



Nunavut Canada

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NUNAVUT

3rd Session

2nd Assembly

HANSARD

Official Report

DAY 22

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Pages 1199 – 1257

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 Akesuk

(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

James Arreak

(Uqqurmiut)

Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole

Steve Mapsalak

(Akulliq)

Co-Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus

Hon. David Simailak

(Baker Lake)

Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board

Levi Barnabas

(Quttiktuq)

Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus

Hunter Tootoo

(Iqaluit Centre)

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk

(Amittuq)

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

Hon. Levinia Brown

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)

Deputy Premier; Minister of Community Government and Government Services

Patterk Netser

(Nanulik)

Deputy Speaker; Regular Members' Caucus

Officers

Clerk

John Quirke

Deputy Clerk

Nancy Tupik

Clerk Assistant

Kooyoo Nooshoota

Law Clerk

Susan Cooper

Sergeant-at-Arms

Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

Table of Contents

Opening Prayer.....	1199
Ministers' Statements	1199
Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.....	1201
Members' Statements	1201
Oral Questions	1203
Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery	1222
Written Questions.....	1224
Tabled Documents.....	1225
Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters	1226
Report of the Committee of the Whole	1256
Orders of the Day	1256

A.

Daily References

Thursday, March 2, 2006..... 1199

B.

Minister's Statements

068 – 2(3): Distance Education Pilot Project (Picco)..... 1199

069 – 2(3): Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee (Brown)..... 1200

C.

Members' Statements

168 – 2(3): Film Company Isuma Productions (Tapardjuk) 1201

169 – 2(3): Allocation of Public Housing Units in Kugluktuk (Evyagotailak)..... 1202

170 – 2(3): Tribute to Arctic Sports (Curley)..... 1202

171 – 2(3): Congratulate Athletes Going to Arctic Winter Games in Alaska (Brown)..... 1203

D.

Oral Questions

188 – 2(3): Designs for Repulse Bay Health Centre (Tootoo)..... 1203

189 – 2(3): Incorporating Pre-Trades Program (Peterson)..... 1206

190 – 2(3): Prescription Medications (Kattuk)..... 1208

191 – 2(3): Equipment Compensation for Hunters Caused By Natural Disasters (Barnabas).. 1209

192 – 2(3): Housing in Kugluktuk (Evyagotailak)..... 1210

193 – 2(3): Update on Planning and Design of a Trades School (Curley)..... 1211

194 – 2(3): Update on Decentralization (Mapsalak) 1214

195 – 2(3): Criminals Not Allowed Back to Communities (Kilabuk)..... 1216

196 – 2(3): Devolution Negotiations (Peterson)..... 1218

197 – 2(3): Update on Regulations for the Wildlife Act (Arreak)	1220
198 – 2(3): Construction of Houses (Kattuk)	1221

E.

Written Questions

014 – 2(3): Government Contract Regulations Made Under the Financial Administration Act (Curley)	1224
015 – 2(3): Intergovernmental Agreements Between the Government of Nunavut and Other Jurisdictions (Tootoo)	1225

F.

Tabled Documents

082 – 2(3): P/T – F/P/T Housing Ministers’ Meeting – September 22 to 23, 2005 in Liverpool Nova Scotia (Akesuk)	1225
--	------

G.

Bills

Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07 – Review in Committee – Health and Social Services	1226
---	------

Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, March 2, 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 will ask Mr. Simailak to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and the staff. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 068 – 2(3): Distance Education Pilot Project

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

As technology becomes more readily available here in Nunavut, the Department of Education explores the possibilities it presents for learning in Nunavut. I would like to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues about the Nunavut Broadband Distance Learning Pilot Project; a great example of being innovative and resourceful in seeking solutions.

Mr. Speaker, distance learning is a practical means which allows educators to meet the needs of students by providing courses online.

The goal of the Nunavut Broadband Distance Learning Pilot Project is to test new broadband and distance learning technologies and provide a positive experience for our students while ensuring cultural relevance. In the future, there is potential to involve not only schools, but communities and businesses as well.

Mr. Speaker, a working group is administering the project, in partnership with the department's Regional School Operations, Curriculum and School Services, and Corporate Services Divisions. Their aim is to determine the best practices for Nunavut schools, the best possible communication systems and a model for delivery for the program. Mr. Speaker, this information will result in recommendations for the Nunavut Distance Learning Program, which will begin delivery in the spring.

As you can see Mr. Speaker, this is a promising project and, with the expertise of the Department of Community and Government Services and the Nunavut Broadband Development Corporation, I am confident that this initiative will encourage online learning and may become a standard program for our students.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 069 – 2(3): Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise today to update you on the work of the Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee, which was formed last April in anticipation of the Federal Gas Tax Initiative and the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. The committee has been meeting since last September and met again in Iqaluit during the last week in February to finalize some significant issues.

Much of 2005 was spent by CGS staff negotiating funding agreements with the federal government and working with NAM to develop the Infrastructure Advisory Committee. Priorities have been on developing a consultation plan and a project priority setting process to access capital funds. The federal funding, when combined with GN funds, will result in more than \$69.5 million of infrastructure projects for communities.

The recent meeting of the committee saw the completion of this first phase of preliminary infrastructure planning for municipalities to use the Gas Tax and MRIF funds. Infrastructure Advisory Committee members have finalized their plans for initial community consultation and have identified some priorities for previously identified community projects.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure to inform the legislature that the NCIAC is up and running and is now moving on to the second important stage of its work involving community consultation and developing recommendations for government funding.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Minister Picco.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to introduce into the Gallery several distinguished visitors from Acadia University that members may be aware of. They are here doing a documentary on cultural learning, new technologies in the classroom similar to my statement earlier this afternoon.

First of all, we have James Frederick Price, who is a political science major in Acadia. Mr. Gordon Waddley, who is also a political science major, and Kate Champion from Acadia, who is in environmental science. I take this opportunity in welcoming them all to the Gallery.

At the same time, we have all heard of Margaret Wente, we've heard of Christie Blatchford, Pamela Wallin, even Wendy Mesley, Allison Smith, and Barbara Frum. We have someone of that distinguished nature here today in the Gallery. A journalist without compare here in the north, who has been working for over 20 years with Nunatsiaq News and different publications, published nationally and internationally, well-known journalist Ms. Jane George. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Jane also to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to go back to Item 3.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is asking to go back to Item 3, Members' Statements. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Tapardjuk, you may proceed.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 168 – 2(3): Film Company Isuma Productions

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize; I came in a little bit late. I would like to inform my colleagues here that you probably know of the Film Company Isuma Productions. Their first film made was Atanarjuat, and the film that they were working on last year, that was written by Knud Rasmussen in 1923-24, who came into that area, and this was made into a movie. There were consultations with the people who know them.

On March 11 and 12, they will do a premiere showing in Igloolik. Who ever is interested to go see that is welcome. I was also advised that First Air and Air Nunavut they will be seen, but I would like to state at this time that they have assisted in marketing the Inuit

culture. I would like to congratulate them for the premiere showing of that movie on March 11 and 12. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 169 – 2(3): Allocation of Public Housing Units in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I greatly thank Honourable Louis Tapardjuk for returning to Members' Statements.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like today to voice my concern with regards to the allocation of public housing units in Kugluktuk. I know that the effects of Nunavut housing crisis can be felt in every community.

We do not make our family members sleep outside because they do not have a house; we make room for them in our own homes. In many cases, this leads to extreme overcrowding. Mr. Speaker, it does not matter how much you like the other person. If too many people are living in a small home, there will be a lot of problems.

It is my understanding that public housing units are allocated based on a rating system. Part of that system gives more points to people who have been waiting the longest. Mr. Speaker, I understand that single people and young couples want to have homes of their own. However, I believe that families should be given the higher priorities for housing than single people.

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

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 170 – 2(3): Tribute to Arctic Sports

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to thank the member for returning to Item 3. Members' Statements, Member from Igloolik.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to arctic sports, Arctic Winter Games. Mr. Speaker, Inuit have been doing arctic sports since the early 1960s. Some of these sports include such traditional sports as the airplane, high kick, knuckle hop, and mouth pull, just to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, there are rules for every sport, and I'm pleased to state that Atima Hadlari, our interpreter over there, and John Taipanak who is one of my constituents helped develop these rules for the University of Alberta in the early 1970s.

Mr. Speaker, Atima and John are still involved today during all those years. I'm pleased to say that they are both going to Alaska as officials for arctic sports for the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Speaker, up to today, John Taipanak holds the record in one of these sports, the kneel jump sport. I am very proud of these individuals as they teach our young athletes our traditional games.

I strongly believe this is very important. We need to encourage our youth to continue these sports for generations to come. Mr. Speaker, I wish all our athletes the best at Arctic Winter Games. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 171 – 2(3): Congratulate Athletes Going to Arctic Winter Games in Alaska

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have the grand opportunity to jump on the bandwagon thanks to my colleague here, Louis.

(interpretation) I would just like to congratulate the athletes that are going to Alaska. There are some people: Malaya Voisy from Whale Cove, for arctic sports; Kayla Adjun from Whale Cove, for arctic sports; Shawn Nipisa from Whale Cove, arctic sports; Jophree Okalik, will be going there to play hockey.

I would like to wish them the best of luck in Alaska for the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 188 – 2(3): Designs for Repulse Bay Health Centre

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if it's a good thing or not to have been around here for a while, and follow what's been transpiring over the last number of years.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my colleague, Mr. Mapsalak, asked the Minister of Health some questions regarding the health centre and residence replacement in Repulse Bay and the minister had indicated in the *Hansard* and I will quote it, "There will be some funding set

aside to start the planning for the design for the new health centre for Repulse Bay, and at this point in time, I don't know what the design will include.”

Mr. Speaker, I know, again from being here in the past in the 2003-04 Capital Budget, there was a project in there called ‘Health Centre/Residence Replacement.’ And for that current year, there was \$75,000 set aside and \$445,000 of prior year's cost for that project. In the 2004-05 Capital Budget there was a name change called just ‘Replacement Health Centre’ for the same project; \$20,000 set aside in that year's capital budget and \$401,000 as a prior year's cost.

Mr. Speaker, looks like there's almost \$850,000 being spent on that project already and I'm just wondering if there were any designs. You indicated that there were no designs yet. So I'm just wondering what that money was used for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning when I reviewed the Blues related to that response, that particular response I had provided to Mapsalak I had responded in Inuktitut.

At this present time, I have asked the officials from the third floor to review the tape because from what I understand and what I said yesterday, I said that whatever considerations we make for any housing as part of the health centre; it would have to be within budget of what we are looking at.

So with all due respect to the member's question, at this point in time, that statement is being reviewed in the Blues. So I would like to review that first before I can pursue that question further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The tapes are being reviewed. I would like you to wait on that question at this time until the reviewing is done.

Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo, if you would rephrase your question, please.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be happy to do that. I guess, Mr. Speaker, given the fact that there has been almost \$850,000 spent on that project since 2003-04, I am just wondering if the minister could indicate if they do have designs for that replacement health facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, there has been no design for the renovation of the Repulse Bay Health Centre. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess this just begs the question to be asked: where did the \$850,000 go that was approved in the capital estimates if it didn't go towards the design for that facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker, where that funding allocation went, I can look into that. That was a previous government expenditure that was approved, so I would have to go back to those records and find out through my staff exactly where that funding went.

It could have been used for minor renovations of the health centre for all I know, but at this point in time, I do not have any information on Capital Projects from 2003, and perhaps through Committee of the Whole today, I will have that information to share with the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know it is a small little change, but as I indicated in my first question, in 2003-04 Main Estimates, the project title was called 'Health Centre/Residence Replacement,' and in 2004-05 Main Estimates it was just called 'Replacement of Health Centre.'

I am just wondering, if there is a change because of the change in title there, if there has been a change in the scope of work in the project taking out the residence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker, from the 2003 Capital Budget plans, I will have that information in Committee of the Whole. I don't have that information before me. What I do have is what was discussed back when we were dealing with the Capital Projects in November and from what I understand, the allocation to start the design of the renovation of Repulse Bay Project, there was funding allocated in the 2005-06 Capital Estimates and that is the information I have before me.

Whether there has been a change in scope that some other information, I will have to find out because the information that the member is referring to was in the previous government legislature. I will have to get my researchers and my staff to pull that information together to find out where that funding was spent and perhaps report back again in Committee of the Whole today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 189 – 2(3): Incorporating Pre-Trades Program

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education. I remember years ago, the Department of Education had a program called the Community Opportunity Programs, which was called COPS for short. It provided kids in the high schools with the opportunity to gain basic trade skills and to encourage them to take trades training after high school.

The question for the minister is: can the minister update this House on whether his department has considered incorporating pre-trade skills development programs for high school students? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. We have been proceeding with multiple pass options as well as training opportunities within the classroom, especially targeted into high school levels grade 11 and grade 12. A good example of that is a project that we have had underway in Kugluktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure if I am clear on the minister's answer. Can the minister update the House on what specific kinds of pre-trades programs are being offered to Nunavut high school programs to help prepare students for upcoming opportunities in the trades? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, we are looking at several opportunities within the framework of our current curriculum to introduce pre-trades programming through Skills Canada. And a good example of that, Mr. Speaker, is the high school students who take on for example a program here in Iqaluit was cooking, where they would do pre-trades cooking in their classrooms as part of their curriculum development.

Mr. Speaker, at the same time, in Kugluktuk, we have programs still in place; training programs for mines-specific trades, but for also some of the trades programs themselves; basic woodworking and carpentry and so on.

So Mr. Speaker, that type of program that the member is talking about used to be under the old Community Occupational Program, or COP, as the member referred to. That has been revamped, has been updated, and Mr. Speaker, is under way right now in our schools in Nunavut, particularly in given schools where we have the capacity. For example, you need instructors and so on to be able to deliver that type of program.

So I hope that helps clarify the answer for the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. He clarified it for me somewhat.

Yesterday, in the Minister's Statement, he talked about the Nunavut Apprenticeship Program. He mentioned that currently there were 116 apprentices registered in Nunavut. Can I ask the minister to commit to tabling a list of apprentices and their trades by region in the House before the end of the session? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

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

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I think that's the shortest answer you've ever given me.

>>*Laughter*

>>*Applause*

My final question for the minister; last month, I noticed in the Nunavut Gazette that new appointments were being made to the Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupation Certification Board. The minister mentioned that in his Minister's Statement yesterday. Can the minister clarify for this House what kinds of activities will be undertaken by the board members? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try to keep my answers quick and to the point.

>>*Applause*

The board deals with logistical as well as administrative issues pertaining to the Apprenticeship Program across Nunavut. As the member just acknowledged, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many Nunavummiut who actually submitted their names to be on the apprenticeship board, and thank the members for soliciting and actually submitting names also.

So hopefully that will help answer the member's question.

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

Question 190 – 2(3): Prescription Medications

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question, and I might be wrong, to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Since our government was created and since we've got a new government, I would like to ask a question in regard to prescription drugs. Are we going to be paying for prescription drugs at this point, since the new government was elected? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefit Program, so we don't anticipate that we will be asking residents to cover for prescription medication. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I understand that we're not going to be paying for prescription drugs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are covered through the arrangement we have with the federal government and Health Canada under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program.

But if an individual goes to the Northern Store, or to the Co-op and buys Tylenol, yes you would pay for that. If you went to the health centre and are given a prescription or medication, you don't pay for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have experienced it the last time when we had a Conservative Federal Government. I remember that when you go to the health centre and they didn't give you a medication, they wished to invoice you or bill you for the medication. So I'm worried about...we have a Conservative Federal Government, is the minister telling me that this is not going to happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program is a national program that was developed by the federal government

and the member is correct. It provides non-insured health benefits to Inuit and First Nations in Canada. Health Canada covers all costs of medication.

So at this point in time, I don't know if there is any thought to change that process or that arrangement, but I take the member's concern and will monitor the situation closely. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister make sure that the Inuit don't have to pay for prescriptions and lobby the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the member and I will work to keep the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program in place. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 191 – 2(3): Equipment Compensation for Hunters Caused By Natural Disasters

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Environment

I know that we have heard that our colleague has stated that the natural causes have made...I'm talking about the natural causes damaging property of the harvesters. As Mr. Tapardjuk already had commented on that in regard to Hall Beach; the ice had crumbled up right down to the shoreline.

Mr. Speaker, in my riding in the community of Grise Fiord the personal belongings of hunters like boats were damaged by the high winds. For that reason, even though the hunters are in the community and not even out hunting, their equipment is damaged by natural disasters. How can you provide more support to those harvesters? That's my question to the minister. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is exactly as he stated. We help the hunters and trappers; we were able to acquire some assistance for the hunters and trappers under the Harvesters' Support Program. The funding that we have is limited, but it is available for the hunters and trappers. Local conservation officers can assist the

people who have lost their equipment through natural causes. They decide on whether they are eligible to receive the funding. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the hunters have to pay for part of their equipment when they purchase their equipment through the Harvesters' Support Program when they have a full-time job.

But the harvesting equipment, when some of the equipment is new and they get damaged right there in the community and they are very expensive, if it is a boat with an outboard motor or if it is a snowmobile. If you lose all your equipment or if the boat is damaged by high winds and it cannot be used, do these hunters have to pay for part of that? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will not be able to go over the \$4,500 to compensate hunters for damaged equipment. We want to change that right now. We are reviewing how we can improve the policy to compensate harvesters. We do not take money from the hunters; we provide compensation to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This \$4,500 is not enough to purchase a snowmobile or even for an outboard motor, and they are even more expensive from that line item or more so than the skidoos. Could the minister update the House once you increase the compensation program? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will inform you right away and I will provide you with a copy as to how we are planning to make changes so that you can be involved in the consideration of the changes. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Question 192 – 2(3): Housing in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation (interpretation ends) Can the minister outline, for the House, the process that is used to determine a person's priority for public housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Housing, Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Local Housing Associations have their own rules and regulations deciding on who has highest priorities for housing from the housing associations. They have their own set up to decide on who is going to get housing and who has the need for housing. If these rules are not compatible with what the people want, then they should be able to approach the Housing Corporation. Thank you.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for your response. (interpretation ends) What percent of the units in the current public housing stocks have more than two bedrooms? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not with me right now, but I can provide my colleagues with the numbers on each. I do not know if he is talking about one community or the territory as a whole, but I will certainly look into it and give him the numbers that we have in our hands with the Nunavut Housing Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister for your response. (interpretation ends) How does the corporation decide what size of units it will build when undertaking new construction? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a very young population and we use that population mark, but then again, we have other programs; the Nunavut Down Payment Assistance Program and the Material Assistance Program that we provide to our families. So we try and do our very best to make sure that we meet both sides of the family.

Again, our units that we are building, duplexes in some communities, that's due to the fact that we have a very young population and young families that are starting in each community. Thank you.

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

Question 193 – 2(3): Update on Planning and Design of a Trades School

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is in regard to what my colleague from Cambridge Bay had asked the Minister of Education about, and his responses were very interesting, especially on trades.

Although we are very pleased about the apprenticeship training programs, we don't have a trades school and there are many young people who are interested in the trades school.

My first question to the minister is; last fall, during the session in November, we agreed to the Nunavut Arctic College housing family units for students who study in the academic programs. Could the minister tell me if this \$460,000 is for planning and design phase? We approved the planning and design phase of that. Could you update me on that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The announcement for the trades school in Rankin Inlet, I think is an announcement that was well welcomed by everyone across Nunavut, and indeed, the Members in the House.

Mr. Speaker, part of the announcement for Rankin Inlet included, out of the Northern Strategy we had targeted \$10 million for the trades school. The majority of that money will be used to renovate and upgrade the shop in Rankin Inlet, and we'll make a very good facility out of that, as the member is aware.

The second component of that is to continue with the accommodations. The member has been very vocal and strong in stating the need of family accommodation in Rankin Inlet, we recognize that. The money that was in the budget last year will be used for the planning purposes and design of family accommodations in Rankin Inlet. I believe we are trying to accommodate 12 units with that money. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister for his response. Will the minister commit to tabling the plan for trades school accommodations for students as well as the academic side because there are, obviously, some relations with the academic and trades? Accommodation units will have to be incorporated. Are there some considerations that they will now be built together, as well as the academic and trades students, if and when the facilities are built in Rankin Inlet, that they will be probably a single complex? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan is to use an integrated model design in conjunction with the hamlet in Rankin Inlet.

Again, the majority of the money within the \$10 million will be used for the school and we'll have to access other monies through the proper procedures in the House for the extra accommodations in Rankin Inlet. It would be asinine to move forward with planning a new trades school without having the accommodations for the students. That is the plan.

Mr. Speaker, I can update the House with those project plans in the coming days. I would hope to be able to probably get into more detail when the Department of Education budget comes up and give an overview then of what the plans are.

But again Mr. Speaker, I think the people in Rankin Inlet, and on behalf of Mr. Curley and Ms. Brown, I must say that their very good yeoman service on this file has helped bring student accommodations, family accommodations much needed, to Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is important that the minister provide other information once the plans and progress has been made on those.

For the clarification, capital funds were approved in the fall, in the amount of \$460,000, for family units mainly. I believe we approved them on the basis of the understanding of this House that they were allocated for Nunavut Arctic College academic students.

These plans will continue as well as the new accommodations for a trades school, are they separate or will they be incorporated into one plan? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Rankin Inlet, we do have the accommodations necessary for single student accommodations. We would anticipate, with the trades school going into Rankin Inlet in 2008-09, that we'll need additional family accommodations that we were working on.

The member is correct again; we had planned for four one-bedroom units, four two-bedroom units, and two three-bedroom units for the community. We may have to expand that based on the current program offerings that we'll be putting into the community because of the trades school.

That's something that we need to get the logistics as well as the administrative side of the planning equation in place. That's what we're doing right now with our capital planners, and to firm up those numbers.

That's one of the reasons why we haven't come forward in the last 48 hours with monies because we need to be able to ascertain what those plans are. We also have to work with

the hamlet to ascertain the size of the lot we're going to need because this will be new construction.

So I hope that clarifies the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated yesterday in his announcement that the Apprenticeship Board has been selected, and their first meeting will be held some time in 2006. My understanding is that this particular group will also be consulting with the industry groups, sector groups of the trades, for development of the trades program in Nunavut.

Once that report is complete, will the minister commit to tabling in the House what trades that this particular group is interested in developing and providing the students of Nunavut, once the report is done. I would like the minister to assure us that he will share that discussion paper with us. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be very pleased to share that information with the House and with the member.

Again, when we get to the point of doing the main estimates for the Department of Education, we have a lot of information on trades and trades training and the apprenticeship program that we'll be able to bring forward in that venue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 194 – 2(3): Update on Decentralization

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier. If it's not the Premier, perhaps the appropriate minister can respond. My question is in regard to decentralization. My question is: is decentralization up to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are almost near the end as we are all aware. As my colleague from Pangnirtung knows, we are not completely up to date yet, but we had identified the offices. There's only one office that's a little bit behind, but the other ones are way ahead and they are near completion. Decentralization is occurring. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I always say that the smaller communities' capital plans are always deferred, if not, the majority of the cases of their plans are deferred. Perhaps it's due to decentralization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't quite understand his question: the shortage of funding from the reason what? So if he can rephrase his question. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Could you rephrase your question, Mr. Mapsalak?

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps decentralization is the cause of slow support provided to the smaller communities that are non-decentralized, especially on capital plans.

Our capital plans are deferred to another year and we have had plans quite a few years ago, and that plan has been deferred for a few more years. We have never seen that becoming reality in our communities. Perhaps decentralization is the cause of the slowness of giving the funding to the communities. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It has no connection to decentralization and this has no effect on our budget. The construction of the units has been available, but sometimes projects are delayed due to different reasons. Some of the capital plans have to be deferred because of reasons, but they are all in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for giving me a response.

We will be starting the 2006-07 year. I know what my question was, but looking at 2006-07, the New Year will be starting soon. Will the programs to the non-decentralized communities be coming into affect? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Department of Economic Development has been fast and that \$5 million has been set aside for those smaller communities and I'm quite confident that the minister will act on it as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 195 – 2(3): Criminals Not Allowed Back to Communities

Mr. Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into my question, yesterday, while I was asking the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, at five seconds apart, I received two notes from the colleagues on the floor saying that I have to ask him to respond yes or no between his three and a half minute responses. Without further ado, we will not go there today.

My question is for the minister responsible for Justice, Premier Okalik. I know he was looking forward to a question. Mr. Speaker, I have constituents waiting to hear from the last few years of the running of this government and I have made the minister responsible aware a number of times of a few of my unfortunate constituents who regrettably had fallen on the wrong side of the law at different occasions. Without names or situations, I just wanted to get a better understanding of the process to relay back to my constituents.

So, Mr. Speaker, my question, at what time or at what point, is it determined that these unfortunate people who fall to the wrong side of the law get held here in the streets of Iqaluit months at a time away from their family and are not allowed to travel back to their communities. At what time is this determined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation ends) Any person taken into custody awaiting trial they have to go through a Justice of the Peace and the JP decides on the merits of the case and to see if there is any danger posed or any further offences that may be committed.

So each case is heard by a JP or sometimes in some cases, a Justice of the Court. Each case is different and it is based on law, the criminal code. So the criminal code regulates when a person should be held in custody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kilabuk: Mr. Speaker, I am still not quite sure if I am clear enough to relay or communicate to my constituents who determines this and at what point.

Mr. Speaker, where are these unfortunate people kept during their stay here because I know, from experience and having dealt with a number of these, that when they are kept in Iqaluit and not allowed to travel back to their communities, they end up having no support from families or access to security and connection with their loved ones. So where are they kept while they are being held in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The defence and the Crown reach agreements where the offender is held outside the community in a family's residence.

In some cases where there is a danger posed to the larger community, the courts and the JPs decide that they should be held at the Baffin Correctional Centre Remand Facility.

So each case is reviewed and the defence and the prosecutors sometimes reach an agreement as to where the offender may be held on any given time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kilabuk: Mr. Speaker, the unfortunate individuals I am referring to, that I had forwarded this information to the minister's office, were individuals that were kept within the community, allowed to roam the streets of Iqaluit to try and find comfort, to try and find shelter, to try and find clothing, and to try and find some sense of security.

But my question leading to this is: as the result of the lengthy times they are made, Mr. Speaker, they are made to stay in the streets of Iqaluit, do they lose their benefits under the Income Support Program eligibility requirements or the housing eligibility requirements because of the lengthy periods they are forced to stay or kept here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot respond to that at this time because I don't run those programs. So the appropriate ministers would have to respond to those questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peter Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess for my benefit and the benefit of my constituents, I want to ask the minister if he will commit to reviewing the eligibility requirements that, at the best of times, there are 30-day requirements for our Nunavummiut to stay eligible to receive the programs or services.

So will the minister commit to reviewing these requirements with the appropriate departments to make sure that they can remain either eligible or make changes to the programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll advise the ministers. The ministers are aware of it and I'll see what we can do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 196 – 2(3): Devolution Negotiations

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier. On Tuesday, the Premier mentioned that he had discussed devolution with the Prime Minister over the weekend.

Last week in the Government of Nunavut's Budget Address, on page 12, the Minister of Finance hinted that the federal government isn't ready to begin devolution negotiations. I'll just quote here, "We are ready to begin negotiations immediately." And, "We are counting on the federal government to take similar steps so negotiations can begin with a clear understanding of our respective goals and expectations." Then he says, "...our hope is that devolution negotiations will begin this spring and be concluded by the end of 2008."

My question for the Premier: can the Premier tell the House when he realistically expects the Government of Nunavut to begin negotiations with the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't answer that. To negotiate any agreement there needs to be another party. We're one of three. Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. will be a party to these discussions and negotiations. And I've conveyed my expectations of the federal government, and communicated with the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister advised that he'll be waiting for his Minister of Indian Affairs to come forward with a request for a mandate to cabinet, and I told the Minister of Indian Affairs that I expect that to happen as soon as possible.

So I'm hopeful that we'll start negotiations as early as the spring as my Minister of Finance advised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, Premier Fentie, from the Yukon recently stated that the Yukon deserves more money for its resources. They said that if Nunavut gets a better deal from devolution, he wants a new one for his territory, because theirs is "flawed and inadequate."

In the budget address, the Minister of Finance said that we're ready to negotiate; we're ready to begin negotiations immediately. My question for the Premier: can the Premier tell the House what the Government of Nunavut's negotiating position is on devolution to ensure that we get fair deal and a better deal than the Yukon, and to help our colleagues in the Yukon, so Premier Fentie can negotiate a new one with the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's nice to put out a nice strong position in the outset and that's what we'll do but, as per particulars, I don't believe in negotiating in public. So I'd rather that we negotiate as much, the best deal that we can, and do it at the negotiating table.

So I think it requires two parties to negotiate an agreement and that's what we'll wait for. As the chief negotiator, we'll be lobbying hard to get the best mandate for the federal negotiator in the next few months, before the federal cabinet reviews the mandate for the negotiations on devolution for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that response. My question for the Premier: will the Premier commit to briefing regular members before and during devolution negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, negotiations are usually held in confidence and that's what I anticipate over the course of the next few months to a few years that will require updates to regular members during our Caucus meetings, or what have you, and update the members and see where we are going. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that commitment. The Auditor General's Report, tabled last week, is very critical of the Government of Nunavut's inability to manage our finances.

My question for the Premier: will the Premier tell the House if the Government of Nunavut expects the Auditor General's Report to be an obstacle if the federal government tells the Government of Nunavut negotiators that the Government of Nunavut will not be able to handle the financial windfall from our resources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think my Minister of Finance responded that we will take corrective action in the coming months to make sure that the next Auditor General's Report shows a lot of improvement on our management of finances. So I don't see that as an obstacle. We already committed to making the appropriate changes to what the Auditor General has outlined. So I don't see any potential for any real problems in our situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 197 – 2(3): Update on Regulations for the Wildlife Act

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

We are still waiting to hear the regulations for the *Wildlife Act*. He said they were in the process of negotiating. Is this negotiating process or consultation with the NTI and with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently working on the regulations for the *Wildlife Act*. We will be meeting with NTI and NWMB during the month of April and May on what other improvements we can make to those regulations.

We don't have very much left to do, but we are deliberately trying to work really hard because we wanted it to be the best. So we are currently working with NWMB and NTI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. Yes, I'm sure the communities are consulted and the communities know that there will be regulations made.

At this time, they must be getting confused that they presently have an Act and they are still awaiting more regulations that will be required for wildlife. Once they start again in April, when is the anticipation date that he will bring them out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we are not certain as to exactly when it will be completed, but we will be meeting with NTI and NWMB.

As soon as that consultation is done and once we have completed it, the NTI and NWMB have represented us quite well and the Inuit of Nunavut. We wanted to be able to make a difference for the residents.

So I cannot tell you, at this time, exactly when it will be concluded, but we will have a better idea once we have met with those two organizations in regard to the regulations of the *Wildlife Act*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Yes, he mentioned that they were meeting with those organizations and they were consulting with the communities, but they managed to visit only the bigger communities. They neglected the smaller communities or have they gone to the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What we did was we met with the HTO chair people or the members and that is how we worked. We would invite those people from the smaller communities to go to the other communities and they would meet with the HTOs. We would advise them as to exactly what is going on now with the process. We invited their concerns and comments to us. What we did was we met in one of the bigger communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 198 – 2(3): Construction of Houses

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was given a question that I was directed to bring to the House. This question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

The people in my community are concerned about the houses that have been built in their communities. The problem with the elders is that the houses are built too high and they are having a hard time getting into the buildings. Are they built high because of requirements? What is the reason behind building these houses very high from the ground? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is little bit of a dialect difference in here so I am sorry I didn't understand it first of all. We try to build the houses as conveniently as possible, but if the houses are built too high, then when

they are being renovated I think that we should talk to the people first to see which they would prefer. I do not know why the units are built so high, but I will look into it and find out the reasoning behind it.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he would look into the issue. Is it possible to set aside some funds that would be used to lower these houses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the issue because we have to provide proper housing for the elders. We will look into it as it's a concern in Sanikiluaq and probably in all of the Nunavut communities.

If we are going to make any adjustments, we will try to make sure that the houses are built to the convenience of the elders and we will do that in the upcoming months. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister stated that he would look into the issue in the upcoming months. How many months is he looking at? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. I can't say exactly how many months, but we will look into it over the upcoming months, over the winter. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Question Period is now over. Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go back to Item 5, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you.

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. Please proceed, Mr. Netser.

Revert to Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some people from Coral Harbour just arrived and I would like to welcome the two individuals from my community.

You probably heard that there were people relocated from *Tujjaat* to Coral Harbour. I was just a little kid then, but one of our elders in our community was one of the ones who got relocated. I have known him since I was little; he was a very good boxer. At times, I thought that I would beat him, but he would always beat me up again.

I would like to welcome Johnny Nakoolak. And another Coral Harbour resident, my cousin, Mark Paniaq. I would like to welcome them to the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome three former colleagues, who work at the Kitikmeot Corporation, to the House. The first individual is Mr. Charlie Lyall. He is the President/Chief Executive Officer for the Kitikmeot Corporation. We are not quite sure if he's from Taloyoak or Cambridge Bay, but we will share him.

>>*Laughter*

Mr. Speaker, Charlie has been the leader for the Kitikmeot Corporation for I don't know, 15 years. He has been all over the world, Tokyo, London. I was on some of those trips and to southern Canada. He's one of Nunavut's strongest promoters. I think that we talked about once that we should have copyrighted the phrase 'Open for business' because it has been used so often.

The individual sitting next to him is Mr. Clare Basler. Clare is the Chief Operating Officer. Clare has been working for the Kitikmeot Corporation for 15 years. I don't want to date these guys, but it has been a long, long time.

I recognized Mr. General the other day. Mr. David General, he's the project manager of the Kitikmeot Corporation.

Just to give the House an idea of how busy they are: one of their companies, Nuna Logistics helped build diamond mines, the Ekati, Tahera, BHP. They are involved with Diamonds International Canada, Bathurst Inlet Road and Port, the Kitikmeot Cementation. In their spare time, they do some community work: 'Say No to Drugs' tour in the Kitikmeot and they provide some underground mine training for individuals who are taking it.

So welcome to the House.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to welcome some people that are originally from Baker Lake, Pamela Niego and her mother works at the Legislative Assembly office. Darlene Nukik, who used to live in Yellowknife, but now living in Iqaluit, she is the manager of Baffin Optical.

Right beside them there is Kaluk and Shane Niego who just came in from Ottawa. They are on their way to Alaska to participate in the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the rule is to recognize members once, but more and more people in Nunavut have to commute between two communities to do a job and to raise a family and Charlie and I share that. So he is split between Cambridge and Taloyoak so I would like to welcome him to the Gallery as well.

Clare Basler, I worked with and met with him many times on various projects. As well, I want to recognize David General who has done a lot of work for the Government of Nunavut, also when we were tasked with putting the framework together for the decentralization implementation plan. So he was the numbers man for that project. Again, I would like to recognize him and welcome him to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Curley.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 014 – 2(3): Government Contract Regulations Made Under the Financial Administration Act

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

1. Since April 1, 1999, on what occasions has the Executive Council of Nunavut exercised its authority under Section 5 of the Government Contract Regulations, made under the *Financial Administration Act* to direct a contract authority to enter into a contract notwithstanding any other provisions of the regulations?
2. The Executive Council is required by regulation to record its reasons for entering into or directing a contract authority to enter into contracts under Section (1) of the

regulations. What were its reasons for doing so on each occasion referred to in question number 1?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Written Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Written Question 015 – 2(3): Intergovernmental Agreements Between the Government of Nunavut and Other Jurisdictions

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Written Question is for the Honourable Paul Okalik, Minister responsible for Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and it has to deal with intergovernmental agreements, and IGA is the acronym, between the Government of Nunavut and other jurisdictions.

We know that on December 4, 2001, the governmental agreements made by the Office of the Interim Commissioner of Nunavut on behalf of Nunavut were tabled in the Legislative Assembly and made available to the public.

Mr. Speaker, the first question is:

1. Between the period of April 1, 1999 and January 31, 2006, what final intergovernmental agreements did the Government of Nunavut enter into with other jurisdictions?
2. What were the contents of each of those IGAs?
3. Between the period of April 1, 1999 and January 31, 2006, what amendments or changes were made to the IGAs that had previously been entered into by the Office of the Interim Commissioner of Nunavut?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Replies to Budget Address. Item 11. Petitions. Item 12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 14. Tabling of Documents. Minister Akasuk.

Item 14: Tabled Documents

Tabled Document 082 – 2(3): P/T – F/P/T Housing Ministers’ Meeting – September 22 to 23, 2005 in Liverpool Nova Scotia

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document; P/T - F/P/T Housing Ministers’ Meeting - September 22 to 23, 2005 in Liverpool, Nova Scotia. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): 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.

We'll take a break for 20 minutes.

Sergeant-At-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:09 and resumed at 15:35*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): Thank you. We'll begin. In Committee of the Whole, (interpretation ends) we have the following item to deal with: Bill 12. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with Bill 12 and continue with the review of the Main Estimates and Business Plan for the Department of Health and Social Services, followed by the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Are we in agreement to deal with Bill 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. For the record, minister, introduce your staff please.

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

Chairman: Thank you. I would like to make a reminder to the committee. As a reminder to all members, I ask that you refrain from any activity that will interfere with the proceedings of this committee. I made a reminder of this yesterday, and I remind you again today. Thank you.

Yesterday, we were on pages H-8, H-9, and H-10. Are there any further questions? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and her officials back to the House. Mr. Chairman, yesterday, I asked a question about what the rates were for foster care in Nunavut, and then we adjourned for the day. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The new rates that were announced in a press release on June 27, 2005 are as follows: the new rates for Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, Pangnirtung, Sanikiluaq, Iqaluit, Kimmirut, Whale Cove, Arviat, Cape Dorset, and Kugluktuk was \$43; for Qikiqtarjuaq, Hall Beach, Repulse Bay, Chesterfield Inlet, Clyde River, Igloolik, Baker Lake, and Coral was \$45; for Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, and Resolute Bay is \$47; for Taloyoak, Gjoa Haven, Grise Fiord, and Kugaaruk is \$50.

As well, there was consideration given to foster parents, additional allowances for foster children that required special care. So, there was a provision for that also. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I wonder if the minister could explain how, and not in great detail, but a little detail on how the Foster Care Program works in the different communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, for foster parents, the selection of foster parents, a lot of it is voluntary. Members of the community will identify themselves as expressing interest in becoming foster parents. During that time, the family is assessed through the social workers and they are provided training, and also have explained to them the guidelines applicable to foster parents which has been published and updated and distributed to every foster parent in Nunavut.

There are also foster parent associations in the Kivalliq as well as in Iqaluit. There is none yet for the Kitikmeot, but the selection of foster parents is voluntary in terms of self-identification by expressing interest. Training and explaining their roles and expectations is done through the social workers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for the information. I have heard in some communities, it's certainly happened in Cambridge Bay over the years, where there are times when we don't have foster care parents. We do have foster care parents, but we need some more foster care parents. They just do not seem to be

there. In those situations where we do not have foster care parents available, what does the department do with the children who need care? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The procedure that is followed by the caseworkers is first of all trying to identify an emergency placement for the foster children. If there are no foster parents in the community, then we would have to look at the alternatives of sending that child to other communities where there are foster parents that are willing to take the child.

If there is an emergency, then we have to look outside the community, but every effort is also made to try and recruit and promote being a foster parent through the association. That work is ongoing, but in the cases of emergencies we have to look outside the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the information. If the child has relatives in the community and they have not identified themselves as foster care parents, and there are no foster care parents, would the relatives of the child be approached to be foster care parents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madam Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That option is one that is available and if there is a family that has expressed interest in being foster parents, then the procedure would be to work with that family and go through the process of foster parent guidelines and per diems and so on; explaining the roles and our role to the family members who want to be foster parents. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Once a child is in the foster care home, how regularly or often do the social workers visit to ensure that the child is being looked after by the foster care parents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are no set procedures on the times the visitation is required, but the relationship of the social worker and the foster parents is quite regular and in that, it also depends on the case and the individual and the foster child himself.

For the most part, it is on a case-by-case with each child. So in terms of a guideline whether you are required to visit once a week or sooner, there is no procedure like that in

place, but rather the social worker handling the file makes a determination based on her judgment and the evaluation of the situation when and how frequent those visitation will be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

I guess what I'm concerned about is that there may be people who are screened to be foster care parents, I think most adults that look after the children, but there may be foster care parents out there who were screened to be foster care parents, but when they take in the foster care children, they don't look after them as well as the children should be looked after.

I'm wondering in those situations, how do you identify that the foster care parent that isn't caring for the children to the standard that the department wishes the kid to be looked after? And what do they do in that situation; do you take the kid out and find other foster care parents? What would you do? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The social worker or the case manager of that particular situation would make those assessments based on the child's needs as well as the foster parents. There's an evaluation and training that is also applied for foster parents. And if the social worker determines that the child is better off with another foster parent and there are concerns with that then the steps would be taken to address that.

But of course, the social worker involved with the file would make that assessment call. If there are concerns, then the necessary steps would be taken to correct that situation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. In situations where a foster care family is living in a house where they already have three or four kids of their own, or other foster children, and it's a two or three-bedroom house where they are clearly living in an overcrowded house, would the department put a foster care child with a family that's living in a house that has overcrowded living conditions? Normally, we would expect the child to have a bed to sleep on and not have to sleep on the floor. Do you assess those kinds of conditions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When a person expresses interest to be a foster parent, then those situations and conditions are reviewed by the social worker and determinations are made.

Sometimes in cases like I mentioned, we have to look at emergency shelters or emergency assistance from foster parents in the communities and depending on the situation.

If there is a specific concern of that nature in Cambridge Bay or in the communities, we would like to hear about that, but we have to look at it in the context of what and explain what or review the situation and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm not aware of any specific case like that in Cambridge Bay; I'm just sort of applying common sense logic, knowing the current conditions around Nunavut in many communities where families are living in overcrowded housing situations. It's well documented. I don't think you want to put a child into those types of conditions.

Can the minister tell the House how many children are currently in the protection of the Department of Health and Social Services under the *Child and Family Services Act*? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The June statistics showed that there were, at present, 295 foster homes and on average, 325 children are in care each month. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

Could the minister tell us how many group home facilities are located in Nunavut and where they are located? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to list the communities off the top of my head while Eric is looking for the list. There is one in Cambridge Bay, one in Iqaluit, one in Rankin Inlet.

Perhaps the member can clarify. Are you looking for information on children's group homes or adult group homes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister. I'm looking for information on children's group homes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information that I have is that there is a group home in the Kitikmeot Region, which is in Cambridge Bay, one in the Kivalliq Region and one in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. In those three group home facilities for children, how many beds would be available for the children? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In total, approximately 25.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. So, it appears that we have a huge dependency on foster care parents if you have on average 325 children a month in foster care. If 25 are in group homes, 300 are with foster care parents.

My final question on foster care for the minister: can the minister comment on whether it's possible for foster care parents to abuse the program by simply taking in 3, 4, or 5 kids into their homes at \$43 each, depending on which community you're in? It appears to be a very lucrative opportunity if it's \$43 per kid per day; 30 or 31 days a month. It's open for abuse if there are people out there that would stoop to that level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I finally found the list that I was looking for.

I think there has to be a distinction made here. The group homes that I listed are a bit different than the foster parent program in terms of service provided. The group homes provide services to children in need of care of medical and so on. So that's a little bit different than placing children in foster parent homes.

In the case of placing children with foster parents, again, the caseworkers review the situation before placing children in every home. Not every foster parent can take in four or five children.

If the foster parents are doing a good job, certainly the social workers would work with those individuals on a regular basis. At the same time, I think, to say it's a lucrative deal, I wouldn't say it's a lucrative deal. It's a need that we have in Nunavut, and the service provided by the foster parents is a service that we appreciate on behalf of the children that are unfortunately in the situation.

So every effort is taken by the social workers to ensure those children are protected and are treated fairly or adequately by foster parents. So I hear what the member is saying, but each social worker that is managing the file would review those situations and placements as the needs arise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I apologize if I have misunderstood the group home facility.

I was looking at the annual report that the Director of Child and Family Services wrote for 2005 and on page 8, he mentioned in the year 2004-05, there were 433 children receiving services in Nunavut under the *Child and Family Services Act*; 46 were out of territory placements due to medical or behavioural problems; 284 of these children resided in approved foster placements/extended family placements; 19 reside in Nunavut group homes; and 70 children remain in the family home while receiving the service. I took it to mean that the group homes were for children who needed special care. So maybe the director should clarify that when he publishes his next report.

With respect to the comments about a lucrative deal, I don't mean to imply that there are any foster care parents out there that are doing that. I would like to think and hope that foster care parents are taking in kids and looking after them as they come under the protection of the Government of Nunavut. That's why we have that program.

I am hoping that the social workers who place the children in the foster care homes are regularly visiting the foster care parents, and the foster care homes, to see how the kids are doing. I think they have to do those kinds of follow-up reports. I know there are files kept on all the children in the care of the Department of Social Services. So I am just hoping there are regular visits to make sure that the kids are doing well and are being treated well and they are having a happy life while they are in the care of the foster care parents.

I don't mean to imply that there is anything underhanded going on, but there is the potential for that kind of stuff in any government program where there is money being provided, if there isn't follow up and inspections.

Mr. Chair I would like to go to page H-9, and under Contributions, Shelter Programs, there is \$3,350,000 budgeted for shelter programs in 2005-06. In 2006-07, it's been reduced to \$1,956,000. This is funding towards organizations providing shelter facilities accommodating special needs individuals such as women's shelters and elder's facilities.

I wonder if the minister could explain why there is a large decrease in 2006-07. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all I would just like to, again, clarify for the record the information that is listed in the Superintendent of Child Welfare's Report includes not just foster children, but also children that are in care in our facilities. That could include children in beds in Iqaluit.

The children are in that care because the parents would not have relinquished the right to those children, but those children are in our care because of their medical condition. So the facilities are a little bit different. It's combined in that report and I think we have to look at that from the broader context of the line of questioning on foster parents.

Just to go back to the member's question, the transfer. The difference here was a transfer of functions and contracts for contribution services back to compensation and benefits to back to the government, and the mental health facility in Iqaluit was, in the past, contracted out and that has come back to Nunavut Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for clarifying all of that. Can the minister tell us how many shelters there are in Nunavut for women and elders' facilities under this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are eight shelter programs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. Can the minister explain to the House how each shelter in Nunavut...how it is determined how much money they will get for their operations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Shelter Program that we have contribution arrangements or agreements with would, again, depend on the size of the facility and the types of programs and services that are offered in those facilities. I will give you an example. In the case of assisted independent living for elders' facilities, there is some assistance provided by the Department of Health to assist our seniors or elders in living independently, and then there are other programs where we have elders that require 24/7 care.

So there's a difference in that type of service arrangement so the cost would be factored around that and based on the type of facility that's being operated that would basically outline what funding would be required to manage those facilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. On the same page, there's a program called 'Alcohol and Drug Programs,' funding to Nunavut municipalities to provide alcohol and drug treatment programs.

Can the minister comment on whether she has had discussions with the Minister of Finance to talk about using some of the taxes and fines collected through the *Nunavut Liquor Act* to redirect them directly to the alcohol and drug treatment programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Your time is up, if you have any more questions, you may let me know. Madam Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the former Minister responsible for Liquor, it is something that I had explored or considered in terms of options of how we can address the whole area of prevention and abuse prevention, but it has not gone to basically directing the taxes collected towards that specific file because everything goes through the general revenue.

In relation or in ratio of how much we spend in prevention programs, there's no connection made to that current sales of liquor in Nunavut. So other than having some discussion around that idea, I have not taken that file further to the Minister of Finance and Liquor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Madam Minister Aglukkaq. We are on page H-8, H-9, and H-10. The main estimates. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On H-8, there is a considerable amount of funds under Contract Services. Since 2004-05, 2005-06 has remained steady at around \$13 million and now it jumped up to \$15 million. I'm just wondering if I can get an explanation for that.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That increase is in residential care and that's costs for in and out-of-territory placements of \$1.14 million, an increase in the mental health for out-of-territory replacement of \$729,000, and that would be the difference between the previous year to this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What other contract services fall under that category? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: The font gets smaller.

>> *Laughter*

Okay. I can list and there's a broad list of contract services that we provide under this particular section. Examples are out-of-territory placements that I mentioned, as well as the placements that we have in Nunavut within Iqaluit such as the elders' facility, the youth facility, Rankin Inlet youth/elders' facility, Baker Lake facility, Cambridge Bay; so all that falls under the same category. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know my colleague touched briefly about the decrease in funding for the shelters, but another area I think isn't here that should be touched on, and he has also mentioned the fact of \$949,000 for alcohol and drug programs and that has been pretty stable, but also with the Status of Women and Family Violence core funding budget has just been stable at \$250,000. And I guess given the fact that we unanimously passed a motion here in the House in regard to family violence, I'm just wondering if there are any plans at looking at increasing funding there to help in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Recently, in November or December, actually, sorry, in January, the members will know that for the very first time a symposium was held in Nunavut to bring a number of service providers in all around the whole issue of violence against women.

This symposium was held in January and from that conference, we are expecting specific recommendations on how we can improve providing services to victims of violence throughout Nunavut. Once we have that information before us, I will be able to respond to the recommendations that we are expecting that will come out of that symposium.

The symposium, of course, attracted a number of people across Nunavut, so there were a lot of individuals that participated, over 100, I believe, in that. We are anticipating that comprehensive recommendations will come out of that.

So having said that, in terms of responding to the \$250,000 that the member made reference to, that specific funding goes toward the Qullit Status of Women Council, the advocacy group, but does not go towards any programs for victims of violence or the five shelters in Nunavut that we operate for violence against women. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the minister just indicated that there are five facilities across the territories for dealing with the violence against women, people that need a safe place to go.

Another place that is becoming unfortunately more and more apparent, especially here in Iqaluit, is the fact that there is a growing number of homeless women. I'm just wondering if there are any thoughts of looking at ways to try and address that issue through the Status of Women Council or through the department looking at gearing any funds to try and help address that issue.

I know that the shelter here has turned away women. Women aren't able to go to the homeless shelter here. I've had a few individuals in town mention to me that the men have a nice new shelter, and I know that falls under the Minister responsible for Homelessness, but as far as from the Department of Health and Social Services point of view, look at somehow trying to address that issue as well? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good point. I know that in my meetings with the Qullit Status of Women Council members, they have been very active in trying to push that whole issue forward as an advocacy group for women.

What those recommendations will be that that came out of their study, that's something that we can certainly look into. Unfortunately, as it is right now, the shelters that we operate are strictly for victims of violence and not homeless women.

I can certainly meet with my colleague, the Minister responsible for Homelessness just on that issue and see what we can try and come up with to assist with that issue as issues affecting women. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for that. I'm sure the Homeless Minister will be more than happy to sit down and meet with you to try and come up with a palatable solution that can provide some shelter to women that are homeless here in the Capital.

Mr. Chairman, my next question is, I mentioned in a Member's Statement earlier in the sitting about help for people with children with disabilities. I'm just wondering, the minister mentioned under contract services for out of territory health and that, under any of those contracts or anything that there is there to help young people with disabilities, are all those contracts under this division here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The facility such as the one in Chesterfield Inlet falls into that category.

At the same time, it's in the program in that if a child is disabled and we don't have the facility here, we have a contract from out of territory to place that child. That contract is also under this particular line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the minister which contracts they have in place for children that have hearing or speech impediments and also for visually impaired individuals. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contracts for those particular children that are placed out of territory are for that particular child's needs, and then we have facilities in Nunavut that we operate that are homes for children with disabilities. There's a bit of difference in that.

The other thing that we have within Department of Health and Social Services, some of those services are also offered through the physiotherapy centre that was recently opened in Iqaluit, for assessment and for the hearing impaired there is physiotherapy treatment that these people will need. So that is offered here. Speech language and audiology is offered here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering if an individual has a visually impaired child, what services or contracts are available for them to seek assistance for their child. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every individual's case is different; every medical situation or case for a child, or adult is different. So we have to look at the assessments made by the doctors, or whatnot, on a case-by-case basis. Once those determinations are made, then other considerations are made, as an example, whether that can be treated in the territory, or out-of-territory, and so on.

So it's not that straightforward in that the assessments have to be made by the doctor and then the next steps are taken. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess for a blind individual that is blind, that can't see, are there services that are offered here? Does the government have an agreement with a facility in the south to be able to address the needs of someone with a disability like that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I can go back and say that the situation per patient is different. Every situation is reviewed by the physicians and steps are taken to provide a range of options, or to look at the range of options to treat that particular patient. Every case is complex and every case requires a different solution, different treatments, and so on.

So if the service is not here, then we have to look at how can do that, and how we can provide that service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can appreciate how complex an issue it could be to try and find help for a child that can't see.

As the minister indicated, they take a look at it and there is an assessment done on an individual with a visual impairment that recommends going to an institution outside the territory, because we don't have one here. Is that something that is covered by the department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I'll say it's on a case-by-case basis. Every situation is different; every patient's needs are different. Those assessments are made by the physician; whether that service can be made available in Nunavut or not, or if we require looking outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question was...let's say you have a physician that says there is an assessment done on an individual and the assessment indicates that the individual needs services that are not provided in the territory, is that something that would be covered under this area of the budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In that particular section, the funding for that contribution falls to residential care placement of that child, or adult, or patient. That would be paid towards that facility where that patient's needs are being addressed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So is it the department who pays that or the federal government pays that on behalf of the department?

Who determines whether or not that individual can be approved to go a facility? Let's say it's a residential school for the blind for example in the south, an assessment's been done that indicates the child should be at a facility like that. Where does that money come from and who makes the call as to whether that child is able to go or not? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Within the Department of Health, there is a committee that reviews the needs of cases where it's complex. There is a team of doctors that review the cases that determine what the medical needs are of that particular patient, the team of professionals that decide that.

Sometimes it involves the...okay, it's not the doctors, but from within the department that reviews the cases and then makes a decision what corrective measures are needed to address that particular patient. Sometimes it's more than just health, but within the department, there is that committee that reviews the situation and makes that determination. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let's say the assessment is made that the young person should go to a residential school in the south because that's the best place for this individual.

And I guess I can't get an answer, or a government, or the Minister's officials to you know...if that's the case and those services aren't offered in our territory, would that be

something that would be covered if the assessment says that it's in the best interest of this child to go this facility outside of Nunavut because it's not available here? Would that be something that the department would pay for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have to be very careful in how we discuss this in a public forum.

I think the member is making reference to something that's out in the media right now and I have to be careful about that, but the situation about education and educational needs is a bit different than medical need. So I think those types of questions can be addressed more appropriately with the Minister of Education on what is covered through the education services.

I can only speak to what medical services that we can provide patients in need of medical attention in or outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wasn't speaking about any particular case, I was just saying in general if that would happen. It seems like, as the minister indicated, the case that's in the media the poor gentleman that's been bounced around by the government for the last four or five years now, has been bounced off to the former Minister of Health and the Department of Education.

I would think that a disabled child, who is blind, is a disabled child; that's a health issue. Looking after that child's needs is a health issue. I am a little disturbed to hear it pawned off by the minister as an education issue. I'm not even going to ask any more questions.

Mr. Chairman, it's pretty sad to hear a young boy's health, a disabled boy's health, being bounced around like that. I wasn't even referring to that particular case, but since the minister mentioned it, this is exactly probably why a case like that is in the media now: dealing with the frustration of being bounced back and forth like a basketball by the government. I can sympathize with his parents in just trying to get the help they need for their child and being played games with by the government. I think it's an embarrassment.

I'm just going to leave it at that. It's disgusting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. I didn't hear a question there, but minister if you want to respond to that. Madame Minister.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The matter is before the courts, so I will not respond to that in the Legislature. There have been some write-ups in the paper, and of course, there are always two sides to every story. Having said that, the matter is

before the courts and I will not respond to it, but I did make reference that it sounds particularly questioning, did sound very similar to some of the points that are being made through the media.

So we need to be careful and I am taking the precautions steps saying that we have to be careful of what we discuss in the Legislature of items that are before the courts. I just caution the member for that.

I'm not going to respond to it other than the fact that it is before the courts. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I'll get back to you later, Mr. Tootoo. Your time has expired, so I'll move on. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to deal with the dental activities part of the program's expenditures on this page to the promotion and treatment. I don't know how well the treatment part is doing. I have seen some money, and it's a welcome thing. Certainly, we need to do more with school kids. Schools are doing part as well for other government departments, other government agencies within health services and so on.

I want to address the treatment issue part because it seems like even in the large communities like Rankin Inlet, the service currently provided by the private dental services is really never all that reliable, in my view, because the number of constituents have wondered whether or not the place is shut down, or they have no dentist in town and so on.

Could the minister indicate to the House exactly what the status of the current dental services is in Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, the dental contract for the Kivalliq was recently renewed for an extension of three years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that extension. It is important. I don't know if the particular condition the government normally put into these contractors.

The dental services provided by the independent or the non-insured services, I am sure the fees these dentists charge the government is probably pretty normal. They are probably average, no less than any other dentists in southern cities would bill with the government forms or the public. Am I correct in that their credentials are established and therefore they charge regular rates for dental treatment, or dentures for all that matter, for services they provide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask the deputy minister to outline what we have agreed to in the contract of the dental services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Ramsden.

Mr. Ramsden: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The rate schedule or the fee schedule the dentists use to charge for each of the services is a rate schedule that the federal government sets and so it is constant across all of the provinces and the territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that response. Having understood that uniformity right across the country, what I am amazed at sometimes is that these dental services provided to the public are not the same. They are normally substandard, particularly the dentists and the services that they provide. Even the bonding of special materials that they use is not normally the best and average, and so on. I have many constituents that get pretty tired or fed up with going into that location because what they get are normally substandard dental implants and whatnot provided by the dentists.

Is there any particular way the government, in having the fact that they are charged the normal rates, that they should insist that they improve their products to the people in Nunavut, particularly the fact that they normally have to sign these bills even before they see the dentists in order to qualify that they will get at least an observation?

If my question is clear, can the minister at least indicate to us that she could insist that they be provided with the better products than what they normally provide? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member bringing up that issue. Within the territorial government, we regulate the service provided by our dentists and that can be something that we can look into. I think if there are specifics and specific areas the member wants addressed I am willing to look at that, but we regulate the services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I know that many of our constituents and the public out there, particularly in the smaller communities, would appreciate having a better product provided to them. The majority of dental services I know are normally not second rate and the fees or

whatnot are pretty hefty for the services provided. I would appreciate the minister, and I really think the government should have a responsibility to ensure whether or not the service provider really is satisfactory to the Nunavummiut and so on, particularly to unilingual people who normally have such a more difficult time because they can't really communicate the way they would normally with their uncles or relatives as to how good their treatments that they receive from because they don't have the clientele kind of a relationship with these professionals.

So would the minister undertake, again, do a maybe proper, at least a check into that and at least keep that ongoing because it is important. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with the member. I will commit to providing a review of that and report back to, not to the member, but the House on those concerns. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I wanted you to be aware of that because my constituents are concerned about that. Even though we have dentists in our community, especially the children are constantly sent down to Churchill, and even though we have a regional hospital in Rankin Inlet, when the children require dental surgery, will the contractors be able to do dental surgery or do we still have to send these four-year olds out of the territory for dental surgery?

My question is: what's the status of it now, and expand a bit on it in regard to children so that the children won't have to be sent out of the territory. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the cases where we have to send the patients out of the community for dental, that usually requires surgery. And in communities, as you know, we cannot provide surgery and have to go to the bigger centres to treat children, particularly dental surgery and they require the full anaesthesia, then they have to go down to Churchill, or to Yellowknife, or to Iqaluit for that service.

So unfortunately, that service is not always available; it's not available in the smaller communities, but the concern, I guess, here is that it requires surgery and requires us to travel out of the territory for that service. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): I didn't expect that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Very, very short questions, but first of all, my colleague was talking about foster parents and we heard that it's \$43 a day for foster parents. Is that the same as the residential foster homes? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): I didn't hear his question. (interpretation ends) The residential care is different from the foster parents' rate. Each child is placed in foster care and the foster parent is paid accordingly per child, whereas in residential care, we provide a contract to the people, the service providers, for live-in 24/7 care. So there's a bit of a difference there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, since it's that case, this \$43 per day, when we heard for the foster parents' fee, is that for the residential facilities? Could you elaborate further on the difference between residential care and a home foster parent? How much money are they paid? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try and explain the difference. The homes that we operate and contract out, I'll use Chesterfield Inlet's Naja Isabelle Home as an example. We have a contract for individuals to provide the services for that facility, and that's a 24/7 facility for individuals that require 24/7 care. Those individuals in care, it does not mean that the parents have given up parental rights to those children, but they're in our care for medical reasons.

The second point is that the foster parents are paid the foster parent rate based on the number of children. At the same time, if the foster parents have a foster child that has special medical or disability issues, then they are provided compensation for those special needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think you understood my question or maybe you can't disclose the information on the figure. I wanted you to disclose the number or the figure for home foster care; how much money they make per day.

The information that we received at \$43 per day for one individual child, but on these foster homes, they have to take care of their foster children because a social worker has brought them over to the home. How much money do they make for one child per day? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I apologize to the member if I misunderstood his question.

The information that I gave earlier to Member Peterson, the rates of \$43, \$45, \$47, \$50, those are daily rates per child. I hope that answers the member's question. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You still haven't responded to one question that I posed. For a home, it's a real private home, if they have a foster child, they would be paid the same amount per day per child? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Maybe I do not understand your question, but the rates I provided to that we released in June are rates per child, per house.

If you have more than two children, then you get \$43 times two. If the children have special needs, then there is an additional allowance given to the foster parents per child and based on need.

So if I'm not answering the member's question, I'm not sure if I understand his question.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. I have information here and I will look at the information that I have. I now understand the process.

On the same page, H-9, I have a question. Just to talk about it first, under Alcohol and Drug Program, many people don't really agree to the process. They are provided \$100 when they have employment opportunities and this individual who works on that program doesn't really understand how this funding would be used, whether it's for how we can provide alcohol and drug counselling and programs.

But this individual who has to do alcohol and drug programs, this individual who works there, even the municipality don't even know how and what this individual who works in that position. What they are supposed to do? They are supposed to provide services to alcohol and drug abusers.

For that reason, it states here, (interpretation ends) "Alcohol and Drug Program to provide alcohol and drug treatments." (interpretation) Perhaps turn it into prevention instead of...(interpretation ends)...I really have a problem understanding exactly what a

policy, or procedures, or guidelines that the hamlet may use to provide services to the community.

I wonder if the minister could provide me with an answer. What are the goals of this? Who supervises these employees of the hamlet because if you really don't have experience providing supervisory, hamlet council really don't have any experience providing supervisory to that particular person, but there's a problem: employees of the hamlet need all this support and directions he or she needs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. H-9 identifies \$949,000 and that's contributions that we have with municipalities for A&D counsellors.

But at the same time, we have received additional contributions through Health Canada in areas of prevention programs such as FASD, or prevention, or alcohol and drugs programs. So that category was under the area of healthy living.

The issue around the positions being in the municipalities of A&D workers, I think we need to re-examine that a bit more closely in that some communities are doing better than other communities in delivering the A&D program services and I will use Cambridge Bay as an example.

Cambridge Bay has been very proactive in developing programs for that particular type of services, and again, some communities are not there. And this is around an area that I think is weak in some areas and that needs some attention, and perhaps a review in how we need to address the delivery of this program.

At the same time, I think we also need to look at more closely how we provide the training. We do provide some training of A&D workers and the last training program took place in Rankin Inlet and that was offered to any A&D worker throughout Nunavut.

I agree with the member that in some cases we need to re-examine how that particular service or program is delivered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation ends) I have heard of these, you know, going out to one community, or getting together with the other workers trying to make their own directions and prepare what to do next and that, and making their own teaching materials, or prevention, or treatment materials.

(interpretation) This is a very difficult, challenging job and I'm sure these individual employees have to be provided some support and provide them with guidelines at their

community. I believe that there needs to be more information given out to the alcohol and drug workers.

I'm just talking about this issue and to also talk a bit about the same topic. Last year, I talked about it in the House in regard to eyeglasses and trying to obtain your prescription glasses. The case is still the same.

As a government, we use huge amounts of funds for the transportation of the contractors. Inuit already know that down south, you can get your prescription glasses within an hour or two. Providing they have a prescription, they purchase their eyeglasses and within one hour, they get their glasses and they can see clearly.

This money or the funding we provide to the contractors, it seems like they're just playing around. I don't think the government is strict enough. I believe we need to rectify this situation because sometimes we have to wait five or six months for our prescription glasses. They get their eye exam and they wait for many months.

The person who examines eyes, they should fax the prescription to the producers of eyeglasses and then send them out right away. I think the minister has to rectify this situation.

I'm not going to ask questions in regard to this, but I believe that you have to reconsider. (interpretation ends) It's costing the government a lot of money to provide that service to Nunavut. We need to improve that service. The time the person receives glasses, they're already outdated, or pretty close, and yet, under government policy, he cannot get another pair until after two years. Two years just about elapsed while he was waiting for one pair of glasses. It is ridiculous to try and baby the contractors who are doing that.

So I think there are a lot of services today available to those to make things go faster and better for those who need those glasses. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. I didn't hear a question there, so we'll just move along. I'm giving members who have not had a chance to ask questions the benefit. So, I'll go to Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very small, simple question. It is just for clarification.

I'm not sure what the policy or procedure that health and social services has in communities. I just wanted to know; if someone were to keep a child, if the foster parent or mother were home, does the social worker have to approve for that child to be in the foster home? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the social worker places the child in that home, we have to then approve it, (no interpretation) then we have to approve that home before we place a child in that home. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Madame Minister. So I cannot say I want that child, be it my niece or nephew or my grandchild, for a month or a week. If I agree with my son, or daughter, or my brother, or sister, to keep the child, it's not like that? Is that what I understood? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question very much because I think that's something that we need to say more often. As much as possible, we would like see more children placed with families with the assistance that we provide under the Foster Parent Program. The idea is to try and deal with issues to reintegrate children with families. That's part of the longer term.

In terms of having influence as to where those children are placed, definitely you have influence in recommending where those children can be placed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question is the foster home, or the mother, or the father, will they be governed by the social worker, or your department? Parents are getting the child welfare cheques. Where does that go? Does it go to the foster parents, or the original parents? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am willing to answer that question, but I need the member to clarify if he's talking about the income support cheques, or the Child Tax Credit cheques. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I'm talking about Child Tax Credit cheques. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand of that federal program, the person that is now caring for that child must file an application to the federal government to have that Child Tax Credit sent to the person caring for the

child. That information, it's been done before and I have seen that kind of information application forms before. It requires to an application to be made to the federal government to have that transferred to the person that is caring for that child. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. These are the questions that I wanted to get an answer on, so I got an answer, so I'm done. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. (interpretation) Are there any more questions? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before I was done, my time was out. I want to thank the minister for trying to caution me, but I don't think I need cautioning on that. I'm quite aware how the legal system works and what we can and can't say in here, but I appreciate the gesture anyway.

Maybe I'll try and ask this in a way that the government won't be scared to answer. I guess for parents with a child with a disability, whatever the disability is, I won't limit to any one disability, like the example that I used earlier, but any disability where services are not offered in the territory for that individual.

The team that the minister had indicated earlier had determined and after an assessment indicated that this disabled child, whatever the disability be, would be better off in a southern institution, or some place in the south where they could receive the specialized care that they require.

I'm just wondering, in cases like that, where there is this assessment done, and that does indicate that a disabled child should be placed in a facility, or a home down south, or some place else outside the territory to get those services. Is that something that is covered by the department through this area or this division in her budget? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The department does that right now. We have over 50 people in care out of the territory and, again, those cases are examined on a case-by-case basis.

We have said in the past that we are trying to provide more of those types of services in Nunavut and we are looking at constructing two long term care facilities. It is not children; it is adults there are a number of people that are outside. We do that type of arrangement today. We have no choice, but to do that type of arrangement and those assessments are done by the complex team that is involved in making those assessments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So then I guess the answer is yes to basically all the questions that I have been asking for the last little while. The minister just indicated, yes, that is something that would be covered under this part of their budget. I just want to make sure that my interpretation of that response is correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I mentioned in that, and I will just repeat what I said before, each patient is examined and the needs are assessed, and then decisions are made for placements. We spend over \$15 million a year in providing that service in our contracts. So I do not have anything more to add to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems like the government is scared to say yes in a case like this for some strange reason, but I will leave that one alone for now because it seems like I am going to get just as far as someone else did in this case.

Mr. Chairman, also on the H-10 there is \$213,000 for the Embrace Life Council and the last amount in there was in 2004-05 actual expenditure of \$157,000. I am just wondering if the minister can indicate how that money is going to be spent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Embrace Life Council is an organization that was established and that funding of \$213,000 is to assist the Embrace Life Council Organization and that is O&M and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that the Embrace Life Council was established in January of 2004 and last year, there was nothing in the budget. In 2004-05, there was \$157,000 in the budget. Is this going to be an every two year contribution? How come there was nothing last year and there is some again in this budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe in the previous year, that particular item was budgeted in another category of the Department of Health and Social Services budget. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a requirement for the Embrace Life Council to do an annual report and if there is, could the minister table that in the House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will do that. Thank you.

Chairman: It will be done, Mr. Tootoo. We're on pages H-8, H-9, and H-10. Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Total Operations and Maintenance...Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I thought you saw me the first time.

(interpretation ends) Thank you. I just had, under the Contract Services, my understanding is that elders' facilities provided to not-for-profit organizations in Nunavut is part of that \$15,241,000 I believe. I just wanted to let the minister know that we are grateful for the services these not-for-profit groups provide, because they do provide very important treatment needs, and therapy needs for elders who reside in those facilities.

I'm not going to single out any one community. I think in the Kivalliq region, Rankin Inlet has mainly a residential and not so much therapeutic programs or any thing, but Chesterfield Inlet has one that is a more advanced facility for handicapped people and so on.

So I want to acknowledge the contributions they are making to our needy people in those areas.

We also have a very large one here in Iqaluit, and all the other facilities. No doubt the government has an ongoing, from time to time, review of these services for those contracts with these groups.

I'm wondering whether or not the government has, in its terms and conditions, that the ongoing training needs are also included in that, or do they have to ask the government for training? To train more for providing for care, is that something that is part of the contract, or do they have apply separately to gain more experience in actually caring for the elderly? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. This is one that I've been having discussions in regard to it with my staff.

I think on a broader than just elders, I've asked my officials to look at all the facilities that we operate in Nunavut, whether it be for children, or adults, and whatnot, or the mental health facilities, and look at what their needs are, whether it be for operating for their training, for what kind of assistance do they need from us and what kinds of programs that they provide services in. It is an area that is a concern of mine that we need to pay more attention to.

Since 1999, there has not been a lot of movement in that in providing the ongoing support, the training and assistance to these facilities, and not only the area of financial resource, that we provided much more broader than that in that what kinds of services are provided in level one facilities, level two facilities, or level three, and also to look at what kind of care is provided to those patients that are living in different facilities, and are they meeting the needs and so on.

I've asked my staff to look at that and to act on providing what the needs are and go forward, not just on the financial side, and then to give the resources and stand back. We can't stand back, and we need to be more active in having and building those relationships with the organizations that provide this kind of service for us.

This is an area that I think that has been somewhat neglected in the last few years, and I want to respond to the member by saying that because I think it's long overdue, amongst other things, and an area that I think we need to give some attention in, and address those recommendations coming from service providers and what some of their needs are, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I certainly appreciate the minister taking note of the training requirements; I understood it to be that it was to address all aspects of these services that should be minimum standard that would be required to enter into contracting arrangements. I say that because these organizations do need the understanding of employee relations and who does actual care of these elderly people who are not able to get up anymore to take care of basic needs and so on.

So it's very, critically important, I don't think there has been enough of the minimum guidelines even as to who should be qualified to work in those facilities because if I had a labourer in the construction field, I don't think a person should be working in those kinds of things. That's one example I'm using as an extreme.

So we need people who really do have the compassionate care to work in those facilities and I certainly appreciate the minister and we look forward to the minister tabling an ongoing progress report on those areas to the Assembly.

(interpretation) I would like to thank the minister. Maybe I would like to direct my question someday to get the answer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to that and I would like to share with the Members of this House what plans will be in place to address whatever the findings are and I think we need to act on those very quickly. (interpretation) And I agree with the member. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): I would like to move a motion at this time to adjourn the meeting; adjourn the session.

Chairman (interpretation): There's a motion on the floor. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour. Opposed. The motion is defeated.

We are on page H-8, H-9, and H-10. (interpretation ends) Healthy Children, Families and Communities. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$42,430,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Page H-11. Health Insurance Programs. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, I was going to ask a question on page H-12, but I will ask my question when we get to that page.

Chairman: Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) As I stated yesterday, I would like to add further to my Member's Statement regarding the lack of decent services and resources for individuals with disabilities. I have chosen not to wait for consultations.

I was seeking support yesterday from this minister with the disability group, knowing we were approving a portion of the budget that allows for this minister and her staff to deal with issues as such through its operation, but my apologies to the minister and her staff.

Without going over the many difficulties, again, experienced by the individuals with disabilities every minute, every hour, and every day of the year, I want to try and suggest to the minister and her department of the need to change. The need to a change a policy, rule, or mentality to be able to help equip people confined to wheelchairs by medical professionals with proper motorized, battery-operated wheelchairs.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Chairman, every time I talk about people being confined to wheelchairs, I feel guilty, and I do feel guilty because that is exactly what they are confined to; a wheelchair. I'm sure, a wheelchair, you and I, or anybody around this

room, would never choose to live in. For example, you and I are greatly inconvenienced already when we get sore muscles from having done too much exercise or enjoyment from outdoor activities. I don't think I need to say any more.

However, to try and help develop a solution to this problem, we have to understand the problem first. I think that that has been achieved with the years of bragging about the lack of services and resources. Secondly, the option to change, I believe, is here and that the need to change is now.

In my view, the solutions I seek on behalf of my constituents and many more in Nunavut are small steps in comparison with great rewards. If you understand the benefits that this can provide and our priorities, which are the people, plus the security this brings along with the new opportunities is great with what the system has denied for too long.

My question, without going into the possible benefits and lack of, if the minister and this government agree we can provide benefits for people with disabilities, confined to wheelchairs now. Will she commit to lobbying her colleagues to change whatever policy, rule, or guideline is used to deny the plea for assistance by my constituents and others confined to wheelchairs over the next thirty days? Will she do that so that the people with disabilities can finally receive the long overdue assistance to finally receive hopes of independence with goals of becoming more self-reliant? Will she commit to that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for raising the issue around people with disabilities. Will I commit to reviewing whether we can provide that? Yes, I will commit to that.

From what I understand of some of the programs that we have to provide assistance for individuals or persons with disabilities such as wheelchairs, walkers, prosthesis, hearing aids, and so on, those are currently covered through the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. There's also some services provided through physiotherapy and occupational therapy services that are offered here, but that's not to say that we couldn't do better in providing services.

As well, the Council for People with Disabilities has been recently re-established. There were some challenges that they faced in getting up and going, financial difficulties that they had. I am confident, through working with that group, that we'll be able to address some of the recommendations that are also coming through that advocacy group for people with disabilities. I do agree with the member, yes, we need to work harder in this area.

I also will say that in trying to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, it involves more than one department's role, it involves looking at ways of how we can

improve the quality of life of a person disabled through other means, such as housing, such as education, such as employment opportunities, and so on.

It is much broader than health. I will commit to taking an active role and lead in trying to advance those types of thinking in addressing some of the needs of people with a disability in Nunavut. What will really help us in that is that we have a direct contact with an advocacy group that can recommend to us and monitor our work and work with them in trying to address them.

There is many areas that we can look at in trying to address improving the quality of life of people with disabilities, but in terms of addressing your specific question relating to the wheelchair, I will look into that and I would like to have specifics and more details from you outside of this room for privacy issues.

I will have my officials follow up and make sure that the officials, my staff, and health care are also able to provide the assistance in making the adequate assessments for what their needs may be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister, for that explanation. I realize that the task of putting this challenge for the minister to follow-up on the wheelchair issue.

I know this is just one very small problem that are faced by our people with disabilities and I believe if we are serious about finding solutions for these many problems, we have to deal with them individually and separately, and not claim that we have a solution that will fix all because I do not think that can be realistically expected over a given period of time. So it will be to handle each issue separately, which I am asking the minister to do with this.

Mr. Chairman, I hope my colleagues can support me with this because for whatever unexplainable reason if the minister does not get the support from her colleagues or partners, will she advise us immediately by way of letter or notification so we can know which group or people to lobby or go after, immediately after the 30 days? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will advise the member that same time. On a serious side, I also welcome recommendations and solutions and options from you in this House on what areas we need to address and I think that this is an area, again, we need to put more energy and focus within the department, and not only within the department, but also in partnership with the other departments and agencies, like the land claims groups and so on.

(interpretation) So I agree (interpretation ends) on that and I will keep you updated on our progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kilabuk.

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will just leave it at that for now and I would like to thank the minister and her officials for being able to discuss this. I will go on to another question later.

Chairman: Okay we are on page H-11. Health Insurance Programs. Operations and Maintenance. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$47,873,000. Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Mr. Netser.

Mr. Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a committee that is going to be leaving for Pangnirtung pretty soon, so I would like to report progress.

Chairman: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Netser. There is a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour, please raise your hand. Thank you. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress. Thank you, Madame Minister, and your officials. We'll see you again tomorrow.

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

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Netser. All in favour of the motion. All those opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

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

Item 23: Orders of the Day

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

Orders of the Day for March 3:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements

3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 9
 - Bill 12
20. Report of the Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): We will resume on Friday, March 3, 2006 at 10:00 in the morning. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms

>>*House adjourned at 17:30*

