



**Nunavut Canada**

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT**

**3rd Session**

**2nd Assembly**

**HANSARD**

Official Report

**DAY 20**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2006**

**Pages 1066 – 1129**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

#### **Hon. Jobie Nutarak**

(Tununiq)

*Chair, Management and Services Board*

#### **Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**

(Nattilik)

*Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Responsible for Status of Women's Council*

#### **Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

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

#### **Hon. Paul Okalik**

(Iqaluit West)

*Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs*

#### **Hon. Olayuk Akasuk**

(South Baffin)

*Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister of Environment; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation; Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board*

#### **Joe Allen Evyagotailak**

(Kugluktuk)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Chair, Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

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

#### **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*

#### **David Alagalak**

(Arviat)

*Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

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

#### **Hon. David Simailak**

(Baker Lake)

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

#### **James Arreak**

(Uqqurmiut)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

#### **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*

#### **Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

*Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **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*

### *Officers*

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk

Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

**Website: [www.assembly.nu.ca](http://www.assembly.nu.ca)**

## Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1066
Ministers' Statements .....	1066
Members' Statements .....	1067
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1076
Oral Questions .....	1076
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery .....	1097
Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills .....	1098
Tabling of Documents .....	1098
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters .....	1098
Report of the Committee of the Whole .....	1128
Orders of the Day .....	1128

**A.**

**Daily References**

Tuesday, February 28, 2006 ..... 1066

**B.**

**Minister's Statements**

065 – 2(3): Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey (Akesuk) ..... 1066

**C.**

**Members' Statements**

149 – 2(3): Tabling of Carving Stone Supply Strategy (Evyagotailak) ..... 1067

150 – 2(3): Lack of Youth Facility in Grise Fiord (Barnabas) ..... 1067

151 – 2(3): Tribute to Power Corporation (Tootoo) ..... 1068

152 – 2(3): Stand Off in Igloolik (Tapardjuk) ..... 1069

153 – 2(3): Congratulations to Kitikmeot Cup Winners (Aglukkaq) ..... 1071

154 – 2(3): Update on the Public Hearings on the Miramar Mining Project (Peterson) ..... 1071

155 – 2(3): Congratulate Arctic Winter Games Participants (Brown) ..... 1073

156 – 2(3): Mild Weather in Pangnirtung (Kilabuk) ..... 1074

157 – 2(3): Fund Raising Event – Anglican Church Pancake Supper (Picco) ..... 1074

158 – 2(3): Blizzard in Sanikiluaq (Kattuk) ..... 1075

159 – 2(3): Coldest Part of Nunavut (Alagalak) ..... 1075

**D.**

**Oral Questions**

169 – 2(3): Discussions with the Prime Minister (Peterson) ..... 1076

170 – 2(3): Auditor General's 2005 Report (Tootoo) ..... 1079

171 – 2(3): Harvesters' Support Program and Disaster Support Review (Kilabuk) ..... 1082

172 – 2(3): Update on the Heat Recovery Plan (Curley) .....	1084
173 – 2(3): Building Inspections (Barnabas).....	1086
174 – 2(3): Update on the Construction of Houses in Nunavut (Mapsalak) .....	1088
175 – 2(3): Update on Medical Air Travel (Kattuk) .....	1089
176 – 2(3): Airport Projects – Federal Funding (Peterson) .....	1091
177 – 2(3): Nunavut Arctic College Year End Financial Statements (Tootoo) .....	1093
178 – 2(3): Power Outage in Grise Fiord (Barnabas).....	1095

**E.**

**Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills**

Committee Report on Bills 01 – 2(3): Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Exemptions Act (Mapsalak) .....	1098
---	------

**F.**

**Tabled Documents**

078 – 2(3): Photograph of Pangnirtung after Extreme Weather (Kilabuk) .....	1098
---	------

**G.**

**Bills**

Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07 – Review in Committee – Human Resources .....	1099
Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07 – Review in Committee – Health and Social Services.....	1114

**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Tuesday, February 28, 2006**

**Members Present:**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon, Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and Clerks of the House. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Akesuk.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 065 – 2(3): Stakeholder Satisfaction Survey**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and colleagues.

The Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has just finished conducting a major stakeholder survey. The goal of the survey was to gather insight into employers' and injured workers' awareness, expectations, and satisfaction of the work of WCB services.

With the advice of an external, independent contractor in Leger Marketing, a group was chosen from injured workers and their employers who have dealt with WCB over the 12 month period from August 2004 to August 2005.

In this group a total of 293 interviews were completed between November 23 and December 15, 2005. Throughout the survey, the vast majority of employers and injured workers expressed support of the way that WCB conducts its business.

Mr. Speaker, those surveyed commented favourably about service delivery, the availability of service, helpful staff, being treated fairly, communications, and compensation packages. When asked at the beginning of the survey about their expectations, only 69 percent had expected to be well-treated, but once they completed the survey and reflected on their experiences with WCB, 83 percent reported that WCB met or exceeded their expectations. This survey identified areas where the WCB could

improve satisfaction levels and this information will assist the WCB in developing plans to improve stakeholders' satisfaction as renewed in June 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

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

#### **Member's Statement 149 – 2(3): Tabling of Carving Stone Supply Strategy**

**Mr. Evyagotailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on the issue of the availability of soapstone for carvers in Nunavut.

(interpretation ends) I was pleased to note that the 2006-07 Business Plan for the Department of Economic Development and Transportation indicates that a database of existing and potential quarry sites has been completed and that pilot projects in quarry development will be undertaken.

Mr. Speaker, in 2002, the Hamlet of Kugluktuk requested an assessment of *Palliq* soapstone site. At that time, it was determined that significant carving stone could not be extracted from the site without developing the quarry. The development would probably include some form of blasting.

Mr. Speaker, to date, the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation has not tabled the carving stone supply strategy. I would like to urge the minister to table that strategy. I would also recommend that Kugluktuk be considered as one of the communities for a pilot project for quarry development.

Mr. Speaker, access to good quality soapstone is important to our communities in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement 150 – 2(3): Lack of Youth Facility in Grise Fiord**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I rise today to talk about Grise Fiord and the fact that they're lacking an elders' and youth facility. Grise Fiord has been working on the elders' and youth centre for the last two years.

They're looking at the old RCMP building which was donated to the community, but we have a problem with the building that was donated to the hamlet council. This building is very, very old and there are safety issues because, of course, it doesn't meet the safety standards that are required if you're going to open a public facility

For example, there might be lead or asbestos in the building and other chemicals. The federal Public Works were requested to inspect the building and the hamlet agreed to have the building inspected by the federal government.

Due to financial restraints, they haven't been able to survey the building for the last two years. Then the hamlet asked Community Government and Services if they could do an inspection on the building, but to date they have had no response from the department.

If there are going to be safety issues, the hamlet council can not use that building. If the hamlet is going to undertake the inspection and renovation of this building, they're looking at approximately \$25,000 to re-do the whole thing, and to meet the safety codes on the electrical and other issues.

I'll be posing questions to the minister at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 151 – 2(3): Tribute to Power Corporation**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to start off my member's statement first by congratulating Mr. Netser, through motion of the House yesterday; he's been selected to sit on the Executive Council.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank him for taking the time to consult with me prior to the exercise yesterday, and I do believe this will probably be indicative of the type of minister that he will be in the future; we look forward to that.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to congratulate and pay tribute to some people that were very busy over the weekend. As you know, this unusual weather that we've been having here in Iqaluit and South Baffin, and Pangnirtung, they've been having some high winds.

This weekend, just when I started cooking supper, Mr. Speaker, the power went out, and I thought; oh no, what am I going to do now to cook for my children? I called the Power Corporation emergency number, and I got a recording that asked me to call another number. I called that number, and there was an answering machine there to leave a message. I left them the message that we were having some power problems in our area of town, and if they could get back to me as soon as possible because my children were hungry.

Mr. Speaker, little did I know. I called up a friend of mine that works for the Power Corporation and asked him what was going on, and he said that they were already



responding to another emergency here in town, the crew that was on call, and they would as soon as possible, activate another group of employees to come and look at the problems in our area of town.

Within about 15 minutes I received a call back from an employee of the Power Corporation indicating that they had been down there. They looked, there was a transformer that had blown, and it would be fixed within the hour. I would like to commend those individuals for their fast work. I also understand that they were very busy throughout South Baffin because of the high winds.

With that Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for 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. Tootoo, please proceed.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, colleagues.

Like I was saying, I would like to commend them for all the hard work those individuals have done; going out in inclement conditions and, I would think with the high winds that were out there, potentially dangerous situations, and making sure that people had their power and had their lights on so that they could cook.

So I would like to thank them and commend them for that and for all their hard work. It often goes unnoticed. Also, my children would also like thank particularly the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation for the power going out. Because as a result of the power going out and me not being able to complete cooking their spaghetti, we had to order pizza. And they were very happy to have pizza instead of spaghetti.

I would like to ask all members to join me and my children in thanking both the people that were on call for the Power Corporation and the minister responsible for the pizza. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 152 – 2(3): Stand Off in Igloolik**

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today, but I'm sure that you're all aware through the CBC, that the armed stand-off is now over.

There have been no incidents, and I'm very happy that this is over. When I was speaking to an elder from Igloolik this morning, I was told if that if there were no prayers there would have been a totally different outcome. I just wanted to inform the House that the

stand-off is now over. I would also like to thank the Mayor Paul Quassa for keeping us all informed of what was happening.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank George Qulaut who is a cousin of mine. He worked extremely hard, and he was the individual who was the spokesperson between the person who was holding the firearms and the other individuals.

I'm very glad that this is over before a negative outcome. It seemed like the whole community of Igloolik was being held hostage for a number of days. I'm sure that they're all relieved that this over.

Mr. Speaker, the question that I'm asking myself is this: why is it that there has been an incident of such magnitude? What is happening with the smaller communities that there was an incident such as an armed stand-off?

Another question is: why is it that the Department of Social Services is like opposite the regular people? Why is it that there are so many people opposed or against the RCMP? What should we do to rectify this problem? What can we do to have healthy communities?

I would like 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. Tapardjuk, please proceed.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues.

We are well aware that there are reasons for these negative things that come into our lives. We had a lifestyle and then a different culture was imposed on us in midstream. Of course a lot of people will say that yes, there is alcohol abuse, there is drug abuse. That's part of the problem. A lot of us can see that, but I think we have to remember why and for what reason we turn to those things. We have to raise our children properly so that they'll be able to have positive and healthier adult lifestyles and cope.

With the statistics, sometimes we look at a community and say that it's a bad community. Mr. Speaker, I think we have to work harder as a government. This government is trying to make the communities own the government and to see what they can do to make improvements at the community level.

We have to make sure that there is ownership in the communities, and I'm sure that would fix a lot of the problems. We can't just follow the advice of non-beneficiaries anymore. It was a sad case when we were going through it, but I can say that we can learn from it, and it will make us want to work more for the people who elected us, and that there is ownership at the community level.

I'm sure there are going to be other incidents, but I would like the members here to understand that we have a lot of work to do, and to open our hearts to helping the people out there, and to make them understand that the government is not the enemy, the RCMP is not the enemy, and social services is not the enemy.

They are here to help us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 153 – 2(3): Congratulations to Kitikmeot Cup Winners**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with my colleagues today from the Kitikmeot, Member Peterson, Joe Allen Evyagotailak, and Steve Mapsalak, I would like to congratulate this year's Kitikmeot Cup winners.

As the members from the Kitikmeot region are aware, Gjoa Haven emerged as the champion over this weekend. I want to also thank the community of Cambridge Bay for hosting the Kitikmeot Cup, and to thank all the individuals that participated and those who organized the event.

As the members know, this year's major focus has been with the Arctic Winter Games but let's not forget that there are other events that do take place, particularly around springtime. The Kitikmeot Cup is a prestigious event in our region and all the participants have worked very hard to make it happen and make it a success.

So I want to thank the members that participated, and the organizers, but in particular, I would also like to congratulate my constituents of Gjoa Haven. There are a number of names. I will not list those individuals.

Gjoa Haven won the gold, Cambridge Bay came in second, and Taloyoak came in third. I have two communities that came with a medal, so I'd like to congratulate both Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak for their success this weekend. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 154 – 2(3): Update on the Public Hearings on the Miramar Mining Project**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't there to help my team win...

>> *Laughter*

...they didn't need a grinder in the corner there to get the puck. But I, too, congratulate all of the players from the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update the House on the recent public hearings held in Cambridge Bay on Miramar Mining's Doris North gold project.

Mr. Speaker, during the week of January 30 to February 3, the Nunavut Impact Review Board held public hearings in Cambridge Bay and invited community members from the Kitikmeot and interested parties to listen to Miramar's presentation to NIRB.

Mr. Speaker, the public hearings are very important because NIRB will review and take into account presentations from Miramar; interventions from interested parties; concerns, issues, and opinions expressed by the community members in making their recommendations to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs on whether or not the Doris North Project should be approved to begin construction with a production start-up date in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, the public hearings were unique because instead of traveling to every Kitikmeot community to hold individual public hearings, NIRB decided to hold the hearings in one Kitikmeot community and have all participants come to Cambridge Bay. From all accounts, this arrangement worked very well.

Mr. Speaker, public consultations are extremely important if mining companies wish to develop major resource projects in Nunavut. In Miramar's case, they conducted extensive community consultations in all Kitikmeot communities with hamlet councils, hunters' and trappers' organizations, community groups, businesses, and individuals. When the NIRB public hearings began, there were few Kitikmeot residents who didn't know about Miramar's gold project and the potential it held to positively or negatively affect them or their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to attend the NIRB hearings during the week. I heard from many of my constituents that they had found the NIRB hearings very informative and helpful to them in understanding the effects of mining companies on local communities.

Mr. Speaker, prior to the NIRB hearings, the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and Miramar updated their Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreement originally signed in July 2004. Donald Haviyok, President of the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and no stranger to the Members of this House, had this to say about Miramar's gold project:

"The Doris North project will be the first mine development in Canada to be located wholly on Inuit-owned surface and subsurface lands. We look forward to working with Miramar on IIBA implementation, which will enhance the economy of the Kitikmeot region and ensure Inuit receive training, employment, and other benefits."

Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to continue my member's statement. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, at the conclusion of the NIRB hearings, the board had 30 days to prepare their recommendations and forward them to the INAC Minister for his review and approval.

Mr. Speaker, including the Miramar Mining project, the Kitikmeot is also home to Nunavut's first diamond mine.

In addition, with Wolfden Resources recent acquisitions of the Izok Project from Inmet Mining and the Lupin Gold Mine from Kinross Gold, as well as the ongoing discussions about road and port infrastructure, it is fair to say that the Kitikmeot's promise to be Nunavut's economic engine in the years ahead is on track. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 155 – 2(3): Congratulate Arctic Winter Games Participants**

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize that the Arctic Winter Games will be starting very soon.

It's very healthy to participate in games. My father once told me to keep active so that I will have better vision, and he used to say that so that my body will function better without any obstacles. He always told me to keep active. Myself, I think that it is very useful, especially to the athletes.

I would like to congratulate the people who were selected who will participate on the midget hockey team. From Whale Cove, Jophree Okalik. Tagak and I are representing those people. And the others from Rankin Inlet, Mika Nukakpiak, Carla Isaluk, Graham Kusugak, Arthur Bearset, Imo, I got the wrong one. Sorry. I better put my glasses on. Those are not my constituents.

Jonathon Ikualak from Whale Cove. And on the bantam team: James Merrit, Craig Bearset, Chad Taipanak, Aglukark Taqta, Wendel Kalujak, Silu Ulujuk, and Roger Tagoona.

I am very proud of those people and those coaches from the Minor Hockey Association. I wish to thank all of them because we will be watching them on TV once they start. I would congratulate the Nunavut team going to the winter games. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 156 – 2(3): Mild Weather in Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The weather has been incredible. It's called *Isituruk* because it's usually the coldest month, but it's been very mild in Pangnirtung and South Baffin.

As you know Mr. Speaker, for the past few days, for the past day or two, the temperature will remain mild, and it's been said that these are record-breaking temperatures that we're having.

When we hear of disasters, some times we think differently. There are people who need our assistance. Mr. Speaker, the temperatures that we've been experiencing for the last few days, especially in Pangnirtung, a lot of people keep their meat in their shacks in the wintertime, but when the temperature got too mild now they're losing all their country food because it's thawed out. I have already received a phone call that the meat they are storing is thawed out, if they're going to deteriorate, and with the temperatures that we're having, it will be hard to go out hunting.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to keep the members informed, and over the next couple of days my constituents will inform me how much they lost due to weather.

I would like to ask the members, especially the Cabinet, so they'll know when I approach them, that they lost these things. Once I get back, I will give a report as to how much they lost and what they are asking for because of the weather. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 157 – 2(3): Fund Raising Event – Anglican Church Pancake Supper**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to inform and invite the members to a special fund raising event tonight.

The Anglican Church will be hosting a fundraising supper of pancakes in aid of rebuilding our new church. Mr. Speaker, the supper will be \$10, and the door prize, donated by First Air, is a ticket anywhere First Air flies in the country.

Mr. Speaker, the supper starts at 5:00 and finishes around 7:30. All members, their staff, and their leg staff and all residents of Iqaluit are warmly invited. Mr. Speaker, pancake supper celebrates the day before Ash Wednesday. Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday. It is also called Shrove Tuesday.

A tradition in our family was to put coins; nickels, dimes, and quarters in the pancakes, on pancake night. This was before the days of loonies and toonies, Mr. Speaker. People won't find coins in the pancakes tonight, but we will find a warm reception at the door, and I hope we get a good turn out tonight for the reception. And again, I warmly invite all members and the residents of Iqaluit to come out tonight and support the rebuilding of our church. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 158 – 2(3): Blizzard in Sanikiluaq**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was a blizzard in my community. At least it wasn't raining, but apparently it was quite stormy, and the visibility was 0.2.

You could only see whatever was right in front of you. They also had a power shortage. Apparently, one of the wires broke. I received a phone call that everybody was okay, except they were having a bit of a problem with the power.

This has been successfully dealt with. Yesterday morning, there was a plane that came in to Sanikiluaq even though it was quite windy. They usually arrive around 11:00. They were there for 12 hours at the airport because they couldn't go anywhere.

One of them went home and he indicated that he had frostbite on his cheek, but the other Qallunaat just stayed at the airport because the road was closed due to the storm. I'm happy to report that everybody is okay, except maybe minor frostbite.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Member's Statement 159 – 2(3): Coldest Part of Nunavut**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to make a correction of what I stated earlier. I said we have two members from the Keewatin people at the cabinet level. I should have said three.

First of all, it's very hard to work seriously all the time, so I'm just going to probably...

(interpretation ends) I'm pleased to learn that Iqaluit is no longer considered a far north community. (interpretation) It's evident now according to traditional knowledge, but for those of us who are part of the younger generation, we know what the weather is like.

(interpretation ends) If Iqaluit is no longer considered as a far north community, due to the world itself, it has moved into the warmer parts of the world, which means, Mr. Speaker, that the Infrastructure Fund provided by the federal government, without a doubt, will be assigned to the communities in the colder climate parts of Nunavut.

One cannot wear a regular rubber boots in the coldest parts of winter in February. Did you get that? (interpretation) Because the month of February is the coldest part of the year, and we've never worn rubber in the months of February according to traditional knowledge, but in Iqaluit, I have seen people walking around with rubber boots. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Laughter*

>> *Applause*

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

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You didn't see me Mr. Speaker? I rise today to acknowledge one of the interpreters, my namesake, Naimee Kilabuk-Bourassa, I would like to acknowledge her and also welcome her. I also acknowledge her mother, Aitainak Mary Kilabuk from Pangnirtung. Naimee's mother has turned 76 today and I wish her happy birthday wishes for today. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Just be patient for a bit. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

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

Question 169 – 2(3): Discussions with the Prime Minister

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for taking me first. Everybody wants to ask questions, but my question is for the Premier.



Mr. Speaker, the Premier recently traveled to Ottawa over the weekend to meet with the Prime Minister, along with other Premier colleagues. Can the Premier tell us what he discussed with the Prime Minister while he was in Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was very, very nice to see you guys looking just like harp seals coming out of the waters.

>>*Laughter*

(interpretation ends) I was hoping to do a Minister's Statement tomorrow on this very important subject, but the member has beaten me to it.

So my main issue was Kelowna, it's the most important item for our territory and me, as well as the housing situation. We also discussed devolution, but during the all-Premiers' meeting dinner with the Prime Minister, there were wide-ranging issues discussed, but my main issue, again, was Kelowna.

I was very pleased with the amount of support that we had from all walks of life throughout Canada by my fellow colleagues during our meeting with the Prime Minister on Kelowna.

And the following meeting, the breakfast meeting with the Prime Minister, we also again discussed Kelowna and devolution and Arctic sovereignty. I found the Prime Minister to be open.

At the same time, he made commitments during the campaign that he felt strongly about that he would look at all issues. He may not respond to them all at once, but that he will keep an open mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. One of the media reports I read this morning was that Prime Minister Harper told northern leaders that there will be no new deals for the north in the first Conservative budget. My question for the Premier: did the Prime Minister indicate to the Premier that his government would honour commitments the Kelowna First Ministers' Meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Prime Minister is committed to the target. That's the commitment he's made, but as for dollars for Kelowna, no dollars had been identified by the prior government or committed.

So that's the dilemma he was facing, that he'll have to find dollars to try and meet Kelowna. So that was his dilemma.

As for new commitments, the Prime Minister was quite clear that on fiscal imbalance, he will await the results of the Expert Panel, which is scheduled to table their report this spring. He'll respond to it in the next fiscal year.

So our issue was that if he can't deal with the fiscal imbalance, our financial situation, that he should try and find ways to at least address some of our most pressing needs in the north.

So I left that open to the Prime Minister. I believe that this government will table their budget in April and I will not pre-judge them until that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response.

In addition to the Kelowna First Ministers' Meeting, could the Premier tell us what he told the Prime Minister was Nunavut's number one priority challenge to address? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned that our main priority was Kelowna at this time, but that we have many, many challenges for the government including infrastructure, arctic sovereignty, and devolution. So there are many challenges that we face, but our primary focus at the moment is Kelowna and housing.

So I was quite clear on that and I do hope that they respond accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier. Can the Premier tell us if he's invited the Prime Minister of Canada to visit Nunavut in 2006, including visiting the Kitikmeot region? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I did invite the Prime Minister.

We did have a brief discussion that his wife had actually been in Nunavut, but he hasn't personally, but that his wife has gone up to my hometown of Pangnirtung as a tourist. So

that was encouraging to see that at least he has some firsthand knowledge of the beauty of our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 170 – 2(3): Auditor General's 2005 Report

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to have a sense of humour as Mr. Alagalak said.

I'm just wondering, it's not a question that I need publicly responded to, but I thought I heard the Premier say Harper seals. So I'm just wondering if he said Harper seals or harp seals.

>>*Laughter*

That's not my question Mr. Speaker. I think it's always one of the biggest challenges that we face in Nunavut is educating our fellow countrymen in the south as to what our challenges and circumstances are. I would say in almost all occasions when Iqaluit or any part of Nunavut gets national attention, it's good.

However, one could say over the weekend, some of the publicity we're getting for being pretty close to the hot spot in Canada for over the last few days, it could be a bad indication that global warming is coming.

Another area that we received national media attention on in the last few weeks was thanks to Ms. Sheila Fraser, the Auditor General of Canada, when she tabled her report in our legislature here for 2005.

Mr. Speaker, in the report to the Assembly, the Auditor General warns that the risk of fraud is higher than it should be in our government because its financial management is "weak and fragile." Mr. Speaker, another quote that is throughout her report in there is, "Past problems continue, situation worsening."

We learned last week, thanks to the media, that funds were missing from one of the development corporation subsidiaries and that charges are expected. I would say clearly, as I have said over the last number of years, the Auditor General's warnings need to be taken seriously.

Mr. Speaker, in the management's response and the government's response to the report, the government indicated that it had recently initiated a review of GN financial structures with the final report scheduled to be delivered in March 2006.

Can the minister provide us with the details as to where this review is at today and what concrete steps the government is looking at taking to address the issues raised by the Auditor General and the Members of this House? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my colleague is correct because we do face many challenges on financial issues. Not just in the Department of Finance, but in all of the departments, we face many challenging issues; they will still continue to work on them and I know that we will continually work on that.

In regard to your question of where the review is, I can't tell you exactly where we are, but perhaps by the end of March that report will be given to me. I expect that it should be completed by the end of March, in regard to the member's question, for review.

We are still continually working on those issues, Mr. Speaker. Our officials and staff in the Department of Finance work with the corporate services from each department and they train the corporate services' directors. Our Finance officials are continually taking training courses that they require. Yes, we continue to work on them and we will continue to work on them.

But my colleague is correct that we do face huge, large challenges within our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that he is anticipating that report would be handed to him by the end of March. Would the minister commit to tabling that report in the legislature and if we are not in session, if he could use the backdoor tabling rule and provide it to the Clerk for members to be sent copies then. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will see if I can table the report in the House during this session or afterwards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's response and look forward to seeing that report.

Mr. Speaker, also in the Auditor General's Report on Chapter 1, page 6, paragraph 8 and 9, where it indicates that where their audit work continues, we have already seen enough problems to agree with the government's own assessment that significant problems remain; that's in paragraph 9.

In paragraph 8, the Auditor General indicates that it agrees with the government's own formal assessment that the central controls were not yet in place. And, as it's reported here, it said in late 2004-05, a government report concluded that, again, those essential controls were not in place yet.

Would the minister also be willing to table that report so that we can compare reports and see what progress has been made from 2004-05, to the current one that's going to be done in 2006? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, I will see if I can table that report, and if I can, I will table it in the House during this session or afterwards through the Clerk's office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another thing that is always seen over the last six years... it hasn't been six Auditor General reports, but every report that we've seen from the Auditor General, and the management response, that's the only time I have ever heard the government agree to everything.

In the report, it always says, to the recommendation of the Auditor General, that the government agrees and that we're doing this and we're doing that. I guess my question to the minister is; in these recommendations, why is it that we always see there is a problem, and nothing really concrete in there as to how to and what they're doing, and what they've done to address those concerns.

I'm just wondering if the minister could state any specific steps that have been taken over the past few years that show the government has been making some progress in achieving and following through in their agreements. Progress that shows they're actually doing something other than just saying, we agree, there is a problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very true.

That's exactly what our finance people keep saying, but I'm sure there are improvements being made on an ongoing basis. The staff at the Department of Finance is improving and there is ongoing training taking place for the staff.

There is training provided to the people at the community level and we're increasing our numbers within our department. There are more and more people who are working in the departments in Finance and other departments. There is ongoing training provided to Government of Nunavut staff.

We are looking at all the recommendations being made by the Auditor General. We are making responses to them, and we're starting to initiate some work that hasn't been started by the government yet.

We are looking at the recommendations and looking at rectifying the problem through our department, and we will keep doing so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Member for Pangnirtung, Mr. Kilabuk.

Question 171 – 2(3): Harvesters' Support Program and Disaster Support Review

**Mr. Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess in an effort to be consistent with my line of questioning, I want make my question for our friend, and colleague, the Minister of Environment. I may give him a break after this Question Period before I move on to a new minister.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Environment, and it stems from, upon further checking and reviewing, stems from November 17, of last year, where the Minister of Environment announced in this House a joint review with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, of the Harvesters' Support Programs.

At that time, he said and I quote, "I'm expecting the final report of the review to be completed in the very near future. Copies of the final report will be provided to all Members of the Legislative Assembly for review and consideration. I anticipate that new updated harvesters' support policies could be in place by the beginning of the next fiscal year."

So with that Mr. Speaker, my first question is: is this specific Disaster Compensation Program I've been talking about and questioning the minister with the last couple of days; is this program a part of this review?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes it is.

The Disaster Compensation Program is being reviewed and we are waiting for the recommendations from Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. Once the final report is complete, I will be giving out copies to the members. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister let us know when we will be able to get copies so that we can review and be updated? When are you going to be expecting those recommendations from Nunavut Tunngavik? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once Nunavut Tunngavik has completed their report, they will be giving us copies and we will give you copies right away as soon as we receive them. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize.

My fellow minister, oh, I'm sorry, my colleague, of course, he didn't know when he was going to be getting that portion from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated.

My question then is: once you get that portion from Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, how long are we going to be able to keep a copy of them so that we can review, make deletions, additions or changes?

You stated that the Harvesters' Support Policy could be in place by the beginning of the next fiscal year. Well we've only got about a month or so left before the next fiscal year. How much time are you going to give us? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure how big the document is, but we will make sure that you have ample time to review the report.

I'm not exactly sure how long you will have, but I will do everything I can to accommodate you so that you have time to review and make whatever changes are required. We would like to do that while we're updating the support policies. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that you should give us those copies as soon as possible because the beginning of the next fiscal year is approximately a month away, and it would be best if we get it as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, for my last question: could the minister look into this so that the minister could tell us when we will be able to get that report? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. We will look into it right away and see if the report is almost completed. I would like to make sure that you get a copy right away. We will see if there are further changes required. Thank you.

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

Question 172 – 2(3): Update on the Heat Recovery Plan

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most of the questions were asked already by the Member for Cambridge Bay. I would like to thank the member. Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Energy.

Some of the comments he made in the fall have never been brought up again in regard to the over-consumption of energy. They were going to be moved, for example...they were talking about using heat recovery. Could the minister give us an update on, I believe, the project manager? Could the minister indicate to us as to which communities are going to be using that heat recovery plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reheat or the residual heat project is an exciting project that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is involved in. Mr. Speaker, at the present time, several systems are owned by the Government of Nunavut and/or the Qulliq Energy Corporation.

For 2006 and 2007, we have several projects underway including in the member's home community of Rankin Inlet, as well as here in Iqaluit. We are connecting the water treatment plant and the new hospital. Some of the funds involved in these projects have come from the federal government, through the signing of the Kyoto Accord and the agreement that we signed with the former Minister Anderson, myself, and Minister Akesuk. We have been able to leverage some federal funds.

Mr. Speaker, what reheat does is take the excess heat that is going out of the power plant into the outdoors, using that heat in government owned buildings. Again, there is a lot of efficiency there, a lot of economies of scale. By doing this, we are actually helping meet the, more than the one-ton challenge being offered up by the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley**: I want to thank the minister for updating us. I think it's important that he continue to do so like that. These Crown corporation projects are normally not as readily available as the other departments are. So it's important that he continue to update us on these various projects.



I would suggest to the minister that he include other communities out in the regions. Unlike Iqaluit, we have extreme weather conditions out in our regions; that's well known. So I think that the order of these projects be in other locations.

Having said that, Mr. Speaker, I urge the minister whether or not the contracting policy of NNI, particularly where local equipment is available, will be considered by the contractors rather than transporting new equipment, for instance, heavy equipment, where local heavy equipment in local communities are available.

Could the minister undertake to provide letters of instruction to those Crown corporations to not bring in whole new equipment at the expense of local contractors? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NNI Policy does apply on Qulliq Energy Corporation contracts. First of all, I think that was a question the member had asked. In the recent tender in the newspaper, I think we will see that the NNI is applied.

At the same time, almost half of communities right now in Nunavut are involved with or have a type of Residual Heat Program in place. That includes Rankin Inlet, as I said earlier, Cambridge Bay, Kugaaruk, Igloolik, Sanikiluaq, Kugluktuk, Taloyoak, as well as Pangnirtung, and Arviat. We are trying to expand, as I said earlier, some of the work that is going on in Rankin Inlet, as well as here in Iqaluit.

As to the other question that the member asked, I believe there is an opportunity to make sure that when contracts are rewarded, local businesses that are bidding on contracts that are on the ground should not be put at an unfair disadvantage, and if there's equipment, for example, that can be had by a given contractor then that's what should occur in that case. That's something that I will pass on to the corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister being willing to apply the NNI Policy in that locale, wherever equipments are available, that they will participate.

But that's not exactly what's happening on the scene. I have information that the government and the Power Corporation are entertaining other contractors that are foreign contractors, not foreign but in Canada, that are willing to just transport equipment into those places.

So I would like to ask the minister that he will undertake to review those projects and bring in a further statement to the House exactly who is awarded those contracts. Would that be possible? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the member raising the issue and the concern, and if the member would provide to me the community in question and the background information, I could follow that up to ensure that compliance is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Complying with the NNI means that local jobs are retained, that local employment are used and taxes are paid in Nunavut and so on. So it's quite important that the NNI Policy and all of these provisions be applied in order to have an expanded benefit to our local businesses.

I will certainly undertake to communicate with the minister on a confidential basis. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member raises a good point that in this forum he has an opportunity to raise issues and so on in areas of confidentiality of anything should be raised in a different forum, and I would agree with the member that once that information is provided to this office, then we will follow it up. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 173 – 2(3): Building Inspections

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under my Member's Statement, I said that the Grise Fiord elders' and youth facilities...

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the hamlet wants somebody to do an inspection to confirm that:

1. There are no contaminants, and if there is so, what needs to be done.
2. Do a cost estimate to bring the building up to code.

What will the Department of Community and Government Services do on this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for the High Arctic. To test if there are any contaminants in that building, I think maybe another minister can respond.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you. Now I'm not too sure which way to direct my question, but to the same minister.

Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier during my Member's Statement that the hamlet council doesn't have the funds to try and work on this building that was donated to them; they also don't have any funding if they're going to move it from Crown land.

Public Works Canada deferred the time when the inspection will be done up to March 1, but when the hamlet doesn't have any funding, they encounter problems. I wonder if the Community and Government Services will do anything about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand his concern, and what I would like to do is; I can talk with the Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth and also with other departments if I have to.

And I can advise my officials as to how we can deal with this. I will give him an answer at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there were contaminants and if it's going to cost too much, if we were to renovate the building, and bring it up to code...(interpretation ends)...a new building to house the elders and youth in Grise Fiord would eliminate this current stumbling block. The hamlet needs a drop in centre for youth and a place for elders to meet and teach youth on sewing and other areas.

Would the minister consider the costs related too high to build a new youth centre in Grise Fiord? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it's very true that we have to do a lot of inspections, especially if we bring it up to date.

We have gone through it in Rankin Inlet because once buildings are too old; we have to bring them up to code. In Rankin Inlet, we had encountered the same thing because it was erected before the Government of Nunavut.

After 27 years, they finally did an inspection and they had to bring it up to code and put sprinklers and additional pipes and some wiring. And, that building, the size didn't even change.

Now, they're going to be bringing buildings up to code, and we have to do that to most of the old buildings we have. Yes, it sounds like the building has to be brought up to code and we'll be able to do an estimate as to how much it would be. Yes, I can understand, but the other departments, I will be asking for their support and hopefully work with them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 174 – 2(3): Update on the Construction of Houses in Nunavut

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

We all know that in Nunavut we are dire of need of housing in every community. This affects the wellbeing of the people because there are shortages, and the houses are overcrowded all across Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the minister is: can he give us an update as to what stage they are at with what was being talked about a lot about erecting houses up in the north within the next year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation, Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After the Kelowna Agreement was agreed to last fall and with the new government in place, we are not too certain; maybe after this session, I will be talking to the federal government in regard to housing.

We will have to work harder as to constructing houses. We will be pressuring the federal government because the past federal minister had some very promising words, but with the new government I will bring up the issues again to her. But at this stage, we are not too sure exactly what the outcome will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I understand him correctly, one of the reasons that we have shortages is because of the government employees and in the upcoming years the government employees will use some units.

I wonder where those houses will be coming from. Will they be for the local housing authority or for the government employees? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we are anticipating building about 10 duplexes; they will be social housing for the people. They can also apply for homeownership programs. This will help us. But the units that we will be constructing will be for the housing authorities in the communities. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did the minister say that these housing authority units will now be used for housing GN? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you. No, these units are public housing units. We are building 20 residential units, not 20 staff housing units. Thank you.

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

Question 175 – 2(3): Update on Medical Air Travel

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I had asked this question previously, I will ask again, directing it to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

There is a huge concern in my community that the Government of Nunavut uses \$4 million, which is a huge sum of money, and we should manage those \$4 million accordingly.

My constituency is left behind at times, when the patients have to go home they can't get on the plane because it is always filled to capacity and is always too small. That airline has no washroom facilities, so it becomes quite difficult for the passengers.

So I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if she could update me in this regard. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to respond to the member's question. I am not sure exactly what he meant by the \$4 million, but based on the discussions on the last questions the member raised on the flights that we organize for the flights from Sanikiluaq, the staff has been notified of the members concerns and I have

asked my employees to contact the airline and try to address some of the issues that you have raised. So that's where that's at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What I said about the \$4 million is that the government should satisfy the people in the communities who go back and forth from Sanikiluaq. Sometimes these patients or passengers are left behind for lack of room on the plane.

Also, the washrooms, when you are flying three hours, it's very hard for patients or passengers when they have to go to the washroom. So my question was, since I asked her last week about this matter: what has she done so far today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since Friday, I have contacted the department to investigate the situation related to the member's concerns. This contract that we have with Kivalliq Air, to provide the service from Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg or to the centres, requires that there be a washroom on the aircraft.

If there are discrepancies to that we have to investigate that situation, so I have asked my staff to contact the airline to find out what kind of aircraft they are using to transport patients from Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg. And that is where that is right now. I have not received any response back from the department and I did bring up the issue the day that the member raised it in the House with me.

So I am waiting to hear back from the airline regarding the discrepancies to what we have asked for in terms of services in the contract. We have to investigate, but we did ask for aircraft that had the washrooms and the facilities to transport patients. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If she wants more information, it's a single engine plane, nine-seater, and sometimes we have more than nine passengers that want to go home after they are done with their appointment with the doctor.

Again, it's not satisfactory. We need better service; that \$4 million is not enough to serve the people and serve them right. We are concerned. She also said that she had something since last Friday. Can she commit to me that she will work further on this matter to make sure that they have all of the washrooms that they need?

>>*Laughter*

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely, I agree with the member. Quality of care has to be the front and centre of what services Health and Social Services provides.

The member's concern in relation to this is serious and I will look into that and if those airline industries that we have contracted are not providing the type of aircraft we have requested to provide the service, then that's an issue that we have to follow up with. I have asked my staff to look into it and it has been three days. I understand the urgency of this and I do appreciate the member for bringing the issue up.

I totally agree. The quality of care and services we provide to our patients should be the first and forefront of what we do and I will report back to the member as soon as I hear back from my staff. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 176 – 2(3): Airport Projects – Federal Funding

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation.

On November 20, 2005, the minister's predecessor tabled a document called, 'Airports for Nunavummiut and their Economy.' This Airport Investment Strategy included a project to rehabilitate and pave the runway at the Cambridge Bay airport. Mr. Speaker, this was a hot topic during the Kitikmeot Trade Show a few weeks ago in the Transportation Panel.

My question for the minister: can the minister tell me if he has had the opportunity to meet with the Federal Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't have a chance to meet with the appropriate ministers that are my colleagues from the federal government. Once the session is over, I will make an appointment and contact them to see when would be the best time for me to meet with the Minister of Transportation to discuss on the National Transportation Strategy and other issues that are under transportation in Nunavut, including Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, federal funding under the airport capital assistance program has been secured to implement the Iqaluit Airport master plan. Did the submission to the federal government at that time also include the Cambridge Bay project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are looking at which communities should be included in this and we would like to make sure that we respect them, especially the ones that have jet services, to make sure that landing areas in each community has a safe landing place. So we will also look into that to make sure that Cambridge Bay is also included in the future.

Again, we have capital money that is limited to do all communities, but then again, we are going to make sure that we respect the ones that have jet services, and also other communities that need safer airports. Thank you.

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

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

I'm interpreting from the minister's response that Cambridge Bay Project wasn't included in the airport capital assistance application. Can the minister tell me why the Cambridge Bay Project wasn't included and why it didn't receive federal funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't tell him why right now. I can check to see what the cause was for them not be put on the Capital Assistance Program under that.

So I will look into that and make sure that I communicate with my colleague from Cambridge Bay, or even look into ways of trying to put it in there. Once we have a meeting with the appropriate minister in the federal government, I'll mention that too, to my colleague to make sure that if we can find more money under Airport Capital Assistance Program, we'll certainly look into other communities, such as Cambridge Bay to be put on the Capital Assistance Program. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, the newspaper article about the Airport Strategy said that the money was being spent on four communities.



I want to quote from the newspaper article following the tabling of the strategy. It says that Cambridge Bay would require \$18 million to pave the runway, which is scarred with ruts caused by topsoil giving way beneath the pressure of landing aircrafts.

For that reason, a 737 can't land on the airstrip while carrying full payloads. The next generation of jet aircrafts will require a paved runway, airline companies warned. The airport receives 12,000 passengers annually.

With that information in mind, can the minister commit to me and to the House that he will make the Cambridge Bay Airport Project a priority for paving? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For all the airports in Nunavut, we want to make sure that they're safe and to make sure that any airline can land. I will look into this and I will want to work closely with the Member for Cambridge Bay to make sure we work with the Cambridge Bay Airport Project, and then meet with my colleagues and look into the four or five year capital plan, if the federal government can provide the funding for airport maintenance. Thank you.

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

Question 177 – 2(3): Nunavut Arctic College Year End Financial Statements

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Finance. Mr. Speaker, I asked the minister questions earlier relating to the Auditor General's 2005 Report.

Mr. Speaker, in that report, Exhibit 2.3 on page 13, talks about reservations on financial authorities. Mr. Speaker, as far as reservations in the audit concerning the Government of Nunavut, it talks about over expenditures and late audited consolidated financial statements, the Qulliq Energy Corporation borrowing higher than allowed, the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation, it just says various issues, so one would assume that there is too much to put down in a chart here and numerous outstanding issues from 2002-03 and 2003-04.

My main question here is for the Minister of Finance. I know in the past the standing committee, and the Auditor General, and at one point, for a brief period of time, the government had indicated that one of the problems causing the delay in providing the audited consolidated financial statements was because of the fact that Nunavut Arctic College had a different year end and it took them some while.

At that time of those hearings, the government agreed that it would be a good idea for the college to change its year-end to the fiscal year of the government. Much to the

satisfaction of the committee at the time, they thought, “Oh, that’s good.” Maybe we can help and make things better, and seriously listen to what the Auditor General was saying.

But lo and behold, when the government’s response comes out, they changed their mind. They said it wasn’t convenient for the college to change their year-end. So Mr. Speaker, in light of this pretty harsh report, would the Minister of Finance re-look at this option of forcing the Nunavut Arctic College to change its year end so it could help the government meet its legal obligations of tabling the consolidated audited financial statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with my colleague completely. They are pretty harsh words in the Auditor General’s Report. There are requirements to make changes or improvements.

In regard to Arctic College and the differing fiscal year ends, I will work closely with the government departments and the Minister of Education to see what we can do so that Arctic College can have a year ending that coincides with the Nunavut Government. I will work closely with the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to the minister, I know this is a story that we have heard before, and the government said yes and then the College said no, it’s not convenient.

In light of the Auditor General’s Report, where again, and again, and again, they are saying that’s an issue. Will the Minister of Finance, as Chair of the Crown Agency Council, direct the Nunavut Arctic College to change their year end to match the government so that we can move forward in providing timely, accurate financial information, not only for the government to make decisions on, but for us as members of the Assembly to have accurate information when we are reviewing the budget? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with you wholeheartedly. That is accurate, we do have to make changes and I will have a discussion with the Minister responsible for Nunavut Arctic College and see what we can do to make the changes that are required. It would help us tremendously in producing timely consolidated statements.

It would make a huge improvement. We will definitely try to work out a fair solution with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his response and I think that action in this case is long overdue. I think the Auditor General couldn't have put it better when she says the timeliness and accurate information leads to good fiscal management. And that's one thing that in her words, that this government hasn't achieved.

I think that having good solid fiscal management would be much more of a priority of this government than the convenience to the college in keeping things the same as they have been forever because that's the way that they are.

Since 1999, things were transferred over as they were, and Nunavummiut were expecting changes for the better, and I think that regardless of that, will the minister commit to writing to his colleague the Minister of Education directing them to change the year-end for Nunavut Arctic College, through whatever means that takes, whether it be through an amendment to the *Public Colleges Act* or whatever. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand exactly where you are coming from. As I stated, we will take this into consideration and it has been an ongoing issue for quite a number of years.

This is a recommendation that keeps coming up over the years and yes, I will commit that I will work on it and make the necessary changes. I will work with the Minister of Education and I will commit to writing a letter to the Minister of Education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Chair of the Government Operations and Accountability Standing Committee, we have been pushing for this for a number of years. Would the minister commit to copying me, as chair of the committee, with his letter to the Minister of Education and also copying us on the response that he gets back from them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the committee is responsible for that, we will make sure they are kept informed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 178 – 2(3): Power Outage in Grise Fiord

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just informed that in the community of Grise Fiord, half of the lights are out and we can't get the personnel up there. I would like to ask the minister what he is going to do about that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Question Period is now over. If you would like to extend it, Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my colleagues if we could extend question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is asking for unanimous consent to extend question period. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Question Period has been extended for another hour. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleagues for extending question period.

I would like to ask a question. As it is an emergency, (interpretation ends) there have been several outages in Nunavut because of the extreme weather in the past few days. Just recently, I learned that some sections of the power are out in Grise Fiord as we speak. Can the minister update us on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my role as House Leader, we agree with following up on the question with the member because of the emergency issue. And we hope and ask for the indulgence of the members that after the question is over, to continue with COW to try and get our budget done.

Very quickly, Mr. Speaker, there is a serious situation in Grise Fiord because of inclement weather and because of issues around temperature and so on.

The Power Corporation is aware of it; however Mr. Speaker, the serious issue is that because of weather we cannot get a crew into the community. We are looking at options of trying to bring in a crew either from Cambridge or from the Baffin side of operations.

We are aware of it Mr. Speaker and we are trying to be expeditious in correcting the problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister keep us informed about the situation in Grise Fiord and keep us updated on the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will keep the member and the members informed as that information becomes available to us. I will update him this afternoon when I get some more word from the Power Corporation.

I know that the member is worried about his constituents and because of that issue; we will keep him up to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. I have no other names on my list. Going back to the Orders of the Day. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Mr. Speaker I would like to return to Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery, Orders of the Day.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to return to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Peterson.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I thank my colleagues for allowing me to go back to number 5. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some people in the Gallery today from my riding.

Sitting behind me is Mary Rose Maksagak. She is in the House for the first time today. She came to Iqaluit for a Mental Health Integration Initiative Project. She got here but because of the weather the project was cancelled. She is here for a week; I hope she enjoys her time here and welcome to the House.

The young lady sitting beside her is her granddaughter, Jazlin Kadlun. Welcome to the House.

>>*Applause*

And sitting behind Mr. Simailak is another constituent of mine from the Kitikmeot. He might be known to a few of your guys around here, his name is David General. He works for the Kitikmeot Corporation. He's going to be in Iqaluit for a few days lobbying ministers for help on some Kitikmeot Corporation projects. So welcome to the House David.

>>*Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Mapsalak.

### **Item 13: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills**

#### **Committee Report on Bills 01 – 2(3): Bill 09 – An Act to Amend the Exemptions Act**

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Exemptions Act*, as amended and reprinted, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*, and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Kilabuk.

### **Item 14: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 078 – 2(3): Photograph of Pangnirtung after Extreme Weather**

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, I wish to table some photographs of my home community Pangnirtung, showing the calm waters due to snow melt caused by unusually warm temperatures over the last few days, and also the damage done to some structural buildings as a result of the high winds and the natural environmental impacts that happened in the community of Pangnirtung. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. 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. Arreak in the Chair. Thank you.

I will give my ruling tomorrow after checking the *Hansard*.

We'll take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:34 and resumed at 16:01*

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We can start our meeting. Thank you for coming back. (interpretation ends) In the Committee of the Whole, we have the following item to deal with: Bill 12, *Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07*. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with Bill 12 and continue with the review of the Main Estimates for the Department of Human Resources, followed by the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Are we in agreement to continue with the 2006-07 Main Estimates and Business Plans for Human Resources?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Tapardjuk and your staff, you may take the witness chair, please.

Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. For the record, please introduce your staff. Thank you.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left, Kathy Okpik, my Deputy Minister, and to my right is Tom Thompson, who is the Assistant Deputy Minister. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a question but there are some people from my community, from Coral Harbour. I just want to welcome them, Rhoda Paaliaq and George Allurut, they are sitting on the right. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Welcome to the Gallery. We are on D-9. (interpretation ends) Human Resources. Branch Summary. Inuit Employment Plan. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$723,000. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to welcome the people at the witness table and Minister Tapardjuk.

Just to go back to the question in regard to the casual workers, if the term is for a little while like for a month or so, from the appropriate department that they will be employed by even though there will be a large number of people who will try for the casual position.

When they make the selection, and this has always been a concern by the other members, the people who work in the government offices would usually hire somebody they know or their family. And you stated earlier that this is being worked on and being considered, but up to now, is there anything in place now in regard to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. At this time, I can't really say that we have anything in place, but we are reviewing and investigating the problems that are coming up. We are presently reviewing this and there are people who are asking if there are any problems, and once we collect the data, we will be able to make a report, and hopefully with recommendations, how we can fix this problem. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This was mentioned before that people who are hired on a casual basis and if there is a selection, I wonder if the employing department, if the selection can be made by somebody other than their own community. Has this been considered? Just by going with their qualifications, I wonder if this would work better like that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Curley. Thank you. The bell has been rung. Thank you, Mr. Curley. And members, please if you are going to step outside the chambers, always double check to make sure we have a quorum. There should be ten of us or more. Mr. Tapardjuk.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In different regions, we have offices in Rankin, Cambridge Bay, and Igloolik, but I will let my deputy elaborate more on this, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have offices in Nunavut in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and also in Iqaluit.

The Igloolik office deals with the whole Baffin; and Rankin Inlet for the whole Keewatin; and Cambridge Bay for the whole Kitikmeot region. They are the ones that handle the casual employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are aware that the regional centres have offices. We know that these regional centres hire permanent positions, but for the smaller communities, when they are ready to hire casual employees I think the workload is given to the communities. This might be kind of cumbersome for some communities.

Just listening to Human Resources, it seems like they are doing very well. What we hear from our constituents, that is not the case. Will this be reviewed further because it is the individual communities that do the hiring of casual employees? That's what we hear from the Inuit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I will be fully open to his suggestion to find out where the problems are. That will be part of the solution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. We are on D-9. (interpretation ends) Inuit Employment Plan. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$732,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Turn to page D-10. Training and Development. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like more information on this under Training and Development because it is slightly smaller than last year, but it is still \$4,659,000, which is quite a bit.

Maybe one of them can explain exactly what it is for, especially because it states here that they deal with training and development to Government of Nunavut employees. Is this for all the Government of Nunavut employees? What kind of training do they get? Maybe they can give an example of what kind of training they are talking about? Which are successful? Where is the training being conducted?

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll let my deputy respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The funding that is there, \$4,659,000; \$1,136,000 is for salaries and benefits for our staff, and \$3,543,000 is for training and development. We have cultural employee orientation; and Inuktitut language and also training in Inuktitut, and other learning and development.

For example, computer programs, Nunavut Advanced Management Diploma Program. Up to now, we have trained 940 since April 1, 2005. As of December 2005, we have trained 940 employees through this branch. And there is also workplace wellness. We have trained another 600 in regard to first aid, CPR, suicide prevention, and coping with stress. Those are the different training programs that we dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): By reading this, I understood this. I wanted an example, where looking at this, some of them can be dealt with by Arctic College.

When I asked for examples, so for example, like these people took training in this category for how much? It seems like the staff who don't speak Inuktitut, their Inuktitut doesn't seem to be improving. It is not their priority to speak Inuktitut. Only if it will be beneficial to their job performance, then they're given the additional \$1,200 bilingual bonus.

Can the minister elaborate more under training and development indicating that these training programs were delivered? So that's what I'd like to see; to see if we really need this ongoing training. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The training that has taken place; (interpretation ends) access level one, advanced writing skills, agenda minute taking, art and craft of policy making, career planning, communicating effectively, developing work plans and budgets, effective presentations, effective writing skills, Excel advanced, Excel level two, negotiating skills, oral and written briefings, Outlook and e-mail etiquette, PowerPoint level one, time management, Word level one, working in teams, budget tracking, MS Excel level 1, financial management module four, financial management module five, leadership and team building, office procedures, providing excellent customer service, retirement and pension planning, basic office procedures, MS Publisher, MS PowerPoint, Microsoft Excel level one.

(interpretation) Those are only some of the things that we have provided training for, but we will be able to provide you with a list of all the training that has taken place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the deputy minister because that is very interesting to hear.

I don't think all the employees get training. Who identifies that these employees need this kind of training, or is it up to the individual? Is that person advised once they get their job that you will have to take this kind of training? Are they mainly for Inuit or are they for all the employees?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The training courses are open to all GN employees. Two of them for the beneficiaries are available, the Nunavut Public Service Studies Program and a management training program. *Sivuliqtiksatsat* is an internship program for the beneficiaries.

But the other courses that I pointed out earlier, they are open to any GN employee. Some employees, if they indicate that they wish to train on the job, then they have a learning plan as to what courses they should be taking which deals with their employment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Deputy minister, I would like more clarification; what I would like to find out further is: if they can provide the course only if there is a certain number of registered individuals, who provides the training, and where do they hire the instructors? Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We mainly use Arctic College because we have a contract with the college to provide the training. The other one is with the Canada School of Public Service, which is from the federal government. We have an agreement with them so they provide the training.

Nunavut Public Service Studies Certificate is provided by Carleton University. We have an agreement with Kakivak for the other program. So that's why we teach those courses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Okpik. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once they get an indication that these training programs are required, where are the courses provided? Are they in the regional centres or in the smaller communities? Where does most of the training occur?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Public Service Studies Program they can either take in Arviat, Cambridge Bay or Iqaluit. The programs under the Kakivak agreement are based in Iqaluit. Some of those people come from the communities.

Different courses can be offered in most of the communities. Here in Iqaluit at headquarters and in Igloodik, Rankin and Cambridge Bay we have staff who deal with the training programs and who manage the programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the reasons I asked this is last fall, one of the government employees told me that that person wished to get further training. I wonder if the staff know exactly what it is.

Maybe the managers or coordinators in different regions should be more informed of the programs because I was asked and I didn't know anything about it. That person said that he wanted to get more training, but said that he might be turned down. I don't know why he said that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated earlier that the intranet is for all of the government employees, we are posting all of those training programs at the website indicating which community they will be at and they have registration forms if they wish to fill them out; it's even in Inuktitut. They can go on this website and fill out the registration form.

They have to get an approval from their supervisor. Once it's approved, if it's sent to us, and if there is space, then that person can get more training. It doesn't take very long to fill the seats. That way we find out that there is more demand to take this particular training, but they have to get an approval from their supervisor. That's how we go about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, I know that it's going to be very helpful, this intranet is going to be assisting us and I would like to thank you for that.

If I could ask you another question in regard to the guideline and policy issues in order to make sure the staff in each region have the opportunity to take the training and development courses, perhaps if you can look towards the west. So I was wondering if you can also make sure that the other regional centres have authority.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The regional headquarters have their own Human Resources staff that work on training and development courses and they have a budget for each region to be used for training and development.

Also at the headquarters level, we provide support and assistance. For example if a training program that had already occurred in Iqaluit, if we need to expand it we expand it through the regional centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Now, I would like to ask a question under Contract Services line item, \$1,505,000. Who is this geared towards; is it contract services, or is this in agreement with Carleton University? Is that where they get

their money from; through contract services? Perhaps the minister can elaborate further whom these contract services is geared towards.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Contract Services line item includes the entire Public Service Certificate Program through the Arctic College and universities. The entire contract is included in the Contract Services line item. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I am almost at the end of my questions. My question, as I stated earlier, that according to the *Public Service Act*, the Inuktitut language is not mandatory. They only provide bilingual bonuses to the position if it services the Inuit people.

With that, this language training, whom is this geared toward for; is it for an Inuktitut Language Training Program, or a French Language Training Program?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is for Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun training programs. It is for first language - Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun, and Inuktitut as a second language. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you. The reason why I wanted to get further elaboration is that the staff that wanted to take Inuktitut Language Training Program because they require the Inuktitut language and because they have contact with Inuktitut speaking people. What kind of guidelines do you have for this language training program?

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): This is done in different ways; as Inuktitut as a first language and Inuktitut as a second language. For example, in Cambridge Bay, Gjoa Haven, Iqaluit, Kugaaruk, Cape Dorset, Baker Lake, and Arctic Bay, in each region, they do language training for those. There are Inuktitut typing courses; it would be Inuktitut Phase One or Phase Two. This is done in the Language Training Program. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just noticed in the Training and Development Division within the department, I think there is one other division in there that drops half a PY. I am just wondering why there's actually a drop in this position. Has this been

reallocated to a different division? Was there a redundant or not necessary position that was there before? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I don't know where your question is coming from. Could you refer to the page please?

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, sorry Mr. Chairman, Mr. Minister, I'm just looking at page D-26 of their business plan that has the breakdown. It's called the Financial Summary, and it has, for each division, the dollars allocated to that division and the number of PYs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Hold on, we're searching. I'll have my deputy minister respond to that question.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Deputy Minister, Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I couldn't find it right away, but one position was moved because of job evaluation. Even though the funding is with our department, this position was run by job evaluation. We transferred the funding for the job evaluation position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** I just have a quick question on this training and development funding that's there. Is that strictly for the department to use for training and development of its staff, or is it funds that are accessed by other departments as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'm sorry. It's geared towards all Government of Nunavut staff, and more than once, we did some training and development for municipal staff if they were interested in taking part in the training courses.

This training and development is for all the departments of the Government of Nunavut, not just for Human Resources. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wonder if the minister or his officials could kind of outline, say if a staff member sees a course or a training opportunity they would

like to participate in, the process that's used in accessing those funds. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): I'll have my deputy respond.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Training opportunities, as our minister announced, the new internet based e-calendar, all training opportunities are identified on the calendar and broken down by month.

In the calendar, there is a course outline and registration provided where Government of Nunavut employees can print the form off, get the necessary approval from their supervisor, submit the forms, depending on what region they are from. In the regions, they would fax that form to either the offices in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Igloolik, and for courses here in Iqaluit, they would be forwarded here to Iqaluit.

When the applications are received, our training and development people contact them to inform them of space availability and give them the date. That's the process that's followed. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the deputy for that response.

The training opportunities that she had indicated and this funds it, specifically it's just tied to those ones that are on the electronic calendar, or if an individual sees something that's not offered by the GN through the college or whoever else that if they see something else out there, could they apply for funding from here to participate in that as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): The training programs vary and the department's responsibilities vary also.

For that reason, if either one employee of a department wanted to take the training course, each department is responsible for the training course of their staff. So each department is responsible for the training of their staff, but our department is responsible for the whole of government. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: That's it.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. We are on page D-10. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) This is one question that I brought up sometime in the past, but I think it's occurring, especially in the decentralized communities and there are quite a number of positions that haven't made it to Pangnirtung yet.

But in regard to training and development, this is to provide advice, assistance, and support to departments in training and developing their staff. It doesn't apply only to positions that are already there or is this being used for new recruits? Thank you.

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

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

**Chairman** (interpretation): Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to training and development, this branch provides developing those staff. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the deputy for responding to my question.

The reason why I'm asking this question is the people in my riding are eager to apply for the positions that are opening. They are looking forward to filling the positions that move up to Pangnirtung and they hope to see more of the local people filling the majority of the employment opportunities.

In Pangnirtung, there are some people, if they get a little more training they would be able to fill the positions that are opening or apply for higher positions. In order for them to qualify to fill those positions, they need a little bit more training, but it seems that we already know that positions are filled already. I think the minister could consider working with the Decentralization Secretariat that they could consider training and development in filling up the positions that aren't here yet.

My next question is under training and development. I brought up the issue of the elders and youth who don't have a specific position to help them out. When this is outside of the Human Resources department and when it's in the Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, even if he is the minister of both; I would like to give support to the minister and I would also like to ask the minister to get a coordinator for the elders and youth. I would also like to ask if the minister could move that position from Culture, Language, Elders and Youth to Human Resources.



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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. We can look into it. We definitely will look into it, but then again, the monies are not identified here. In regard to training and development I can commit to doing that in collaboration with Department of Education and Arctic College.

We will focus directly on the decentralized communities. We have to look at ways of making improvements and to give training to our employees. I can commit to doing that. We will look into the issues that Mr. Kilabuk brought. It is specific to Article 23. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the minister. If it's not identified here then it is not going to be implemented. In order to implement it we'll have to identify the funds. I just wanted to state my support, and this is my last comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We'll definitely have to take it into consideration and we do have a lot of work to do in that field. We'll take it into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: We are on page D-10, Training and Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,659,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members**: Agreed.

**Chairman**: Turn to page D-12. Employee Relations. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I almost asked these questions under Training and Development. Thank goodness I looked through the business plan. The area I wanted to ask about was actually in Employee Relations. It deals with, I think it's under, I'm not sure which one it is, maybe the Workplace Wellness area where it talks about the priorities for 2006-07, providing training, CPR and first aid training to the rest of the remaining communities.

My question on this is: what does the department use for that? I know there are two basic first aid courses; St. John's and Red Cross. I was just wondering if there was a difference. Do they use both? What is the practice? Do they bring people in from outside to deliver these programs, or what's the process that is followed there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): We use St. John's to train all government employees, and this initiative has been supported by the Northwest Territories/Nunavut Workers' Compensation Board, and I think they were the ones who specifically asked us to teach first aid courses. Government employees are taught safety courses.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister stating then that they use, I think he said, St. John's? Whichever, whether it is St. John's Ambulance First Aid and CPR, over Red Cross, is there any technical reason why they're using one over the other, or is it just because the Workers' Compensation Board said that that's what they use and that's what is being carried over from the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Okpik.

**Ms. Okpik**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Human Resources has internal staff trained to instruct in first aid and CPR with the provisions under the St. John's Ambulance Program.

This enables us to offer more programs, and it provides us with more cost effective programming because we do have staff internally that are certified under St. John's. Thank you.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand, too, one of the issues of the staff that they have to deliver these programs are usually done over...because they work as well too, they're not necessarily all staff for the Department of Human Resources, but they're people working in other government departments that have the ability to teach that program to others, and their availability is only in the evenings and on weekends.

Has the department looked at the private sector, where there are businesses set up in place, whether they be locally or somewhere within Nunavut to give them the opportunity to provide those training programs that could do it in one day or two days instead of doing it over a weekend, or doing it over a week of evenings for the employees. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, we'll consider this because it think it will make things a lot easier to the people who would like to take those courses, and who would prefer to have those as day training programs.

Just this winter, we were given a recognition plaque from St. John's, and they thanked us for providing those training programs. We will take your comments into consideration. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know they are two different courses, but if there was a private individual able to offer courses as part of their business, would the department look at that, whether or not it's either first St. John's or Red Cross. Basically, for all intents and purposes, it's the same thing with a different name on it and you learn the same basic information.

Would they look at doing that and also look at, instead of the government taking away business from an entrepreneur within the territory, look at the approach of what this government is supposed doing of trying to develop the private sector and allow business people to take over in these areas? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, of course. We could look into it and we will make a commitment to provide those courses. We will look into it and possibly, well having an in-staff is more cost effective, but it's worthwhile to consider all those comments that you have made. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My understanding of how these courses work, like say for a first-aid course: you pay so much per person in the course; you get the manual, the little book that tells you how to do it; and hardly any of the actual fee goes to the instructor.

I would hope that in the case where it's an employee of the department that there are no fees that are getting paid to the instructor for delivering both programs, but in some cases, is it looked at if someone in the private sector can deliver the program more cost-effectively than the department because businesses get a cut rate from either the St. John's or Red Cross on getting the manuals that you need for the course than the government would get. They may be able to deliver the program more cost-effectively than the government itself.

So I encourage the minister to look into this and if that's the case, if we can make our training dollars go further and support the private sector, I think that's a win-win situation for everybody. I would just ask for a commitment to the minister if he can look into that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you. Yes, we can certainly look into this; if it would be more cost-effective. After saying this, we hear from the Members of the Legislative Assembly and we hear members questioning that this company was

contracted out; wasn't there anybody in your department who was able to provide that kind of work. Those are the things that we will have to look into and we can certainly look into seeing if it would be more cost effective in regard to first-aid. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm not sure if the minister would be aware of this or not or his officials. And I don't know if this government has anything like a business interruption policy where, you know, if there is someone in the private sector that is delivering or providing a service that the government does not unfairly compete against them or take business away from them.

I'm just wondering if that's something that this government does on a regular basis as far as when it looks at what work it's going to do and what work it will let the private sector do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): From what I know, maybe one of my staff can elaborate more, but I'm not sure which one would be more cost-effective as Minister of Human Resources. I don't know if they have gone through that, but maybe other departments have...but I don't know with Human Resources if that has been the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. We're on D-12. Employee Relations. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a brief comment in regard to the employees that get compensated and benefits, maybe we don't recognize enough for those long-term employees.

The reason I'm saying this is that we have to be proud of our children and of the people.

A lot of times people are forgotten; when they are between 35 and 55, they seem to be ignored, that age group. When and if they can be recognized a bit sometimes, doesn't matter when they are representing Pangnirtung, for those people who are in that age group are working, or are employed, or working at home. I thank them; they help the communities a lot. They are not young people and they are not seniors but because they are not recognized enough and not provided enough from the government.

What I'd like to say to the minister is for those workers who work with the government, the communities should also be recognized for their hard work or if we work with them or not. As long as they are from Nunavut, I wonder if they can be recognized because they constantly raise this issue. And we know they put in a lot of hard work but never seem to be appreciated. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Yes, I can certainly check into this. The government recognizes long-term employees only if they have been employed by the government and we are very proud of them, but there are people who work at the municipal services. Yes, they are recognized for volunteering in the communities.

But my colleague's question, if I can understand his question correctly, ages 35 to 55 within the communities; they work really hard, but never seem to be recognized. Is he asking as to if we can do some kind of recognition to them to show our appreciation?

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Yes, that is my question from age 35. For example, when we are recognizing the organizations, because they are excluded too much from the policies that we have, we can find different ways that we can try. We certainly can try something new and after a while we'll know if it will succeed. I just think that people in that age group would certainly appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Mr. Minister, do you wish to respond, even though it is not a question?

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm in agreement as to how we can pursue this. Maybe talk with the hamlet council as to how we can approach it the best way. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) We are on page D-12. Employee Relations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,748,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Go back to page D-4. Human Resources. Department Summary. Details of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$18,019,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Are you agreed that the Department of Human Resources is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you, Minister and your staff. If you have any closing remarks you may do so.

**Hon. Louis Tapardjuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank my colleagues for approving the budget. We are hopeful that it will be used properly. The suggestions that were brought out, I will look into them. It will certainly benefit us. I will have those areas checked into, because they were being written. So for that, thank you everyone. I also want to thank my senior officials. Thank you.

>>Applause

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. I would now like to ask Minister Aglukkaq, the Minister for Health and Social Services, to make her opening remarks. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07 – Review in Committee – Health and Social Services**

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to present the 2006-07 Main Estimates and Business Plan for Department of Health and Social Services.

Later when I go to the witness table, I'll introduce my staff.

The Department of Health and Social Services has made considerable improvements in its financial management operations:

- We can better predict and manage our expenses, and
- Our budget now closely matches our historic spending patterns

These improvements leave the department well placed to help the Government of Nunavut achieve the goals set out in *Pinasuaqtavut*, in particular the goals of 'healthy communities' and 'self-reliance.'

Through the Closer to Home Strategy, we have undertaken a number of training and staffing initiatives that will help us achieve and maintain a stable, qualified workforce for both social and health services.

We are now poised to move forward.

Our focus needs to shift so that we can devote more energy and resources in protecting, rather than restoring health. Our partnerships with the federal government and other agencies have enabled us to support community based health promotion efforts, but we must do more.

It's important to have a common understanding of what this means for Nunavut. It does not mean a lot of new buildings nor brand new services that did not exist before. For Nunavut, moving forward means ensuring that we provide a good, reliable system that meets national standards. A system that is safe and trusted by clients and staff alike.

Our priority is to provide a stable system of health and social services with a deliberate focus on prevention and protection. We have small, scattered populations. We need to recognize that it's not reasonable to attempt to offer the full spectrum of services that people in major population centres take for granted.

Instead, we must continue to nurture our partnerships with out-of-territory agencies and institutions. We must look to them to provide services for Nunavummiut that we cannot offer here, but those services that we can provide closer to home are the ones that will affect all of us: primary health care, continuing care for people with advanced needs, and healthy living and health promotion.

For 2006-07, the Department of Health and Social Services is seeking a total of \$224,709,000 for operations and maintenance, an increase of \$9,490,000 over the previous year.

The additional funds for the most part cover forced growth. This is consistent with our interest in providing a good, reliable system that meets national standards. A rigorous approach was used to determine what positions and programs needed to be funded to achieve this.

I would caution members about a few matters, however.

First, our reliance on out of territory partners means their cost drivers can become our cost drivers. We have anticipated these as much as possible with the information we have on hand.

Second, all governments in Canada are facing increased costs for health care. We are all challenged to meet the social, mental and health needs of our population.

Lastly, as much as we try to meet the needs of Nunavummiut, we must still make tough decisions on the basis of available resources.

We need to put our resources where they make the most sense. We need to strive for a balance between two very important goals; maintaining quality and stability through prudent investment in treatment and care programs, and increasing health promotion and health protection to enhance the quality of life of Nunavummiut.

In closing Mr. Chairman, let me observe that the Department of Health and Social Services has made tremendous progress over the past four years with respect to human resources, range and quality of services, and proactive planning.

Yes, the department faces challenges still on all these fronts; however our hard work and progress to date leaves us in good shape to tackle them.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to make these opening remarks, and I welcome any questions that you may have with respect to the main estimates for operations and maintenance for 2006-07.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Madame Minister. I would like to ask for clarification on the dollar amount for the operations and maintenance increase of \$9.9, \$9 million something. Madame Minister.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: The information that I distributed shows \$9,490,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, very much. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Yes.

**Chairman**: Minister, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Dave Ramsden, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services and to my right is Eric Whitworth, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you. Welcome to the House. Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Health and Education have opening comments? Please proceed, Mr. Alagalak.

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

(interpretation ends) Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Education have reviewed the Main Estimates and Business Plan of the Department of Health and Social Services for the 2006-07 fiscal year, and I am pleased to provide you with opening comments.

The standing committee notes that the operations and maintenance budget for Health and Social Services for the 2006-07 fiscal year is \$224,709,000. This amount includes an additional \$2.3 million, which was announced on January 18, 2006, specifically to address the loss of accreditation at the Baffin Regional Hospital.

Mr. Chairman, we have been assured that the quality of service at the Baffin Regional Hospital has not been reduced as a result of the loss of accreditation.

Members are concerned that sudden increases to the department's budget to address a specific situation in one region, where the quality of health care is apparently not at risk, may not take into account other needs and priorities for healthcare delivery across



Nunavut. Given the department's past difficulty in controlling overspending, committee members will be monitoring this situation closely.

The committee believes that the Government of Nunavut must be accountable to our public for how the funds will be used to improve the health situation for all Nunavummiut.

Members have noted that the department is proposing an increase of at least 50 new positions for 2006-07. The government's January 18 news release on the accreditation situation further indicates that additional 24 staff positions will also be created at the Baffin Regional Hospital. At that time, employment statistics show that at September 30, 2005, the department was only able to fill 73 percent of its positions, down from 80 percent the year before.

The committee has been following, with close attention, the department's progress in hiring full-time nursing staff and urges the minister to continue to work with her officials to ensure that there are fully certified nursing staff in all of Nunavut's communities. Members of the committee continue to support, in principle, the department's vision of a Care Closer to Home Strategy.

With two new regional health facilities opening in the Kitikmeot and Kivalliq regions in late 2005, members look forward to regular updates on the staffing and delivery of services at these facilities. The committee supports the department's long-term objective to train and hire more Nunavummiut to work in the health care field. Over the next few years, members expect to see more beneficiaries filling positions at our regional and community facilities.

Committee members were pleased to note the department's recent initiative providing training for mental health workers and look forward to seeing similar training initiatives in the upcoming year.

The standing committee continues to have concerns regarding care and treatment for individuals with disabilities or in need of long-term care. It appears that many Nunavummiut are still receiving care and treatment in southern jurisdictions, far away from their home and family. Recent news reports have also brought to our attention situations where families of individuals with disabilities have been forced to seek resources and services outside of the territory only to find that they are no longer eligible for support from Nunavut.

While the committee looks forward to the realization of our Arviat Full Caucus Retreat commitment to open 24-hour elders' care facilities in Nunavut, it is unclear when the Care Closer to Home Strategy will begin to ensure that all Nunavummiut are able to receive more care, services, and treatment in Nunavut.

Committee members are pleased that the department has responded to its recommendations to address health issues at the community level by seeking greater

involvement from the community-based Health Committees of Council. Members urge the department to ensure that adequate resources are made available at the community level and to provide opportunities for elders to be involved.

The committee has noted that the Status of Nunavut's Women's shelters continues to be unstable across the territory and encourages the minister in her efforts to provide more support for the individuals and organizations operating these facilities. Members further urge the department to address family violence issues by focusing efforts at the family level, with dedicated support for the needs of men as well as the needs of women, and by exploring and supporting opportunities for healing in the home community of the family.

The committee recognizes that some of the department's increases in expenditure are the result of rising contract fees in travel, accommodation, and treatment services provided outside of Nunavut. Although the department has little control over these aspects of health care delivery, members urge the minister to give careful consideration to the long-term impact of upcoming contract negotiations in these areas.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee continue to express concerns regarding the department's Client and Escort Travel Policy. The committee has noted that a revision of the current policy is underway; however members are of the view that to make this policy effective, the department must ensure that clear information is made available to all clients, escorts, and health professionals. Members look forward to the long-awaited establishment of a Client Services Representative position who will be able to assist with these issues and other matters.

That concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will also have questions and comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>> *Applause*

**Chairman:** Thank you. Before we proceed I would like to remind members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak, and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken. I suggest to members that wherever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have general comments? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and welcome her and her officials to our hearing today.

Mr. Chairman, I have been an MLA for the last two years, as all of us have. Many of us are new. I'm sure that I speak for a lot of us, or maybe all of us, when I say that the Department of Health and Social Services is a very difficult department to manage or direct daily or even long-term. It touches on everyone's lives every day since we all know

someone somewhere in our community who is ill or dying or needs help with homecare and social programs.

I think, I would say conservatively, 50 percent of the people I see in my riding every day who come to my office, or call me, or email me are people wanting help with the programs and services through the Department of Health.

I would like to credit the minister. When she took over the department last summer, I think she was tired of me after about three months. I think she heard from me two or three times a day. It was a good dialogue because I was getting answers very quickly.

A lot of my constituents appreciated that an MLA, a minister, and her staff were getting responses quickly to their concerns. Most patients or clients, I think, who deal with the Department of Health want to know that they are being treated with some...you know, that they are important; that there's care and compassion being shown for their problems.

I'm like everybody else. I'm also a client of the Department of Health, so I would like to know right away what my problem is. I would like to see a nurse or a doctor as fast as I can. I don't like to be waiting too long. I'm in relatively good health so it's not a big concern for me, but I have many constituents who are in very difficult straits health-wise and who depend greatly on the Department of Health and Social Services for their lifestyle they can enjoy.

I will be asking the minister and I will be interested to hear the response from the minister about the department's plan to hire more social workers for all of our communities.

I know in my riding, I think we might require one or two more social workers. I know social workers have very difficult jobs and most of those work tremendous hours. They are under great stress at the best of times because they have to get into situations where most of us can't even dream of getting into, particularly if they have to deal with children; take children away from their parents or guardians. So it's a very stressful job and I'm sure if there were one or two more social workers in the community, it would be helpful.

I think, in some communities, the social workers also act as community corrections officers or probation officers so that heaps on additional stress to the social workers. I will be interested to hear from the minister what the plans are to increase the social workers in our communities.

I will also be interested in hearing the plans to hire more nurses and doctors. Particularly with respect to the new Cambridge Bay or Kitikmeot health facility that opened last October which a lot of people in our community and even the people I have heard from around the region are taking great pride in. They really think that it's a wonderful facility.

As the department adds programs and services, then I'm sure that we will start to see some of the immediate benefits in terms of peoples' health improving and maybe even lifestyles improving.

I know that currently, the staff that work in there, the ones I have talked to, they said a couple times that they are very happy to be working there. The old facility caused health problems for some of the nurses and the health workers last year when it had to be evacuated. So it was great for them to be in there. When you have happy and healthy staff, then I'm sure you could have patients who are happier as well.

I'll be interested to hear what the minister has to say about patient care; how the caring for patients in the health facility, or the patients that are sent out to Yellowknife and Edmonton, or wherever they have to be sent for surgery.

I questioned waiting times in the House last week because there's a patient in my riding who has been waiting 13 months for surgery, for a one-hour operation. It's really a long time, and you have to put your life on hold because the health problem that the person had just didn't allow them to work.

So that was a tough time for her and her family. And I've heard of other patients as well who have had a similarly long wait. The client travel policy is still a concern in my riding. It's come up a few times that elders are concerned that they have to go to hospitals in Yellowknife or Edmonton and they don't have someone to come along with them to translate, when they have to deal with doctors and nurses, and we would like that to be addressed.

Community health representatives, I think I would like to hear some more on that. We have two hard working community health representatives in our town. I think, across Nunavut, that there is probably a great need for community health representatives. They take the load off of some of the health officials, and in particular, the nurses.

I've heard from one of the community health representatives that there are three fully trained community health representatives in the Kitikmeot who are unemployed, and I can get those names for the minister if she'd like them.

The minister is well aware, and some of her staff, that after hearing all the complaints and issues last year, I conducted a health survey in the community last July, August, and September. I had a very healthy response to that health survey.

I conducted the survey in such a way that I didn't want to hear only about the complaints and all those issues. I asked people to offer some suggestions for how to improve health care in our community that I could take to the minister.

I have suggested some of those recommendations to the minister. I think what came through from the health survey that we conducted was that people would like to see the health officials in our community treat them with more care, more compassion, and deal

with them as quickly as possible and spend a little bit more time listening to their concerns.

If a patient can't come to the health centre, then send the nurse or doctor out to the house, particularly for elders because it's tough for elders to get up to the health centre at the best of times, particularly in the winter time, when some of them are in wheel chairs, and on crutches and canes.

They know that the health department is doing the best they can, but they recognize that there is always room for improvement and that's pretty much the message that I was getting from all those health surveys and discussions I had with people who are coming into my office.

So with that Mr. Chairman, I'll end my comments. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and her officials.

I would like to make a brief comment to the minister. The minister knows very well about some of the concerns we have in regard to the people of Sanikiluaq and their having to go to major centers outside of Nunavut.

I have made that statement more than once in the House. We have a lot of concerns and problems when you have to out of your jurisdiction to get treatment. We get a lot of illnesses and I think we should be able to get prompt treatment or a diagnosis. People go out of their community for various reasons but when their appointments get deferred again and again, it creates a problem and added stress to the patient.

I think that there could be improvement in this field, or possibly what your department can do is talk to the officials at the major centres and to make sure that their appointments are not deferred repeatedly. There are people who were able to be treated at one point and it might be too late by the time they see a medical professional.

There are quite a number of people out there who are under homecare in my community. Their family members who are taking care of them have that added stress of taking care of the individual. It's usually the children of the individual, or an immediate relative because, of course, we don't have people who are dedicated to doing homecare.

In my community of Sanikiluaq, if an elder has to go out of the community for treatment, we'd have to go to Arviat to get treated, or to Winnipeg. Because this individual is an elder, usually he or she is unilingual and you probably know that the Sanikiluaq dialect is unique in Nunavut. If they went to Arviat and if they are going to be treated there, he or she will use their own dialect and very likely they won't be understood by the people who are working in the nursing station.

I am especially concerned about the elders who can't take care of themselves and who need added support.

In regard to the community wellness workers, there are hardly any workers there. They have to deal with very stressful situations. For example, they work with the youth and they need proper workplaces.

Possibly the Department of Health and Social Services can look at this to make sure that their employees have a proper working environment. In the communities people with mental problems usually would approach an elder, or someone that they know for support. The elders in our communities are usually the ones that do the counselling if anybody needs help.

We have to recognize the elders who counsel anyone who needs help and they work extremely hard so that they can help the individual overcome their problem, and I think that they could be recognized or given further support by your department.

Mr. Chairman, that was my last comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to welcome the minister Leona Aglukkaq, and the Deputy Minister, Mr. Whitworth.

To make a brief comment, I have a number of issues that I would like to touch upon. One issue that is brought up in my ridings, because of course I have the smallest communities and the smallest population, is that they don't have many elders left.

The elders are sent out without an escort, and this is a major concern in my three communities. You do have an escort policy, but usually these elders are sent down south without an escort.

They are unilingual, they don't speak English and that is still happening to date. The elders go from their community to a southern destination and it's specified in the Escort Policy that this individual needs an escort if they're unilingual and if they're elderly.

With that, the three communities that I represent have very small populations and I think it would be easy to identify people who need escorts when they're going to be going out for treatment in a Southern institute. This is one thing that was brought up continuously when I was visiting the three communities that I represent. For the patients who are down at the Larga Boarding Home, they wait way too long to see a doctor, and some of them wait six or more hours at the hospital.

I think that there should be a shorter turn around time for those patients when they go to their appointments. I know that the doctors are very busy and they have a lot of patients

to see, but if there is a sick person, and they are elderly, it's very hard on him or her to wait six or more hours.

In regard to prescriptions, they have to be flown into our community, and I think that we have to get out of the individual having to order their prescription pills. Another problem I have is the Transportation Office being relocated to Pangnirtung, and some individuals having to look for accommodations and buy their own airline tickets to go back home.

So what are the elderly, unilingual patients going to do when they have to arrange their own accommodations and flight arrangements? Is it going to be up to them to make accommodation arrangements? It didn't used to be the case.

The hospital was the one who made all the billet or accommodation arrangements. They have a proper patient boarding home here and if there is no room, then they'll be placed in a hotel or billeting.

Has there been, I don't know if there has been a change to this yet, but I will look into it. The people who are billeted or in the hotels were given a per diem so that they would be okay, and I am concerned about the people who are billeted in overcrowded homes. I know there's a shortage of houses though and a shortage of houses has an adverse effect on the health of the people.

This is one issue that has been brought up repeatedly again. If there are too many people in a household and someone gets a flu or cold it would be passed on to the other members in the house. I was told to mention that to your department because it affects the health of the families. And we all know that that's the case in some of the communities.

Another issue that my colleague Peter Kattuk brought up is in regard to the mental health worker. This individual used to go up to the smaller communities and they would like to see that again. They would like to see more frequent visits from the mental health worker so that there would be services provided to the people who need those types of services. I'll leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman for giving me the opportunity.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk:** Welcome to the minister and her staff. Mr. Chairman, I for one like to call my colleagues duly recognize and acknowledge the fact that there are many challenges that the Department of Health and Social Services deals with on a daily basis.

And I for one like many others both in this House and outside the House have gone over and I can spend many hours doing exactly what's been done already. Just spend many hours and explaining and expressing or rather identifying the problems that we see in our communities, but I want to currently present and take a different approach to this because Mr. Chairman, I think it's about time that we start promoting solutions to the many numerous challenges that are held in health and social services. They have to listen what's expressed to them daily. If we look at the subtle use of the history of this

government, we probably spent a good three quarters of our time identifying and expressing, again, the same problems over and over and over and over.

But for some reason, there in my view Mr. Chairman, there's more emphasis and not enough emphasis and promotion of solution thinking. And I do really think that we really can contribute to and help the department come up with solutions if we change some of our tactics and thinking.

Mr. Chairman, I'll just very briefly, explain what my thinking has been on this and the brainstorming I think we need to build. Like I said, I can add my voice, but I don't want to go and try and deal with, or try and solve the many problems under Health and Social Service's responsibilities.

But for the promotion of solutions and identifying ways of how we can make it easier for our constituents to travel, to ask questions, and to communicate with the department, if we know we have patients travelling that are unilingual, very capable, why don't we just say spend a few minutes with them at the nursing station and just go over with them what they should expect on the trip?

And maybe present to them cheat cards? Maybe this could be a numbered cheat card to be able to point to an indicated written sentence or question and have it duplicated in English, same numbering, and try and give them to communicate that, if that is the only means we have at the time.

It is much better than just putting someone on an airplane and saying; okay, go get the help in Ottawa. That's where a lot of our challenges and problems do arise in the lack of communication.

If we were to talk to the airlines, and get somebody designated to look after patients that are traveling between communities or the southern hospitals. Have these located at the airports and assist the patients both in the aircraft or departing the aircraft.

These are the kinds of things that we need to start looking at if we are serious about wanting to solve some of the problems that the department faces. So Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to reiterate the fact that I, too, can spend many hours on the challenges and problems but it's been said enough times already. Now it's time to look at solutions and promote good working relations and solutions for our constituents.

So with that Mr. Chairman, I will end my comments and I do hope that the minister will take note to maybe help us promote the thinking of good promotional solutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome Minister, Mr. Ramsden, and Mr. Whitworth. I just want to make it clear, and I'll say it in English.



(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, I wanted to make it quite clear here that I welcome Mr. Ramsden for coming in as the deputy minister and my information is, I believe you are about the eighth deputy minister in the last five years.

Officially, my recollection is five, but unofficially, I was told within the department staff that about a month ago, there were seven. So hopefully you will have a long tenure as the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services in this government.

I look forward to working with you in that area.

Mr. Chairman, my opening comments I believe are important to note. I seem to recall, I just noted right in the middle of the minister's opening statement, and I will quote this particular signal to our expectations in Nunavut. I think it is important. The minister stated on page two of her opening statement and I quote, "We have a small scattered population. We need to recognize that it's not reasonable to attempt to offer the full spectrum of services." I assume that these are medical services or social services that people in major population centres take for granted.

I truly believe that the minister will have to further explain in exact detail as to what type of services the other communities are not going to enjoy. I believe also, Mr. Chairman, this conflicts with my recollection of *Pinasuaqtavut*, when it was published. There is a statement in there, and I remember taking note of it. It said, "By the year 2020 all the services that are available to other Canadians, assuming they are public services; medical, or public services; will be available to the people of Nunavut."

I will ask the minister as we examine her budget, has the government changed directions based on the two comments that I'm making. They appear to be conflicting the vision of the Nunavut Government, the Cabinet, when we appointed them, or the previous other Assembly's statement. I will have that document with me as we turn to page H-5 perhaps tomorrow, so that I may be able to further explain, or ask the minister what they mean by that.

The other point that I want to make, Mr. Chairman, it is really quite significantly important. I truly believe and concur with the report that came out that the Department of Health and Social Services, particularly social workers are overworked. I think as Members of the House, the Legislature, we need to take that seriously. They are overworked; they are probably under paid in many respects, and overloaded with responsibilities and I don't truly believe we have addressed them as much as we have the medical services side.

Those that are on the social services side, I want to acknowledge their commitment that these people have. I know in my constituency the social workers are working hard and literally they are under tremendous stress; they are overworked and not enough resources available to them.

I want to take note of that and I will be asking the minister whether or not any help is on the way for them. If not, we are going to lose good workers; those people that are providing counselling as well as the other important counselling services they provide to children, and what not.

I think we need to gear a plan for them and that we treat them just as important as the other services that the minister has responded to such as the recommendations of the accreditation specialist, which in my view, is not mandatory, it is voluntary; you can subscribe to it, or you don't need to subscribe to it. Most of the other facilities like we have in other regions, have not subscribed to the services.

I was also particularly interested in a point when you provided a reason to us, I believe it was January, it was also right after the standing committee hearing that we had, when you were invited to appear in one of our briefings that we have upstairs, that the Baffin Regional Hospital had lost its accreditation, and it was treated as though it was an emergency.

In view of that, without any announcement; without any approval of the Assembly, I don't know whether in fact the total funding has been acquired, and what not, through formalities required, that the minister accepted all the recommendations from accreditation report, stating that Baffin Regional Hospital was some 26 or 24 odd positions short, and that particular report was immediately adopted. I'm not sure without a full consideration of other revenue; there was an extra \$2.3 million or \$4 million available from other sources of funds in the government.

At the same time, there appear to be conflicting statements from the medical side of the staff who were present when you stated that there were in no way any risks to the patients in the hospital or out there to the Baffinmiut.

But when the report came out, all 26 positions were approved somehow and that they had to be staffed. I wish we had that kind of luxury in the Keewatin, in Kivalliq, or the Kitikmeot; we don't. So where are your priorities and what's going on? I truly believe that there has to be a proper accountable presentation of issues of that kind.

My other colleague's, Mr. Chairman, concern with the number of the contracted services and facilities by this government, for instance, we have a number of elders' facilities, we would probably have some other contracted facilities like patient services in provinces, in Montreal, Ottawa, as well as Winnipeg, Yellowknife, and so on.

What I'm interested in, and I will probably be asking you more, is whether or not there are conditions that are to these services, for instance, training. Are there guidelines that compare contracting arrangements because when I was billeting the patient services in Winnipeg, I was appalled at the interpreter people who provide therapy even to some of the patients of that facility, Inuit workers, are barely making just anything more than minimum wages of Manitoba?

So I really truly believe that there should be standards with contracting arranged with any private contractor. So I think that's an area that you are going to have to explain to us of why we are just letting our people who do work hard at all hours be subject to that kind of very minimum wages and so on.

Mr. Chairman, I have other points of interest that I want to raise at this time and the minister provided to regular members the draft copy of the patient escort policy that the department was working on some time ago, early this year or late last year.

When I read that, I was particularly interested in the fact that the approval process, whether or not it's the elder or whoever, a patient requiring an escort is really at the hands of the medical doctor. At every level, it is that the authority given to the medical doctor. If the medical doctor says or the nurse in charge probably says that this patient requires an escort, then they would do it. If that medical doctor who is in charge says "No, healthy enough, a person can walk, and no escort is required." That, in its sense, conflicts with the traditional Inuit, what I call, societal values, we don't know whether emotionally this fellow needs or that person, man or woman, requires an escort.

I was advised by an elder while I was in Winnipeg about two weeks ago that we definitely do need escorts, whether we look healthy and look good, we still need an escort because I can't speak in *Qallunaatitut*.

I realized when I went to see the doctors I was nodding my head when I shouldn't have. That is related to the prescriptions of his medical were okay and he didn't know what he was talking about so he just nodded. The doctor apparently took it as affirmative and prescribed another kind of medical drug.

So minister, I'm asking your department that when an escort is required that you not just leave it to the medical people. Get their families involved. It is critically very important *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* if you're going to apply that. It should be part of the policy.

I respected him. Many of you do know him and I will not release his name. The other point that I'm...

**Chairman:** Mr. Curley, your time was up a couple of minutes ago. Each member has 10 minutes for general comments. Mr. Curley would like to conclude his general comments.

**Mr. Curley:** Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

>> *Laughter*

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. There is a motion on the floor and it's not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. I will rise to report progress. Thank you.

Thank you, Madame Minister, and we'll see you tomorrow.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 21. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 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 agreed with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Who seconds the motion? Mr. Picco. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Orders of the Day. 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. A reminder of meetings for tomorrow; a meeting of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development at 9:00 in the Tuktu Boardroom, and a meeting of the regular caucus at 10:30 in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for March 1:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. 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. Notices of Motions
16. Notices 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 the Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 1:30 in the afternoon. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 18:10*

