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**Thursday, February 23, 2006**

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**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Nattilik)

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(South Baffin)

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#### **Peter Kattuk**

(Hudson Bay)

*Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Hon. Ed. Picco**

(Iqaluit East)

*Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration*

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#### **Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Steve Mapsalak**

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*Co-Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus*

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(Baker Lake)

*Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board*

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(Quttiktuq)

*Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

*Striking Committee; Management and Services Board; Regular Members' Caucus;*

#### **Hon. Louis Tapardjuk**

(Amittuq)

*Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources*

#### **Hon. Levinia Brown**

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)

*Deputy Premier; Minister of Community Government and Government Services*

#### **Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

*Deputy Speaker; Regular Members' Caucus*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, February 23, 2006**

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allan Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Mr. 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. Kattuk to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon Ministers, Members, and visitors. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 056 – 2(3): Team Nunavut 2006 Arctic Winter Games**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Team Nunavut has been selected for the 2006 Arctic Winter Games. Equally important for all Nunavummiut athletes are the 12 camps and tournaments used in the selection process for the representative team. The participant numbers for those regional and territorial trials have increased by 50 percent since the last Arctic Winter Games trials in 2003 and 2004.

On March 4, 2006, Team Nunavut will compete in the 2006 Arctic Winter Games on the Kenai Peninsula along with representatives from Greenland, Alberta North, the Northwest Territories, Yukon, Alaska, Sami Nation, Nunavik, and Yamal. The Arctic Winter Games is a showcase of athletes and culture in the circumpolar world.

At this time, I would like to introduce to the House this year's Team Nunavut Arctic Winter Games look, as modeled by the athletes that will be attending the Games. As well, I would like to ask my colleagues to view the pins that our participants will be exchanging with other contingents at the Games.

I ask you to join me in wishing all the participants good luck in their sporting activities. I want to thank all of the staff; especially all the volunteers that help make these events happen across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 057 – 2(3): Update on Homeownership Promotion and Delivery**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update members on the efforts of the Nunavut Housing Corporation to address the current housing crisis by actively supporting homeownership and home improvement programs.

(interpretation ends) The Nunavut Housing Corporation has worked very hard to develop new programs and modify existing programs to improve access to a range of affordable housing options.

In the fiscal year 2004-05, the Home Renovation Program was modified to increase the amount of assistance available up to \$50,000 and improve the access to the program by adopting a standard income limit of \$125,000 for all Nunavut Housing Corporation's programs.

I am pleased to inform members that there has been a 159 percent increase in the number of homeowners assisted through the Home Renovation Program since this program was changed.

Improvements in the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program implemented December 1, 2005 will see first-time homeowners in the emerging market communities of Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay receive \$30,000 in assistance to purchase existing units and \$50,000 to help with the construction of a new unit.

With the exception of Iqaluit, which does not change, potential homeowners in all the other communities will be able to apply for \$50,000 in assistance towards buying an existing unit and \$75,000 for the construction of a new unit.

In 2005-06, we introduced the Material Assistance Program as a pilot project, which will see 10 eligible Nunavummiut receive a housing material package delivered to their community. To date, the Nunavut Housing Corporation has received over 42 applications for this new program designed to help assist our seniors and disabled stay in homeownership and maintain their independent lifestyle. The Nunavut Housing Corporation introduced the Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program, which, since it was introduced this fall, has assisted 15 applicants. Another 17 applicants are being processed.

Mr. Speaker, to make sure Nunavummiut are made aware of their homeownership options the Nunavut Housing Corporation has already begun information sessions in the communities. Plans are under way to hold more information sessions on these programs in the benefit of homeownership as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that more information sessions on homeownership, combined with improvements to our homeownership programming, will have a direct



impact on needs in Nunavut. I look forward to rising in the House again to give further updates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education, Ed. Picco.

**Minister's Statement 058 – 2(3): Federal Early Learning and Childcare Commitment**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House about recent federal funding for early learning and childcare for Nunavummiut. Mr. Speaker as a part of the federal commitment made in November 2004, the Department of Education received \$651,000 in funding to distribute to Nunavut's 39 licensed childcare facilities and our seven Aboriginal Head Start programs.

This is a one-time funding subsidy aiming at improving childcare facilities and providing much-needed resources to these facilities. The grant will be spent to improve several areas including equipment and toys, professional development and nutritional foods, as well as building and play area maintenance.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education pledges to continue its hard work to promote the needs of Nunavut's young population on the national stage. While childcare in Nunavut faces many obstacles, we are happy to be able to donate these funds to help improve the quality and delivery of programs at the early childhood level.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Finance, David Simailak

**Minister's Statement 059 – 2(3): New Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce the appointment of eight new board members of the Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board.

They are:

- Mr. David Wilman of Iqaluit (Chairperson)
- Mr. Hamish Tatty of Rankin Inlet
- Mr. Stu Kennedy of Iqaluit
- Mr. John Ningark of Kugaaruk
- Mr. Peter Peetooloot of Taloyoak
- Mr. Percy Kabloona of Whale Cove
- Mr. Ronald Tologanak of Kugluktuk

Mr. Joshua Curley of Arviat.

The ninth member is Mr. Ross Bennett, who is the only returning member of the past board.

The members of the board will hold office for period of two years.

The board's major functions are to:

- 1) Control the conduct of license holders;
- 2) Control the management and equipment of licensed premises;
- 3) Control the conditions under which liquor is sold or consumed on licensed premises;
- 4) Issue, renew, transfer, suspend or cancel licenses; and
- 5) Advise the minister responsible on all matters of policy and legislation relating to the sale and consumption of liquor.

Mr. Speaker, as Nunavut grows in population and sophistication, liquor issues will become more complex and I have complete trust that the new Liquor Board will meet the future challenges in a fair and unbiased manner.

The new board is a mix of people from all walks of life, from hunters to business people to academics. This mix will bring to the table a variety of views of the board's responsibilities and, I believe encourage a "working together" approach through education and communication with stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Legislature will join me in welcoming and supporting the new Nunavut Liquor Licensing Board, which, incidentally, has already held its first orientation meeting in January of this year.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister's Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Minister's Statement 060 – 2(3): Arctic Net "Schools on Board" Program**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to apologize to the House for reading the wrong statement earlier on the federal early learning and childcare commitment. I would beg the indulgence of the House and read the appropriate statement at this time.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues about the ArcticNet "Schools on Board" Program. This past September, a teacher and student team from Kugluktuk High School represented Nunavut in the Schools on Board Program.

This is an international study on the impact of climate change through ArcticNet's Schools on Board Program. Mr. Speaker, ArcticNet is a network that brings together scientists and managers with Inuit organizations and governmental agencies to study the impacts of climate change in the coastal Canadian Arctic.

Schools on Board is an outreach program to teach arctic science and raise awareness around climate change in high schools across Canada. It gives schools the unique opportunity to participate in research activities on board the Canadian Coast Guard Ship; Amundsen.

Mr. Speaker, this pilot project allowed the participants to work with scientists to collect information on the physical, biological, social and medical aspects of the Hudson Bay. As a result, Nunavut's participants are sharing their experience through presentations through different communities here in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the Schools on Board Program is especially relevant to Nunavut students. The Department of Education is pleased to be able to provide this type of opportunity and we are committed to offering similar programs in the future.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge Nunavut's sponsors; BHP Billiton, Kugluktuk District Education Authority, Kugluktuk Fire Department, KEDC, Nasivvik, the Kitikmeot School Operations, and the Kugluktuk High School.

This is an excellent example of working together for a common cause, with government, communities and ArcticNet partners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you, colleagues.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Alagalak.

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

#### **Member's Statement 118 – 2(3): Winter Trails Maintenance**

**Mr. Alagalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on the issue of reducing red tape in Nunavut.

When the Minister of Economic Development announced the Barriers to Business Study on May 11, 2005, he announced that changes would begin to be made within 10 months. That minister is now our Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday while I was listening to the budget address, I was pleased to hear the minister say that the government remains committed to removing obstacles for businesses to develop in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the review of the current regulatory regime is important, but it is equally important that the Government of Nunavut ensure that the adequate road infrastructure exists to mature our economy.

My colleagues have stood in this House on this very issue many times. It is time for the government to make a clear commitment to creation of winter over-the-snow trails, linking the communities of Baker Lake, Rankin Inlet, and Arviat to Manitoba.

Mr. Speaker, this government already focuses its attention on lobbying for funding for improvement to renewing infrastructure and other services. Ground transportation should be equally as important.

We know that the trails are currently being used by winter freight haulers. These small businesses are being jeopardized because the trails are not properly marked and are often too rough, causing break-downs and slowing the transportation process.

Mr. Speaker, this government could show its commitment to the larger Manitoba to Kivalliq Road Project and to economic development in the Kivalliq by ensuring that winter trails between the communities are marked and groomed and that ice conditions are tested.

Mr. Speaker, I feel the Minister of Transportation should take some urgent action to proceed with the contractors to work on the winter trails in the Kivalliq Region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 119 – 2(3): Lack of Employment Opportunities for Constituents**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the people that we represent in Nunavut and to talk about what we do for them here in this House.

The smaller communities in Nunavut are...especially the people that should be assisted because of the lack of employment in their community, but I can't really say that I will get you a job because I can't do that. I could represent them and say, in this House, that I will be in support of getting employment for those people in the smaller communities because they haven't had any employment for a long time and they want somebody to represent them to look for employment.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that all of us want and have a need of some sort and as a representative of those communities; sometimes it's very hard to make a promise that we

will do whatever to represent our community, especially when something doesn't come up.

I would like to say today that I would like to represent my smaller communities and I could support them as long as they are reasonable; if it's not reasonable, we can't do anything, but I'm going to try my best to represent my community.

So for that reason, I will be asking questions during Oral Question Period to the Department of Economic Development and Transportation; questions that are coming from my community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 120 – 2(3): Healthcare in the Nunavut Communities**

**Mr. Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address the issue of healthcare in Nunavut's smaller communities.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, shortly after the creation of Nunavut, the government made a very significant decision. It was decided Mr. Speaker, to dissolve our regional health boards and divisional education councils in order to cut back on middle management costs and what seemed to be unnecessary administration.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting that the number of middle management positions within the Department of Health and Social Services has increased steadily since the dissolution of the health boards, while the Department of Education now has only one person in each region supervising school operations where there used to be a full board of community representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the dissolution of the health boards and the education councils has also had consequences for the people of Nunavut; it left community residents with no one to turn to when they had problems with their delivery of health or educational services in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, the government has established health committees under the hamlet councils, however, these committees have absolutely no authority to look into issues or complaints raised by their residents of their respective communities.

As MLAs, we do our best to represent the interest of our constituents, but we are not authorized to get involved in the very personal nature of individuals' health or medical issues. To date, there is no client services representative within the Department of Health and Social Services to assist people in addressing their concerns about healthcare delivery in their communities.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents have come to me with concerns that they are not receiving health services in a timely matter. I'm sure that you will agree with me: the longer a condition goes untreated, the greater the health risk to the patient.

Mr. Speaker, Nunavut residents deserve proper and adequate healthcare in their home communities and I urge the Department of Health and Social Services to take action to make sure that Nunavut residents have somewhere to turn to and have their concerns addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 121 – 2(3): Infrastructure Deficit in Non-Decentralized Communities**

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank Minister Levinia Brown for having a chance to visit my constituency, and your constituency as well, Mr. Speaker, to get to know her new portfolio.

I rise today to address the lack of adequate infrastructure in non-decentralized communities. During yesterday's budget address I was very disappointed that the discussion on infrastructure once again ignored the need for facilities in our small, non-decentralized communities.

The multi-purpose hall in my community of Arctic Bay was built 35 years ago. Since then, the population has doubled. The demand on this facility grows every year. The school uses this facility by day; the public uses it by night. During the Christmas season, the facility operates nine hours per day for a two week period with feasts, games, and other activities.

Every season, more and more people from the community crowd into the hall for celebrations and events. As the community grows the space for the hall is less adequate to accommodate its residents. Since 1999, very little attention has been paid to the infrastructure needs of Nunavut's non-decentralized communities. When will the government recognize that these communities also need help and support?

The status of the government offices in my riding in Grise Fiord is another example of the government ignoring infrastructure needs in Nunavut's smallest community. The building was once condemned for use; however, the government workers still occupy the space.

I have discussed this issue many times at length with the Minister of Community and Government Services. Once again, I urge the government to give adequate consideration to the needs of the residents in Nunavut's non-decentralized communities.

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

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 122 – 2(3): Medical Travel in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to raise a long-standing issue of concern in my constituency. Medical travel is necessary for the residents of Sanikiluaq to receive medical services and treatment. Generally, patients travel from Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg for services and treatment.

This medical travel is with a small, single engine aircraft. Often, flights are longer than three hours and there is no washroom. It is a small plane; it can only take so many passengers. People are often left behind and told to wait for the next charter. This level of service is unacceptable.

The government procurement and contracting report tabled on November 28, 2005 indicates that in 2004-05, the government spent well over \$4 million on scheduled medical air charters from Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg. On the most recent population statistics for Sanikiluaq, that works out to more than \$5,700 for every single person in Sanikiluaq to travel by medical charter to Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the government to carefully consider the type of service being offered when negotiating contracts such as medical travel contracts. Our government must be particularly responsible for ensuring that we are receiving adequate and appropriate benefits for our money.

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

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 123 – 2(3): Support for Pangnirtung Fishery**

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although you have heard many times about the actual fishing zones, I just want to remind everyone that there's a Pangnirtung fishery in the offshore.

If you could look at international countries, if you look at the community of Pangnirtung, we are very proud that we have a deep-sea fishery. And also, the owners of the fishery need support from our government. For that reason, the residents of Pangnirtung...the whole community's goal is to have a viable fishing industry and it creates employment opportunities at the fishing plant.

We requested assistance from the Federal Government's Department of Fisheries and Oceans Minister by way of correspondence, and I just recently wrote a letter to the Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in support of the Nunavut Government Minister for Wildlife who also had concerns. Mr. Speaker, we are requesting funding to develop the fisheries in Pangnirtung so that we could be treated equally.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, this quota we are seeking assistance for is allocated by the federal government, not this Nunavut Government. We need this government's support by way of commitment to support Cumberland Sound Fishery's lobby for its fair share of a quota from Area 0A that it helped to build with a lot of its own limited resources in the latter part of the 90s.

I'm afraid that if this government does not step up to the plate and support this community in getting back their rightful share of the quota from Area 0A, this Nunavut-based, Nunavut and community owned company will face a future controlled by outside interests or groups rather than Pangnirtung and its residents.

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

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Kilabuk, please proceed to conclude your statement.

**Mr. Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I was trying to rush, but I had no time; I'm still learning the process, Mr. Speaker, you will have to excuse me.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, there is a real concern from Pangnirtung and the fishery's interests in Pangnirtung that if the community does not get the support it needs to get back its rightful share of the quota from Area 0A it helped to build with its limited resources.

We are afraid that our future is bleak and may end up being controlled by outside interests or groups rather than Pangnirtung itself and its residents; besides this government, since 1999, day one has promoted different groups and individuals to be independent. So Mr. Speaker, we cannot allow this to happen; to be controlled by outsiders. And Mr. Speaker, the future is here, and more regrettably, it's passing already.

So, today, I seek the support of this government to stand up and voice its support to Cumberland Sound Fisheries who is dependent on this resource from Area 0A to exist and operate as a community business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*



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

**Member's Statement 124 – 2(3): Poor Arena Ice in Kugluktuk**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today and I'm sure that members saw the recent newspaper article showing the state of our ice. I call it ice, but it is more like slush.

(interpretation ends) As members know, arenas are one of the main resources for organized healthy activities in our communities. Bad ice means that community skates and hockey practices have been cancelled. Young people from my community will be participating in the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska next month having skated very few times this winter.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the hamlet has been unable to access funding to complete the artificial ice system in our arena. The hamlet has been hard at work getting quotes and companies to complete the artificial ice system. Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that \$230,000 is required. This does not seem like much money considering our government is making commitments to our young people. Making this investment will ensure that my constituents can use the ice all winter long.

Mr. Speaker, many Canadian mining and exploration companies support the communities close to the sites. After our current sitting, I will be traveling from Yellowknife to Kugluktuk by snowmobile and I hope to visit the operating mining sites on my way. I hope that those community-minded corporations will assist me in promoting support in my communities through donations towards getting artificial ice in our arena. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 125 – 2(3): Anglican Church Fundraising**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to update the House on the status of the fundraising for our new Anglican Church Cathedral here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, as members know, as a result of arson, our church will have to be torn down. The insurance coverage will not cover all the costs of our new building and new church, and we will have to raise funds both here locally and in the south.

Locally we have fundraised over \$5,600 for the new church during our games at the Parish Hall at Christmas time. We will be holding other events locally, like a silent auction, suppers, and various other local initiatives.

On the national front, we have hired a national fundraiser, and that person is in place. Mr. Speaker, the loss of our beloved cathedral has been felt across Iqaluit and Nunavut. We have put a construction committee in place and will re-build.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the kind donations already made to our construction project by Iqaluit local businesses, and also, special thanks to the Catholic Mission for hosting a fundraising lunch, and the many Iqaluit residents, local groups, and people who have sent donations from across Nunavut, Canada, and indeed Mr. Speaker, the world.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to note that Captain Ron McLean, and his wife Carol have taken up new responsibilities in Yellowknife. We want to thank them for their excellent service during their time here, and we wish them the very best in Yellowknife.

I would also like to welcome the Reverend John and Carol Turrel to Iqaluit, formerly of Dawson City, Yukon.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 126 – 2(3): Cape Dorset Most Artistic Canadian Community**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On February 13, 2006, Cape Dorset was recognized as Canada's most artistic community in the National Survey conducted by Hill Strategies Research Incorporated.

As you know, and I know, art is a very important component of our economy. The survey's key finding recognizes that art contributes to quality of life and the social and economic vitality of many small and rural communities in Canada.

In Cape Dorset, almost 25 percent of labour force participates in art; this is almost thirty times the national average of 0.8 percent.

>>Applause

Cape Dorset is home to many internationally acclaimed artists including Kenuajuak Ashevak, Axangajuk Shaw, Keogak Ashoona, Kananginak Pootoogook, and upcoming artists like Timothy Pee, Ashevak Adla, and so on. I would like to congratulate my constituents who have dedicated their lives to art and thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 127 – 2(3): Thanks to Nunavut Volunteers**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the important contribution made by Nunavut Volunteers for our communities. There are too many, in fact, to list the valuable service commitment and dedication provided by many individuals.

Many individuals spend long hours feeding the homeless, and looking for shelters, for instance and some of them often come in the line of danger to save lives. Here are some of them; volunteer firefighters in the communities, community search and rescue groups, homeless workers, elders providing counselling services to many young couples, and school children and mothers and fathers, volunteering to help and support many community kids and youth. This list is incomplete Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, Inuit men and women for centuries depended on volunteers for providing survivor skills and preparation of travel required for our families and friends specific to the seasons and the environment and geography they lived in.

Mr. Speaker, we are still living in a harsh environment. I would like to thank the individuals, to all the men and women who volunteer and participate in providing essential and important services or survival skills throughout Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, the survival of the Inuit culture, as it did throughout the generations, needs more men and women volunteers. Every year, Inuit lives are lost for a number of reasons and perhaps no one taught them about survival skills they need in our land.

Mr. Speaker, I request 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. Mr. Curley, please proceed.

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

As I stated I'm sure that a lot of these Nunavut lives are lost due to not being taught about survival skills they need out on the land. On behalf of our youth, I'm asking more Nunavummiut to help our youth learn about survival skills and teach them how to make traditional clothing, and about the seasonal traditional clothing that is required to survive because, of course, we live in a harsh environment.

I, for one, will commit myself to do so and teach youth about snow and how to build a shelter for survival. We have no shortage of snow, which in many cases can protect our youth from hypothermia.

I also urge all Members of this House to volunteer their time and energy in this urgent need in order for our youth to survive. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

**Member's Statement 128 – 2(3): Cambridge Bay Runway Paving**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on the issue of economic development and transportation. I find it appropriate that both economic development and transportation are combined into one Government of Nunavut department. I have consistently stressed the importance of transportation in the development of our resources in the Kitikmeot.

In January, the Tahera Corporation announced that the first Jericho diamonds have been produced. Resource development will continue, regardless of whether or not we in the territory are ready for it.

Companies will work with Nunavummiut to the best of their ability, but in the long run, if infrastructure is not here to facilitate growth, our economy may be stunted. The participation of Nunavummiut in the mining sector depends, to a degree, on the reliability of transportation into and out of Cambridge Bay.

On November 28, 2005, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation tabled a document entitled, 'Airports for Nunavummiut and Their Economy.' This Airport Investment Strategy includes four specific projects. One of those projects, the implementation of Iqaluit master plan, received funding under the Federal Airport Capital Assistance Program. The Cambridge Bay priority to pave the runway and rehabilitate the graded areas does not even appear in Nunavut's Five-Year Capital Plan.

I understand that the Strategy cannot be implemented without the participation of the federal government. However, this requirement is not stated plainly until the last page of the document. Our northern newspapers would never intentionally mislead the public, but articles appeared shortly after this document was tabled and implied that these projects were definitely going ahead on the indicated timeline. My constituents were extremely pleased to see that article in the paper.

Improvements at the airport will:

1. Increase the usable length of the runway;
2. Allow air carriers to operate into the airport with full payload weight; and
3. Ensure that the newer generation of jet aircraft requiring paved runways will be able to serve our regional centre.

I understand that the Government of Nunavut's capital budget is limited and that there are many important infrastructure needs that must be addressed. The Department of Economic Development and Transportation's 2006-2011 Five Year Capital Plan includes

five projects to rehabilitate runways. A total of \$4,989,000 is budgeted for this type of project over the next five years. Some of this funding has been allocated to the Cambridge Bay Airport.

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to complete my statement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of Nunavut's 2001 Transportation Strategy states, "An opportunity to facilitate air service improvements exists if a greater number of runways were paved, especially at the hub airports like in Cambridge Bay." An improvement of air service to and from Cambridge Bay will benefit the development of the region as a whole.

Hearing the results of the recent federal election, I understand that our government will be forging new partnerships with the federal government. I'll be asking questions on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 129 – 2(3): Conservative Deep Sea Port Commitment**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about something that our Minister of Finance mentioned in his budget address yesterday, and that is hope; and the fact that, as we all know, last month, we received a new federal government - Mr. Harper and his Conservative Government.

There were a lot of words like "hope" used in the Minister's Statement yesterday. And also, Mr. Speaker, I know that Mr. Harper's party has made a lot of commitments to Iqaluit and the north in general.

As the Minister of Finance mentioned yesterday, hopefully, we won't be in for another rerun of idle promises that we've had in the past, and if he can follow through on those commitments that were made.

I'm speaking specifically for Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I know myself and my two colleagues, Mr. Picco, and Mr. Okalik, along with the city were very pleased to hear the Prime Minister promise to build a deep sea port here in Iqaluit, and I would urge the minister responsible to convey and remind the Prime Minister of that commitment to do what they can to work with the city to help expedite that process so that we can see not just another idle promise, but see a promise followed through with, for the north, for the City of Iqaluit.

I know that a deep sea port here regardless of whether it's for a military purpose will not only provide a positive economic impact to this community, but also for the entire region, for re-supply purposes, all the goods that flow through here going to all the other communities in the Baffin. It would be a tremendous positive impact, and it should help lower operating costs, costs of construction and everything like that throughout the region.

So I just want to congratulate Mr. Harper, and remind him that we won't forget about the promises that he made, and I urge the minister responsible to work with the city and help Mr. Harper follow through with that promise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Alagalak.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Joseph Qaviuq who is from Arviat and he is sitting over there.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

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

##### **Question 139 – 2(3): \$2.3 Million Budget for Health & Social Services**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Finance, and it's in follow-up to a question that I raised yesterday.

After reviewing the *Hansard*, and I'll quote it; it reads that \$2.3 million would be in this coming budget. I guess my question for the minister is; we know that there is budget confidentiality and that has always been a priority of this government in the past. And I'm just wondering: is there something that has changed now, that we can just go ahead and put out information that is in a budget that we haven't even approved yet.

I know the Auditor General in her latest report that was tabled the other day has an entire chapter. On page 17, Chapter 3, the government has a history of spending money without approval. I'd like to just ask the minister to clarify this for the members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is the case. The \$2.3 million is for the 2006-07 main estimates and it will proceed like that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister how and why that information was released prior the budget being released here in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The budget that was identified by health, that was released because it had to be released for safety reasons and for the patients who go to the regional hospital, and that was why it was put out by the Department of Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that. Still, that was an amount that this Assembly has yet to approve and was even to be aware of until yesterday; that money being in the budget.

I know that the Department of Health went to great lengths to indicate that nothing is going to change at the hospital because of the loss of the accreditation aside from practitioner placements, training placements, and things like that. So they were quite firm in reassuring Nunavummiut that the services at the hospital had not changed and nothing would change as a result of that loss of accreditation.

I really fail to see why it was urgent that this had to go out there right now and why the government had to announce already some funding that had not been brought before the House for approval by all Members of the House, which is the practice that we follow. So I would like it if the minister can explain that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the release, it stated that the Department of Health indicated that it was. It didn't indicate that it was approved by the FMB. So this had to be released as soon as possible, and if it's not approved it might not go ahead, but if the Department of Health can identify some funding from their own department then they will be able to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know in the Minister of Health's response yesterday, and I read it from *Hansard*, they said the \$2.3 million will be coming, will be in this coming budget, but from the fiscal year January to March 31. I would assume that is this fiscal year, an additional \$300,000 is identified.

So it would make it very clear that the \$2.3 million is in the upcoming budget. The Minister also indicated that is approved by the Department of Health, they indicating a budgeted amount and it's in the press release here. It reads that the department has approved \$2.3 million in new funding and was that funding just approved by the Department of Health or was it approved through the FMB process of which the minister is the chair. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, FMB approved the \$2.3 million this past January. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 140 – 2(3): Economic Development for the Smaller Communities**

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

During the last session, I asked this question, but I would like to follow up on the question. The smaller communities are way behind in regard to economic development, especially with employment opportunities, and nothing has changed very much even after the creation of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is: have they identified the \$5 million that was to be invested in community economic development with an emphasis on supporting non-decentralized communities? So I would like to ask the minister how the \$5 million for community economic development would be used.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we have been working on this and we will be reviewing it further.

As the first government, what we thought was that we didn't want the non-decentralized to be far behind. So at this time we are still presently working on how we can help those non-decentralized communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding that is to be used for economic development, they were able to get quite a bit of funding, especially for those businesses in the smaller communities. I wonder if that \$5 million will be made



available to those potential business owners to assist them in starting up their own business. Will it be used for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are making that funding available for any economic development opportunities and we will continue helping the communities as to how they can benefit from economic development.

There are 25 communities, they have made proposals as to what they wish to do in the future called, 'The Community Economic Plan,' and 21 out of 25 have completed that and there are only about four communities that haven't completed it. So what we will have to do is review them closely, come up with how we can best utilize the funding that is available, and also look at the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the way I understand his response is that the 25 communities will use the \$5 million. There are 25 communities in Nunavut; for those non-decentralized communities, then I understand that it is for all the communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I stated was that the community economic plan for the communities the smaller, the non-decentralized communities, it will be given more toward the non-decentralized communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the minister for his response. Then when will the minister make an announcement on this \$5 million, and when will he inform the non-decentralized communities of that plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will check as to what stage we're at and if they have been allocated to the communities and I will be able to inform the member of our plan and also the other communities hopefully next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 141 – 2(3): Infrastructure for Non-Decentralized Communities**

**Mr. Barnabas:** I would like to address my question to the Minister of Community and Government Services.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I spoke of the need for infrastructure in Nunavut's smaller non-decentralized communities. Can the minister provide an update on what consideration has been given to replacing old and inadequate facilities in Grise Fiord and Arctic Bay? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have to be flexible to the members because we have so many items to deal with as a government and I would like to thank the member for asking the question and to thank him for the welcome that he gave us when we went to Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord or Resolute Bay.

I know that there's, the member showed me the building, infrastructure that is very old in his community especially in Arctic Bay and Grise Fiord. I'm not really exactly sure what our plans are at this time, as a department, but I know that the Nunavut Advisory Committee is meeting here this week and they are doing the planning on the capital money that will be spent on those communities to do renovations and they're meeting with Nunavut Association of Municipalities. I don't know everybody, but I do know Lottie Toomasie, and I feel they will come up with something; some plans for the member's questions.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, Arctic Bay's multi-purpose hall was inspected for fire and electrical safety. Can the minister clarify, for this House, when the inspection report will be completed and made available? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As soon as I receive the report, I will be able to send it or produce it in the House, from the inspection that was done in the member's constituency and as soon as that report is completed, we will be able to distribute it to the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue of overcrowding is a concern, especially during community events such as Christmas celebrations. Can the minister clarify how the department addresses the issue of liability in the community facilities that are used by the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The inspectors that inspect those community infrastructures such as the fire marshal and others, as long as there is no other facility in the community that can be used, there's nothing much that we can do and I'm not really sure exactly what it says in the report and the overcrowding of the community hall.

I know that they are using that facility today and I'm sure that they have to do some changes or to do some expansions on that facility because of it being old and overcrowded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for the response.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a question about...the facility was condemned, but they had to reopen it because they needed some rooms for office space. What's happening with that building because they condemned it and they closed it down and they reopened it again for office use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I had the opportunity to see that facility that the member is talking about. It's very old. I agree with the member that it's very old, and after I saw that facility, apparently they did some renovations to that facility and they made use of it because they didn't have enough office space in the member's community.

What my department is going to do is go over there and do a re-inspection of those facilities in that member's constituency and there's an amount of money that we have requested to do renovations and expansions of those facilities. We have not had any information as to which communities will be a priority to upgrade their facility and we are expecting that to happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 142 – 2(3): Medical Charters for Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to address my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today, I spoke about the trouble of service in the medical air charter that travels from Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg. Can the Minister of Health and Social Services

provide an update on the status of contracts for medical air charter travel for Sanikiluaq?  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, we are starting discussions today on the contracts for those services. The terms and conditions of the contracts have been agreed to by the participating airlines. The next step would be to finalize those contracts with the service provider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. My first supplementary is: can the minister clarify for this House what are the contract requirements for the size of the aircraft and washroom facilities for flights between Sanikiluaq and Winnipeg? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I need to clarify, we are working with an old contract, but we are working towards a new contract. I said earlier that we have agreed to the terms of the contract by the participating airlines, having said that, the existing contract for the services between Sanikiluaq and Winnipeg are for any flights that are longer than one hour. There is a requirement for the service provider to have an aircraft with washroom facilities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again for that answer. Again, I want to urge the minister to commence consulting with representatives from the community of Sanikiluaq on medical travel air charter services before entering into any new contracts for this service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As in the past when a decision was made to have Winnipeg/Kivalliq to provide Health and Social Services for Sanikiluaq, there were some consultations with the municipality at the time.

I will commit to consulting with the members of the hamlet council on the new arrangements as well as the member from Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 143 – 2(3): Inuktitut Translations of Job Advertisements**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Human Resources. I asked the minister during the Committee of the Whole about employment. I know we are about 40 percent Inuit employment at this time.

Some people in Nunavut really don't know how you advertise positions for government employment. Some of them did not have Inuktitut translations in the positions. Does the minister know if that has been done in Inuktitut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister for Human Resources, Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We were asked questions from the committee members in regard to advertisements of positions for employment in the government. We put them in *Nunatsiaq News*, *Kivalliq News*, and *News North*. Although we give them to the newspapers to put them in the ads, we also send them out to each hamlet council. So they advertise them also on television and on the radio.

The one in question that we had problems with is we talked with people at the radio station to advertise it.

What we are doing at the present time is my department is speaking with the community radio stations in order for them to do some advertising for employment positions that are open within the Government of Nunavut.

Also, as the Department of Human Resources, we would like to find out from the radio stations in the communities whether we could work with the radio stations so that radio personnel could do announcements about the employment opportunities available with the Government of Nunavut, and whether there would be any problems encountered if we were to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We would like to understand clearly as the people of Nunavut that those avenues that you've stated you've used to advertise positions that are open in the Government of Nunavut for employment; do you pay those advertisers, and do you also pay the local radio stations to advertise jobs?

Can the minister agree whether those community radio stations can be paid to advertise those positions that are open in the Government of Nunavut for employment? You should be able to pay community radio stations to do those announcements, just like you do with newspapers. What would the problem be if you were to pay the radio stations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very, very expensive, and the member is right, that it is very expensive if you're going to make announcements on the radio because they have to be in three languages; Inuktitut, English, and French.

If we were to advertise those, we want to find the best way of doing it, and the Government of Nunavut to have a member to local radio stations so we can give them information that we would like the public to hear, such as available positions with the Government of Nunavut.

We want to do our best to try and make sure that those positions that are open are heard by the public in the communities and in Nunavut. Those are the things that we are looking at right now.

After we take a look at it to see how best we can do it, we will use... as members of the cabinet discussed that before we can do those announcements on local radio stations in the communities, and how much money we would have to pay local radio stations if we were to use them to provide information or ads for positions that are open within the Government of Nunavut.

Those are the things that we are looking at right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I just asked a question.

It's evident now that the local radio stations are very beneficial to communicate anything to the communities if you need to communicate something urgently because you could use a local radio station better than written form.

It's very expensive to advertise in the written form. Perhaps you can say yes to me that with this fiscal year, you will use the local radio stations, if you want to see Inuit more in the work place of government, that sometimes positions are hired when people have not even heard about the employment opportunities.

Perhaps 47 percent is quite small. The Inuit level of employment has to go up to 57 percent.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can say yes to that request in order to get the information out to the smaller communities to make sure that employment opportunities are announced to the smaller communities.

I can say yes to this and commit to it. Perhaps Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has a staff member who is a communication officer and they do send their communiqué to the communities and we can review that, perhaps, as the Government of Nunavut, become a member of the local radio stations, that way we can announce all the employment opportunities.

If we need to pay for them on top of that, we are reviewing how it can be best done. So if we need to be approved by the cabinet after we finalize it, we'll give it to them, but Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that I will commit to ensuring this goes ahead.

We'll have to review the costs and other issues. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the member. Perhaps, starting this coming spring, we can start considering how we can communicate the employment opportunities to the smaller communities. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 144 – 2(3): Trades School in Rankin Inlet**

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

On the weekend, an announcement was made that a trades school would be constructed in Rankin Inlet and I think it's probably going to cost around \$10 million. Mr. Speaker, it's evident in the Kitikmeot that there is a tremendous need for a skilled and trained workforce to support the mining industry in our region.

My question for the minister: what is the Department of Education doing in the Kitikmeot to establish training facilities or programs to train people for jobs in the mining industry? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member indicated, last week, we did have a good announcement on the formation of a trades school specifically dedicated for Nunavut.

At the same time, during that announcement, we announced that in the community of Cambridge Bay, and specifically for the Kitikmeot Region, and in line to what we're seeing in mines training, we're moving very aggressively to work with the school there.

The school shop is underutilized and needs to be upgraded and we're dedicating almost \$1 million to that facility in Cambridge Bay, where we'll be able to deliver mines training as well as some other trades training in the community of Cambridge Bay, for the Kitikmeot residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I'm reading the news release, and it doesn't specifically mention where the facility is in Cambridge Bay, so it's good that he clarified that.

My supplementary question for the Minister of Education: can he give an indication to me and the House if the Department of Education has completed a labour force survey that shows how many jobs will be available in the mining sector in the Kitikmeot over the next ten years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Labour Market Development Agreement, under the LMDA, as well as under the Adult Learning Strategy, the upcoming Mines Strategy Focus Group, and the Mines Training Strategy, which hasn't been released yet, we are looking at and anticipating several hundred positions within the mining sector specifically in the coming years.

Mr. Speaker, some of those mining projects have been outlined, and in Mr. Simailak's speech yesterday, again, some of these were reiterated. One of the projects, for example, on the horizon is the Baffinland Ore Mine, which can have a life expectancy of 75 to 100 years and may have over 1,500 person years of employment.

So there is a considerable amount of work being done through the Adult Learning Strategy and the Mine Training Focus Group to look at number of positions; what their skill sets are; and how we can respond to them. That's why the announcement for Cambridge Bay is so important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Can the minister give me an idea of when the Cambridge Bay Trades School will be opened to train students, and what courses they'll be learning? Has that all been based on consultations with the mining industry and the local community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been considerable work done with this upcoming Mines Training Strategy as well as the Adult Learning Strategy. Some of the programs that we see going into Cambridge Bay include mine training components; mine training specific programs that they may include, for example, millwrights, which is something that is needed in many of our mines because of the facilities and the infrastructure in place and on place in a mine.



It is very important to point out that many of these mines are actually located away from the community; meaning that many people have to fly in. These are campsites where you may have 150 to 200 people. The jobs at those sites include everything from clerks to cleaners, administration people, security, heavy equipment operators, and so on.

When we think about mines we want to get away from the traditional idea of someone with a pick and a shovel, mines have moved a lot away from that component in that type of job over the past several years.

We would hope to be in the position by 2008 to have that facility in place in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's encouraging news for the community of Cambridge Bay. The minister has heard me speak about this over the last couple of years. There is an important initiative in the Kitikmeot called the Lupin Mine that we are trying to acquire for a mine training school. So my question for the minister is: will the Government of Nunavut support the acquisition of the Lupin Mine for mine training school in the investment of capital funds? If not, why not?

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I counted four questions there. I am going to try to keep my answers quick today. Very quickly, we have reviewed the situation with the Lupin Mine.

I believe Mr. Lyall and some of the proponents in the KIA are to be in town next week. I have put some time aside so that I will be able to meet with them.

Capital dollars have to be approved by the Assembly. There hasn't been a proposal brought forward by this Assembly to approve any monies to buy or to acquire the Lupin site.

What I had committed to doing is that if the training program was opened there, let's say a heavy equipment operator or something, that is run by the KIA, then the Government of Nunavut would be very interested in purchasing seats and helping supply some revenue generation towards that project and in that vein. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 145 – 2(3): Humane Harvesting of Seals in Nunavut**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. Just recently, we heard that Greenland did not want to

purchase the Canadian sealskin pelts because they say that we skin the seal when they are still alive. We don't do that here in Nunavut. The worldwide interest people should know that we don't harvest seals like that, and we don't club the seals either.

I was wondering if your department has already resolved this situation.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Environment, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We went to Greenland along with our Premier and we had a great meeting with the Home Rule Government. We started meeting on strategizing, and also, we had agreed that our officials will work together as to how we can provide support to each other. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister, for your response. I know you are working on this issue. Do you know if our sealskin market is going to go down or the prices will go down because of this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, it's evident that it's going to have an impact during the next term. Currently, the prices of seal pelts are the highest since we started dealing with sealskin.

As a government, we will work hard to make sure that the sealing strategy works and we want to make sure that we try to market the sealskins to the world countries that purchase the skins. Thank you.

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

### **Question 146 – 2(3): Kivalliq Winter Trails**

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

In my member's statement I made a comment and I will bring it up again this time around. (interpretation ends) Would the minister arrange to have the Kivalliq winter trails marked and groomed for this season? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Our government will fully support the building of the road in the Keewatin region. We are having discussions with the communities and also with the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. All of the stakeholders

will be consulted and I would like to assure the member that the government is in full support of the building of the road from Manitoba to the Keewatin. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think he understood my question. I'm not talking about the Manitoba-Keewatin road. I'm talking about the road that's being currently utilized. It's a trail that is constantly being used by the snowmobiles; I'm talking about ice roads and trails that are used by Bombardiers and other heavy equipment vehicles.

As I stated earlier, a lot of breakage is done when they are transporting goods from Churchill to one of the Keewatin communities, for example. Is it possible for your government to build better roads that would be utilized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Akasuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): I apologize. I didn't understand first of all. We do want to provide services that are good for the communities. I can tell the member that there is a very heavily used trail between Iqaluit and Kimmirut. Of course it would be easier to build a more permanent road in the Keewatin because of course it's flatter than the Baffin region.

We have to first of all do a feasibility study to see some options on how we can make permanent roads. Once we have all the initial studies done, then it would be up to the government and the communities to decide how they would go about it. We would help the Inuit so that they could have better transportation in between the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It won't be very expensive, but I am not exactly sure what you wanted to do. I think that it's urgent right now to build permanent roads because there are mines opening up in our region. How are you going to be working with the local governments in the Keewatin region? When are you going to be consulting those communities? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Keewatin Chamber of Commerce is going to be having a meeting in Rankin Inlet and I will want to make a point of attending that meeting. I'm sure that they will have suggestions that we could consider because there will be representatives from the smaller communities.

I'll see what I can do on this issue of building a more permanent trail or road in between communities.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What about the various private companies located in Rankin Inlet? Once they have a project to do they start it right away. Why is it not possible for them to get started right now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We'll see how we can speed up the process and what kind of impact it will have. If we could get funding from the federal government and from birthright entities and different businesses, we'll look into it and see what we can do to make it a reality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 147 – 2(3): Procedures for GN Press Releases**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier who is also the Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. It's really a simple question. I am just wondering, in the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, is there a function within that department that reviews any government press releases that come out to ensure that they're releasing appropriate and accurate information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I knew the answer. I knew that he would be able to handle that and he did. In light of that wonderful response that I got from the Premier, my question is; on January 18, 2006 press release on new funds and staffing plans for the Baffin Regional Hospital, if he could explain how inaccurate information in that press release was brought through and put out there.

In the press release there is a quote. It says, "The department has approved \$2.3 million." We just heard from the Minister of Finance a little earlier that it was the Financial Management Board that approved that money. I was surprised; I didn't think departments could approve money like that either. I thought the Assembly had to do that. Also, the fact that it says new funding that's in this year's budget that was released out prior to the budget being put forward in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are often called upon, as a government, to act in urgent situations. This was in our view an urgent situation that we had to reassure the people that wanted to work in our facilities that we'd do whatever we can to make sure that we have accredited institutions, where they can acquire more training. We also want to assure nursing students that they can work in our facilities, regardless of where they are and get accredited.

So in the interest of pursuing and improving our health facilities, we felt that we had to respond immediately. This is not the first time that we've done this. We've done it in cases where we've had fires, where we've had emergency situations relating to health and safety. So we'll continue to do that.

I regret that the press release may have misinformed some of the members. At the end of the day it is the government that makes the decisions and the members, at the end, have to approve the budget that we have set aside for this set press release. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just ask the Premier in light of that response, I'm not arguing that they needed to be reassuring of people. Also in that press release and in the Minister of Health's comments yesterday, it states that nothing is going to happen there until they get re-evaluated in 18 months.

I can say that this will likely happen in 18 months and if we can ask the minister to refer to yesterday's *Hansard* to look at that. If it was such an immediate concern for them and those individuals, basically all this money is going for is hiring staff.

I know that this government in the past has said it has been pressed by regular members about information on stuff that was going to be coming out in the budget and ministers have gone to great lengths to not answer it by saying, "I can't discuss that because it is going to be coming out in the budget."

If this is a precedent, I find it hard to understand how this could be such a pressing emergency if it's something that I agree, I am sure that Mr. Picco, as the Former Health Minister, has gone on the record many times in the past saying that they are chronically under-funded. All of a sudden, now it's an emergency and they have to have funding.

How can we let it happen to let that information out there when members of this side of the House have been crucified in the past and threatened by not being provided with information? And yet, the government seems to be able to do it as and when they wish when it really isn't an emergency. The Department of Health went out on the record and said it's not going to change the services at the hospital.

I ask the Premier if he could ask them how they could justify that. I'm not saying that I disagree with it but how did they get a justification for this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned that we do have students that we employ and we want them to be fully qualified in their chosen professions. We have a number of nursing students that we are training.

And at the same time, we are always in need of physicians, and sometimes we require interns to assist the physicians. So we want to assure them that we are doing whatever we can, as fast as we can to make sure that the facility that they'll be working under is accredited and that they will get credited for their further studies, and they'll be physicians, or nurses, as soon as their terms are done.

So we want to make sure that we provide that additional healthcare with students and make sure that they are qualified at the end of the day during their terms in our facilities, throughout Nunavut.

So we felt that that was urgent, and that the people that are working at the hospital should make plans to implement whatever needs to be done so that the facility that they are working under is fully accredited. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 148 – 2(3): Daycare Operations**

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

Mr. Speaker, in my riding, and in the other communities, I have noticed that the communities are under-funded, and some of the daycares, due to mismanagement, or improper budgeting have run out of funds to heat the buildings. And because of freezing pipes, they have to spend a lot of money to have repairs done. Of course, the people who are working or going to school have to put their children in the daycare.

(interpretation ends) Can the Minister of Education tell this House how many daycares are operating right now in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very quickly, there are 45 licensed daycares in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister have plans to open new daycare centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the fundamental shift in education that we talked about over the last year, is, as the minister responsible, I have asked that every new educational facility being built in Nunavut would include in that a dedicated daycare, or childcare space.

At the same time, any major renovations to a school would also contain a dedicated facility for childcare or daycare space. So, Mr. Speaker, the answer to the member's question is yes, by incorporating those facilities in new Government of Nunavut assets. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister have representation on the advisory committee for daycare centres? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Inadvertently I read out the wrong Minister's Statement, and in that inadvertent statement I did talk about the \$600,000 that was just put into all daycares across Nunavut.

I could tell you, Mr. Speaker, the reason why we dedicated that money through the daycare process, through our early childhood education, was that as a result of meetings I had with my Educational Advisory Committee, which does consist of members of daycares across Nunavut, and we discussed what would be the best impact of using those federal funds. They are one-time funds and so we are transferring that money throughout the 45 licensed daycare facilities in Nunavut. They can use it for upgrading their facilities, on maintenance, on fuel, on purchases, and supplies.

So again, the answer to the member's question is yes and that's a very good news story for daycares and for our children across Nunavut, that \$600,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the aboriginal head start daycares continue from the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Right now, Mr. Speaker, the federal government sponsors 151 aboriginal head-start spaces in Nunavut. The federal government, from all of the indications we have, is that they will continue those.

At the same time, the recent \$600,000 that we just announced that we have drawn down on that trust fund. The federal government wrote me, I just received a letter from Minister Findlay explaining that the federal government is withdrawing from that program. They will allow another draw down of \$600,000 and some odd money, which is a per capita funding under that agreement which we didn't sign, but we are entitled to draw down on it, and we will probably look at doing that. I will have to meet, again, with the Cabinet to discuss how we are going to do that.

At the same time, the federal government is indicating the national daycare program that Mr. Dryden initiated will not be going forward, but there will be a sunset clause on the daycare drawdown dollars available as an option to daycares and to governments across Canada.

The good news is that the federal government, the new government, is talking about putting \$1,200 per family into pockets of families across Canada. However, our concern and the concern that I will be bringing to Ms. Findlay is that \$1,200, based on the cost of living in the North, is not very much and we need to be able to see if there's another mechanism that can help support the cost of daycare in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Question Period is now over. Item 7. Mr. Curley.

**A Member:** ...Point of Order.

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

### Point of Order

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise a Point of Order. The Member from Iqaluit Centre stated that we would not be doing anything related to the hospital for the next 18 months.

I would like to draw the members' attention to page 35 of the *Hansard* when I said, "We are looking to address recommendations in 18 months, at which time we will be inviting the agency to come back and evaluate the hospital to again, review for accreditation." I think it's important to set the record straight that there are a number of activities and projects that are being addressed within that 18 months timeframe by the hospital's staff. And the member implied that those recommendations would be reviewed after 18 months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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



**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the minister if that was the interpretation that she took from my comments. What I meant with that is that the accreditation review wasn't going to happen for 18 months. I never meant that nothing was going to happen at all until 18 months. What I meant was that their next review, the re-evaluation was going to happen in 18 months is what I referred to.

So I apologize to the minister if that was the interpretation that she received on that, then hopefully that clarifies it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the *Hansard* reviewed, to ensure that what I corrected is what was, again, what was said.

I just want to make sure for the public information that the right information is out there. I have always said from the very beginning that after 18 months, we would be inviting the ADT back to review the hospital to again, to have it accredited again.

There is a lot of work that has been taken by my staff to try and address the recommendations that came out of the Accreditation Report, and that's the message that I've been saying. I don't want the record in the House to say that Health and Social Services is not going to act on those recommendations until after 18 months. And that's what I heard.

So I ask you Mr. Speaker, to review the *Hansard* during the time the member was raising the questions to the Premier and to clarify tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I will be making a ruling to the Point of Order. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Curley.

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

#### **Written Question 010 – 2 (3): Government of Nunavut's Expenditures on Advertising for Employment Opportunities**

**Mr. Curley:** My question is for the Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Minister of Human Resources.

- 1) For the fiscal years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-2006, to date, broken down by department, how much did the Government of Nunavut spend on the advertising of employment opportunities:
  - a) On the radio;
    - i. CBC,
    - ii. Others, specify

- b) In print;
  - i. *Nunavut News North*,
  - ii. *Kivalliq News*,
  - iii. *Nunatsiaq News*,
  - iv. Others, specify
- c) With recruitment agencies;
- d) On the internet, and
- e) Others, specify.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Mr. Curley.

**Written Question 011 – 2 (3): Crown Agency Advertising Expenditures for Employment Opportunities**

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Honourable David Simailak, Minister of Finance.

- 1) For the fiscal years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, to date, broken down by entity, how much did the Crown Corporations spend on employment opportunities advertising:
  - a) On the radio;
    - i. CBC,
    - ii. Others, specify
  - b) In print;
    - i. *Nunavut News North*,
    - ii. *Kivalliq News*,
    - iii. *Nunatsiaq News*,
    - iv. Others, specify
  - c) With recruitment agencies;
  - d) On the internet, and
  - e) Others, specify.

Thank you.

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

**Written Question 012 – 2 (3): Nursing Recruitment**

**Mr. Alagalak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is for Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health and Social Services, on nursing recruitment.

- 1) What company has been contracted by the Government of Nunavut to recruit and hire international nurses?
- 2) What is the term of the contract?
- 3) What are the terms of payment to the contractors?
- 4) How much money had been paid to the contractor as of January 31, 2006?
- 5) How many nurses had been hired through the services of the contractor as of January 31, 2006?
- 6) At what point in the recruitment process do nurses hired through the services of the contractor enter the GN payroll system?
- 7) Are nurses hired through the services of the contractor paid at the same rate as nurses who are hired by other means?
- 8) Are any other benefits, stipends, gifts or allowances provided to the nurses hired through the services of the contractor?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Ms. Brown.

### **Item 11: Petitions**

#### **Petition 03 – 2(3): Public Housing in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to forward a petition on behalf of my community calling for more public housing in Rankin Inlet.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Please forward them to our Clerk.

Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Item 16. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 17. Motions. Item 18. First Reading of Bills. Item 19. Second Reading of Bills. Item 20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 12, *Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07* with Mr. Netser in the Chair.

We'll take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:45 and resumed at 16:15*

**Item 20: Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters**

**Chairman** (Mr. Netser) (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. During the Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bill 12, *Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07*. What is the wish of the Committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

**Mr. Evyagotailak**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with Bill 12 and finish with the review of the Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, followed by the Department of Human Resources. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Is the committee in agreement?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Minister Tapardjuk, do you have opening comments? If not, you can go to the witness table.

**Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07 – Review in Committee – CLEY**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some opening comments to make. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm pleased to have the opportunity to present the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth 2006-07 Business Plan and Main Estimates.

This department plays the central role in preserving and enhancing Nunavut's culture, heritage, and languages, and provides healthy active living opportunities for all Nunavummiut.

To effectively meet its mission, the department underwent a restructuring of its organizational design, which has streamlined some activities. As a result, both Sport Nunavut and community programs have expanded programs that positively complement their already existing programs.

Currently, Sport Nunavut is very busy preparing for Nunavut's participation in the Arctic Winter Games that will be held in Kenai, Alaska in March 2006. This year Team Nunavut will be represented by 211 athletes, 28 coaches, and eight cultural delegation members.

The department is committed to the incorporation of Inuit societal values and has taken the lead in community wellness pilot projects. The Inuit societal values projects have been launched in Cambridge Bay and Clyde River. Our Igloolik office will offer their assistance in the implementation of those two pilot projects.

The *Inullariit* Elders' Society has years of experience in supporting their community through their work and activities which involve Inuit ways and traditional knowledge. These projects will continue in 2006 and 2007 with the expectation to expand them to other Nunavut communities in coming years.

Mr. Chairman, in collaboration with the Department of Education, the department will take the lead in working towards the establishment of a Nunavut cultural school.

To illustrate our commitment, the department has significantly increased its resources in the 2006-07 fiscal year. These funds will be used to develop the work plan for the establishment of a dedicated school and development of culture education programs for delivery at the community level. The department is also committed to ensuring the promotion and preservation of Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun in Nunavut through the implementation of initiatives such as terminology workshops and literary prizes. Furthermore, the official languages branch continues to work towards the development of important language legislation through community consultation.

This year an additional increase in funding has been dedicated to their crucial consultation on two bodies of legislation: the *Official Languages Act* and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*. The government is gearing up to begin the public consultation process for those acts in early spring. With the recent announcement of the Nunavut Heritage Centre to be located in Iqaluit, the Department is excited and eager to continue the work required to ensure the preservation of the Nunavut cultural legacy. Currently, the trilateral working group is considering various options for funding arrangements and governance models.

Finally, I would like to highlight the successful grant and contributions programs the department administers each year. Funds are awarded to individuals, not for profit community based organizations, and local governments for social, cultural, language, sport, recreation, and physical activity projects in Nunavut. Each year, the deadline for the funding requests is March 31 and we anticipate the funds will be awarded by the end of April 2006. I would like to encourage communities, organizations and individuals to apply for this funding. Applications are now available. Thank you.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Do you wish to have staff go to the witness table? Minister Tapardjuk.

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I have my officials with me.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the committee agree; do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk if you could introduce your officials before we start.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left is David Akeagok, my Deputy Minister, and on my right is David Kolot, Director of Corporate Services for our department. Those are my officials.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome Mr. Akeagok and Mr. Kolot. Does the committee chair have any opening remarks? Mr. Mapsalak.

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

I am happy to see that Minister Tapardjuk and his officials are here. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to deliver the committee's opening remarks, as we begin consideration of the 2006-07 Main Estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

Later on, members will have the opportunity to ask questions regarding those estimates to the minister. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his staff.

The minister was able to give an update on his department's proposed expenditures for the coming fiscal year.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, members are pleased that the department continues to make efforts in encouraging Nunavummiut to preserve our language through initiatives such as the annual Nunavut Literacy Prize and regular language workshops.

Members are also pleased that the department is in the process of consulting Nunavummiut with the respect of two upcoming language initiatives: the *Official Languages Act*, and the *Inuit Language Protection Act*.

Members expect to be kept fully informed on the progress of these initiatives. Members note the department has been consulting the public and businesses for input through such means as brochures.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the department has engaged a consulting firm to conduct an evaluation of the Inuktitut component of the Canada/Nunavut Cooperation Agreement for French and Inuit languages in Nunavut. Members look forward to receiving the results of this evaluation. Members are hopeful that it will have a positive impact on the amount of funding provided for the Inuktitut component of the agreement.

Mr. Chairman, members noted that the department will be conducting two community wellness pilot projects in 2006-07, based on Inuit societal values; one in Cambridge Bay, and one in Clyde River.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is very supportive of the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* initiatives. The committee is pleased that the department has increased its resources for the development of the Nunavut cultural school and the development of the cultural education program. The standing committee notes that CLEY now has a formal lead on this initiative. The standing committee urges the department to be transparent in identifying how the host communities for cultural schools will be determined.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased to learn that the plans for establishing a Nunavut Heritage Centre are ongoing and have noted that Iqaluit has now been firmly chosen as its location. Mr. Chairman, the committee would urge the Department of CLEY to bring forward a list of O&M and staffing projections for the new Heritage Centre.

Mr. Chairman, members look forward to Nunavut's participation in the upcoming Arctic Winter Games and wish all of our athletes much success.

Mr. Chairman, oral history has been and continues to be very important to Inuit. Members are therefore pleased to learn that the department will continue collecting and preserving oral history from our elders.

Mr. Chairman, members applaud the department for its practice on tabling comprehensive annual reports on its grants and contribution spending as this practice is important for the transparency and accountability of the public funds. Members are strongly sympathetic to the view that the department should expect all recipients of those public funds to report exactly how the funds were used and urge the department to measure the success of its spending.

Mr. Chairman, members note that all of the responsibilities for a public library were transferred to CLEY from Education in 2004. Little detail has been provided on the department's strategic vision for libraries. In light of Nunavut's disappointing result in the recent international adult literacy and skills survey, investments in our public library system would support other GN efforts to deliver literacy programs to our residents.

Mr. Chairman, members look forward to reviewing the department's revised policies, such as those concerning recreational facilities, once the revisions have been completed.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2006-07 main estimates and business plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Before we start, we have Rule 77(1) and each member is allowed 10 minutes to make their general comments. I don't

think there are too many general comments. I don't have any hands for general comments. I think we can proceed with the review. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Since we are now on general comments from members, Mr. Chairman, thank you and this is my very first general comment as a regular member in reviewing the Main Estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

From the opening comments and from the business plan that the department...main estimates, in order to work with youth and elders, or board members that carry the same responsibility.

I would like to expect that I hope I'm not the only one that hears or sees that these individuals or communities require more support; especially the youth council, elders' council, and also appointed members of the board for culture or language.

I also would like to acknowledge the board members in the communities and the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth because they carry the same issues and they are all important. But the support provided to all of them varies completely.

I don't think the level of support to the communities is standardized for youth councils or elder's councils, whether it is for culture or language. What I'm trying to say is that we need to acknowledge and recognize the members of the youth council and elders' council, and also the minister's department. When their goals are the same, why can't we come up with an employment position that can work for culture and for the youth?

Today, I have heard many times from my constituency for I don't know how many years that they are working hard and they are in a difficult situation because they don't have any staff. Nobody even looked into the elders' or youth board to get some support. Perhaps within the department you could open a position to give support to the communities for youth and elders' councils, and to be a contact person so that you can work together with those entities to reach the same goals.

If one position is too low, I'm sure that you can find more positions to work in that field because there are many youth councils and many elders' councils that work on the same responsibility. They very much support the department's goals. They can work closely together, but there is still a gap between those two.

The concern that I have is that the entities at the community level should be provided support so that they can run smoothly parallel to the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, and their recognition is equally the same. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. I don't have any names for general comments. So we can move on to review of the main estimates. We are on page F-5 and F-6. Mr. Curley.



**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister and welcome him and his officials, David and the other David on your right.

I would like to talk a little about the issues that I raised today. I would like to ask a few questions. I would like to ask him if we have the same feeling when we talk about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, the traditional knowledge of Inuit.

I don't think we're collecting just knowledge, I think we are collecting social knowledge and for that reason, I would like to thank the individuals who work at the schools on cultural issues.

The women teach sewing to the school by using the traditional knowledge of Inuit. I would like to state and name here how proud I am that this individual gets sealskins from anywhere considering she's not getting paid annually. She teaches people how to make *Kamiks*, how to clean sealskins and doesn't even want to get paid for that. That's a very good role model. She provides huge assistance and she teaches Inuit and non-Inuit how to make *Kamiks*. It's amazing that she is able to use the traditional knowledge of Inuit and volunteer her time. This is something that we can be envious of.

I think men in all communities should be able to do more because, Mr. Chairman, there is no funding available for Nunavut communities. Perhaps if the minister can really encourage volunteers at the community level to teach that if we would like to survive in the cold land, we need proper clothing. Also, I would like to state I know that women's work is very difficult.

Even though we are not going getting paid we should be volunteering to preserving and enhancing Inuit culture because it's disappearing. If you go to any one of the communities, any association meetings or municipality or educational councils, they don't speak Inuktitut at their meetings, only the individuals that want to speak Inuktitut. Our Inuit culture is at risk now and we want to be paid to preserve it.

I know there are volunteers out there and I'm sure you're very proud of them because at times, other tendencies that we have are to say that we are not responsible for this or that. I think we have to work harder as a government.

We believe in the Inuit language and we are quite sensitive to it, and we can only pay bilingual pay if they are going to be using that language in the office. If it were not used, no unilingual Inuk would come for services; then the employee would not be eligible for bilingual bonus.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the minister if it's understandable that a volunteer culture instructor, whether it is a woman or a man, should have to go through dangers in order to hunt. Sometimes they cannot even tell how thin the ice is. It's becoming very difficult to forecast the weather.

I know that we are losing some of our elders that have that knowledge. Therefore, we either have to make a guess or we have to consult with them. I know we can still make snow houses. Perhaps we should encourage volunteers. Perhaps your department, with the assistance of societies or associations, can encourage volunteers to teach traditional knowledge. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. I don't know if that was a question or a comment. Was that a question? Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's absolutely correct.

We definitely have to take that into consideration, and as you probably you know there is an office of the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in Igloolik, and I think they have teleconferences involving all 24 communities. The elders are involved in that teleconference. There are youth representatives, and they also hold their own teleconferencing.

During those discussions, I can direct my staff to look into the issue and to get the Inuit out there to think about volunteering or to teach traditional and survival skills to the general public.

As I said earlier, they do hold teleconferences weekly, and I know exactly where you're coming from. I could direct my staff to look into this issue and see what they could do to promote the teachings, or the traditional teachings and survival skills.

As a department, we try to integrate the youth and the elders. It's a little hard, but of course, we will be seeking support from the government so that we can work closer together with the elders. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): To supplement your comment, I don't think that we should even try to find out if they're going to agree to your suggestions or not.

I think that collectively, we should make sure that the traditional skills, survival skills, clothing techniques, are taught to the people, because people out there are dying. You can see an individual who is properly clothed; you won't worry about that person because he's properly clothed.

If a person for example were going to get married, the woman would have to be able to make clothing. As young men, we were told; only after you are able to build an igloo can you then take a woman. I don't know what it is now. Why is it that men marry women now? What is that passage from being a boy to a man and to be able to take an apartment?

But the minister has to urge the people out there, and I think that there has to be collaboration with the entities while there are elders out there who are knowledgeable about those skills that we urge the teaching, even at a volunteer basis.

I think that we should put it in writing so that when our young people get lost out there in the wilderness that they are able to survive and that they have the skills and the knowledge to make it through. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. The *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Task Force will be a part of it, but it will be seriously considered.

We do have a pot of money that the communities can request if they would like to put up a program for arctic survival, or something. There are funds available that can be requested if the Legislative Assembly agrees to it.

I know exactly where you are coming from and I know that the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* Task Force will be part and parcel of the whole thing. If you are going to make it a reality they will have to be involved. As the minister, I can assure you that we will review this further and see how we can better promote it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason why I brought this up is because there is an elder who goes out there into the land and he is a lot more worried than I am. He is saying that something is going to happen. He's got some kind of a premonition about some disasters even coming up because we are not preparing the people how to survive out there. He was very concerned about the people.

As government ministers, you're the ones who can make that decision and make an announcement out there and the people out there will be more receptive to you than they would us.

Then again, the onus is on me to make sure that survival skills are taught out there. There are some young people who can't make a shelter, for example. It is time that we stop disregarding that. We have to promote it and be proud that we can do that.

I just want to say thank you to you. If possible, I would like to see something in writing and of course the birthright organizations out there do have money and I'm sure that there can be a collaborative working relationship between the government and the entities. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): In the Baffin region, for example, there is an entity called *Niutaq* that we can work with, I'm sure, and see how we can work more closely together. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. That's it? Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't going to make a comment, but listening to the comments that were made by my colleague; I have to make a supplementary. For those of us who are older, and I'm not pointing fingers at anybody, but I think the onus is on us to teach the young people.

There are traditional laws that were used. There were traditional laws focused on the men, there were traditional laws focused on the women, and traditional laws on survival skills and animals. There were strict practices that we were required to follow. As I said earlier, there are not very many people out there who have the knowledge and the skills to pass it on, but there are some of us who know a little bit.

The whole thing started when Europeans started coming into the north. As I stated earlier, the erosion started in my grandfather's days and we have to worry about the young people now.

There are some individuals, and I can say myself personally, that know about the survival skills and living on the land. In my community, when there is training on igloo building, I usually participate. You have to look at the consistency of the snow, what is involved and so on, but I can tell you that I can build an igloo though nobody in particular taught me how.

There are some of us older people who still have those skills and the knowledge, so let's teach the young people so that they can survive out there when we pass on so we don't have to be worried about them once we pass on.

We were born with those skills being passed from generation to generation, but the erosion started when the outsiders started coming in, so it's up to us to stand up again. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't hear a question. Did you want to respond Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, this issue is near and dear to our hearts.

It is also being reviewed under the new *Education Act*. I am very pleased to see that there are people who are passionate about passing on those skills and it gives you that extra push to do something about it.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We're on pages F-5 and F-6. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page F-6, I have a question about the \$200,000 under Inuit Societal Values.

Mr. Tapardjuk, is this under grants and contributions, or is this money geared to the organizations at the community level? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): These monies are geared for Clyde River and Cambridge Bay, for projects that encourage and promote the strengthening of Inuit societal values. That is for Cambridge Bay and Clyde River. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to those two communities, do you get requests from the other communities also?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Well, this is a new program. I think we started that in December.

There was a meeting here in Iqaluit, and even though Cambridge Bay did participate, the other communities were here when we started looking into setting up this program. We are going to be using these two communities as a pilot project. This money has been set aside to encourage, promote, and strengthen Inuit society values.

For Clyde River and Cambridge Bay, these monies are just for those communities alone and not for the other communities. This is also to promote healthy communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't realize that it was just a pilot project, but you mentioned earlier that suicide prevention committees ask for funding. I wonder where we would be able to identify this in these main estimates.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): That funding is available under Community Programs; it's under F-13. Those programs can be found under F-13, and that lists community programs. We'll be able to identify who can apply for those. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Those two communities that you mentioned, what are they going to accomplish?

Will they be developing something that the other communities can follow because if other communities were considered... When will that study, or research, or project be completed? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We are hoping that in 2006-07, and if the budget under these estimates is approved, they will do the pilot project.

What we are expecting is that if we start this now, that we have different committees. There is the Community Justice Committee, and they have Social Workers, the Justice Committee, and there is the RCMP, and then the Nurses and Doctors. They look after people who have gotten into trouble.

So we may be looking at crime prevention, or in teaching them Inuit traditions. I know that in one of the communities, they actually do a radio show now where if you do this, this way, it will be better for your children, or if you and your partner live this way, then it will be better for the communities.

So they are incorporating Inuit traditions and values, and they will be working with health services, the RCMP, Social Services, based on Inuit traditions. And we will be doing a study as to how we can hold on; if we understand the root of our problems then we will be able to identify solutions.

Perhaps, after two years, if we can see the difference in the reduction of crimes that occur, or that have to appear before the court, and if we go through this route, then we can certainly pass this on to the other communities for the betterment of those communities, so they will experience fewer problems.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated earlier, the youth councils or the elders' societies also deal with a lot of problems that go on in our communities.

I'm not going to name one specific problem. Where I want to show my support is that whether they are a youth council or an elders' council, if they have a problem, whom can they go to for assistance or for support?

Can we make information available as to where those committees can get more support? I was happy to hear that they do get phone calls from the youth council, but I also understood that there was somebody within your department who is available to assist with the operations of those different committees in the communities. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The community-based committees like the youth councils or elders, we have an office in Igloolik and I understand that we have an employee who is the elders' and youth council support staff.

In the budget, it's identified that those positions are funded. So if they request assistance in regard to making a proposal or if they have questions, then we also have a toll-free number they can contact. I tried it once, but it didn't work. I will look into the toll-free number we have to make sure it's functioning properly.

Yes to his questions. Yes, we do have a concern about this. For example, in Hall Beach, the Elders' Society really wants to do something, but they don't have anybody to work in the office. So those are the kinds of things that we are concerned about and looking into. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's what I wanted to hear. He said that there will be some funding available, but we will probably come across it later.

The youth councils ask for funding from your department. Is there somebody from your department who can actually check with the communities and ask if everything is running smoothly?

You said earlier that they don't have enough office managers or workers; especially the elders' committees have a hard time because in the first place, this kind of operation is new to them. I wonder, within your department, if you can make one or more employees available to assist those. So will the funding that is there include that person who will be able to assist and support the committees in the communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Minister Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): To clarify what I said, yes we will be able to identify who will be the elder's coordinator and the youth coordinator. In the communities they will have a coordinator for elders and for youth and we also have elders here in Iqaluit within our staff who are unilingual that work in our offices here in Iqaluit and in Igloolik.

To further clarify, we received a proposal from one of the communities from the Elders' Committee and we asked for further information from that group. We also advised that if you did this you might be able to get more funding, so we are trying to help those committees. We are not putting pieces of paper in front of them and telling them to apply for funding, but we are trying to assist them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Kilabuk

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Final comment. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, I feel, should be able to recognize and appreciate this because they are working with the people in the communities to try and assist the communities and their coordinators. We should be able to help them further because they are also responsible for carrying out these programs. And I would like to encourage the minister to try and put this in the budget.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. I think the Cabinet in this government is trying to look at other ways that Nunavut can have better representation. It certainly would help with the problems we encounter; yes we realize that this is the problem and we are certainly trying to do something about it, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Just to re-supplement to my comment, to see if he is in full agreement with me when we talk about *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

What I feel is how to survive out on the land and to be proud of the Inuit tradition. We had this from way back and there are not very many of us in Canada and we are losing the Inuit way really fast. What I have thought of is when the youth need to know the traditional skills, and in a better family setting and once they go out hunting it's very helpful for the mind whether it be summer or winter for those young people who go out hunting to know the traditional skills.

The youth get their own share of problems too, but when they go out hunting they don't just listen to or watch television or listen to rock and roll. My suggestion is that as volunteers because we have a shortage of funding; we have to volunteer. I heard earlier that this person wants to go out hunting, but they don't know who to ask, a young person doesn't know who to ask.

I wonder if there is a connection between the suicide rate and the lack of knowledge of Inuit traditional skills. I wonder if there is a connection to that. I'd like to ask the minister about that.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I probably can't answer him adequately. It's not just the Inuit, there are some Indians, or in Australia when the Europeans, or the *Qallunaat* came up then they tried to change our culture. It feels like we are lost in the middle because of that what we are trying to do is to re-introduce and teach the Inuit skills. This will be done in Cambridge Bay and Clyde River.



What we have gone through as Inuit; we have gone through very harsh times, then there are other times where we have it so easy. That comes with a heavy price. We knew that. So for that reason, we will be doing research in those two communities in regard to parenting because we can't just survive; live life, eat, sleep, and work, our life has to be meaningful; why we have to live. Those are the things that we are trying to work on. That is the only response that I can give him.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Are you done? I have no more names on my list. We are on pages F-5 and F-6. (interpretation ends) Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,350,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. F-7 and F-8. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Official Languages. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,626,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Going to F-9, F-10, and F-11 are included in that page. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask the minister in regard to library services. I'm not really sure how they are run? I know that they are very important, but the libraries; what kinds of guidelines do they have for library services? What's the capacity? How does it exactly operate? What kinds of books do they order; do they have a guideline as to what kinds of books that they have to provide the public, or provide in the library?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I will get my deputy minister to respond to the question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Akeegok.

**Mr. Akeegok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there are two aspects to the operations of library services.

Some of them get their money through grants to the communities, and also in some part, we have our own resources here in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet, but our employees that work in the library services have an agreement in place that they have to order or share books from various communities, or various places.

They share with each other, and then also order new books, and then they share books from other communities. They don't really have discretion as to what kinds of books that they would like to have. That's the way that they operate right now.

They also have to have Inuit literature in the library services available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's very important.

The reason I wanted to ask that question is because sometimes in Nunavut we think that because we're a new government, it's like we have no history. Do I make myself clear? Just because we are a new government, it seems like our history is not. I just think of it as generations forgotten, but whenever the minister says something new; then I think about us being the oldest culture in the world.

Even before there was Canada, that's our history. Nunavut is our history. Perhaps the minister can provide a policy or establish a policy whereby there is a history connection with Inuit, such as the history that is made of the explorers, and expeditions that were done.

As Inuit, we have to be included in there. There were people that came to do mapping of the north, and there is also oral history, the whalers, the fur trade, and so on. If we don't do that, and the young people don't know that, they can't become scholars.

There have been a lot of whalers and explorers that have been assisted by Inuit and all that stuff. That kind of history has to be visible in the library to encourage our young people that we have a very good helpful history as Inuit.

Perhaps the minister can think about producing a document in Inuktitut, or get somebody to write our history, and work with Southern people that could advise the elders on how to record the history of Inuit because the libraries have to be very attractive for young people. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, the member is correct. Our staff that work with the library services can be encouraged to do something that the member is talking about and to talk with the elders that know the oral history and to start writing it down before they pass on.

We are trying to do some recording of what happened years ago. In regard to languages, what we did last year, we had a literary competition from the people of Nunavut about the history of the legends that the Inuit have passed on to the younger generation and us.

Those are the types of things that we would like to do because we don't have a written history. We have an oral history and I believe that Mr. Curley's comment is very correct. Because we are more oral than written, it seems like we have no history. As soon as you see things such as carvings and other materials that are made by the Inuit people, there's a lot of history just by looking at them even though they are not written.

So my department can do more things to have those things in visual or written form, which can be very helpful.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his comments. I would also like to write to you, Mr. Minister, about that too as well.

Ever since the whalers and the expedition people came up north, there are groups of people that helped out with the whalers and the Hudson Bay people. It would be nice if the young people could start finding out if they are related to those individuals that helped out the whalers, the fur traders, and the Hudson Bay Company. You could see in the colours of their skin that they are Inuit people. They all speak Inuktitut. The whalers and the Hudson Bay people, they are a generation. When one child finds out about that, they feel a lot better because they feel connected to somebody or something.

There have been a lot of those southerners that are related to us and when they found out about those people, then it made them feel more connected. If the early contacts that the Inuit had could be put in library services, it would be helpful for those children. They can talk with their elders and feel more comfortable and connected as to who they are. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, definitely. We would like to hear all of those things from anyone. We have funding out there for languages and other things such as history. Those are the types of things that we would like to hear from the public. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Is that it? Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to ask a question.

Perhaps I will make a first preamble. I know that in Nunavik they made a dictionary. I can't really recall in Nunavut or other dialects if we have made Inuktitut dictionaries.

So that's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Through the computer, we do have a dictionary that was made in Pond Inlet. I don't know what you call them in Inuktitut, but we do have dictionaries.

We have another dictionary called *Asuilaak*. Also, ICI, when they were still operating, initiated the process of writing a dictionary, but to date it is incomplete. They are still working on it. They have collected over 80,000 words in Inuktitut in the *Asuilaak* dictionary.

Also, from the three regions, we are requesting terms from all the regions, because the dialects are different in each region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the minister.

I want to state my views. I'm just going to use myself as an example. In Hudson Bay I am called *Maligaliuqti*, a Member of the Legislature. Mr. Henry Hudson, who passed through my community, was asked a question.

There were Inuit that lived in the Belcher Islands 4,000 years ago. Mr. Henry Hudson passed through the Belcher Islands less than 100 years ago, but my constituency is still called Hudson Bay. We still have to abide by that term. It goes back to an individual who didn't live here for many years. So I believe that you should look into this further; changing place names from English to Inuktitut, because the majority of our places are named after Europeans. For example, in Sanikiluaq we have over 300 archipelagos, but some islands are named after Europeans.

Perhaps, some time in the future, your Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth can try and rectify this situation, or find some funding. I'm just encouraging the minister to look into this seriously. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, within our main estimates within the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, we have a mapping project and also place names.

We have a \$100,000 line item for that purpose. If that is approved, we will be able to provide that assistance by way of applications so that they can make changes to the place names.

We do now have a committee of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, and they are reviewing all the place names that need to be changed. I don't know how many they've reviewed so far. Oh...they have already reviewed 54 places to change the names. For example, Broughton Island; we now call it Qikiqtarjuaq, and Lake Harbour, we now call it Kimmirut. This is

an ongoing process and we are waiting for the communities. We will have funding once this budget is approved. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Maybe Hudson Bay will be Kattuk Bay, Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Kilabuk I am sure is anxious to ask questions. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question in regard to what the minister had stated that if you can review the actual history. Perhaps if you can look into the history we can find out as to who our forefathers are.

I also heard someone stating, before that was asked, in regards of our history, that the last 30 years it seems that we don't have a history. I heard my colleague say that. I don't agree with that. The last 30 years are very important to me because my relatives and my immediate family, within just 30 years all these people were born and many couples have made children within those 30 years.

If we want to find out who their forefathers are we need to include the 30 years without a gap. It has to be done continually. We have to use all of them to be comprehensive. I can't agree to 30 years of no history. These are very important to us.

My family members are still alive, and we are still alive. Aren't we as important? I can't agree with that statement. Also I would like to agree with the minister that if we are going to be collecting history, it will be comprehensive.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. That was just a comment. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome Mr. Minister and his officials to the meeting. I hope I'm in the right section here on culture and heritage. I'm on F-9. Is that the correct page?

I want to ask about the comments in your opening statements, the recent announcement that a Nunavut Heritage Centre be located in Iqaluit. I noted in your business plan on page F-19 that you had a capital finance study for the Nunavut Heritage Centre.

I am wondering, Mr. Minister, how the decision came about to base the heritage centre in Iqaluit? I noted in your announcement that Cambridge Bay was considered and some other communities. I am wondering if the capital financing study is available as well for the information of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Since I also noted in your news release that the heritage centre would cost \$55 million, I am interested in that information. I am wondering if that is available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I think back in 2002, we tabled a study that was done by those people. They did a feasibility study as to how much it would cost. Everything is identified in that report.

I don't know when, but back in 2003, I tabled that the report of the feasibility study as to how much it would cost and how this building was to be used. So you can get all information from the feasibility study. And they also did research on all the communities; we did a study of all the communities.

The working group included a representative from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, Inuit Heritage Trust, and government representatives. They are starting to identify the cost of the building and that it will cost \$55 million and Government of Nunavut has identified \$10 million. They also will research how the heritage centre will operate.

They are looking at the governance and also they will be reviewing where we can identify the funding and how it's going to be operated. Everything is identified and we encourage this to be done urgently because the heritage centre is needed urgently. So that's when they identified Iqaluit as a location in the feasibility study. Thank you.

**Mr. Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. I don't think there's any argument that a heritage centre is needed in Nunavut. The concern from my riding is, from some of the people who came to me about this when they heard about the decision, was how were the people from the Kitikmeot going to visit the heritage centre in Iqaluit, because it's virtually impossible to do that due to cost and other factors.

So my next questions lead into what you're saying: I know there are a few heritage centres across Nunavut, I know there's one in Cambridge Bay that was constructed a couple of years ago; how many heritage centres are in Nunavut? And where are they located? And how would they tie in with the large heritage centre based in Iqaluit? How would they support each other? How would people from the Kitikmeot participate in this large heritage centre being constructed in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with Mr. Peterson as to how Kitikmeot residents can access their new heritage centre if it's going to be located in Iqaluit. That's why if I know that you are aware we have our heritage centre down in Yellowknife and the Baffin region residents have never seen that heritage centre either. We don't want to do the same. For that reason, we have been considering this issue; how we can consider the heritage centre along with the communities or the regions.

The heritage centre that's being identified in Iqaluit is going to house all the artefacts that should be preserved; it's going to have storage places. These artefacts deteriorate pretty fast, so they are going to have specialized cases. This heritage centre is going to be multi-purpose like the other museums. One of the things we are going to consider is how we

can provide services to the smaller communities who have their heritage centres or museum.

So we will be considering this later on, but at this time we have to make a decision on the Nunavut Heritage Centre. We don't have a Nunavut Heritage Centre and Mr. Chairman, we have received support from the people of Nunavut through NTI, through their resolutions, they wanted to see the heritage centre built and those have helped us to go ahead through the meetings in Cambridge Bay. The other Inuit entities have met and considered the fact that Iqaluit will be the location of the heritage centre.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Could the minister tell me how many heritage centres we have based in Nunavut right now? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'm not exactly sure at this point, but I can say that there are three heritage centres that we fund: there's one here, one in Cambridge Bay, and one in Baker Lake. Those heritage centres are partially funded by the government.

I'm sure that those smaller centres located in Nunavut have now applied for grants or monies from the Nunavut Government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I was going to ask again where the location was, but he answered my question before I asked it.

I noted on page F-11 that you have mentioned the heritage centre's core funding. There's \$350,000 in the current fiscal year, but it's decreasing to \$300,000 in the next fiscal year. Is there a reason why it was decreased by \$50,000? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will have my deputy minister respond to that question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go ahead, Mr. Akeagok.

**Mr. Akeagok** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a \$50,000 cut because the requests for funding are smaller. If you look in F-10, Culture and Communication Programs, there's a \$25,000 increase in there and in Nunavut Arts, there's another \$25,000 increase. Those were funds that are the same amount as what has been cut from the heritage centre's core funding and the reason why we did that is because there were

more requests for funding in those two programs than in that registered heritage centre's core funding. The three requests from those I have mentioned have not changed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akeagok. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and David for that answer. If there are three branches to heritage centres, does that mean each one gets \$100,000 for their core funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We just follow through with the funding requests that they send me. We don't just give it to them; they have to make a request for the funds in order to receive them.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Any more, Mr. Peterson? That's it? Thank you. We are on page F-9. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Culture and Heritage. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,814,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members** (interpretation): Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. (interpretation) Moving on to F-14, I'm sorry, F-12, F-13, and F-14 were all included in F-12. (interpretation ends) Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Branch Summary. Community Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,586,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Am I going too fast? (interpretation ends) We are going to F-16. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is this for supporting the sports programs? Is this where they receive the funding? That's my first question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the monies are provided for Sports Nunavut for recreational programs and it's provided by the government.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.



**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we have a copy of the requests that were approved? Can we have a list of the programs that were approved? Thank you, Mr. Minister.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The list hasn't been tabled in the House yet, but we will do so some time in the future. We will be tabling the list of names that were approved in this session or at the end of our fiscal year.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister agree to provide that information per community? Could he do so? That was my last question, Mr. Chairman. Thank you...and how much?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The list will be in full detail. It will tell you which communities, and how much, and we will be tabling that list during this sitting. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. We're on page F-15. (interpretation ends) Summary for Sports Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,483,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members** (interpretation): Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Going back to F-4. Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Departmental Summary. Total of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$16,219,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Are you agreed that the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth is concluded?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to thank the minister and his officials for appearing before the Committee of the Whole. Do you have any closing comments Mr. Minister?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I would first of all, like to thank my colleagues for approving our estimates for the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth.

I will take all the comments and suggestions that were made to heart, during this time. I think this is more important than we realize and we have to work harder to make sure that we provide the appropriate programs and services. And, I thank the House.

**Chairman** (interpretation): We will be moving onto Human Resources. If you have your opening comments, just stay where you're at and make your opening comments.

Thank you very much. We are back with the Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Louis Tapardjuk. I would like him to start with his opening comments. Mr. Tapardjuk.

### **Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07 – Review in Committee – Human Resources**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present the proposed main estimates and business plans for the Department of Human Resources for 2006-07.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Human Resources has been allocated a budget of \$18 million, which represents an increase of 0.6 percent or \$123,000 over last year's budget. This increase is the result of some salary adjustments.

We had a complement of 91 staff, which includes 14 management intern positions that are assigned across most government departments. While keeping in mind the fiscal restraints the Government of Nunavut faces, the Department of Human Resources has re-profiled internal money to support program requirements that are consistent with the principle of *Pinasuaqtavut*, and support the guidelines of Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Our goal is to develop programs and services that will produce long-term benefits to Nunavummiut. We will endeavour, Mr. Chairman, to increase the representation of Inuit in the Government of Nunavut, by providing departments with tools and technical support to achieve 56 percent Inuit employment by March 31, 2010.

In light of our commitment to excellence in human resources, management, and to constantly improve our quality of service to our client department; efforts will continue to provide training and development to employees within the public service.

The development of new training strategies such as internship programs, Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun language training and finding a new performance appraisal system within departments, are a few areas we will focus on.

The Inuit Employment Division was currently reorganized with the planned goal to establish a Human Resources Planned Framework for the Government of Nunavut. This will include a comprehensive strategy for increasing Inuit employment in accordance with Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

In addition we will continue to lead the implementation of the Inuit Employment Plan by working closely with all departments to develop more defined plans, targets and shared accountabilities.

About 30 percent or \$5.4 million of the department's budget for the fiscal year is allocated for Inuit representation in the workforce and to training and employment initiatives. Just about 44 percent or \$7.9 million of the departmental budget is allocated for the effective management of its recruitment and retention programs. We will continue to look for new ways to look for centralized recruitment services and the casual hiring process.

The department is continuously enhancing the staffing process and guidelines to provide a responsive and transparent recruitment process to all government departments and to ensure the consistent application of the Priority Hiring Policy, which would provide employment priority for beneficiaries.

We will continue to get staffing practitioners within the Department of Health and Social Services, Education and Nunavut Arctic College by communicating and advising them about Nunavut Government approved staffing processes and guidelines.

The funding for the Summer Student Employment Program is maintained at \$950,000 with the continued support and cooperation of all Government of Nunavut departments. We will continue to provide training and employment opportunities to the young people of Nunavut.

The remaining \$4.7 million or 26 percent is allocated for employee wellness, employee relations, management of operations and job evaluation programs. The department will continue to provide wellness programs by delivering year round courses and workshops designed to improve the well being of employees and to ensure safe working conditions.

In the next year, the department will start negotiations for the new Collective Agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union as its present agreement expires on September 30, 2006.

The review of the *Public Services Act* will be completed in the fall of 2007, which will reflect the objectives, policies and practices of the Nunavut Government. Implementation of Phase II of the Human Resource Information and Payroll Service will begin in the winter of 2007. We will also continue to add job descriptions to eliminate artificial and inflated barriers and we will increase efforts to include Inuit cultural and language components in government positions.

Mr. Chairman, the programs and services of the department are fully supportive of the goals and priorities that are outlined in *Pinasuaqtavut* and are culturally sensitive to Inuit societal values through the principles of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*.

To enable us to carry out our tasks in meeting and developing the government's public service, and providing human resource management support to GN departments and agencies, we will need the resources identified in the draft main estimates.

Mr. Chairman, those are my comments and I will be pleased to answer any questions. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. (interpretation ends) Does the co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations have any comments? Proceed, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide you with my opening remarks on the 2006-07 Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Human Resources.

The committee notes that the proposed 2006-07 budget for the department has \$18,019,000. This represents a 66 percent increase of the department's initial 1999-2000 budget allocation of \$10,836,000; 0.5 percent increase over the 2005-06 revised main estimates for the department.

The committee has noted that the Government of Nunavut's overall vacancy rate remains static at approximately 20 percent. In other words, almost one out of every five full-time positions in the Government of Nunavut stands vacant. Approximately 36 percent of the vacant positions are located in Iqaluit with approximately 284 vacancies. A number of other communities also have significant numbers of vacancies.

In January of 2000, the Government of Nunavut-wide vacancy rate was approximately 25 percent. It remains unclear to the committee that the work of reducing the government's overall vacancy rate to 10 percent is a realistic goal in the short or even medium-term.

The committee has noted that almost all Government of Nunavut departments have added PYs to their organizational structures in their 2006-07 business plans, despite the number of existing positions which remain vacant. The committee is aware that the department has Government of Nunavut-wide responsibilities in relation to job evaluation and classification.

The committee is concerned by what appears to be an inordinately high rate of growth in its Government of Nunavut positions classified as being in the management category as opposed to a number of non-management, frontline positions. For example, according to the department's own quarterly Inuit employment plan reports, in January of 2000, there were 233 classified as middle management. That number has since grown to approximately 433 positions, an increase of over 85 percent.

By contrast, the number of administrative support positions has actually decreased by almost 15 percent. In the past, concerns have been raised with respect to the excessive use of casuals to fill positions on a long-term basis. The committee is supportive of

efforts to ensure that casual hiring concentrates on bringing Inuit into the Government of Nunavut's workforce.

Members note that the overall Inuit employment rate in the Government of Nunavut remains static at approximately 45 percent. Members note with particular concern that the Inuit employment rate for headquarters positions in Iqaluit is just over 30 percent. In other words, only three out of every ten filled Government of Nunavut jobs in Iqaluit is staffed by a beneficiary.

Members noted that the department's business plan indicates that work continues to be undertaken to review the *Public Service Act* and bring forward a new statute. The committee does not want to see this undertaking be a consultant-driven process, and would wish to see the Nunavut Employees Union and the Federation of Nunavut Teachers have a meaningful involvement in the process.

The committee has also noted the minister's commitment to fully consider the issue of whistleblower protection as part of the review of the Act. The idea of re-introducing binding arbitration into the Government of Nunavut's collective bargaining regime is one worth considering during this review, as is the idea of establishing an independent public service commission.

The committee noted that the department's business plan indicates that reviews of the Government of Nunavut's Conflict of Interest Policy, Anti-Harassment Policy, Language Incentive Policy and Code of Conduct continue to be at various stages of development.

The committee looks forward to these revised policies being provided to the committee for comment prior to their being finalized and tabled in the House. The committee has noted that the most recent annual reports of the Integrity Commissioner of Nunavut have recommended that senior Government of Nunavut officials be subjected to the same legislated standards of ethical conduct as ministers and MLAs.

In the case of the Language Incentive Policy, which would apply to bilingual bonuses for employees, the committee notes that this policy has been under review for a number of years now without apparent resolution. The committee would wish to see such a policy encourage the use of Inuit languages in the workplace, especially with respect to front-line positions that directly serve the public.

The minister tabled a revised Priority Hiring Policy in the House on November 28, 2005. The policy provides that Nunavut Land Claims Agreement beneficiaries who meet the qualifications of a given job have priority over other candidates.

In September 2005, Cabinet approved a new process for use by the Staffing Division of the Department of Human Resources. The process provides for the consideration of current Government of Nunavut employees as well as Nunavut residents, with a minimum of one calendar year of residency, before applicants from other jurisdictions.

There is no change to the Priority Hiring Policy, which provides first and foremost consideration to qualified Nunavut Land Claims Beneficiaries. The issue of workforce morale is important. Although the committee has noted with approval that the Government of Nunavut's turnover rate decreased from 31 percent in 2000 to 18 percent in 2004-05, the issue of workplace absenteeism in the Government of Nunavut is clearly a problem.

The committee has noted that the department is working on an attendance management program to address this issue. The recent response to a written question posed in the House by a committee member revealed that the absenteeism rate across the Government of Nunavut doubled between 2002-03 and 2003-04, and increased again in the first six months of 2004-05.

The number of active grievances increased from 96 in March of 2003, to 116 in March of 2004 and 117 in March of 2005.

Members would caution the minister with respect to the risk of public confidence in the fairness of the government's employment practices being undermined by perceptions of favouritism, especially with respect to the hiring of employees' spouses or partners.

At the same time, it is incumbent on the government to ensure that its hiring practices are rules-based, and not influenced by unsubstantiated rumours regarding individuals. The committee would also wish to see the GN's practices in such areas as overtime and educational leave applied consistently, fairly and responsibly.

Members continue to note with concern the significant gap between the number of beneficiary males and the number of beneficiary females employed by the GN; according to the 2004-05 Public Service Annual Report, although almost 800 female beneficiaries were employed as of March 2005, the number of male beneficiaries was approximately only 300. It is disturbing that relatively few male beneficiaries are having success entering and staying in the public service.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has noted with approval the departmental business plan's focus on the Inuit Employment Plan. Members wait with interest for the formal tabling of the "Seeking Balance" IEP Strategy document. Members are aware that the GN has set a target date of March 31, 2010, for 56 percent or more of all positions across all occupational categories to be filled by Inuit. This is an ambitious goal, given that several hundred new Inuit employees will need to be hired in order to achieve it. Members urge the department to continue its efforts to work in partnership with other entities to secure training investments from the federal government in order to help us achieve our long-term Article 23 goals, and build a representative and professional public service.

Mr. Chairman, the committee supports such valuable initiatives as the Summer Student Employment Program. However, concerns have been raised in the past with respect to the issue of fairness in respect to the treatment of some categories of students under this program. The committee is pleased that the 2005 program was to have addressed these

inequities, while retaining as its core focus the need to provide meaningful training and work experience opportunities for Inuit students. The committee would wish to see the department explore ways of making the program more accessible to young people living in Nunavut's smaller communities.

During the minister's appearance before the committee, the issue of GN job advertising was raised. The committee looks forward to the department exploring ways of using community radio to advertise vacant positions, in addition to traditional advertisements in the print media.

The GN's collective agreement with the Nunavut Employees Union expires on September 30, 2006. The committee will be monitoring with attention the progress towards a new collective agreement that is fair to employees and affordable to the government.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you Mr. Peterson. According to Rule 6(1), I now recognize the clock and I will report progress. (interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Minister.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Netser.

### **Item 21: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Netser:** Your committee has been considering Bill 12 and the main estimates and would like to report progress. Also Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Kilabuk. The motion is in order. All in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Item 22. Third Reading of Bills. Item 23. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

### **Item 23: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Orders of the Day for February 24:

1. Opening 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. Replies to Budget Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees.
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notice of Motions
16. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 12
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): This House stands adjourned until Friday, February 24 at 10:00 in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:21*



