading? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a very serious issue, and I believe one of the hallmark pieces of legislation for this Assembly, will be the new Education Act for Nunavummiut. I've given the member and the House a timeline that I would like to see it presented. If it takes more time then that's what we'll do.

What I tried to point out was that, in the former Bill 1, which was rejected by the House, the Bill never received third reading, and therefore died on the order paper, there was some good work in that. We wanted to start from that point, which is the work that everyone had agreed to, side by side with the current Act and then come up with changes and recommendations for the draft Bill, once we get to that point in the process.

Mr. Speaker, so I hope that helps clarify that issue. The second issue on the information packages that had been prepared. We had a good turnout here in Iqaluit. There were over 60 people, I believe it was one of the largest turnouts that we actually had, during the Education Act process. As I said earlier, there is a wealth of information available for discussion. There will be more opportunity for public input. If the public need information, whether it is in Inuktitut or English, we have that information and it's available.

On the third point that the member raised, I think that is a good point, is that we don't want to go back to the point where we're rehashing stuff that has already been done.

That's why we are trying to use the position paper of the areas of the Bill that had been agreed to, previously.

Again, the resources that the member talks about have been found. There was a concern with some more resources because of the interest that we're having. We talked of the logistical, the administrative work that Ms. Thompson is finding on her travels. We have been able to fund those resources internally within the Department of Education, itself. As I said earlier, there has been no delay; meetings have not stopped. Again we were holding meetings last week in Pangnirtung and this week in Igloolik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the minister for clarifying that in such a timely manner. Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated, in his earlier response that one of the concerns that resulted in, as he just indicated, in the rejected Bill 1 by the government was a lack of consultation.

I know you will remember, at the time you were the Chair of the Standing Committee, I was strongly opposed and raised lots of concerns in this regards to the government at the time, and their oodles and oodles probably more paper than this that they provided saying look at all the consultations that we've done. I just hope we don't go through this again and we actually get some meaningful consultations.

The minister made a very good point and that is the fact that he just indicated that it was a rejected Bill. If that is the case, then why is the department trying to confuse people when it's handing out a copy of Bill 1, and on the inside of it, it says that this Bill was deferred by the government. He just indicated that it was rejected.

I'd like to ask if we can get an explanation as to why this confusing information is being put out there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I tried to explain it the best way that I can and could. I think that most people are aware of now why we are using that document as a reference document. I'm not saying that this is a document and take this, and have nothing else. It's a reference document that was done in the past of some of the good work that resulted.

When the minister asks me to clarify it, I'll have to go back in history here, and maybe I can stand to be corrected by some of the members who were also part of the process. The bill went to receive first and second reading, went to the standing committee. There was no support from the standing committee to bring it forward to the House, and therefore and thus, it didn't get to the House.

That means, it wasn't rejected by the government, it was rejected by the whole House. The government, meaning the members. It was deferred, which means it didn't come forward.

There is no contradiction there. So I know the member likes to have this type of clarification. So what happened to the bill, the way that I remember it, was that the bill never got to third reading, it didn't have the support of the committee to do that, and the department and the government, the members, decided that it wasn't worth voting on because it wasn't acceptable.

I think that's your recollection too, Mr. Speaker. So, I hope that helps clarify the member's point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Question period is now over. Orders of the day. Item... Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask unanimous consent to go back to Item 5.

Speaker (interpretation): The premier is requesting that we go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Premier.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Not too many of my constituents come to the Gallery and I would like to recognize the person who represents the President of the Nunavut Investment Group for quite some time, which was Mr. Curley's position before and he's been here but he will be moving back to Pangnirtung. I would like to welcome him; Johnny Mike. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Orders of the day, Item 7, Written Questions. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 009 – 2(3): 2006 Arctic Winter Games

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister Responsible for Sport Nunavut. I recognize that he took one of my questions as notice yesterday. These questions seek some other information.

Mr. Speaker, this written question is to the Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Minister Responsible for Sports Nunavut, entitled 2006 Arctic Winter Games.

1. As of November 30, 2005, how many athletes and mission staff have been selected to represent Team Nunavut in the 2006 Arctic Winter Games?
2. What forms of official identification will be required for athletes and mission staff participating in the 2006 Arctic Winter Games?
3. What support is available from Sport Nunavut to assist athletes and mission staff in obtaining the required official identification prior to the 2006 Arctic Winter Games?
4. As of November 30, 2005, how many athletes and mission staff have the required forms of official identification required to take part in the Arctic Winter Games?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Written Questions. I'm sorry. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Ms. Brown.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 003 – 2(3): 2005 Fuel Re-supply

(see Appendix "i" at the end of page after Item 22 Orders of the Day regarding 2005 Fuel Re-supply data)

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was asked by Hunter Tootoo, MLA for Iqaluit Centre. I was asked as the Minister of Community and Government Services, dated November 29, 2005, and the subject was the 2005 Fuel Re-Supply.

Speaker (interpretation): Please pass up the documents. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Alagalak.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 001 – 2(3): Interim Report of the Standing Committee on Health & Education on the Review of Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have the opportunity today to provide the House with an Interim Report on the Standing Committee on Health and Education's review of Nunavut Arctic College.

As members will recall, during the budget session of the Legislative Assembly earlier this year, the Committee of the Whole's consideration of the Department of Education raised a number of issues regarding Nunavut Arctic College.

Following that debate, a motion empowering the Standing Committee on Health and Education to conduct public hearings and consultations on Nunavut Arctic College was passed on March 15, 2005.

Today's interim report provides a brief summary of the standing committee's activities to date and identifies a number of emerging themes that have resulted from our review.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee's first step was to review information and statistics relating to the operations of Nunavut Arctic College. Members of the committee would like to thank the Minister of Education for making much of that information available as requested.

Correspondence, announcements and discussion documents were prepared and distributed to communities across Nunavut. The standing committee planned to visit the three regional campuses of Nunavut Arctic College as well as other communities.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the weather did not cooperate with our travel plans. We made not one, not two, but many attempts to reach every community that we planned to visit. We have not yet succeeded in completing all of our visits.

Mr. Speaker, the document titled *Your College, Your Future, Your Say* was developed as a discussion guide to inspire dialogue between the committee and the public. This document can be downloaded from the Legislative Assembly's website.

The Committee continues to welcome completed copies of this discussion guide as well as written submissions from stakeholders and interested individuals until the end of January.

Mr. Speaker, the committee would like to thank those Nunavummiut who have participated in our review. Members would especially like to thank the students and the staff of Nunavut Arctic College at all three campuses for taking the time to meet with us, giving us frank and honest input and for making a number of written submissions.

>>*Applause*

It is clear that students and instructors are deeply committed to the future of Nunavut Arctic College. Mr. Speaker, based on the results of our work to date, the standing committee recommends that the Minister of Education take into consideration the following issues relating to the role and operations of Nunavut Arctic College while preparing his upcoming Business Plan and Main Estimates.

Some themes that are emerging from our review include the following:

- Literacy and numeracy levels and the role of Adult Basic Education courses must be addressed more comprehensively;

- Support and services for students, especially those with families and those leaving home for the first time are inadequate, especially in the areas of food, housing, life skills, counselling and basic tutoring.

For example, we heard that there are Nunavut Arctic College students who rely on the food bank to meet their nutritional needs;

- The use of technology, such as access to computers, the internet and distance education opportunities, must be improved;
- Inuit language and culture, including the involvement of Elders and the provision of Inuktitut language courses, are in demand; and
- Nunavut-wide coordination and management of programs, including management's support for establishing third party funding and partnerships, are seen as necessary for stability and access to future opportunities for employment in areas such as mining.

Mr. Speaker, Members of the standing committee have noted that a Working Draft of the *Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy* has been brought forward by the Minister of Education and tabled in the House. Members look forward to discussing this document in light of our review.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That concludes the Standing Committee's Interim Report. At this time I would like to move that the Interim Report of the Standing Committee be received by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Do you agree that the interim report be received by the House.

Some Members: Agreed.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13, Tabling of Documents. Item 14, Notices of Motions. Item 15, Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16, Motions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Item 16: Motions

Motion 002 – 2(3): Extended Adjournment

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Cambridge Bay, that notwithstanding Rule 4 that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit it shall be adjourned until February 21, 2006.

And further, that at any time prior to February 21, 2006, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall interact its business as if it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

We will take a break for twenty minutes, at this time and we will go back to Item 16 when we resume. Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:31 and resumed at 15:58

Speaker (interpretation): Please be seated. Going back to orders of the day for today. Motions. Mr. Kilabuk.

Motion 003 – 2(3): Ending Domestic Violence in Nunavut

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Whereas domestic violence in our homes and our communities is unacceptable to the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut;

And, whereas every person has the right to live free from physical, sexual, or mental abuse;

And, whereas the most vulnerable Nunavummiut, especially children, Elders, and women, have the right to live in homes that are free from violence;

And, whereas the Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council presented a report on this issue in March of 2004;

And, whereas the 2004 Annual Report of the RCMP's V Division revealed that 6673 crimes against people took place in Nunavut between 2001 and 2003;

And, whereas the 2005 Report of the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics indicated that children and youth, under the age of 18 accounted for 61 percent of victims of sexual assault;

And, whereas Inuit societal values should guide healing programs that involve both victims of violence, and those who cause it;

Now, therefore I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit Centre, that the Legislative Assembly affirm its commitment to supporting measures to reduce and eliminate domestic violence in Nunavut.

And further, I move that this House encourage all elected office holders at the municipal and regional level to join the Members of the Legislative Assembly in this commitment.

And, further Mr. Speaker, I move that the Members of the Legislative Assembly demonstrate personal leadership in participating in public education efforts to promote the unacceptability of domestic violence in any form and to provide positive role models.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. To the motion. Each Member of the Legislative Assembly is allowed to speak to the motion for 20 minutes each and the person that moved the motion is the last person to speak to the motion and seconder.

To the motion. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I am very glad to have the opportunity to speak to the motion that is before the House today.

Mr. Speaker, the intent of this motion is to issue a call to the leaders of our territory to make a firm commitment to reduce and eliminate domestic violence in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, violence itself is a terrible act. We have seen on the news the many examples of the horrific results of terrorism and war. Those examples often seem extreme and very far away but our lives have been affected, nonetheless.

Now, Mr. Speaker, now if we would close your eyes and ears for a second to listen to the silent cries of those people suffering from far away to hear and to realize how distant they are. But then again to open your eyes and ears, how loud our own people cry! Mr. Speaker, these are people in our own homes and communities suffering from domestic violence.

It is real and it is here. Mr. Speaker, they cry, holding out their arms and reaching for a helping hand to enable them to live free of domestic violence.

Imagine, Mr. Speaker, how a person's freedom, security, confidence and self-esteem must suffer from violence at home, at the hands of someone they know, a member of their own family Mr. Speaker. Imagine, how our ability to live and take pleasure in that living can be threatened by acts of violence within our own home.

Mr. Speaker, when we talk of domestic violence, we can understand the term to mean any violence between members of the same household, wherever the violence occurs. The

violence may include physical, sexual, emotional or financial abuse Mr. Speaker. It can include our partners, our children or even our Elders.

The statistics are frightening. The numbers are shocking. How many reports from women's groups, from police officials and from caregivers and individuals in our own communities do we need to read before we raise our voices in protest and take a stand?

And Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the World Health Organization released a report that revealed that one in six women worldwide Mr. Speaker, worldwide, suffer from domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, I say that we have heard enough. Enough to compel us to work together as leaders and join our voices in a call to end domestic violence. As leaders, Mr. Speaker, we are in a position to support and encourage measures, initiatives and actions that make a real difference in the lives of Nunavummiut.

Mr. Speaker, our traditions have shown us that by working together, we can accomplish much. By working together, we can survive in the harshest of climates; we can adapt to changes in the world around us. We can pass our skills and successes on to our children so that they, in their turn, can meet new challenges with confidence and ability.

Mr. Speaker, we are not as strong individually as we are in a group. One individual may not be able to stand up to an abuser. The most vulnerable people in our society, the women, children, and Elders, may not have the strength or the voice to protect themselves from being abused. But as a community, we can work together to stop the abuse from happening. As a community, we can give each other the strength to not allow the violence to continue.

Mr. Speaker, as leaders we are here to work together towards building a healthy Nunavut, something that we can pass on the leaders of the future. As you have heard today, Mr. Speaker, these calls have come before us many times.

For example, when we had a very unfortunate and also a violent incident in my community, I was very proud of our mayor at the time, Mr. Jack Maniapik, who stood up and maintained his composure and professionalism, and to date, his stance is still very clear. He did this at a critical time as a municipal leader and I can assure you that this mayor has made his community proud.

So, at this time, I thank Mr. Jack Maniapik, and I will share with you, Mr. Speaker, this is probably the big reason why I bring this motion forward today, he has been a real inspiration to me.

Now, think what we as MLAs, along with our leaders in the Regional Inuit Organizations and the mayors of our communities, can achieve if we work together to say that we will add our voice to those who are tirelessly working to prevent and eliminate domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, at its recent annual general meeting, NTI issued a call for support to keep the Kugluktuk Crisis Shelter operational. Not too many years ago, the NWT legislature addressed the issue of domestic violence through a motion.

Mr. Speaker, our efforts must start at home - our homes. So it starts with us because Nunavut is our home. As Members of the Legislative Assembly, we are committing ourselves to be supporters and role models in the campaign against domestic violence. This means that we will, for the comfort and support we need to give, we will deal with both protection programs and also healing programs that deal with both the abused and the abuser.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I want to apologize to all victims of violence and abusers alike if my comments have caused them to endure painful memories of what they have been through, but I hope that, at the same time, it gives them a measure of comfort to know that we state today that we stand with you.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I urge all members to join me in supporting this motion and making a commitment for the future of Nunavut. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): The seconder to the motion, do you have any comments, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members I am very pleased to speak in support of this important motion that is before us today. I think that its actually long overdue and I'm glad finally that we now have finally the opportunity as the Legislative Assembly to put our position on the public record for all Nunavummiut to see.

As a father of young daughters I am all too aware of the need for us as a community, and as a society to take strong measures against family violence, especially violence against women and children.

Like many of us in this room, I too have lost friends who have fallen victim to abuse and violence, we mourn them still. Its obvious that the majority of members of this House are men, however, we will not be successful in our efforts to stop violence against women and children, unless all Nunavummiut join together.

Nobody in this House needs to be told that violence against women is a serious issue in Nunavut, one that we must address with courage and conviction. Families and children have lost their loved ones, loved ones that cannot be brought back. The pain, the anger, and the sadness will be with them and with us forever.

Mr. Speaker, also survivors of this abuse live their whole life with emotional scars that haunt them. It has terrible affects on their personal lives and potentially the lives of their children.

In Nunavut there are a number of organizations that work towards awareness and prevention of violence against women and I salute their hard work. I want to make clear that I stand with those who do not tolerate these cowardly acts of violence against our most vulnerable, or make excuses for those who do.

I add my voice to those who say that we need to provide care and support for victims and their families. We need safe places for women and children at risk. I fully support the work done by the dedicated shelter volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, there were stickers given out at the Take Back the Night march a couple of years ago that said stop the violence. We must do what we can to stop the violence. We must take a stand and this motion demonstrates where we stand and I urge all members to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Any comments to the motion. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to be in support of this motion. First of all, I'd like to say some people are concerned that they think that we are not in support of this. I could tell you that my wife and I work very hard to give support to these individuals. When we did, not one person from the government stood up to what is happening, we were asking, but there is an expectation from the public out there.

Can the government resolve the problems that are being experienced? Has the government also helped the break up between two spouses? Can the government resolve these issues?

We are going to keep encouraging the youth and to help the youth that are feeling down. I was called by an Elder from Pond Inlet today, by Thomas Uuttuq. He said he could give support to provide healing to those in need. He said that he could provide assistance and support to people in the Baffin region to do healing programs but there is no funding from the government to provide services. He could not even provide support through the telephone but he made himself available for his services for healing programs. How come he is not being utilized? We heard from the government that they support this to revive spiritual stuff.

By using that he uses his beliefs too to help others. He is not even provided with funding. But he collects and gathers funding so that he can provide support to men. He said that he was in Cape Dorset last winter. There are many men and women in that community that would like to get services like that. If we are going to provide services we have to provide services as a whole.

The people in religious groups can provide support because the government can't resolve and fix all these problems. We can talk about it and discuss it. If we want to see healing occurring we have to start thinking from the community first and start thinking of the leaders. Do we have a solid foundation? According to our beliefs no matter what denomination you are I could tell you, we are using them as our foundation. In English, it is a moral breakdown of our society.

Not believing and not respecting with all those things we cannot just start to heal. We have to go backwards. For that reason, I would want to see no matter what religious denomination people come from we should be utilizing those individuals.

I have a friend in the community that does provide services in helping other people to go through the healing and they were even called middle of the night. You should be asking those individuals to provide you support. How we can provide support to the public out there? My colleagues I am urging you not to forget about those people.

If we want to eradicate violence in Nunavut we must do this rather than just giving lip service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Comments to the motion. Comments to the motion. I have no more on my list. Perhaps the mover has comments to the motion. Mr. Kilabuk.

Hon. Peter Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to my colleagues for their statements and comments to the motion. Mr. Speaker, it is evident that this motion on ending domestic violence in Nunavut contains a lot of various issues.

I rise today Mr. Speaker, to show our support for healing programs and to provide services for victims and offenders, our leaders at the community level, and municipalities. I thank my colleagues for their statements to the motion and also for having a holistic view. By supporting this motion it will show our support for this. I would urge all Members to show their support.

We cannot completely end the violence overnight. We'll have to get support from the frontline workers and we expect to find some sort of service provider for this. So I urge all the Members to support this motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation) Thank you. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hand. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was waiting for question to be called, and then I was going to request that we could show in the printed record that all of us support this motion. I would like to ask for a recorded vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): All those in favour of the motion, please rise. All those in favour of the motion, please rise, and when your name is called, please sit down.

Mr. Tapardjuk. I'm sorry; we'll start off with Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Tapardjuk. Mr. Netser. Mr. Mapsalak. Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Peterson. Mr. Tootoo. Mr. Evyagotailak. Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Curley. Mr. Arreak. Mr. Akasuk. Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Picco. Mr. Simailak. Mr. Okalik. Ms. Brown.

In favour were 17, against 0, abstentions 0. The motion is carried.

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; Bill 2; Bill 3; Bill 4; and Bill 10. With Mr. Netser in the chair.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

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

Chairman (Mr. Netser): Thank you. We will have a short 10-minute break. Thank you, Members.

>>Committee recessed at 16.25 and resumed at 16.37

Chairman (Mr. Netser): Thank you. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with; Bill 1, Bill 2, Bill 3, Bill 4, and Bill 10. (interpretation) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to commence with the review of the capital estimates for the Legislative Assembly, followed by the Department of Justice. If time permits, we would like to commence the review of Bill 2, Bill 3, Bill 4, Bill 10. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Does the committee agree that we deal with those? Thank you.

I would like to ask the Speaker if you have any opening remarks. Mr. Speaker, please proceed.

Bill 01 – Appropriations (Capital) Act 2006-2007 – Legislative Assembly – Consideration in Committee

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to appear today before the Committee of the Whole to present the 2006-2007 capital estimates of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

As members will have noted, the 2006-2007 capital budget for the Legislative Assembly constitutes less than one percent of all GN capital spending. Total planned spending is \$315,000.

Our capital budget is a modest one that has been developed to address some immediate needs, as well as building on the Assembly's existing efforts to make our facility a showcase for Nunavut's rich cultural and artistic heritage.

A total of \$50,000 has been allocated towards routine furniture replacement. As Members will be aware, much of this building's furniture has not been replaced in over a half a decade. Our efforts in this area will continue to focus on the building's three committee rooms, which experience a high degree of usage, including numerous events that are open to the public and media.

Ongoing audiovisual and IT network upgrades will provide a higher degree of functionality for building operations.

Approximately one-third of the budget has been allocated to Chamber and office upgrades. In light of the pending establishment of the Electoral Boundaries Commission, which is required by statute, it is appropriate that we plan for a possible increase in the number of Members.

The Assembly's ongoing art acquisition strategy seeks to publicly celebrate the remarkable diversity of our art. Our acquisitions for public display will continue to draw on the traditions of different communities and artistic techniques.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that this capital plan is a responsible one that will enable us to better serve the needs of members, and work towards the ongoing improvement of our Chamber and precinct.

That concludes my opening remarks, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to the comments and questions of the members. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do you want your officials to sit at the Witness Table?

Speaker (interpretation): Yes, I wish for the Clerk and Public Affairs Officer to join me. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Maybe if your officials can join you at the Witness Table. Sergeant-at-Arms will you assist the Clerk. Thank you. Can you introduce your officials before we start?

Speaker (interpretation): On my right is our Clerk, John Quirke, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. On my left, Tony Rose, Public Affairs Officer. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome Tony Rose and John Quirke. Welcome. Are there any general comments from the members? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, welcome to the Assembly, and your staff. I would just like to say a few words.

The committee rooms are kind of too small and we can't really put a TV in there, especially in one of the rooms and the Caucus Room; even though it's the biggest, there are no audiovisual, and we looked at this last year, but it was too costly.

So, just for your consideration, Mr. Speaker, maybe not even at this time, but in the future, I believe we still have 14 years that we will be able to use this building. Most of our standing committees have to be in-camera session, and I don't think the residents of Nunavut even really know that we have committee meetings. The Provinces when they have their Standing Committee meetings they are open to the public.

But when we have our Standing Committee meetings here it is not public. It seems like that as the youngest Assembly we seem to do that. What happens is unless the Standing Committee is going to the communities the general public don't know much about it. I wonder, in the future, how else we can make this more accessible to the public even just the audiovisual equipment. I wonder if this can help the public more or to the communities even not in the near future. Or should I wait until we go to the questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): You can ask that question once we go to the questions. I don't have anybody else on my list. A-6. Office of the Clerk. You can ask now Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I believe I made myself clear. If your officials can respond. But the way I understand it, I think we can put aside some money as long as Nunavummiut know we do because we see quite a bit of funding. As I stated earlier that this is the youngest Legislative Assembly we seem to have lots of in-camera sessions and media can't attend and the public is not given enough notice. I think for sure now we will use this over the next 13 years. I wonder if we can start thinking about how else we can make this more open to the public whereas they know what is going on with the Standing Committees when we are in Iqaluit. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Speaker do you wish to respond?

Speaker (interpretation): That is a very good suggestion and I'll let the Clerk respond.

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

Mr. Quirke: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Decisions to have Standing Committees open to the public will be up to the Standing Committee itself. If you choose to go that route we

would make it possible wherever practical. If for example, if you look at this structure and look at the Standing Committees that have met in Iqaluit and most of them are in Iqaluit. If they want that done locally we would just have to switch to the cable company that we have a contract with. Here in Iqaluit that could be done very readily.

The member is right, when we do go to the communities it is the travelling committees and the communities do see them in action there. Here for Iqaluit that can be done, but the bottom line is it is really the decision of the Standing Committee to do that and if they wish to do that, that can happen here in Iqaluit.

But to project a picture of the work done by the Standing Committees outside of Iqaluit into our outlying communities would be a challenge. As members know we are having difficulties right now with APTN in terms of TV broadcasting times. Not to say that a package couldn't be made in terms of a DVD that could be sent out to the communities on a later date, although the information would be a couple of weeks behind.

But it can be done and it would be a decision of each individual Standing Committee depending on the issue before it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: The rule of Standing Committee, I had assumed that the rules had provided for that stuff. I suppose it is not in the rulebook that the Standing Committee be open to the public. It could perhaps be done through that route as well, or committee meetings by committee meetings as well. Am I correct in that?

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

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The rules are silent in terms of standing committees in terms of broadcasting its proceedings. So it would be a decision of the standing committee. There would be no need to refer to the rules if they decided to go public and let the public participate in the standing committees.

In Iqaluit the only standing committees so far that have been open to the public have been those where the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability had the Auditor General in front of them. They have been open to the public. The short answer is there's no restriction in the rules that would not allow that to happen.

Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Is that it? Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We don't get an opportunity to ask questions too often so I would like to ask some. The other side, they ask quite a few questions. I have a question in regards to the budget for the art that is displayed.

I believe you purchase them from the people and I believe that we will get quite a bit more. Once they are in your possession, where are they going to be stored? Thank you.

Chairman: Mr. Speaker. My apologies, I will let our Clerk respond to that. John.

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The inventory that the Legislative Assembly has right now is either stored in this facility or it's stored in the warehouse that the Assembly rents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we have to we might have to look into this further to help people without income. Maybe we can even donate the artwork to the communities, especially for those people or organizations that have no money.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Quirke.

Speaker (interpretation): In regards to the archive position. It's something that we can take into consideration. Very likely, if we have a meeting with the caucus we could come to a decision on that.

Chairman: Mr. Okalik, anything else? Thank you. I have no other names on my list. Office of the Clerk. Detail of Capital. Headquarters region. Total headquarters region. \$295,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Roman numeral seven. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Office of the Clerk. Detail of capital. Computer hardware, software. Total headquarters region. \$20,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Go to A-4. Total computer hardware and software. \$20,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Bless your heart. Go to page A-4. Office of the Legislative Assembly. Detail department summary. Total capital expenditures. \$315,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that the Legislative Assembly is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, do you have any closing comments. Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members of the Legislative Assembly for supporting the Office of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: We will then go on to the Department of Justice. If our Premier has any opening comments, you can begin. Mr. Okalik.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I will be giving you my opening comments on the Department of Justice and the detail of capital for our department.

The Department of Justice is pleased to announce that the project to construct a new justice centre in Iqaluit is moving into completion. Site preparations and construction of the exterior of the building has been completed and finishing of the interior and landscaping will be completed by the spring of 2006. The total funding for this project is just over \$17 million in total.

Construction of a new justice centre was required for a number of reasons. The current courthouse facility is a leased building, old and with serious physical deficiencies which do not meet present building codes or fire safety standards.

In addition, the current facility was not designed as a courthouse and does not meet security standards, where public safety requires separate circulation corridors for the public, jury, witnesses, staff, and accused in custody.

In the past, the public has expressed concern about the safety of people using the existing facility. Once completed, the new justice centre will provide a safer, healthier environment for employees and visitors to the building.

Currently, the Baffin Correctional Centre in Iqaluit is well above capacity, which adds significant costs to housing inmates outside of Nunavut. Additional corrections facilities are required for Nunavummiut in custody.

This is because the existing number of correctional spaces in Nunavut does not meet the current need and is not able to handle future growth. This year, we have had as many as 40 offenders at a time being held outside of Nunavut.

While a longer-term resolution is proposed by the department's seven-year capital plan, we also need to address current needs.

I was very pleased to go to the Kugluktuk Healing Facility, which was opened this past spring. The facility is small and designed to serve offenders from the Kitikmeot area of Nunavut, and will eventually be able to accommodate between 12 and 20 territorial inmates currently housed either in the overcrowded Baffin Correctional Facility in Iqaluit or facilities outside of Nunavut.

The facility was faced with some staffing issues when first opened but we are confident that is behind us now and staff are moving ahead.

Mr. Chairman, it is our intention to continue with the establishment of such healing centres in other communities outside of Iqaluit. Construction of another such facility will be commenced next year after community consultations, and the planning and design steps have been addressed this fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, another area we know we need to address is the establishment, in Nunavut, of a correctional and remand facility for women. Although the number of Nunavut women currently sentenced is very small, we must address their needs in a more appropriate manner. Establishing an institution for them closer to home will allow us to provide the programming they need. It will also reduce the hardship on relatives wishing to visit. As a result, we have included funding in the amount of \$312,000 for design and site planning for construction of an institution that would serve female inmates in Nunavut. This institution would be planned and designed as a healing-focused correctional centre based on the men's model, but tailored to the specific needs of women.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Justice is committed to finding creative ways of fulfilling its mandated responsibilities in a way that will ultimately benefit its clients and Nunavummiut generally. Those are my comments; I will be pleased to respond to questions. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. If you would go up to the Witness Table and if you could bring your officials. Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the witnesses, please.

Thank you. For the record, Mr. Premier, if you would introduce your officials.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is our Deputy Minister, Markus Weber, and on my left, I'm very pleased to introduce Regilee Adla, who is our Office Manager. She is working extremely hard and was one of the students taking the Sivuliqtiksat Program. She started in January 2003 and will now be completing her program in January 2006 and she will be working in our department. She is currently working in that position even though she is supposed to be in the program. I'm sure that

we will be seeing more and more Inuit taking on higher-level positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. I would like to welcome Markus Weber and Regilee Adla, and we are very proud of you for your achievements. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed the proposed capital estimates of the Department of Justice for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, and I am pleased to provide you with the Committee's comments.

The committee notes that the department's proposed 2006-2007 capital budget of \$5,107,000 is approximately 40 percent lower than its 2005-2006 budget, primarily as a result of the completion of the new Justice Centre facility in Iqaluit.

Over the next five years, the department plans to spend over \$47 million on new correctional facilities in Nunavut. These include a replacement for the Baffin Correctional Centre, a new women's correctional healing facility, and a new men's healing lodge in Kivalliq.

The Standing Committee has noted that the locations for the new women's facility and the new Kivalliq healing lodge have not yet been finalized. Members would urge the department to be fully transparent in explaining to the House and the public its criteria for community selection.

Members would also wish to see the government give full consideration to local training and employment opportunities in its selection process, while ensuring a high quality of staffing in these facilities. Members stress the need for the department to communicate clearly with the communities hosting such facilities, especially with respect to public safety concerns.

Mr. Chairman, in November of 2004, a Committee Member posed a detailed Written Question in the Legislative Assembly on the recidivism rates for different categories of offenders in territorial custody. The government's response revealed disturbing information. For example, the rate at which young male offenders re-offend is 73%.

The department plans to spend tens of millions of dollars to construct a number of new correctional facilities across Nunavut over the next few years. This strategy must be accompanied by plans to measure the success of the rehabilitation and healing programs that are offered by the department. The Standing Committee was pleased to learn that the department is working with CLEY on healing initiatives.

The Standing Committee recognizes that while the government will actually spend more in the long term by repatriating offenders currently being held in the NWT and elsewhere

to serve their sentences closer to home, it is hoped that these higher operational expenditures will be offset by better programming.

Members remain supportive of on-the-land programs, particularly for young offenders. These programs should be delivered as close as possible to the home communities of the youth.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's new *Human Rights Act* received Assent over two years ago, on May 11, 2003. Earlier in 2005, the Legislative Assembly approved a transfer of \$315,000 within the department's budget to fund the retrofit of the new Human Rights Office in Coral Harbour. The Standing Committee has been informed that this work was to have been finished in October, and that efforts continue to recruit staff for the office.

The Committee urges the department to take advantage of the office's location by recruiting and training its staff locally. Members look forward to reviewing the first annual report of the Human Rights Tribunal, which is required by law to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, so that we can begin to evaluate the success of this new body.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee has noted the department's plan to spend \$180,000 in 2006-2007 on new computers. Over the timeframe of the 2006-2011 five-year capital plans, the department anticipates spending close to \$1 million in this area. The Committee would note that in the first years of the GN's operation, significant expenditures on information technology were incurred. It is important that costs in this area be closely monitored.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee recommends that the department table information in this House concerning the final costs of its major capital projects, including information on the Inuit labour content of each project, as well as any bonuses or penalties that have been assessed under the NNI Policy.

This information will be of use to all Members in evaluating the success of the NNI Policy, and will serve to enhance the transparency of the government's expenditures. That concludes my opening comments. Individual Members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Qujannamiik, Mr. Mapsalak. Before we proceed I would like to remind the Members that according to Rule 37 (1) you have 10 minutes to speak. Yes you do. And according to Rule 37 (2) subject to the discretion of the Chair a Member may speak more than once on a matter under discussion, but not until every Member wishing to speak has spoken. I suggest to Members wherever possible you ask detailed questions during page-by-page review of the departmental estimates. Do Members have any general comments.

I don't have any names. We have no names. Do Members have any questions. Go to page E-8 first. Justice. Registries and Court Services. Detail of Capital. Tangible assets. Headquarters region. Total headquarters region. \$1,620,000 thousand. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total tangible assets. \$1,620,000. Do you agree.

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn to page E-10. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is with regards to the Minister's opening comments and the opening comments of the Standing Committee Chairman. I would like to congratulate your officials. You talked about the healing lodge. If you could elaborate a little further on whether there are healing lodges around Nunavut or in the Provinces and how they work. You talked about the healing lodge in the Kivalliq region. Exactly how is the healing lodge working, what would it do and whose job would it be to work at the healing lodge.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Kugluktuk healing facility houses inmates but it is not a maximum-security facility. It is more geared towards healing the inmates. Although they can't do whatever they want to do, what they do is they bring the elders in and counsel those inmates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I heard about the correctional facilities in the communities where they can have access to healing by elders and others. We would really like to be able to have such facility. It is very good to hear that there will be a healing lodge.

The other item that I would like to ask is about the women being able to have a facility, a remand centre for women. I just wanted to find out where the location might be for that facility for a women's remand centre?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not decided on the location of the facility as yet because there's no remand facility for women at the present time. We have a need for a remand centre for women. Sometimes there are only two women that have to be housed in the remand centre. We are just in the planning stage to construct the remand centre. At this time we have not made any decisions on where the location might be yet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Curley.

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

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials. I would also like to ask a question about the remand centre for women. How many women are in custody at this time? I think they house them in Fort Smith. If I am not mistaken, how many of them are there right now from Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Just a minute while we get the information. We don't have the information with us right now. There hasn't been over four so I am not really sure of how many there are. Perhaps if I can respond to the members tomorrow.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Did he just say that there are never over four?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For many years now we had the Northwest Territories government and the minister is saying that there have never been over four inmates. My question is how much would the facility cost? The correctional facility for a women's centre. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): It would be under \$3 million.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): I am sorry. Which page are you looking at?

Chairman (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Putting together what we have planned, it's \$2,640,000 that would be the cost under E-10. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) That \$3,647,000 that would be used to build the women's centre, how many staff would that facility have? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): I can't answer the question at this time because we are in the planning stages at this time. Perhaps there wouldn't be that many women in the remand centre, so I don't think there's going to be that many staff, but if the numbers rose, the staff numbers would rise too as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) The question that I have is, we are going to use a lot of money to get the women's facility and the minister is saying that sometimes the numbers are not there and there's only about four or less. That \$3,647,000 is a big amount of money.

Whenever there's a domestic dispute sometimes in the communities, they have a court order whereby they have to be apart. This happened recently in my constituency. The husband is not allowed to see the wife. When there's a domestic dispute, the family is given the job to look after the children and the family members too.

Wouldn't that amount of money be more helpful if there was a facility in the community, when there's a domestic dispute, it could house those individuals and to use as a healing centre in the community because it's usually that the man is shipped out of the community and then they have to keep on phoning each other.

Wouldn't that amount of money, over \$3 million, be more useful to get facilities in the communities where domestic violence occurs and there's a court order for them not to see each other? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I realize that this is a problem that we have no remand centre for women in Nunavut. This was part of the requests by the public to have a women's remand centre so that we don't have to send those people to Fort Smith.

I realize that we have to resolve this because the women don't have a facility when they are in remand. Even though there's a remand centre for men, they don't have any facilities for women and we have to ship them out to Fort Smith.

So, for that reason, we feel that we should have a remand centre for women in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A few days ago I didn't realize there was a healing centre for men. Few days ago in my community there was an individual in custody who is a youth and when he was about to leave at the airport he had called his aunt and just before he boarded the plane the aunt was called and if you don't sign this document your nephew will be released. And he is remanded in Rankin Inlet.

I didn't realize there was a remand centre here in Iqaluit. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes, when individuals are dangerous they are put into a remand centre. We do have a remand for men but we don't have a remand centre for women. This is quite a concern for some time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the explanation. When actually are youth remanded or you feel that they are not dangerous enough to be put into remand.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For youth we have a youth facility here in Iqaluit and they can be put into remand there if they are dangerous offenders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have no further comments on this issue.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are page A-10 we are looking at the Baffin Correctional Centre retrofit. It is quite a huge sum and there were other plans to retrofit in previous years. Perhaps the Minister knows how much it cost to construct that facility and when they constructed that facility.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Hold on. Although I can't state how much it cost because it is not available but the facility was constructed in 1983 and it was to house up to 43 inmates, but currently we facilitate 60 inmates in that facility.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that he didn't respond to some of the questions that I had asked as to how much it would cost. This is going to cost in excess of \$40 million up to the 2007-2011 and there is \$8 million that is set aside to be used. And he already identified the lack of capacity of the facility and for quite some time I am sure we've been using the facility even though we were over capacity with that facility.

Have you ever considered how much it would cost to construct a new facility if you're not going to retrofit the correctional centre, have you ever considered constructing a new facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We will need to make a new facility. It's not going to be in Iqaluit. We're looking at Rankin Inlet as the location for this facility.

Although it's not geared towards Baffin Correctional Centre, but I'm sorry, this correctional centre in the line item, it should be new. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After asking that question, I need further clarification. At the bottom, project (inaudible) 505059, Men's Community Correctional Facility, \$2,372,000. Is this for the retrofit or, rather, is this for the planning stage because, there are plans from 2007-2011.

Looking at the price, it seems like it's going to be a small facility. So, if you can clarify this line item. Men's Community Correctional Facility, and the cost for constructing. Is this new, or is it a retrofit? Could you update us? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've been told that we were building too many facilities here in Iqaluit, so I would like this facility to be built outside of Iqaluit, so that there will be more employment opportunities outside of Iqaluit.

I'm going to work hard to have this built outside with \$38 million for \$2,372,000. It's mainly for healing programs. As I mentioned earlier on, there is a healing facility in Cambridge Bay.

So, we would like to construct another healing facility like that, outside of Iqaluit, within Nunavut. So, this is at the planning stage whether we need to construct it or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's pretty hard to get a clear definition.

When I asked about the \$38,753,000, you said that this Baffin Correctional Centre line item is for the planning stages, and you said it's going to be in Rankin Inlet that is the actual correctional facility. And, the third facility you are talking about is mainly a healing facility and \$2,372,000 is a small amount and there is money set aside in the coming years for this section in these estimates.

I'm confused about it now with the way that it is written. So, if you could explain this further. Exactly what is happening here?

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The first one; in total \$38,753,000 is to start planning, for the planning stages for the corrections centre. As I said we're looking at Rankin Inlet, although it states Baffin Correctional Centre. But, it's to construct a correctional centre because we'll need to get an additional centre and we've decided that it should be outside of Iqaluit. Rankin Inlet is the closest.

This facility will require RCMP officers. This \$2 million 722 thousand we haven't identified which community it will be in or what location it will be in. But this is the plan for a healing facility like the Cambridge Bay facility.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We are on Justice. Community Corrections and Justice. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I apologize. I can see it now. It should be Kivalliq correctional centre new. Maybe if you re-phrase the centres it would be easier to understand this \$509 thousand. It seems it was for retrofit. The RCMP officers I think it seems like they are using the RCMP officers a number of RCMP officers. They are looking at Rankin Inlet I am sure that this has not been discussed further and we will have to discuss this further as to where the location of this facility will be.

Although I am not too pleased as to the way it is written and it is not properly written and we will have to approve these estimates and the line items are not correct. So I am not too

comfortable with that also I will conclude with that and this is just a comment. Mr. Chairman it is not a question.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we can get a quorum we can go ahead. There is no quorum at this time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak for being observant. Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. I would like to remind you we are on Justice. Review of Justice. Corrections. And also to remind you that when there is no quorum we can't vote on these estimates. If you leave please look around. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am sure you are getting tired of me. I was talking about this earlier; I would like to ask a question on this although he answered my question during the Question Period. I want to get some further clarification the Hamlet Councils have been asking me to ask these questions.

As I stated earlier on today that there are no recreational facilities in the communities and there is nothing to do and I understand there is a safety issue. When the municipality wants to gets something like if the Minister can clarify no matter what community you are from, that they will be able to apply to be the location for the new facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is he talking about? If he can clarify it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak, if you can rephrase your question or clarify it.

Mr. Mapsalak: Where the healing facility is being launched. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have not identified the location of this new healing facility. We need to do our study and we need a certain number of officers in the community. We can't endanger anybody in the community. So, therefore, this needs to be reviewed or studied. We need to do a study before we construct a healing facility. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know that we can do good plans on this, but that's the only way we can get construction or developments

going in the smaller, non-decentralized communities. This is just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. I have no more names on my list. We are on page E-10. Justice. Corrections and Community Justice. Detail of Capital. Tangible Assets. Headquarters Region. Total Headquarters Region. \$2,881,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: E-10. Qikiqtaaluk Region. Total Qikiqtaaluk Region. \$426,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Tangible Assets. \$3,307,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Turn to page E-4. Justice. Detail of Capital. I'm sorry, pardon me. Justice. Departmental Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Capital Expenditures. \$5,107,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed the Department of Justice is concluded?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to apologize to you that this was not written clearly because we were working on different things, but we want to apologize for the way it was written and I guarantee that we will make a correction in the future.

Thank you for assisting us with our requests and we will remember what the comments were. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister, Mr. Weber, and Ms. Adla. Thank you, very much.

Capital Estimates. Go to VII, at the bottom. VII. (interpretation ends) Total Capital. Total capital. \$103,540,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: It is agreed to. Go to Bill 1 in your white legislation binder. Bill 1, Appropriation Capital Act, 2006 – 07. We will wait for a bit. Bill 1, Appropriation Capital Act, 2006 – 2007. Definitions. Item 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Application. Item 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go to schedule on page 2. Schedule. Amounts appropriated for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2007. Vote 2. Capital appropriation. \$103,540,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total of appropriation. \$103,540,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Go back to page 1 on Bill 1. Appropriation. Item 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Lapse of appropriation. Item 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Accounting. Item 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree to Bill 1 as a whole? Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Does the committee agree that Bill 1 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. I would now like to ask Minister Simailak, the Department of Finance to make his opening remarks. Minister Simailak.

**Bill 02 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 2, 2005-2006 –
Consideration in Committee**

Bill 03 – Supplementary Appropriation (O&M) Act No. 2, 2005-06 – Consideration in Committee**Bill 04 – Supplementary Appropriation (O&M) Act No. 4, 2004-05 – Consideration in Committee**

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before the members today to speak to the following three supplementary documents. 2004 – 2005 Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance No. 4. This supplementary appropriation will provide additional funding of \$504,000 for the year-end adjustments for the unfunded liability of the Members of the Legislative Assembly Supplementary Pension Plan.

The 2005 – 2006 Supplementary Appropriation Operations and Maintenance No. 2. This supplementary appropriation will provide additional funding of \$4,772,000 for such items as the following:

1. \$661,000 for the establishment of the new Devolution Division
2. \$835,000 for increased energy costs for law enforcement, legal services board, and court services
3. \$652,000 to fund early learning and childcare initiatives
4. \$1,098,000 to lease and furnish 40 to 50 additional staff housing units in Iqaluit on a short term basis

The 2005 – 2006 Supplementary Appropriation Capital No. 2. This supplementary appropriation will provide additional funding of \$58,188,000, of which \$54,338,000 is for capital carryovers from the 2004 – 2005 fiscal year.

This is for capital projects that were not completed in 2004-05 and there is no negative effect on government operations as funding is being transferred from prior years capital appropriations.

Mr. Chairman, I would be pleased to answer any questions that the Members may have. *Ma'na Itsivauta.*

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Would you like to bring your officials to the Table. Mr. Simailak?

Hon. David Simailak: Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman: Does the Committee agree to bring witnesses to the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Sergeant-at-arms can you please escort the witnesses. Thank you. Mr. Simailak please introduce your officials for the record.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Bob Vardy and on my left Mr. Roy Green. *Ma'na Itsivauta.*

Chairman: Before we proceed again I would like to remind you again. According to the following Rule 77 (1) you have 10 minutes to speak and according to Rule 77 (2) subjective to the discretion of the Chair a Member may speak more than once on the item under the discussion but not until every Member who wishes to speak has spoken. I suggest to Members wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page by page review of the following estimates.

We are at Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act No. 2, 2005-2006. Page 4. Human Resources. Capital. Special Warrants. Directorate. \$32,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 5. Justice. Capital. Special Warrants. Directorate. \$143,000. Do you agree. Total Directorate \$143,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Registration and Court Services. \$945,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Registration and Court Services. \$945,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Justice. Capital. Special Warrants. Community Justice and Corrections. \$377,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: \$377,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total department. \$1,000,465. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Capital. Special Warrant. Directorate. \$422,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Directorate. \$422,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$422,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 8. Education Capital. Special Warrant. Corporate Services. \$1,558,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Corporate Services. \$1,558,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$1,558,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 9. Health and Social Services. Capital. Special Warrants. Item not previously authorized. Directorate. Special Warrants. \$30,626,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. Negative \$1,120,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Directorate. Special Warrants. \$30,626,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. Negative \$1,120,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. Special Warrants. \$30,626,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. Negative \$1,120,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 10. Environment. Capital. Special Warrants. Program Development. \$1,955,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Program Development. \$1,955,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total Department. \$1,955,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 11 and 12. Community and Government Services. Capital. Special Warrants. Not previously authorized. Capital Planning and Technical Services. Special Warrants. \$13,065,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Not previously authorized. \$1,840,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page 12. Community and Government Services. Capital. Special Warrants. Total Capital Planning and Technical Services. Special Warrants. \$13,065,000. (interpretation) Do you agree? (interpretation ends) One moment please. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think on 12 there's an amount there to support funding of \$1.84 million for the buy-out of the Sivummut tenant leasehold improvement lease. Mr. Chairman, I'm just wondering...the \$1.84 million, is that the total amount for the lease improvement? Is it the government that's totally 100 percent off the hook for all of those tenant improvements that were done there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that is the total amount; \$1.8 million for Sivummut. \$1,840,000 for it. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know if the minister over there, I'm pretty sure Mr. Vardy has vivid recollections of the Auditor General's 2004 Report in which she indicates in October 2000, a separate tenant improvements agreement was signed.

So, is he saying that the landlord agreed to finance improvements for the interior of the building in the cost of \$2 million? That was in 2000 and we are now in 2006. So, does that mean in six years, sorry five years, 2005, it's getting close to Christmas, getting interest I guess. In five years, he has only paid down \$200,000 out of the \$2 million? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Vardy to answer that question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Vardy.

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The exact amount that owed in October 2000 I don't have here but there are fifteen years left on the 20-year agreement. It's not unusual on a 20-year agreement that you would only get a couple of hundred thousand paid towards the full amount in that period. What our analysis showed is that there would be a 34 percent saving by buying out the remaining fifteen years. That is what the government was able to negotiate in this case, effective October 1, 2005.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the minister or his staff know what the monthly payments were for that lease that they bought out?

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The amount that we paid to buy out the lease was \$1,840,000, which was around \$632,000 cheaper than paying the lease over the fifteen year period. It would be roughly \$2.5 million over fifteen years, which is roughly \$60,000 a year that we would have paid. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That \$60,000 that you mentioned would have paid a year for those improvements. Actually I just noticed in the Auditor General's

report that the lease was just under \$20,000 a month for twenty years, which is more than \$60,000 a year. For that \$2 million of improvements, I'd like to know what was leased. I understand that there is a price for financing some work for you. We're using their money, instead of them using ours.

What was the total cost to the government, with the buy out, and what we've paid already for that \$2 million worth of improvements? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was doing the math in my head and I agree with the member. It was more than \$60,000, probably around \$170,000 a year using the math there.

The question, what was the total cost of the lease, over a twenty year period would have been, it would have 20 times the \$170,000, which would be \$3.4 million. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So \$3.4 million, that means we paid \$1.2 million in five years for someone to do improvements to a building that was pretty old and decrepit already? Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That building is the new building. It's the Nova building. The value of the improvements for the first five years, you have to add that in. So the premium the government paid was a bit less than the amount that you specified, but still the Auditor General's recommendation is that we would look at the fair market value of those types of arrangements. There was a reason why after five years we decided to buy out the lease. In this case it was a better arrangement than continuing to pay the negotiated lease arrangement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Vardy. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologise to the minister's staff. For a moment there I was thinking about a different building. I've got too many questions in my mind.

Is this the same building that the Auditor General indicated in her report that we paid an additional almost \$200,000 for. It was offered that the deputy minister of the day authorized, I think it was \$175,000 more to the purchase price, than was authorized by the Financial Management Board. Is that the same building? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, this is the same building. It was on the original lease on the building, whereas this is dealing with the leasehold improvements.

Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We paid an extra \$175,000 on top of what was approved by Cabinet, which was a considerable amount, just for a shell? And then we're paying for another \$2 million for the work to get done on the inside. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Vardy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The lease covered more than the shell but it didn't include all of the leasehold improvements within the building. Probably the Department of Community and Government Services would be in a better position to explain where the boundary between the two leases existed. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe the minister can request that information from Community and Government Services to provide to the members for interests sake.

Mr. Chairman, I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize the clock and report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour raise your hand please. Thank you.

Thank you, Minister Simailak, Mr. Vardy, and Mr. Green. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Orders of the day, Item 20, Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Chairman, Mr. Arreak.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1, and would like to report that Bill 1 is immediately ready for third reading and Mr. Speaker; I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Mapsalak.

The motion is in order. All in favour. All opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for December 1:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors In the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees.
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 005 – 2(3)
 - Motion 006 – 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 2
 - Bill 3
 - Bill 4
 - Bill 10
20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 1

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until December 01, 2005, at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:12*

APPENDIX "T" attached in hard copy