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**DAY 24**

**Monday, March 6, 2006**

**Pages 1305 – 1374**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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*Chair, Management and Services Board*

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

(Nattilik)

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#### **Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

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

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

(Iqaluit West)

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

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

(South Baffin)

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

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(Kugluktuk)

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(Cambridge Bay)

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#### **Peter Kattuk**

(Hudson Bay)

*Regular Members' Caucus*

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

(Iqaluit East)

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

#### **David Alagalak**

(Arviat)

*Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Deputy Speaker; Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **James Arreak**

(Uqqurmiut)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

#### **Steve Mapsalak**

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*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)

*Minister without portfolio*

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Monday, March 6, 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. Peter Kattuk, Mr. Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

**Item 1: Opening Prayer**

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

>>*Prayer*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Good afternoon. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Picco.

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 072 – 2(3): Minister Tapardjuk Absent**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to inform the House that Minister Tapardjuk will be absent this week to attend the Arctic Winter Games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): I'm hearing both Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Brown.

**Minister's Statement 073 – 2(3): Visit to High Arctic**

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to report that in February, I had the opportunity to visit five communities and meet with the mayor and council in each. My travels took me to Grise Fiord, Resolute Bay, Arctic Bay, Pond Inlet, and Qikiqtarjuaq.

Mr. Speaker, these are challenging times for Hamlets and it's important for me to be in the communities and speak directly with the residents. It provides me and my staff a much better understanding of the issues they are facing and the opportunities for us to work better together.

Mr. Speaker, one issue that was raised in the fall by the Mayors of Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay, and their Member Mr. Barnabas, was the move to transfer CGS regional office responsibility for those two communities to our Cambridge Bay office. That change was intended to improve service and help even out workload, but the communities expressed concern.

I took the opportunity of my visit to listen directly to their concerns based on their experience of the past year and a half. In response to their request, I announced at my meetings with the two councils that regional office responsibility for them is moving back to the CGS Baffin regional office.

>>*Applause*

The Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay Councils were very pleased with this change.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to the residents of all five communities we visited for their hospitality and courtesy. I enjoyed my visit immensely and have a better understanding of their issues.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank Mr. Barnabas, the member here, for guiding us there in Arctic Bay and we had a very good experience; in the middle of the night, we attended a Co-op meeting. That was very exciting.

(interpretation) We had lots of fun, I also saw some people that I haven't seen for a long time because at the time, we used to meet for a long time at night. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

**Minister's Statement 074 – 2(3): Community Aerodrome Radio Station Technical Training Centre Opening in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to inform this House that a new training centre for observer-communicators will open in the Arctic College in Rankin Inlet in April 2006.

Observer communicators are essential to safe and efficient operation of our airports. There are 75 observer communicators in Nunavut and are all community-based positions and occupied by local people who have received specialized training. The training, however, requires 11 weeks of intensive study away from home.

Until now, training for observer communicator position has been available only from Fort Smith, Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, with the opening next month of the training centre in Rankin Inlet, this will change. Students will be able to get training in Nunavut; this is a great accomplishment.

>>*Applause*



Under a five-year agreement negotiated by the department, Nav Canada will provide close to \$1 million for the operation of the new training facility. Training will be done at the Kivalliq campus of Nunavut Arctic College in Rankin Inlet. Renovations to accommodate the new training facility will complete this month. Two instructors have been hired. The first group of ten students will begin their training on April 25, 2006.

Before concluding my statement, Mr. Speaker, I want to express on behalf of the Government of Nunavut our appreciation and gratitude to the Government of the Northwest Territories to Aurora College and Thebacha College for their excellent instruction.

Also, to the people of Fort Smith, for the support they have provided Nunavummiut who have traveled to their community for training. They have also been most helpful with the transition of the program to Rankin Inlet.

We all look forward to the official opening ceremonies for the Community Aerodrome Radio Station Technical Training Centre in Rankin Inlet, which is scheduled to take place on May 2, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

### **Minister's Statement 075 – 2(3): Revitalization of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to inform my honourable colleagues about our progress in revitalizing the Nunavut Teacher Education Program or NTEP.

I am pleased today to announce the release of the final report of the evaluation of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program. I will be tabling this report during this session of the Legislature, probably later on this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Teacher Education Program has been Nunavut Arctic College's most successful program for more than 20 years. A review of NTEP was undertaken to provide a thorough assessment of the program. This report provides recommendations to improve NTEP and serves as a starting point to increase the number of Inuit teachers at all levels in our schools.

Over the next few months, an Expert Panel will incorporate the recommendations from this report into the creation of a long-term strategic plan for the revitalization of NTEP.

Members of the expert panel will be announced in the coming weeks. Their extensive experience with NTEP and teaching in Nunavut will provide a great wealth of knowledge and ideas.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to updating the members with a progress on the revitalization of our NTEP program. I am certain we can all share in the lasting quality and success of this program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

**Minister's Statement 076 – 2(3): 2004-05 Annual Report, Nunavut Arctic College**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today, I will be tabling the 2004-05 Annual Report of Nunavut Arctic College. In accordance with Section 18 of the *Public Colleges Act*, the Board of Governors of Nunavut Arctic College are required to publish an annual report describing the activities of the college each year.

The report provides an overview of the programs and services provided by the college in each region as well as activities of the Nunavut Research Institute during the academic year of 2004-05. It also includes financial statements for the fiscal year of 2004-05. This report has also been approved by the Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that this year's annual report shows that College's accumulated deficit stands at \$310,000, reduced from \$1.6 million the year before. In addition, the report also shows that enrolment in programs remains very high with approximately a fifty percent increase in enrolment the past four years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Item 3: Members' Statements**

**Member's Statement 178 – 2(3): Members Peterson and Evyagotailak Absent from the House**

**Mr. Arreak:** Mr. Speaker, Mr. Evyagotailak will not be in the House this week, and Mr. Peterson will not be here either. Thank you.

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

**Member's Statement 179 – 2(3): Income Taxes**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to address an issue which Nunavummiut are all too familiar with: taxes. Mr. Speaker, it's that time of the year again when T4s are in the mail. People are getting ready to send in their personal Income Tax Returns. People in the south often forget that Inuit are paying taxes just like any other Canadian citizen. Inuit are not exempt from paying taxes.

Taxes are very Canadian. Let's take a moment to think about the many kinds that we pay as residents of Nunavut. We have Federal Personal Income Tax, and Territorial Personal Income Tax. We have the GN Payroll Tax. We have the Goods and Services Tax and we have the Fuel Tax and the Tobacco Tax and Liquor Taxes in Nunavut. Residents also pay local taxes including property taxes and municipal service fees. Businesses pay Corporate Tax.

Mr. Speaker, there may be a shortage of housing in the North, but I can reassure the House that we are in no danger at all of facing a shortage of taxes to pay. When it comes to things like Northern Residence Deductions that northerners are entitled to claim on their personal income taxes, we have not seen any improvements in some time. Mr. Speaker, I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker:** The member is asking for unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): I'll try, Mr. Speaker.

Most Nunavummiut whom I have spoken with are leery about moving too fast towards making more hamlets in Nunavut municipal taxing authorities.

I have noted that the 2006-07 Business Plan for the Department of CGS states that the department is working to explore all aspects of transitioning to taxing status. They expect to issue the final report with recommendations prior to March 31, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this report will need to be tabled and made available to MLAs and the public before final decisions are taken. I will be seeking commitment from the minister on this point. Before we add new municipal taxes to the burden of our residents, we must ensure that they are fully consulted and that they clearly consent to this being done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 180 – 2(3): Arctic Winter Games Athletes**

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the athletes: Shane Niego, basketball; Paul Niego, basketball; Bobby Tagoona, table tennis; Alma Itqiliq, table tennis; Jason Subgut, midget hockey; John Ray Mariq, badminton; Paula Piryuq, badminton; Zachary Niuqtuq, Inuit games;

(interpretation ends) Matthew Arnauyok, Inuit games; Patrick Kingilik, Inuit games; Miranda Uqayuittuq, Inuit games; Ryan Paungrat, wrestling; Kiah Hachey, 16 & under female soccer; Trent Aksawnee, 14 & under male soccer; Derek Mikkingwak, bantam hockey; LeeAnne McLean, basketball; and April Aupaluktuq, basketball. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 181 – 2(3): Congratulate Arctic Winter Games Participants**

**Hon. Patterk Netser** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the athletes from Coral Harbour that are in Alaska. There are 15 participants from Coral Harbour who have gone to Alaska; I believe it's their first day today.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and encourage three groups of students from Sakku School in Coral Harbour who are part of Team Nunavut going to the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska, as we all know. The three groups consist of three female wrestlers in the 60 to 71 kilogram category, four male wrestlers in the 57 to 75 kilogram category, and some seven girls under 14 who will compete as part of the Nunavut Soccer Team.

Mr. Speaker, I also have to congratulate them not only on working very hard to earn a chance to compete at the Arctic Winter Games, but also for the hard work they put in their fundraising effort over the past two years to help support their trip.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, Mavis Nakoolak, and my adopted daughter, Olivia Netser, Ashley Etuk, Selma Angootealuk, Kaleen Kaludjak, Brittany Pudlat, Shawnee Nakoolak, and their coach, Marilyn Bruce, I believe they were going to start the games today.

We also have our wrestlers, women: Odelia Imiqtaut, Caitlyn Netser, Lyn Imiqtaut. In the boys, we have: Aqaat Netser, Randy Kataluk, Aita Angootealuk, and also Matthew Netser.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate these athletes who are participating in the Arctic Winter Games in Alaska. We wish them a safe return. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 182 – 2(3): Standing Committee Meeting in Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For your information, the standing committee went to Pangnirtung this week, Mr. Alagalak's committee. They

were in Pangnirtung to have a public meeting on Nunavut Arctic College. James Arreak, Levi Barnabas, Alex Baldwin, Nancy Tupik, and David Alagalak, and we also have, of course, Mary Nashook and Blandina Tulugarjuk. I would like to thank them all.

I'm making a comment on this issue because the people of Pangnirtung were very pleased to see a Committee of the Legislative Assembly take the time and effort to go to Pangnirtung and to get their input on the Nunavut Arctic College. They were very thankful that the Legislative Assembly made that effort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

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

### **Member's Statement 183 – 2(3): Members' Hockey Game Fundraiser**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night, we played hockey, the Members of the Legislative Assembly versus the firefighters. We were doing some fundraising for the youth of Iqaluit. Mr. Speaker, I was a little bit disappointed our Premier, Mr. Paul Okalik, didn't score, but I can say that yours truly scored a few times and assisted six times.

I would like to thank Mr. Picco, Mr. Akesuk, Mr. Okalik, and Hunter, and myself who were able to represent the Nunavut Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 184 – 2(3): Members' Hockey Game**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be able to rise today after playing hockey last night and even, as my colleague so eloquently pointed out, our Premier was held off the goal list last night. He failed to score. He is playing like the initials of our former Finance Minister, Mr. Ng - No Goals for Premier Paul as our leader he was held off the score sheet in that aspect. He did say, however, that he got one goal that wasn't allowed. For the record, Mr. Speaker, a goal that is not allowed is not a goal. And he said that he got a whole bunch of assists, but we all know that it is the goals that count not the assists.

He had indicated to me that he was playing like a Toronto Maple Leafs player as the reason he did not score any goals. He passed me that note earlier today and I sent him back one saying did he take all night to think of that excuse for not scoring last night. All the rest of the members that played last night, as Mr. Barnabas pointed out, did score goals. Myself, I even scored on a penalty shot, thank you Mr. Picco, and that's something, again, that our Premier, our leader, he was the first one to attempt the penalty shot. I am very sorry to say that he did not even register a shot on net on a penalty shot.

Watching him skate last night, Mr. Speaker, I am sure as our Auditor General would point out this government has been a little bit slow in doing some of the things last night, and I am sure that she would make that observation watching our Premier skate last night as well.

It was a fun game. We had lots of fun. No one got injured this year. We actually won. I think the final score was 7-6 and maybe that is because our Premier was off the ice more than he was on, but I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the firefighters and the youth here in Iqaluit, to thank all the members that came out and played and for the few hundred dollars or more, the considerable amount of money that was raised for the youth here in Iqaluit, and a lot of fun was had by everybody. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 185 – 2(3): Members' Hockey Game**

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I wrote in a note to my colleague that I will play like a Montreal Canadian player next time I play, so that I will have better performance there on net. That is something I will commit to do for the next game.

But my colleagues neglected to note that I was probably the best fore checker on the ice. As all members know, I am in my forties now, so I have to change my skills around a little. So I am a lot more of a proficient fore checker and took away some pucks from the other team so they were not able to score on a wonderful goalie that played for us last night. So I must say our goalie, Crystal, was probably the best performer on both sides of the hockey arena. I must compliment our goalie and yes, I am a little sore, but I had a good workout.

I want to thank all of the organizers and the firefighters for joining us and allowing us some ice time last night. And for the next game, I hope to see more players from our side so that we can put on a better performance for the whole community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 186 – 2(3): Health and Education Committee Meeting in Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm too short, you didn't see me for a while. I rise today to inform the House that the Standing Committee on Health and Education had a few activities. It's more informative that way.

I think we have completed most of the communities that we were slated to visit, except for Coral Harbour. This weekend, we went to Pangnirtung and Arctic Bay. There was an

excellent turnout. There were quite a number of elders who attended those public meetings and we did get a lot of written feedback from the public about the Nunavut Arctic College. So that's going to be very helpful to the standing committee.

I would like to assure the people out there that your comments are not just going to be put on the shelf, but when we were on our way to Pangnirtung, it was dark, of course, and when you saw the ice, it seemed like it was water. I thought we had calm waters as I could see from the window; it was the ice, but because it had melted and frozen, it looked like very calm, open water.

After the meeting, we drove around a bit around town and it seemed like it was just in September, there's absolutely no snow in the town proper and I have never seen that in my lifetime and I'm not young anymore. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

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

#### **Question 208 – 2(3): Auditor General's Report – Qulliq Energy**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question isn't for the minister that failed to score a goal last night; no goal, no question. It's for the distinguished gentleman sitting next to him, our Minister of Finance.

Mr. Speaker, in the Auditor General's Report on page 13, I don't know if that's a coincidence, the lucky 13, Exhibit 2.3 talks about the reservations in the audit. There are a couple of them there. One that the Qulliq Energy Corporation is borrowing higher than it's allowed. The fact that they are borrowing \$4.7 million higher than allowed under the Act, I just wonder if the minister could give us an explanation as to why that was allowed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I am not exactly sure, but 2003-04; we don't know why they went over at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Hunter:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also on that page, on previous audits, there are also comments in there on reservations that write-offs for existing loan documentation for the board of directors was not available at the time of the audit. The annual report to the minister was late for one of the Crown corporations.

Could the minister determine whether or not that the corporation was able find the documentation for the board of directors' approval for the new loan and the write-off for 2002-03? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Simailak

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): I must apologize, Mr. Speaker, I have no idea. I have never been informed about this subject regarding the business corporation's financial arrangements. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: The Minister of Finance may not have all the details on this, but given that the Auditor's General Report deals with the main estimates and the public accounts, in 2003-04, there was a loan that the board of directors' approval was not available at the time of the audit. Could the minister indicate whether that approval has been found and provided to the auditors? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not received a response at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Mr. Speaker, would the minister undertake, from his colleagues, whoever is involved in this, to find out whether those outstanding issues have been dealt with to the satisfaction of the auditors and report back to the members? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister Simailak

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will ask the minister responsible and respond accordingly. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Barnabas.

### **Question 209 – 2(3): VTA Included as Income for Rent Determination**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be directing my questions to the Minister responsible for Housing. Since the new rent scale was introduced, other income has been included in the Income Tax and it has made the housing rent very high. So how come it has not been included in the assessment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Akasuk.



**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not really understand exactly what the question was. Can he restate it please?

**Speaker** (interpretation): Member for High Arctic, please rephrase your question. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the rent scale was renewed, the VTAs, Vacation Travel Assistance, they are included as part of your income and it will be taxed, and also, the Housing Association also includes the vacation pay. The person who is leasing or renting the housing unit has to pay a higher rent, so why is this the case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The rent scale is done based on the income or salary. When the salary changes or if the individual's salary is reduced or if they no longer work, they have to go the Housing Association office to reduce their rent. Perhaps they used their last year's income to pay the portion of their rent. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not understand that. For example, an individual takes a vacation for a month and they get vacation pay for the whole and that is included in their income for a whole year, and their rent increases for a whole year because of one VTA that they received. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akasuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The income is used to set the rent scale and that includes the VTA. I could look into that and to see why they have included the VTA. I will look into that and perhaps take the member's question as notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The question is being taken as notice. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

### **Question 210 – 2(3): Nunavut Arctic College Budget**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. As we heard earlier, the very good news about our revitalizing of the Nunavut Arctic College, and their deficit was \$1.6 million last year and there is only \$310,000 this year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Education; what budget cutbacks have you done because there was a huge \$1.2 million reduction and there is only \$310,000. Perhaps the minister can update the Nunavummiut which program has been cut off and also could he use an example for the budget cutbacks and update us on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I pointed out in the annual report of the college, there was a group of administrative as well as financial issues that has taken place within the college to reduce the budget, and that was the mandate I had given the board of governors almost a year ago. I met with the board of governors over the weekend and they are meeting here in Iqaluit. I passed on to them, at that time, congratulations on reductions of the budget.

Three major issues occurred to reduce the budget. One was the input of new money from the government that the members are aware that we did last year to help bring that deficit down. Two was the collection of accounts receivables and the better and more efficient administration on that. Third was the increasing in some of the fees that the college charges, for example, on third party funding to be able to bring forward a bigger revenue generation on behalf and for the college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister very well knows that cutting \$1.2 million from any businesses or private companies is a lot to reduce from one's bottom line, most corporations or companies normally don't have any pot of monies to access from in order to reduce the deficit.

So I would like the minister to be a little clearer because if the Arctic College has not cut any of its programs or spending, obviously, \$1.2 million is a huge amount of money to receive from one source. Could the minister tell us again what amount of money Nunavut Arctic College received in addition to their regular spending budget from Nunavut Government? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the financial year-end that is encompassing in this annual report, November 2005, the Government of Nunavut brought forward a supplementary appropriation approved in this House of \$1.2 million for Nunavut Arctic College. The majority of that money, as I said earlier, went toward the deficit reduction plan.

The college has not cut programs. For example Mr. Speaker, we have not eliminated any of the core programs that are base funded by the college including literacy programs, the NTEP Program, the Nursing Program, and so on.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the lion's share of the extra money that was received from the government went to the deficit reduction plan. At the same time, the college tried to tweak their budget to make up the sole differences.

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

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my question is really to try and get clearer information. If Nunavummiut are going to be asked to pay an extra \$1.2 million to reduce the deficit of one Crown agency's budget, then that's a lot to ask.

So were there any conditions attached for this deficit reduction grant, if I may use that word, to reduce Arctic College's deficit of \$1.2 million? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The college has an excellent bursar or finance officer position in Arviat. That gentleman, over the last couple of years, has done an excellent job in reviewing the financial status of the college.

The college only receives a little over \$15 million on an annual basis from the government and the majority of its funding comes from, to run other programs, comes from third party sources.

So we have put together a new financing model or formula for the college that I have brought to the FMB and now we have to cost that model out.

And the member, again, is correct when he suggested logistically as well as financially, the college has to tweak its budget to bring that deficit down. When I received the \$1.2 million supplementary, as the members will recall in the House, the majority of that money went towards that deficit.

The deficit is a result of ongoing problems the college has had over the last several years; it's not something that happened overnight. Now, we have got the college, I believe, on a stronger financial footing and I think that's reflected in the report that I tabled today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the minister be willing to table the deficit reduction plan and spending plan for this current fiscal year so that we may have a good understanding of exactly what it takes to wave a magic wand to reduce \$1.2 million? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to apologize to the member and to the House. Earlier I said, I think the *Hansard* will show, that in the report that I tabled, Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling the annual report after Question Period, and then the member will see in the annual report, because it actually reflects on upcoming issues and on the financial administration of the college, some of the plans that the member has detailed and they will become public knowledge.

But I want to again reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that the \$1.2 million of the supplementary money, the majority of that went to the deficit and that is one of the reasons we have seen the deficit reduced, but at the same time, the college was asked to tweak their budget and find some economies of scale and they have done that.

I will be pleased to present those during the Committee of the Whole, as an example, when we do the college budget, which will be in Committee of the Whole in the next day and a half, I would hope. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 211 – 2(3): Inuktitut Interpreter – Sanikiluaq Nursing Station**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a question that is a concern in my constituency, although I had asked this question in November to the Minister of Health and Social Services in regard to Sanikiluaq.

There has been a study done in Sanikiluaq. Because the population in Sanikiluaq is over 700, the concern is having one interpreter when lots of people have to go to the hospital. With the population survey, since we have one interpreter for the nursing station, do we have an adequate number of interpreters? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue around allocating positions based on growth is one that we are looking at across the board. I made some reference to it also in committee the last few days is that we need to examine the workloads of social workers and nurses in every community.

I have committed and directed my staff to look at it Nunavut-wide instead of by one community and to look at the distribution of our staff, so that is where that is at and the specific request to review Sanikiluaq has not been done, but it is part of the overall plan to look at how we allocate our positions by community and to also look at the number of cases people work under, whether it be social workers, or nurses, or doctors, and so on. So it is a much broader plan and I would like to have that plan sometime in the summer months before I can commit to looking at the allocation of additional PYs.

At the same time, member Kilabuk from Pangnirtung raised again in the House, support staff for various professionals in a community such as social workers. That is another piece of the review that we will also be doing internally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be directing my question on the interpreter issue. Has there been a study to see how many interpreters will be involved? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our plan is to look at the translators also, not just translation for the nursing station, but also for translation needs for social workers and so on. So it is part of the bigger picture and it will include the support staff for nurses and delivery of the program to the community level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 212 – 2(3): Auditor General’s Report and Problems Within Finance Department**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, my question is for the Minister of Finance and it relates to the Auditor General’s Report. Mr. Speaker, I think it is Chapter 4 that states the government does not provide timely financial information to the Legislative Assembly.

On page 25, paragraph 26; it indicates that there are basically four main steps in doing our financial statements and the audit. One of them being gathering information, the second one preparing a draft statement and it indicates here that the government took around nine or ten months to gather the bulk of the information needed by for Department of Finance. The second bullet says that it took another three months for them to provide the Auditor General’s staff with a first complete draft of the consolidated financial statement.

Also, Mr. Speaker, it indicates in paragraph 35 that one of the two reasons that it indicates that statements were unduly delayed was a bottleneck within the Department of Finance.

So I just wonder if the minister can elaborate, for the Members of this House, what the Auditor General meant by a bottleneck within the Department of Finance is causing a delay for the statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under (interpretation ends) paragraph 86, we use public sector accounting rules and some of these rules differ from the private sector rules with which most professional accountants are familiar.

In September 2005, it was the Auditor General's view that only three accountants within the department had experience with these special rules. (interpretation) One of the main reasons was that some of the staff were not familiar with the financial rules and procedures. There was new staff, changeover of staff and there were not enough financial experts who were familiar with the public sector financial rules. That was the reason for that delay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Also in there, as the minister indicated, it says, throughout this period, two of three staff with the necessary detailed knowledge had other main duties. One of them applied for and was appointed to a job unrelated to preparing financial statements and the second was serving as an acting assistant deputy minister with duties far broader than financial statements.

Mr. Speaker, I guess the question is: is it a priority for this government to make sure that they have the adequate resources, including human resources, to make sure that they can get these financial statements done in a timely manner?

When they see someone applying for a transfer out to another position, why would they allow that when they know that that's their busy time and they have to have those people available to do those financial statements?

Is the minister taking any steps for this year to make sure they have the adequate resources, as far as human resources, available to get this information put together in a timely fashion for the auditor? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we have rushed the procedure. We have more expert staff at this time. Also, the ones that are vacant, we are trying to fill as quickly as possible. Also, the staff out in the field, we are continuing to train, and we have been looking to make the procedures more streamlined. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I quoted earlier from the report, it said the government took nine or ten months to gather the bulk of the information needed for the Department of Finance. One would assume that when the word government is used here,

that's the government departments providing the required financial information to the Department of Finance to consolidate.

Will the minister confirm that there were delays in that by certain departments and would he be willing to provide a list of when the departments provided the financial information required by the Department of Finance to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is exactly one of the reasons why some of the financial statements were not on time. If I am able to table such a report, then we can table the report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Mr. Speaker, my understanding of this process is that the Department of Finance had put out a call letter to the departments asking them to provide information to them by a specified date. So I guess, to be more specific, I would like to ask the minister if he would table the call letter that went out to the departments with the date outlined in there when the information was required and also a list by department and public agency or Crown corporation with the dates that they did finally provide information to the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will table the reports if I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 213 – 2(3): Medical Ship**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask my question the minister of Health. A while back in Nunavik, there was a ship that went to the communities doing studies. Will they be doing that in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister responsible for Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not familiar with the boat or the ship in Northern Quebec. Can the member please elaborate a bit more? Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Mr. Arreak, can you elaborate more on your question.

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have heard that there was a ship that traveled to the different communities with a medical team in Northern Quebec and they conducted research; we have heard through the radio. Will there be a similar one in Nunavut? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with any activities of a boat in Northern Quebec related to health. I can look into it with my officials and get back to the member, but I am not familiar with any boat activities with positions in Nunavut at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 214 – 2(3): Credit Courses**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. Mr. Speaker, the elders and the adults from kindergarten to grade 12 are asked to do some instruction in Inuktitut in traditional knowledge.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister tell us if they are given instructions on Inuit traditions, are the students given credits because of that?

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At every community level, the local DEA has an opportunity to invite elders, for example, into the classroom and into the school. When the elders go into the classroom, especially, and I think the member is talking mostly from the K to six side, then any work that the elders do with the students is recognized by the school and by the DEA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is very simple: do the students earn credits when they are taught Inuit traditions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just said: depending on what we are looking at.

For example Mr. Speaker, the credits aren't the same for high school. So for example, in high school, you have to have 90 credits to pass grade 12 and there are core courses within that. Within that framework Mr. Speaker, there are programs and courses and



credits for Inuktitut language, language arts, *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, and so on, and those courses would have a credit option.

At the lower levels Mr. Speaker, as per course of the DEA and the school, elders come into the school and teach different programs and that is part of the total school curriculum. In that sense, there's a credit given.

So the answer to the member's question is yes, and yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then how many credits are geared towards those Inuit traditions? Is it for statistical, or culture, or language? What's the credit amount? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the high school level, a credit course is the equivalent of five credits. So as an example Mr. Speaker, I just received report cards from my kids. They take Inuktitut and they would get five credits if they passed the course. So that would be the credit and that's the maximum a credit can be for a given course during that school's semester. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that in Pond Inlet and in Arviat, of the people who do the curriculum, but I would like to find out exactly how they are given credits. Do they get exams on what the elders have taught? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As part of any type of credit program, and I guess we are referring to the high school level, there would be tests on the comprehension as well as the learning that has taken place in the classroom. So again, the answer would be yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 215 – 2(3): New Staff Housing Policy Impact on Staffing**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just commend my colleague, Mr. Barnabas. It's not very often that someone can get the Minister of Education to say yes all the time to anything; so a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Housing. I know since the new Staff Housing Policy came out, there have been a lot of concerns throughout the workforce not only here in Iqaluit, but also around the territory.

In last week's paper, I believe, the results of a survey that the Union of Northern Workers...I'm sorry; the Union of Northern Workers used to be the Northwest Territories...the Nunavut Employees Union did, the majority of the respondents to that survey indicated that there would be a mass exodus of employees leaving because of the high cost of staff housing.

Can the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation indicate whether this is actually something that they are monitoring to see if, in fact, that the policy is having detrimental effect on our work force? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, not even a year has passed. There were 237 that were surveyed and we have about 2,600 employees. We will have a better idea in the coming years on what kind of impact this will have on the employees because originally, this was going to be for five years in Iqaluit, and ten years in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay. Maybe after two or three years, we will have a better idea what kind of impact it has on the employees if they were to leave Nunavut because of that. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate whether his department or the corporation has consulted with the Department of Human Resources, that does the exit interviews for staff, to indicate whether that when they do the exit interviews, that is one of the questions on the exit interviews, so that they can adequately determine what kind of a factor, if that is indeed a factor, for people leaving work for the government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe I can talk with the Minister of Human Resources.

At this time, the people who have applied for positions in Nunavut, we can let them know ahead of time here in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, or Cambridge Bay of the Housing Policy to indicate to them, when they apply, what our situation is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that they will look at it in like two or three years. I appreciate the fact that the policy is very new, but if we do not take steps now to set up a plan to monitor it and see what the actual reasons for people leaving are, then in two, three, four, or five years, when we look for that information, it will not be available.

I guess what I am asking the minister to do is: will they, if they have not already, set up a plan from this year, when the policy was implemented, to find a way to actually track the reason for people leaving and see if they had left because of the high cost of staff housing? Will the minister commit to doing that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Coming from Nunavut Housing Corporation, yes, I still have to talk with the Nunavut Employees Union. We value our employees and offered homeowners assistance because we want to make homeownership more available to our employees and we should be able to market it more so they can obtain their own housing. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that the Homeownership Program has been expanded and can acknowledge the efforts on behalf of the corporation to try and entice people into homeownership. But again, my concern is for those people that have no interest of getting into homeownership, that are just here for short period of time.

I think you take a look at the Auditor General's Report, the perfect example of an area where we cannot retain or keep or attract skilled employees with an accounting background to do that. One of the things that are deterring people from coming is the high cost of housing. I think the government especially and all the members of this House need to be aware of that.

So again, I guess my question to the minister is to really commit to developing a tracking plan and providing the members of this House with a copy of the plan that has been developed tracking people leaving because of the high cost of staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will check into this further as to what else we can do because our employees are very important and we want them to be happy.

So I will check into this further to see what else we can do and how we can keep track if they are mainly leaving because of the high cost of housing or if there are any other reasons.

I do agree with the member that we have to keep track. We might even have to ask the Department of Human Resources to work with us as to what else we can do. If it is a fact that the employees are leaving because of the high cost of housing, especially for those southern employees, yes I do agree we have to keep a close watch on this. And for those employees, who already have their own homes, we encourage them to apply to work with the government and we have to make them more attractive too to attract northern employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 216 – 2(3): Federal Negotiations in James Bay**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. On the James Bay area, they are negotiating an agreement with the federal government and the First Nations around that area. Could the Premier give us an update on what is happening with those negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The James Bay Cree are still negotiating with the federal government, but they have not made any conclusions to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interperation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it was in 1999 when the first Legislative Assembly was elected. That was the first time I asked this question and I am bringing it up again. Do you anticipate a conclusion to these negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been some advances. For example, they are negotiating the Wildlife Management Agreement and it is going to be something similar to ours. If it is going to have an effect on the Inuit, then the Inuit will have to agree first of all. They haven't concluded the negotiations yet, so I can't really say exactly what's going to be included in the agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What kind of Inuit? There are quite a few different agreements around that area. Thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is where our rights are in there, and if there's going to be any effect on our Nunavut Land Claims Agreement then we would have to agree to it first. Thank you.

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

### **Question 217 – 2(3): Shift Work at Baffin Correctional Centre**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister that failed to score a goal last night, Minister of Justice.

Last week, I asked the minister in regard to shift length scheduled changes at the Baffin Correctional Centre, and in his response, I'm just looking at the *Hansard*, he indicated that in moving from a 12-hour shift to an eight-hour shift, he said, "...we have directed that the shifts will be eight hours and it will reduce the level of stress involved in the workplace. That is what we have done.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is: was there any consideration given into what the employees that are working at that facility wish, whether they would prefer a 12-hour shift or an eight-hour shift? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Minister of Justice, Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleague also neglected to mention that one of the other reasons was that we are having a very difficult time in recruiting more Inuit to work in that facility and that was one of the reasons that have been given is that the shift hours were not very conducive to Inuit with families here in Iqaluit.

So that's one of the main reasons why we decided that shorter shifts would be a lot more conducive for Inuit that happen to have families here in Iqaluit so that we can get more Inuit working in the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't neglect to say that, but my question was simply: did they consult with the staff that are already working in the facility? And from the minister's response, I would just ask for clarification. Given his response that they didn't really care what the staff already working at the facility thought, they were going to do that; do what they wanted anyway. Is that what he is indicating? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we are entitled to make decisions on what we feel is in the best interest of the public interest. That's our job. Our government is not run by employees quite frankly. So we do make decisions that we feel are in the best interests of our overall territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the minister have an idea of what the turnover rate at the Baffin Correctional Centre has been over the last two years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Premier.

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know that the Inuit employment numbers are just shameful, and I do hope to change that with the new hours and more active recruitment efforts of trying to get more Inuit in the actual facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will ask my second supplementary again. Does the minister have an idea what the turnover rate has been at the Baffin Correctional Centre over the last two year and also, if I can throw in there, since he has heard that one already, what has been the use of casuals out there as well? They have a hard time maintaining and retaining staff there to begin with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have all the figures readily available on the numbers so I will have to get back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 218 – 2(3): Medical Travel Problems**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. In the media, the minister stated that it was just a hiccup in the system and that was in regard to the people going for medical reasons and there being problems with transportation. Why is it that she just considered it as hiccups? The minister stated that she was going to be writing to the hamlets and the health centres. Why is it that she just considered those problems as hiccup? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think in reference to the situation about travel accommodations, I was responding to a question that some of the patients traveling, such as our employees, are entitled to benefits and some of them make their own travel arrangements when it comes to hotels. We cover their transportation costs.

For individuals that we make travel arrangements, applications that are covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program...I'll give an example, from Arctic Bay the patient is seen at the health centre, their travel request would be faxed down from the Arctic Bay health centre to the Pangnirtung office. The Pangnirtung office will then make the travel arrangements for the individual.

The situation that happened over the change, when we changed from having those travel arrangements being made out of the Iqaluit hospital for any patient traveling in north Baffin; there were some situations where some patients were discharged over the weekend and that there were no individuals available to make the travel arrangements. That particular situation was a result of a new physician that was in town and had discharged the patients over the weekend, but since then, the measures have been in place to correct that particular situation where a person was discharged and nobody was there to make the travel arrangements.

So some of these changes are resulting in some confusion and we have tried to address that by communicating to the service providers. At the same time, I have also committed to providing correspondence to the mayors and the communities and the health centres of the change.

The change, in itself, in terms of the patients receiving the travel arrangement for them, they would not be a change because administratively the change is between the Iqaluit hospital and the Pangnirtung office. The patient will still get their travel itinerary through the health centre or the boarding home. So internally, we made that change in keeping up with the decentralized model and to also improve the services for patients traveling in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are they still having patients stuck in town? You said that you sent these by fax, how come all these problems are not resolved yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the change from a week or so ago there were some situations that we had to correct. I am not aware of any since this weekend. If the member is aware of any situations and problems patients are

experiencing at the hospital here since that time, I would like to know who the individuals are and I will communicate with my appropriate staff to address the situation.

We are trying to improve the process and this will take a little bit of time, but at the end of the day, the change from the Iqaluit hospital to the Pangnirtung office, the patients receiving their itinerary will see no difference other than the fact internally we are making that adjustment.

If the member is aware of the individuals that are experiencing problems and being left behind, I am not aware of those, so if he can give me the names today, then I will be pleased to follow up with those individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Baffin region, do the patients know where to call or where to send their messages by fax? For example, if they did not have any travel arrangements, who do they get in touch with? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the patient is traveling from one of the communities and is left behind, then the contact would be the health centre in that community. If a patient is here and misses the plane or whatnot, then the next contact would be to the boarding home that they are at and a number in Pangnirtung.

I can share that information with the member and provide the contact information to the member as well as this House. Again, I would like to receive the names of those individuals that the member makes reference to so I can follow up and try and correct the situation.

At the same time, I will also commit to having that information available to and post it at the boarding homes and the hospitals and perhaps at the airport here in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 219 – 2(3): Baffin Regional Hospital Lease or Buy**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Finance. In our last round of standing committee meetings when a number of questions were posed to the minister and for which we have recently received a written response to, I would like to thank the minister for that, but one of the questions that was raised there was dealing with the hospital.



I am talking about the Qikiqtani General Hospital here in Iqaluit. The question that was raised was has it been determined yet if that building, the hospital will be leased or purchased. The minister has gotten back that there has been no decision made yet; they are waiting to hear on Qikiqtaaluk Corporation for a proposal. I understand that the department has written a letter late last year to QC asking them to address the lease versus buy option. I am just wondering if the minister could update us on that if there has been any progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not heard whether QC has responded to us or not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the letter that the department wrote to QC, was the contractor building the hospital and I am just wondering if there was anything in there that indicated what kind of premium would be acceptable on behalf of the government as to whether they are looking at leasing or purchase offer to give them some guidelines to look at in putting together their proposal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not seen a letter. I can look into that and inform my colleague. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know our GN leasing policy states that the premium will be acceptable only if leasing creates a tangible benefit sufficient to offset any additional costs.

My question for the minister or the Chair of the FMB is: in cases like this where they are looking at whether to lease or to purchase, and I know that's something that the Auditor General has raised in the past as being an issue, have they determined what would be that sufficient premium that would be acceptable on behalf of the government when looking at leasing versus purchase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have not considered whether we are going to lease it or buy it. We have not come to a decision yet, but the ones in Rankin Inlet and Cambridge Bay hospitals have been purchased. But the one here in Iqaluit, we have not made a decision on whether it will be leased or bought. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I understand that they haven't made a decision on it yet. Mr. Speaker, my question was: as the Chair of the Financial Management Board that would address an issue raised by the Auditor General in the past about some of the significant premiums that the government has paid for leases, has the government determined what would be an appropriate range for a premium to pay on a project or building or whatever that they would be looking at leasing as opposed to purchasing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to my colleague's question, at this point, it has been under consideration. We have not come to a decision yet about the Iqaluit Qikiqtani Hospital. We have not come to a conclusion yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Okalik.

### **Item 13: Tabling of Documents**

#### **Tabled Document 084 – 2(3): Legal Services Board Annual Report 2004-05**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the Legal Services Board Annual Report 2004-05. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Akesuk.

#### **Tabled Document 085 – 2(3): Response to Petition 03 – 2(3): Public Housing in Rankin Inlet**

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Response to Petition 03 – 2(3): Public housing in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

**Tabled Document 086 – 2(3): Final Report of the Evaluation of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program September 8, 2005**

**Tabled Document 087 – 2(3): Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report 2004-05**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to table the following documents: first, the Final Report of the Evaluation of the Nunavut Teacher Education Program, as well as the NAC Annual Report, the Nunavut Arctic College Annual Report for 2004-05. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

**Item 16: Motions**

**Motion 11 – 2(3): Legislative Assembly Appointments**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Section 42 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the appointment of a Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole;

AND WHEREAS Section 38 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the appointment of members of the Management and Services Board of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Section 17 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provides for the Legislative Assembly to appoint such committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Rankin Inlet North, that Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be appointed Deputy Speaker and that the appointment of Patterk Netser, Member for Nanulik, be revoked;

AND FURTHER, I move that the Honourable Edward Picco, Member for Iqaluit East, be appointed to the Management and Services Board and that the appointment of Peter Kilabuk be revoked;

AND FURTHER, I move that the Honourable Edward Picco, Member for Iqaluit East, be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges and that the appointment of the Honourable Leona Aglukkaq be revoked;

AND FURTHER, the last further, I move that Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung be appointed as member of the Standing Committees *Ajauqtiit* and Health and Education; and that he be appointed as an alternate member of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability and that the appointments of Patterk Netser as a member and alternate member of these Standing Committees be revoked.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The motion is in order. Comments to the motion. Question is being called. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

>> *Applause*

Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Exemptions Act*; Bill 12, *Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07* with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

We will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>> *House recessed at 15:21 and resumed at 15: 45*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): We can proceed now and we were dealing with Bill 12 and Bill 9. (interpretation ends) What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas:** 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:** Are we in agreement to first deal with Bill 12?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

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

**Chairman:** Minister Aglukkaq, do you have witnesses you would like to take to the table? Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, escort your witnesses to the Chamber please. Minister Aglukkaq, for the record, please introduce your witnesses again.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the fifth day in a row, to my left is Dave Ramsden; Deputy Minister for Health, and to my right is Eric Whitworth, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Health. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We are on page H-12. Health and Social Services. Before we all agree, I would like to remind members not to ask questions which are hypothetical or questions that are seeking opinions. I reminded you on Friday and I remind you again.

H-12. Health Protection. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$4,612,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** H-13. Treatment Programs. Any questions? Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The concern that I brought up in regard to...because of the size of the plane, a lot of times the patients have to wait in order to get home.

**Chairman:** Repeat please, Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk:** It was my concern last week that the capacities of the airplanes are too small and they have to have some patients left behind until the next charter. So I just want you to confirm that you will look into this and get back to me as soon as possible. It's just a concern that we request it, but I really want a change on this because people are concerned about it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will commit to that; I have committed to that before and reviewed the actual contract and what's actually been provided. There has been some contact made with the airlines and we are looking to what types of aircrafts have been used.

I will be following up, in writing, to the member. It's just a matter of getting that information collected and shared with the member, and to also try and address the issue

that in our contract that those airlines, if there is some discrepancy there that they adhere to the contract. (interpretation) I agree.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Any more questions Mr. Kattuk?

**Mr. Kattuk**: I have no more questions.

**Chairman**: Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and her officials. My question is who makes the ultimate decision on medical travel in case of emergencies or other basics. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The physician or the nurses that are treating the patient have the ultimate and final say on those medevacs. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They are required to fill out forms, especially if they have escorts, and they will have to send those forms to Pangnirtung. How long does it take to get an approval for those people who are leaving because of medical travel or that need an escort? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For a medical evacuation, emergency evacuation of individuals requiring emergency treatment in hospitals, that procedure is a little bit different than making travel arrangements for a scheduled doctor's appointment in Iqaluit or in Ottawa.

In the case of emergencies, the paperwork for travel arrangements is not done. The nurse, in consultation with the physician, will organize the charter request to evacuate the patient. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The physicians, how often do they visit the smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will get Mr. Ramsden to answer the question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ramsden:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the type of physician that we are discussing. The family physicians go monthly or more often than monthly to communities. Some of the specialists only go to some of the communities once per year and in other cases, twice per year. The schedule is something that is worked out between the nurses in charge, and our physician services group in the hospital here.

If we need additional services, they work through OHSNI who makes arrangements to get extra days of service for whatever physician is being demanded more service of.

Thank you very much.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsden. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the physicians go to the communities, they stay for very short times and there are a lot of patients that they have to see. If they do not have enough time to see the patients that they were supposed to see in the community, what happens to those patients?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As it is right now, we have 11 physicians on staff and sometimes we'll get specialists that come up from the south to provide services in the north.

As much as possible, those patients that are scheduled for an appointment, the physicians are organized when those individuals are coming up to the north. If it is an urgently required service, then medical travel is arranged for that patient and if the person can wait in the community for the next physician, then those appointments are also scheduled when the doctor comes in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sometimes, the physicians come to Iqaluit and my constituents, like the specialist when they come up, they have to see patients and sometimes, my constituents have to travel down to see any kind of specialist they have to see. And when the plane cannot come into the community, then those patients who were waiting to be seen cannot be seen.

So what happens to those patients when the specialists are up here and the plane could not go to a particular community? Sometimes they will not be seen for a year unless the doctor or specialist goes to Iqaluit or to the community. What happens in that case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Ms. Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In cases where, an example, if a plane did not make it to a community because of weather, then we would reschedule the appointment for the physician to come in to see the patients listed, and if there is an urgent need, then we would review those on a case-by-case basis. I mentioned earlier that if that is the case, then we would make the travel arrangement to have the person flown out by the community.

At the same time if there are increased needs of patients in the community to be seen by specialists or physicians traveling, then we would increase the time the physician is in the community. So the number of physicians or doctors is considered in this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a very short question I usually bring up in regard to the Escort Policy. Who is capable of traveling alone? I just want further information if, in April, this policy will come into effect. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our goal is to have the policy revised for implementation for April 1 this year. And at the same time, once it has been approved by cabinet and so on, that Communications Strategy be established or implemented as part of the promotion of the policy throughout the communities and the health centres, but at this point in time, the plan is to have it finalized for the new fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You have indicated that you would advise the House or the communities. Will it be through CBC Radio, or will there be community consultation before this policy is implemented, or are we going to hear it through CBC Radio or through media? Will that be the case? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My hope is to develop a Communications Strategy on the policy that will be broader than just CBC.

I would like to see a Communications Strategy that will have community workers such as Community Health Representatives speak on the local radios about that particular policy as an example, at the same time, through pamphlets; flyers for patients traveling.



At the same time, I would like the nurses or the physicians to hand out that information for travelling patients. I would also like to have that information available at the boarding home; that we cover a number of needs. And perhaps, CBC is one of those mechanisms, but I would like the staff to have an opportunity to put that plan together and then once it's all done, it will probably involve more than just one media outlet to promote that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Mapsalak.

**Mr. Mapsalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This will be my last question. I think you made it clear that the policies and rules for regional areas are all different. Is it going to be a Nunavut-wide policy rather than just the three regions? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The policy before was one policy in Nunavut. The problem with it was that there were some inconsistencies in how it was being implemented and applied.

The idea of revising the policy right now is to ensure that it's clear and there are guidelines that can be used by the people that have to make the decision in applying the policy at the community levels to minimize the inconsistency in application of that current policy. At the same time, to also communicate to our staff, as well as to the patients, what that policy is and so on.

The other thing that we're trying to incorporate in that is an appeal mechanism so that patients can go to one person within the Department of Health around the whole policy to again reduce the inconsistency in application of the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We're on page H-13. Treatment Programs. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under Treatment Programs again, looking at the back of your business plan, it has a financial summary that lists the total number of PYs. There is an increase of 60 PYs in this area. I'm just wondering if we can get an indication from the minister of what those positions are and where they're going. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Can you please indicate which page you're referring to? Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On our version of the business plan, it's H-28. I know theirs has always been a little bit out, but it has a financial summary by branch with a comparison of the 2005-06 and 2006-07 Main Estimates with dollar amounts and PY numbers, if that helps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to list by section where the change is in that area.

First of all, there has been an increase in this section by 26 positions for the hospital. First of all, I should explain under the Treatment Program Branch of the department, this includes the health centres, physicians' services, the hospital services, medical travel, and medevac budgets.

So there was a transfer of 12 positions, with the mental health facility transferred back to the Government of Nunavut. In the past, that was contracted out. There has been an increase by six positions at the Family Practice Clinic; approximately 26 positions for the Baffin Regional Hospital services; two boarding home positions that were originally located in Churchill were transferred back to the department in Nunavut; one administrative position was added to the Hospital Services.

I think that would be it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister said the new positions for the hospital here; I would assume it has to deal with the accreditation issues that they have; that they face.

Is part of that increase just for Hospital and Physician Services here is \$12 million. By the looks of it, it's \$26,743,000 last year and it's \$38,226,000 this year. Is that \$2.1 million that they announced in their press release last month included in those numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I ask the member to identify the page number where he made reference to the dollar figures? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's on H-23 in their business plan. Treatment starts on H-22 and carries over to H-23; there's Medical Transportation; Hospital and Physician Services; Community Health Centres. That's where I got the number from and the total of that gives you the total that we are looking at on page H-13. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The difference in that position, the amounts that he referred to are a transfer of the positions with the Mental Health Facility transferring back to the Government of Nunavut.

The other area is the Baffin Regional Hospital increase by 26 positions; and the appropriate budget to that; as well as the transfer of Rankin Inlet's budget under Hospital Services. We made some moves to a couple of positions and realigned the budget to our actual spending patterns. In that includes the Mental Health Facility; the Baffin Hospital; and Rankin Inlet's position. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister clarify: does that mean that the positions that are working at the health centre there were under Community Health Centres prior to the transfer into Hospital and Physician Services? Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That would be correct. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That clarifies the reduction in community health centres. She mentioned the hospital here and the health centre in Rankin Inlet, but there was no mention of the health centre in Cambridge Bay. Are they looking at transferring those positions around in there as well, or in which category are those ones in? Are they still under Community Health Centres, or are they under Hospital and Physician services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, in this budget item, the Cambridge Bay Health Centre is still under that Health Centre line item identified in the business plans. Perhaps down the road, we'll look at transferring that to the second item, Hospital Services, as we progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to get a clarification: what was the rationale behind moving them from Community Health Centres into Hospital and Physician Services? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the case of using Rankin Inlet as an example, the transfer of that budget was the birthing centre to the hospital. And basically, an analysis was done on comparable services and transferred from the Health Centre to the Hospital Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also following that part of the page, it shows the numbers that have priorities and one of them that they list there for 2005-06 was to fully implement the 'Closer to Home' Strategy. It said that for last year it had been incomplete, but it remains an ongoing priority for the department for 2006-07. I just wonder if the minister can update us as to what portions of that strategy have yet to be implemented and when do they expect to have them fully implemented? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That particular strategy is a very long-term strategy. The department is working on different areas. For example, the long-term care facilities are one example of that. It's still ongoing in the capital planning and with that construction still not in place, those services will continue to be provided out-of-territory.

At the same time, there are a number of initiatives internally where we are looking at trying to develop strategies around say, public health. Public health is an example of where we are going to do more long-term planning for prevention, to provide more services at the community level in the area of prevention.

The 'Closer to Home' Strategy could mean programs at the community level, or regional level, or within Nunavut. In some cases, as an example, with the hospitals opening up in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay, and eventually down in Iqaluit. Some treatments will be offered more in Nunavut than outside of Nunavut with those facilities coming on stream, but it's a very long-term plan. Part of that whole process also includes our training of staff, training of nurses, training of mental health workers, and so on.

So it's not specifically identified by the years and so on, but there are a number of initiatives overall that we are doing, but are kind of under the umbrella of that concept of 'Closer to Home.'

So to speak to one particular item, it's difficult to say at this point in time, but there are a number of strategies that we are looking at internally that will provide 'Closer to Home' care. Close to home care could be: you are receiving service in your community versus Iqaluit, or receiving services in Iqaluit, Rankin Inlet, or Cambridge Bay instead of Yellowknife or what not.

At the same time, people outside of the territory maybe can come back to live in Nunavut for their care. There are different ways of looking at that, so that's where that is at this point in time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just following along in the priorities for 2006-07, it indicates that the department wants to expand hospital and specialist services across Nunavut and mobile technologies to support exactly that 'Closer to Home' care. Can the minister elaborate on any plans of exactly what they are looking at of how they want to expand hospital and specialist services, and mobile technologies, and what they are looking at doing this year in that area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask Mr. Ramsden to respond to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Ramsden:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One example that I can use is in Cambridge Bay, in the new facility, there are plans to have scoping clinics where people have diagnostic services done in Cambridge Bay where before they used to have to have that done by the internal medicine specialist in Yellowknife. With the Rankin Inlet facility coming on stream, the only clinic that will have to take place in Churchill in the next six months is the oral surgery for children.

All the other clinics that people used to have to go to Churchill for are now going to be offered in the Rankin Inlet centre. Those are two examples where there is a broader range of services now or planned in very short time in Nunavut that used to take place outside of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is good to hear that some progress is being made and they are about to repatriate those services to Nunavut. I just want to look back to something that the minister had indicated earlier and that was under the Hospital and Physician Services where she indicated that there was the transfer back to the Government of Nunavut for the mental health services we get here in town. I just want to clarify: is it 12 PYs that she mentioned in that area and just how many PYs are included there?

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a transfer of 12 positions back to the Government of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that transition was something that took a little longer than was anticipated. Can the minister give us an idea of what some of the challenges were that they faced in finalizing that transfer? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand of this transfer, the decision to transfer was made in January of this year. In terms of what the decisions or what the challenges were prior to the transfer taking place, I started in this portfolio in June so the challenges before that, I do not know what they are, but I imagine the previous minister would be more familiar with what those challenges may have been at the time or else I can find out what they were. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A chance maybe the officials have an idea of what some of the challenges that they faced because I know that the minister had indicated it was announced in January or prior to that and it was supposed to take place at a certain date and it ends up not happening for a while after that.

So I guess I am just trying to find out what led to delays and what their problems were with the transfer. I can understand that the minister may not have firsthand knowledge of that as she was not in the portfolio at the time, but maybe her staff has an idea of what they faced. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I am aware of, the decision was made in January with the transfer effective date of April 1, 2005. So I imagine, between that time of the decision between January and April, the transition plans were in place. I can find out more of the specifics of what some of the challenges may have been during that transfer from my staff.

From what I understand, the decision was made in January, with an effective date of April 1, 2005. And I understand that timeline to transfer April 1, 2005 was met. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wouldn't mind knowing exactly what led up to the transfer and why, if there were any challenges they faced. Given that that has been transferred back to the government, is it costing the government more now to run that program than it did when that was contracted out? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Prior the function being transferred back to the Government of Nunavut, we were paying out \$1.475 million to provide that service. There has not been a significant change to that amount from what I understand. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Would the minister commit to monitoring this, I understand this is the first year of that happening, so that we can do a bit of an analysis as far as the cost to the government running it and what it was when it was contracted? Can they commit to monitoring that and providing that information say next year this time, when we're sitting around the *Qamutik* again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am in agreement with that. I had made a commitment and stated in this House also that I want my department to review all the facilities that we operate in Nunavut, whether it is mental health facilities, or group homes, or elder care services.

I would like an opportunity for my staff to review all those services and service arrangements whether we have them within the government or outside of the government. The top priority being that quality of care and services provided to individuals that are in those services are maintained.

I would like to see also internally that this be examined to ensure that we are keeping up with the times of change in terms of dollars, or in terms of training, and so on. The review will include not just this facility, but the facilities for group homes, as well as elders' homes and so on, on a broader scale.

If we are providing those services through contract means, then also to look at what those service industry needs are on a regular basis, whether it be training, or whatnot. I want an opportunity to examine all of that because since 1999 there has not been a review of those facilities, and I think it's long overdue to start putting our priorities in providing those services and quality of care services, should be one that we should examine on a regular basis. I will commit to providing all that information including this one to the House and to the members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated there were 12 PYs that were transferred over. Were those positions advertised out again as indeterminate government positions, or were they just people that were working there for the contractor

that automatically got slotted into indeterminate government positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, where there were existing staff, those people transferred over, and where there were vacancies, those positions were advertised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many staff were transferred over? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, there were about three or four indeterminate positions that were transferred over. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is the minister or her officials aware of what exactly those positions were; like was it housekeeping, was it a cook, was it a supervisor, what exactly were those positions for those individuals prior...for the contractor and then also, what are their positions that they moved to indeterminate positions with the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a supervisor and a couple of life skills workers that were transferred. In terms of what the positions are for the facility, I can get a complete list of those positions for the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister assure us that the individuals that were in positions, whatever they were with the contractor, were qualified to be in those positions as they are all moved into the government because we all know that in some cases, the government has different qualification requirements than would a private contractor would be looking at. Can she assure us that the people that moved into the positions within the government met the adequate qualifications to fulfill those positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, the Department of Human Resources was involved in the transition plan from the centre to Government of Nunavut and they were involved in assessing those individuals as well as the job descriptions developed for the GN.

So through that process, one would assume, but I can verify that information for the member through my colleague from the Department of HR of what procedures were followed prior to those offers being given to those individuals transferring to the GN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure because anyone who would want to make sure if they are going to put their clients there that you didn't have someone say for example, it was a cook there that moved into a management position; that wouldn't make very much sense. So I would appreciate if the minister could look into that and get back to us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will look into that and it is in our interest to have people in jobs that they are qualified for also. So I will commit to providing that information to the member and to everyone here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We are on page H-13. Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wanted to ask a question in regard to...perhaps a short preamble under Treatment Programs.

I want the minister to be aware that this is very beneficial not just for social health, but also for counselling services, whether it is for alcohol or drug programs, or whether it is for substance abuse, and to provide help to those individuals who ask for it. The individuals that want to get counselling or services, they don't usually get counsellors.

So some individuals were calling me, there was an individual who was supposed to go down to Manitoba, but he was very thankful because he wanted to get some help and he called me for support or help. These kinds of treatment programs are very useful in our communities.

These kinds of treatment programs are very useful in our communities to individuals. Are you preparing for those kinds of social programs so that they can be done at the community level? I am talking social intervention services.

So I was wondering if your department is now working on these services so that at least we can have those services at major centers. Perhaps the minister can respond to me. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a follow-up to a previous response I had given the Member of Arviat that the department is looking at the whole issue around how we deliver A&D programs, I think we have to look at that and in the concern the Member from Arviat had made was related to what kind of training programs are available to assist the A&D workers in a community or the mental health workers that are in a counselling capacity. As a department, I think this is one area that we need to look at and evaluate and how we are doing.

In some cases, some communities are doing very well, in other communities they are not doing so well. We need to look at that and try to address some of those concerns and come up with a Nunavut-wide strategy perhaps around A&D treatment. We do have some funding for that and we also have a lot of additional funding from the federal government in both where funding is related to A&D type initiatives whether it be FASD, but it is another area that I think we need to look at examining to come up with a strategy that would work for Nunavut, and for communities.

I do not know if that answers the question or not. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, I think that certainly helps. I know that the funding that is provided by the federal government, more or less, is not a lot in terms of the substance abuse, and so on, but I think in Nunavut, we do have serious other problems that families normally experience, whether they be justice-related where social intervention is required.

I note that in your business plan on page H-23, you stated in that objective that you do provide transportation where family or social-related incidents may happen. If an intervention is required, then that service is provided.

So obviously, many of the counselling requirements, treatments required are not in the particular community. If the intervention is required, particular to those that maybe have gone into law enforcement or justice issues, normally they are sent even before the trial has happened by the RCMP, but they normally, I think, ask social workers to pay for transportation or something. I do not know how that happened.

Do the RCMP normally send them out when there are family problems from particularly smaller communities before the trial or something that when they were sent out, did the police act on their own or did they ask your department to pay for these travels from point A to B? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I know in some cases where we have to intervene for, as an example, domestic violence we will send the family out, but I am not sure if we get involved in some cases where a person has been arrested and incarcerated, do we send them out or, I still do not understand your question, maybe you can elaborate a bit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I am not sure of that either; if it is related to justice issues. Does the police or the Justice Department pay for them to travel to communities? Is that considered social intervention, or do the two agencies work together because there have been places, a number of them; I represent a community where Rankin Inlet is a recipient of people that are sent whether they be social intervention.

I am not sure of all the circumstances involved, but I was advised by the social worker, not the departmental social worker, but the community worker, that we just don't have an accommodation; transportation it may be very easy. That's why I'm picking on that particular area.

Were you saying that you provide transportation services where intervention is required? Could you expand that maybe a bit more and tell whether it is considered intervention on page H-23 in your business plans? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member has raised a really interesting point. In cases where in social services, as an example, we are dealing with victims, we will provide what services are necessary for that victim's needs. In some cases, it may involve us removing that person or the families from the community. We've covered transportation for that. When it comes to the accused, I think that falls to the justice system; if I can try and distinguish the two services that way.

The challenge that we face in trying to provide those kinds of assistance is where do we place them? We are always challenged with placements of people that we're trying to assist in whatever service. In Nunavut, we all know that we lack some resources to provide this kind of assistance.

Strictly speaking from the social service standpoint, we would provide that travel assistance to the victims. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. One last question that I have really is that where intervention is required to those that fit in your program, not only the transportation is covered, but accommodations as well because in places like Rankin Inlet, unless you put them in the hotel, it's really quite difficult. I noted that one of the workers that approached me there who is a very dedicated worker said we just don't have any accommodations when interventions like this happen in places like Rankin Inlet.

I'm wondering whether or not your program can be tightened up a bit to ensure that people are not just left in the community without a place to stay. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll look at what process we follow, as an organization, in providing that type of service. This will also fall into the work of reviewing the work of social workers. I see in that we can look at those types of situations and ensure that we are providing a good level of service and quality of service to those individuals. I'll commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. We are on page H-13. Treatment Programs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$107,660,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Pages H-14, H-15, and H-16 are information items. So go back to page H-4. Health and Social Services. Departmental Summary. Details of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$224,790,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Do you agree that the Department of Health and Social Services is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister, and your staff Mr. Ramsden and Mr. Whitworth. Do you have any closing comments? Minister Aglukkaq.

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I would like to thank Dave and Eric for being here with me. At the same time, to thank all my staff that participated in preparing for this. And to thank every Member in the House for their comments and suggestions and recommendations over the last four days related to this on an ongoing basis. And I will follow up on the commitments that I have made, and thanks to everyone for their contributions. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We will now move on to Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. I would now like to ask Premier Okalik, Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to make his opening remarks. Minister Okalik.

**Bill 12 – Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07 – Review in Committee – Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs**

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon and thank you for this opportunity to address you.

I am pleased to present an overview of the department and its 2006-07 operations and maintenance budget.

This budget is designed to assist the government in meeting the priorities of *Pinasuaqtavut*. To meet our priorities, we must focus on developing and expanding our economy and creating a stronger cultural foundation based on Inuit societal values.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs provides advice and administrative support to the Cabinet; plays a leading role in interdepartmental coordination, information sharing, and internal consultation for governmental departments and agencies; oversees the overall coordination of the executive branch, and the development of the senior public service; coordinates intergovernmental affairs with a focus on supporting the Premier and developing Government of Nunavut positions on national, provincial, territorial, circumpolar and Aboriginal issues; and works to ensure that the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement* is implemented.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs provides leadership and management support so that government departments have the structures needed to deliver programs and services that serve the needs of Nunavummiut.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is also responsible for communicating the accomplishments, objectives, and policies of the government, both within the government itself and to Nunavummiut.

Our mandate for the second term is ambitious and I am confident that Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs will serve as a catalyst for all departments as they strive to work together to meet the priorities that we have set in *Pinasuaqtavut* for 2004 to 2009.

I am proud of our territory's accomplishments to date and I know that by working together we can carry out what remains to be done to meet our goals.

The total departmental budget for 2006-07 is \$11,306,000. This represents an increase of \$1,237,000 from 2005-06. This increase was due mainly to the creation of the Devolution Branch, which was allocated a budget of \$1,114,000 by the Financial Management Board.

The overall salary budget was increased by an additional \$123,000 as a result of the Nunavut Employees Union Collective Agreement.

The Executive Branch of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is responsible for corporate services, statistics, and communications, policy, planning and evaluation and provides support to the Utilities Rate Review Council. This branch also provides support for Cabinet and ministers' offices.

The Executive Branch provides overall management and direction, and is responsible for bringing forward the Cabinet agenda under the direction of the Premier, supporting Cabinet, and communicating Cabinet direction to the public service.

The Executive Branch also has the role of ensuring that Government of Nunavut departments follow *Pinasuaqtavut 2004-09*, incorporating Inuit societal values and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, adhere to the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, and fulfill the GN's mandate to decentralize government positions.

Through decentralization, Nunavummiut have been able to benefit directly from the establishment of significant government operations at the community level.

Our government will act on the recommendations of the Auditor General with respect to strengthening financial management across government departments and Crown corporations.

I'm trying to talk here. Thank you.

Any reallocation of finance positions will be offset by additions to program staff so the number of decentralized jobs in communities is not reduced. It is important that we work to fulfill the objectives set out in Article 23 of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to build a public service that is representative of the population of Nunavut.

This past year, the Statistics and Evaluation branches in EIA have successfully moved to Pangnirtung as part of the decentralization initiative. The office has been set up and is fully operational. Positions have been staffed and an intern is currently being trained to take over the Statistic's director position.

With a focus on economic development and opportunities for Nunavummiut, we are prepared to begin negotiations with the federal government regarding devolution so that Nunavummiut can more fully utilize the benefits from their abundant natural resources. At the same time, I will continue to lobby at the national level for additional funding and the lifting of various barriers to the development of our economy.

I will be assisted in this by the Intergovernmental Affairs Branch, which is responsible for the management and development of intergovernmental strategies, policies, and initiatives relating to federal, provincial, territorial, circumpolar, and aboriginal affairs through:

- Supporting and enhancing strong working relationships with other governments.
- Coordinating GN activities relating to Nunavut Tunngavik and the Regional Inuit Organizations, guided by *Iqqanaijaqatigiit*, and the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

The Government of Nunavut participates in Canada's ongoing negotiations with the following claims: Inuit of Nunavik, James Bay Cree, and with Athasbasca Denesuliné.

The Nunavik Inuit Land Claims Agreement is currently being distributed to beneficiaries in anticipation of the ratification vote in the fall. It is being reviewed by GN departments.

Canada continues to meet with Manitoba Denesuliné, Athasbasca Denesuliné, NTI and KIA on southern Kivalliq harvesting rights and land quantum.

In Sanikiluaq, the Hudson's Bay Interagency Group is preparing to make a presentation in Montreal on the East Main 1A and Rupert Diversion Hydro-electric Dam Hearings in May.

As you know, we have a new federal government and recently I had the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Harper on two occasions.

One on Friday evening, February 24, along with the twelve other premiers, I met with Prime Minister Harper in an informal meeting of the Council of the Federation. On Saturday, the northern territorial Premiers; Joe Handley, Dennis Fentie, and I met with Prime Minister Harper to address northern issues.

I am hopeful that the Prime Minister will develop a northern vision that includes devolution and recognizes the infrastructure challenges Nunavut faces and shares our desire to have Nunavut gain the tools needed to increase our economic contribution to Canada.

We believe that Nunavummiut should be the principal beneficiaries of Nunavut's natural resources. Devolution will strengthen Nunavut by giving our territory more responsibility over its resources and allow us to allocate resource revenues. The devolution process will build on the *Nunavut Land Claims Agreement*, bringing about a jurisdictional transfer of land and resource responsibilities. Through devolution negotiations we will seek a resource revenue arrangement that treats us as an equal partner in confederation without adversely affecting Nunavut's formula financing arrangement with the federal government.

The Devolution Branch has been established and a chief negotiator has been appointed. Devolution negotiations will begin shortly and hopefully be concluded by the end of 2008.

The department will also be home to a new initiative: an Energy Secretariat. At present, a nominal sum of \$35,000 has been set aside and until new resources become available, it will be funded internally by the department.

As you know, six departments and agencies have energy-related responsibilities.

Given that about 20 percent of the Government of Nunavut budget is spent on energy; leadership and coordination is absolutely necessary. One of the key responsibilities of the Secretariat will be to provide advice and support to the Minister of Energy. The Secretariat will provide leadership for the development of a comprehensive energy strategy and our dependency on imported oil.

It will also monitor energy-related issues and to develop options and recommendations on territorial energy policies, coordinate GN actions and provide options for Cabinet level decisions on energy.

Mr. Chairman, these are the highlights of EIA's mandate for 2006-07. I expect to continue to build upon programs and continue to advance *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as a strong influence in policy development.

I would be pleased to answer questions or address the comments of my fellow MLAs. Again, thank you for the opportunity to meet you this afternoon.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Premier Okalik. Do you have any witnesses to go to the witness table? Mr. Okalik.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Yes.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. Does the Committee agree that the minister go to the witness table with his officials? Sergeant-at-Arms, can you take them to the witness table, please.

Thank you. Premier Okalik, can you please introduce your officials for the record.

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my left, you know my Deputy Minister on Intergovernmental Affairs, David Omilgoitok. On my right is Terry Rogers for Corporate Services. I will be asking one of my other officials if there are any questions in regard to our office, in regard to Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. If need be, I will be asking John Walsh.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations have opening comments? Mr. Tootoo.

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



The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has reviewed the proposed main estimates and business plan of the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs for the 2006-07 fiscal year, and I am pleased to provide you with the committee's comments.

The committee noted that the department's proposed 2006-07 budget of \$11,306,000 has increased approximately 46 percent from its initial allocation of \$7,734,000 in 1999-2000. The department's proposed 2006-07 budget is approximately five percent higher than its revised 2005-06 main estimates.

Over the years, a number of concerns have been raised during the review of the department's main estimates and business plans. I would like to take a moment to make some comments regarding progress and performance in these areas.

In some cases, the performance of ministers and their departments in meeting their statutory tabling requirements has improved since the first few years of the Government of Nunavut's operation. In others, it has not.

Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has an important role to play in enforcing discipline in this area with respect to departments. The committee would continue to suggest that the annual performance bonuses awarded to senior departmental and Crown corporation officials be tied in part to their actual performance in meeting legally-mandated tabling requirements, as well as their performance in such areas as complying with the *Financial Administration Act*.

The standing committee is concerned about the observations of the Auditor General in this area, and has noted her recent observations with respect to the GN having a "history of breaking the rules" when it comes to such matters as departmental spending without Legislative Assembly approval. This is an issue that will receive more scrutiny during the committee's upcoming hearings on the Auditor General's Report.

The committee would also reiterate its call for ministers to formally table in the House all policies that are approved by the Executive Council under the signature of the Premier as head of the executive branch of government.

Although the committee is aware that the Government of Nunavut's policies are made available to the public through such means as posting on the Government of Nunavut's website, the act of formally tabling such items in the Legislative Assembly in a timely fashion serves to recognize and amplify the principle of the government's accountability to the legislature.

Indeed, the regular tabling of new and revised GN policies would serve to provide all ministers with the opportunity to make formal statements in the House on the merits of such policies for the benefit of all members and the listening public.

While the committee recognizes and respects the principle of confidentiality as it applies to Cabinet deliberations, its actual decisions should be communicated to this Assembly and MLAs in a more proactive and transparent fashion.

Members have been pleased at Nunavut's ongoing efforts to work with the Northwest Territories and the Yukon on tri-territorial priorities. All members of this House recognize that the recent change in government at the federal level has caused uncertainty with respect to a number of initiatives that had begun under the previous federal administration, including the important agreement reached at Kelowna last fall.

There are encouraging signals that the new federal government does recognize the unique challenges and opportunities facing Nunavut and the North. It is incumbent upon our ministers to make well-substantiated cases to Ottawa when it comes to such areas as federal investment in housing.

Mr. Chairman, on December 28, 2005, the GN announced the appointment of a Chief Negotiator for devolution talks with the federal government. The 2006-07 Main Estimates for EIA include a new devolution branch to manage this process. The proposed budget for this branch is just over \$1 million. The standing committee remains firmly supportive of the goal of achieving a devolution agreement with the federal government.

However, it is important that our government come to the bargaining table with credibility and confidence. The committee is concerned that our negotiating position for a significant transfer of responsibilities will be weakened if we cannot clearly and convincingly demonstrate to Ottawa that we are successfully managing our own affairs.

Frankly, we need to do a better job in addressing the financial management issues that the Auditor General has raised, and into which this standing committee has itself held hearings. This committee has been told by GN witnesses that there is a climate of "passive non-compliance" on the part of some GN departments and entities when it comes to following the rules and getting things done on time.

EIA has an important role in strengthening departmental compliance and performance. Improvements in this area will go a long way towards supporting our case that we are ready for devolution.

Last year, the committee encouraged the Premier and his Ministerial colleagues to account more frequently and formally to the House on their activities and achievements during the numerous federal/provincial/territorial meetings at which they participate.

While members are aware of the formal communiqués that emanate from such gatherings, the committee stated that our ministers should report back to the House more frequently and openly on their success in advancing Nunavut's specific priorities at such meetings.

The committee has noted that ministers have been more proactive in recent months with respect to tabling reports on their intergovernmental initiatives and activities. The committee hopes that this practice will continue.

The committee is of the view that the government needs to be significantly more proactive in keeping appropriate members of this House informed of developments with respect to the trans-boundary issues that affect such communities as Arviat and Sanikiluaq.

Members have consistently supported the government's efforts to impress upon our federal partners the need for funding arrangements that are not based on rigid and inadequate per-capita formulas, but on the real needs of the jurisdiction.

In turn, members have urged the government to be consistent and credible by dealing with the needs of our own communities, schools and other institutions in a manner that is not based solely on population numbers.

The committee looks forward to a productive working relationship between the GN and NTI, while urging the government to be more candid with MLAs concerning the rationale for its own position in areas where the two parties may have honest disagreements on specific matters, such as certain issues related to the development of regulations under the *Wildlife Act*.

The committee is aware that Justice Thomas Berger's Interim Report as Conciliator for the NLCA Implementation Contract negotiations was completed in August of last year. The committee would wish to see this document and the final report formally tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The GN's obligations with respect to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* are coordinated by the department. The committee recognizes that a degree of progress has been made to the Act on recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the committee itself. The committee looks forward to continuing its work in this area. The committee also notes that the government continues to work on developing a "privacy impact assessment process" for GN departments and public bodies.

In the past, the committee has taken issue with the government for paying only rhetorical tribute to the values of transparency and accountability. For a number of years, members have called on the government to be more transparent in a number of areas, and I am pleased to say that there has been progress. We are pleased to see that annual reports on the GN's contracting and leasing activities are now being tabled on a regular basis. The committee looks forward to the government also routinely tabling such information as salary ranges and bonuses that are paid to officials, as well as travel and hospitality reports, in addition to detailed government-wide reporting on grants and contributions spending. As the committee has pointed out before, the bottom line is this: the public has a right to know, in detail, where its dollars are being spent. Making detailed information

public on a routine basis also serves as a powerful deterrent against wasteful spending and abuse of process.

Mr. Chairman, one of our collective goals announced at the 2004 Arviat Caucus Retreat was to explore overarching legislation to govern the accountability of public bodies across the territory. Issues of transparency and disclosure need to be a part of this initiative, which should be led by EIA.

An important issue that needs to be addressed is a system for the registration of lobbyists. In a number of Canadian jurisdictions, the government has enacted legislation to regulate the registration of paid lobbyists. This is to help ensure that there is no secrecy when it comes to the public knowing who is acting on behalf of private interests. Generally, a public registry exists that clearly indicates who is lobbying on behalf of whom. This transparency is important when it comes to the public knowing who is attempting to make representations to government decision-makers, and on what subjects. We need such a system in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, it is disappointing to the committee that the department's business plan makes the questionable claim that "no major disruption of government programs and services" has occurred during the GN's decentralization process, although the same business plan does indicate that the government is "looking at various issues that are impeding the filling of decentralized positions." According to information revealed in a recent return to written question posed by a member, a total of 111 decentralized positions remained vacant as of September 30, 2005. Although this is an improvement over the 143 vacancies recorded in December 2004, it is clear that decentralization has not been an unqualified success. Last year, the committee suggested that the government consider undertaking a review of the costs, successes, and challenges of the decentralization initiative. In light of the recent Auditor General's Report, which addressed the issue of the impact of the GN's decentralized structure on its financial management practices, an objective review remains a valid idea.

Mr. Chairman, the committee has noted that EIA is proposing to establish a new Energy Secretariat within the department. This entity has been allocated \$35,000, as the Premier has alluded to, to "lead the development of a comprehensive Energy Strategy to deal with the territory's dependency on imported oil for heat, power, and transportation. The Energy Secretariat will monitor energy related issues and develop options and recommendations on Territorial Energy Policy and will coordinate GN action on Cabinet level energy decisions." The committee anticipates monitoring the work of this body with close attention.

Mr. Chairman, the last area that I wish to touch on is performance measurement. Members have noted that EIA continues to have a business plan goal of establishing a GN-wide performance measurement program. It's the committee's understanding from having met with the minister that one of the first priorities for evaluation is in the area of suicide prevention initiatives. This is a praiseworthy priority. The committee would wish

to see departmental business plans begin to explicitly incorporate performance measures that look at actual results and outcomes, and not just activities and outputs.

For example, one of the stated priorities of the Department of Education in 2005-06 was to “undertake the development of initiatives to address dropout rates.” However, it is totally unclear from that department’s 2006-07 business plan as to whether its activities and expenditures have actually had any measurable success in reducing dropout rates. We need to be able to honestly, rigorously, and accurately measure our own success in achieving such important goals, and be prepared to re-evaluate our expenditures and approaches if they do not produce results that genuinely benefit our communities and constituents.

On a final note, the standing committee would like to take this opportunity to warmly applaud the people of Nunatsiavut on their recent accomplishment. We look forward to close cooperation between our jurisdictions.

And Mr. Chairman, that verse concludes my opening comments. I am sure individual members may have their own comments or concerns as we proceed and I welcome them to take this opportunity to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we proceed, I would like to inform members of the following: according to Rule 77(1), you have 10 minutes to speak and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that, where possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates and try to avoid hypothetical questions and not to seek opinions.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Curley.

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. (interpretation) I would first of all like to thank the Premier and his officials. I’m sure you have a lot of work to do within your department. I have to go to the airport as my son’s plane was delayed due to weather in Rankin Inlet. They will be leaving around six o’clock. So I would like to have my opening comments before we go, or before I go, I’m sorry.

In regard to the Premier’s opening comments, even if it’s not today, I would like the Premier to give us some more information on the Energy Secretariat.

I think that it would be better if the energy issues were given to one minister because it seems like we are conflicting. If there’s going to be a secretariat, I think that everything else should go underneath if it’s energy-related. The Energy Minister hasn’t put together

a long-term strategy and it seems like there's a conflict in there. So we would want further information on the Energy Secretariat.

In the Keewatin region, in regard to the Denesuline and the Manitoba and Saskatchewan provinces, the Denesuline would like to get some of our land that has been claimed by Nunavut already.

Those are all confidential issues, but I can say that when we were negotiating for the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and when I was a Member of the Legislative Assembly in the Northwest Territories, the western Members of the Legislative Assembly asked a lot of questions and tried to get some information, even though it was on a confidential basis.

They don't want land; they want land that is rich in resources. It seems like that land that we're talking about is close to Arviat. It is land that has been used by the Inuit, all the way up to the Saskatchewan border. They are being negotiated by negotiators that we don't even see. It is going to have an effect on us. We have to work harder.

Mr. Chairman, I will be posing some further questions as we go along. I wanted to make my opening comments before I have to leave. I will be posing questions to the minister and I would like to thank the minister already.

When you are having discussions with the federal government, I want to assure you that the Members of the Legislative Assembly are in full support. We heard about the possibility of increasing the training dollars for trades training. So we would like to urge you, as the minister, to lobby hard. Of course, when we are talking about the trade's school, we are talking about utilizing an old building.

It would be a lot better if we got a first class building to train our people. There's also the issue of mining. They need electricians and plumbers; heavy equipment operators, and carpenters, and so on. They need journeymen; they need plumbers, so if we increase the number of journeymen they would be able to fill those positions in the mining sector.

We urge the Premier to work hard to lobby the federal government and Prime Minister Harper.

I'll leave it at that. I have to go to the airport.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the Premier and his officials. Again, mining is big within our government. When Nunavut was created, there were two mines that closed down and our source of revenue was lost. I think that we should be putting out more information on mining and the effects it has on the outlying communities. The communities are not informed about what's at the exploration stage.

I think the communities who will be affected or who are being affected should be consulted. For example, there's diamond exploration around the Igloolik area, and again in a nearby area. The people are concerned because they are not informed about what kind of impact that it would have. Of course, there will a lot of outsiders bringing the exploration crews in between our communities.

The hunters are concerned about what the explorers do in the communities. I fully support mining exploration in Nunavut because the communities that are close by are the ones who benefit from it. I know of this personally because of Nanisivik and Little Cornwallis Island. There were a lot of people from all over Nunavut who went to work in those two mines.

So I wanted to make those opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I have no other names on my list. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Mr. Chairman, first of all, I would like to welcome the Premier and his officials.

I'm sure you have heard this more than once, but while I have the opportunity I would like to touch upon the issue of the government and its reliance on the federal government, especially the gun legislation. It's very to do much about it.

The Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs has had a close working relationship with the federal government but in Nunavut, I think that your department has to lobby to ensure that it is processed faster.

I just came back from Pangnirtung, but the forms haven't gone into our communities yet. These people would like to buy rifles but they don't have the forms or anything to get the whole thing started. These individuals have been waiting for over a year because of the extremely slow process that has to go through.

For the information of the Premier, and to remind the Premier, this is something that is very important to the people of Nunavut that we represent. As the Government of Nunavut, we have always had a problem, and we're well aware about the issue of fisheries.

In our seas, on our lands, the tonnage is set by the federal government and not our government, especially for turbot fishing, we are concerned about that because the federal minister has allotted quotas that will be divvied up by the Nunavut Fishing Companies, but within the government, there are no personnel that can do that sort of thing within our government. There is one set in the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board, but our federal government, even when we're trying to get the fisheries off the ground, there are no personnel that do that. And I just remind the Premier and his officials that there is a need

and we have to set up some kind of strategy that deals with it and to remind the federal government about that.

Again, I brought this issue up in regard to policing; we hear the same thing about the problems that are encountered at the community level. We have to work closely together so that we find solutions to the problems.

I wanted to urge the government that we need a closer working relationship. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): I wasn't expecting that. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

I would like to welcome the Premier and his officials to the witness table. Please don't be intimidated by the regular members. We'll be asking a lot of questions.

Again, I would like to make a few comments on issues that need resolving. We have to remind one another about what is important to the people and that the people who elected us to these positions have to be kept informed. There are way too many people who are not aware of what the Nunavut Government is trying to do.

They are in the news everyday through the media and I think that we should be airing more government activities on the radio. For example, on Friday, the people were in Arviat and they were going to be talking about the Nunavut-Manitoba highway. I also heard that they were very receptive, but again, for example, they can talk to the people of Arviat because we are the closest.

Since all of the animals are from Nunavut and there's more and more species of animals migrating up north as it gets warmer, further and further north. Because of that, I fully support and not just on an annual basis, but possibly through the Regional Inuit Associations, the Nunavut Government and the birthright organizations have to be more open to each other and talk to each other about wildlife management and conservation.

Even though that's the case, in the Keewatin region, we have extremely bountiful rivers that can be managed, lighted up, and make them into recreation areas. Of course, we have to get approval from the federal government prior to doing anything like that.

So I think that we should talk about devolution and take on some of those responsibilities that are currently being held by the federal government. We should do that pretty soon and it's being considered by the Baffin. So I wanted to make those comments. I think that frontline information is extremely important. The communities and the people should be fully informed and get all of the information.

The Denesuliné in Manitoba have been quiet for many, many years, but when the Nunavut negotiations were coming to a close and when we were talking about



overlapping agreements and negotiating for the boundaries, the Denesuliné in Manitoba suddenly came about.

It seems like in most cases they go to meetings in Winnipeg or Saskatchewan. I think our Premier knows that when they are going to be negotiating or making demands, they tend to have their meetings down south and the Nunavut Government seems to agree to that. It's something that bugs me a little. If you are going to be demanding something, you approach the people that you are making a demand of.

So all of the money is going south and do you have to go outside of Nunavut to attend those negotiations or to listen to their demands? So all the money is going down there instead of going up to Nunavut; it's something that doesn't sit lightly with me. I haven't fully agreed to the present arrangements and the Nunavut Government is spending money on travel and the birthright organizations are spending money to travel also if they weren't funded by the federal government to attend those meetings.

So it's something I'm very concerned about and again, we don't know all the information about how the negotiations are going. I just wanted to make those opening comments before going into questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Alagalak. Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to make a brief general comment. I would also like to welcome you.

The Premier's opening comments about the James Bay dam in Northern Quebec; I want to reiterate that Sanikiluaq has a concern regarding our environment. We believe that Nunavut has to be fully involved when there is a possibility of contaminating part of Nunavut.

I would like to talk about what I have seen, or experienced when they built a hydroelectric dam. We used to go fishing in the area, but once they worked on the rivers for the hydroelectric dam we are now allowed to harvest fish that can't even sustain us for a year because these fish are being contaminated and that's what we are concerned about.

If fresh water is going to be poured into the ocean, the fresh water will be carried by the current and carried very far away into the ocean. So that is what we are concerned about. We are concerned about this and we want your department to know because we have seen and experienced the damming of the river and there is some wildlife that is regulated now.

Sanikiluaq residents are quite concerned. We eat ground fish in the Belcher Islands, and we also eat seals and we're concerned about those animals that we use for subsistence. So, I just want you to be aware of the fact that that's what we're concerned about.

Also, in regard to the overlapping around the Sanikiluaq area, Northern Quebec harvest from the same area as Nunavummiut and we are lacking information on that. Perhaps you could inform the users from both sides, to make sure that information is provided to both Nunavut and Nunavik, because sometimes we experience problems in the overlapping areas, and we know that there is an agreement and although we say we'll work closely with the Northern Quebec communities, sometimes there are some problems occurring, and I just want the department to know that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. I have no more names on my list for general comments.

We will now proceed with the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates starting with page B-5 in your Main Estimates 2006-07. Directorate. Operations and Maintenance. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,725,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** On page B-6. Communications. Policy Planning and Evaluation. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,311,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page B-7. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Statistical Summary. Total. Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under that Statistical Services, I know that was at one point a controversial issue on taking those positions out of Iqaluit and moving them to Pangnirtung. I am just wondering if the minister could give us an update on that on how many of those positions are filled with indeterminate staff right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand, they are all indeterminate; except one's a secondment for training purposes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I take it we are on page B-10. Is that correct; for Intergovernmental Affairs?

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. You're way ahead of us. We are on page B-7. Statistical Services. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** No.

**Chairman:** No? Statistical Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$453,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page B-8. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Statistical Services. Branch Summary. Nunavut Cabinet. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$3,982,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page B-9. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$31,000; it's more expensive than last year. Did the Commissioner's salary increase? Is that the reason why; the compensation and benefits?

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The commissioner is paid by the federal government and her staff has a small increase; so that's why there's a small increase. All the government employees had an increase in their salaries. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Premier. (interpretation ends) We are on page B-9. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Commissioner of Nunavut. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$227,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Page B-10. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am thinking that both the minister and I alluded to in our opening comments; that was the Energy Secretariat. I just have a simple question, hopefully. I'm just wondering why the Energy Secretariat is under EIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I and the Minister of Energy discussed this in quite a few meetings. I was trying to give the responsibility to the Minister of Energy, but he kept telling me that in order for energy-related matters to be coordinated properly that it should come out of EIA. So he convinced me after numerous meetings to

assume this responsibility because there are numerous other agencies like oil and housing matters that relate to energy conservation.

There are cross-departmental matters that should be coordinated as a government overall. So that's why we agreed that it should be under EIA for now. There's nothing preventing us from looking at this further and see if we have to create a new branch of government in the future.

So we are trying it for now in terms of trying to reduce the resources involved because EIA coordinates overall government activity, we felt that for the time being, we can work with all departments and try and come up with an overall plan as a government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The idea of consolidating energy-related issues would seem like a good idea. I know that that's something that the committee has been concerned about for a while. There are five or six ministers that have some kind of energy-related responsibilities.

Why EIA, regardless of what the Minister of Energy, whether he was begging you to do or not, why wouldn't that secretariat fall under the Qulliq Energy Corporation because if memory serves me correct, the *QEC Act*, the *Qulliq Energy Corporation Act* had three subsidiaries under it and one was the Nunavut Power, the fuel corporation and the opportunities corporation, which was supposed to do exactly what this secretariat is doing. So I'm just wondering why it didn't go there and why it went to EIA because it just doesn't seem to make sense. Are we going to be looking at amending the *QEC Act* to take out that one entity, that one subsidiary that's in there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We did attempt to try and consolidate fuel with energy and that didn't get favour from the House. So we are trying to do what we can with what we have.

So we are trying to consolidate overall consumption usage for energy, whether it be by power or fuel and trying to find ways to reduce dependence on fuel and either do it through a secretariat or where there's economies of scale where EIA has an overall responsibility for all government operations, we felt that, at this time, it should be for the EIA to try and handle this energy consumption for government and people of Nunavut overall. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want him to get me wrong; I think it's great that we have someone looking out for trying to find ways to conserve energy as we

all know that the utilities are the highest cost of living in the north where we are living and operating.

If you are looking at it from a government's perspective, or a homeowner, or a retailer, or a businessperson, your utility costs are probably the biggest bulk of your expenses.

Having said that, I thought that's what Qulliq Energy Corporation was formed to do, was to do all of that. It seems odd to me that something like this would fall under Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs and not under Qulliq Energy Corporation, which I think in the legislation has a section under there for that.

If the intent of the Act isn't going to be followed through on, then are we going to be looking at amending that Act to make it relevant to what we're actually doing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qulliq Energy Corporation currently provides power to all of Nunavut and that is their goal and their mandate.

What we would like to do is find ways to manage energy overall, whether it be fuel consumption or electrical use, find ways to coordinate the economies of scale and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels overall, whether it be generating hydro power, we'll be working with Qulliq Energy Corporation on those matters.

But overall, as a government, we have to do our part in conserving energy. Those things are cross-departmental issues that should be coordinated so that we have an overall energy policy that makes sense for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Premier Okalik. Mr. Tootoo.

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sorry, I didn't catch...I don't know if it was the switch of the mike going on or off, I didn't hear what the minister started off with.

I just heard; "...supplies power to all of Nunavut." Can he restate who supplies power to all of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Qulliq Energy Corporation provides electrical power, for example, for all of Nunavummiut, and it's trying to look for alternative ways to deliver power, whether it is hydro power or wind power.

But overall, as a government, we also use diesel fuel, and fossil fuels, and we construct buildings overall and houses, those affect energy consumption. So those are all the types of things that we would love to find ways to reduce energy consumption and do our part

to ensure that we protect the environment and do our best, and do a coordinated activity in all matters relating to energy for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought Nunavut Power Corporation supplied power to all of Nunavut and not Qulliq Energy Corporation.

In getting to the confusion that is out there, is it Qulliq Energy Corporation, or Nunavut Power Corporation, or are they one and the same? As I recall, when that Act came forward, there were three subsidiaries. One of them, as far as I know, the fuel one has been put on the backburner for now, but we never heard anything about the third subsidiary, I think it was the Opportunities Corp.

It looks like that isn't even going to be acted upon now as they have the Energy Secretariat within Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, and what the minister was talking about as far as overall ways to try and reduce the energy costs, I'm pretty sure it was the Minister of Community and Government Services, or Transportation that made an announcement earlier this year, or last year, on conserving energy within the government buildings.

So, when you talk about conserving energy and, I'd look at, it looks like to me, from what I'm hearing unless I get a better explanation of this is; we're duplicating services where you're having now, not two, but three, or four different bodies, if you look at housing separately pretty much looking at doing the same thing.

At Community and Government Services, the minister made an announcement that they're doing a thing to conserve energy on behalf of the government, and I know that the Minister of Housing, when they do their retrofits that they're always looking at building and designing more efficient homes.

I just think it's a duplication of services, and hopefully at some point in time, it says, "The minister says it's there for now." Maybe it doesn't need to stay there. They can take a look at that and re-examine whether it should be appropriately in Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs or some other portion of government or Crown corporation that they look at doing that down the road.

That's just a comment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member hit the nail on the head.

There are all kinds of wonderful things happening throughout this government, but there is no overall coordination. That's what we're trying to do with this nominal amount of

dollars to make sure that there is coordination and economies of scale in trying to reduce the consumption of fossil fuels.

There is nobody doing that right now. All the departments and agencies are trying to do their little thing, but there is no overall perspective of what we're trying to do as a government as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Premier Okalik. We're on page B-10. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Intergovernmental Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,019,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Turn to page B-11. It includes B-12. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Branch Summary. Aboriginal and Circumpolar Affairs. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$522,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Go back to page B-4. Oh, no. Turn to page B-13. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs, Branch Summary. Devolution. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$1,067,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Now, go back to page B-4. Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$11,360,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Does the committee agree that the Department of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. It's now 5:45.

I would like to thank the Premier and your staff. Do you have any closing comments?

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and my colleagues.

It was very interesting to hear what the comments were and I have no doubt that we will try and work together even though we have our own responsibilities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, very much, Premier, Terry Rogers, and David Omilgoitok.

(interpretation ends) It's only 5:46 and...Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to hear Education's opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman**: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. I would now like to ask Minister Picco of the Department of Education to make his opening remarks. Mr. Picco.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am very pleased to meet with the committee today to discuss the 2006-07 Main Estimates for the Department of Education.

The Department of Education is continuing the fundamental shift in our delivery of programs and services. This shift encompasses all aspects of our broad mandate – the kindergarten to grade 12 system, adult learning, income support, childhood education, and issues relating to the homelessness and beyond.

This year's business plan seeks to maintain the momentum we have with the delivery of initiatives we have set in motion over the past two years. Our priority is to continue the implementation of an education program that is reflective and valuable to Nunavut. The Department of Education remains focused on moving forward with this agenda and responding to the needs of all Nunavummiut.

In support of this fundamental shift, I have put forward a budget of \$184,268,000 for the 2006-07 fiscal year. This is a \$10,472,000 increase over last year's budget.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our initiatives for the committee.

There is an increase in the funding for the delivery of K to 12 instruction totalling \$44,243,000. As a result of improvements to the school funding formula, this funding will provide additional resources for teachers, as well as improve the quality of learning opportunities for Nunavut's children and youth. The department will continue to work closely with DEAs and staff in finding ways to enhance support for our children.

We believe Mr. Chairman, one of the best ways of setting and maintaining academic standards is through student assessment. Assessment tests for mathematics in grades three and six and for language arts in grades four and seven. To this end, we will be implementing a Math Assessment Project in all languages in grade three this year.



The issue of bullying in schools is a controversial topic. Bullying is not just a school issue; indeed, it happens here in the Legislative Assembly, it is a societal issue that takes place in our homes, on the street, and in our schools. In order for us to deal with this issue, we need to deal with it, with parents, with schools, with our leaders, and indeed, the entire community must work together.

The Department of Education will provide initial funding for planning the development of an academic component of the Inuit Cultural School, in collaboration with the Department of CLEY. This important program is one of the main priorities set out in *Pinasuaqtavut*.

We are also laying the foundation for trades training in Nunavut with continuing work on the high school and the adult trades education. The establishment of the Nunavut Trades School in Rankin Inlet will prepare our citizens for lasting careers.

Our department is also piloting pre-trades programs at the high school level, in an attempt to engage our youth to become involved in trades and participate in Nunavut's expanding economy.

Again Mr. Chairman, this fundamental shift is reflected in our continuing work to implement the Bilingual Education Strategy and create a new *Education Act*. Over the next year, the *Education Act* team will build on public consultations, making certain that the comments and concerns of Nunavummiut are reflected in a new Act.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College work closely to deliver quality post-secondary education opportunities right here in Nunavut. This year, we will provide \$15,889,000 to Nunavut Arctic College's base funding. Not only will these funds provide valuable learning opportunities for students, they will also help us in our aim to have a more seamless transition from K-12 to post-secondary education in Nunavut.

The Department's fundamental shift is also evident in the recent review of Nunavut Arctic College's Nunavut Teacher Education Program. This year, a strategic planning committee will be established to create a long-term plan for NTEP that will look at how to support the development of the program while increasing enrolment and graduates.

Initiatives like the *Young Parents Stay Learning* Program are indicative of our dedication to providing our students with the opportunity to continue their education despite obstacles. This program is designed to reduce the drop-out rate of young parents, while providing children with opportunities for early learning. This program pays 100 percent of the day care subsidy for parents under the age of 18, to enable them to work towards completing high school. This program is beneficial to both young parents and their children, and we are happy to be funding it again during 2006-07.

Mr. Chairman, work continues on the Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy. This momentum of the Adult Learning Strategy will also extend to the department's continuing work on

trades training, career development, and literacy. These areas will receive even more attention this year and I look forward to the advances we're sure to make.

This year, the Department of Education will move forward with the newly established Homelessness Secretariat, to work with all levels of government to develop an inclusive approach to delivering this vital public service.

In terms of new initiatives, the department recently signed a four-year agreement with the Federation of Nunavut Teachers. Expiring on June 30, 2009, it provides increases to the Nunavut Northern Allowance depending on community, as well as enhancements to parental leave, the dental plan, and accidental death and dismemberment insurance.

We have recently amended our agreements with the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation. This amendment provides an additional \$50,000 available to Nunavut students enrolled in post-secondary education. This program now gives \$304,000 annually to Nunavut students. In 2005-06, 310 post-secondary students will receive bursary amounts through this program.

During the upcoming fiscal year, the Department of Education will work also toward strengthening the District Education Authorities through skills training. As a result of formula funding, the DEAs and the Commission Scolaire Francophone du Nunavut will share an increase of \$398,000.

The fundamental shift that I have been speaking about over the past two years is evident in all aspects of the Department of Education. It is truly an exciting time for all those involved with Education throughout Nunavut. We look forward to continuing our challenging and rewarding work in the months and years ahead, and sincerely appreciate your committee's ongoing support.

Mr. Chairman, I will be pleased to respond to questions from the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Picco. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In recognition of the time, I would like to report progress. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion, please raise your hands. Opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Arreak.

### **Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 12 and the main estimates, and would like to report progress. And also Mr. Speaker, 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. Mapsalak. The motion is in order. All those in favour. The motion is carried.

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

### **Item 22: Orders of the Day**

**Clerk** (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder, a meeting of the Regular Caucus tomorrow morning at 10:00 in the Tuktu Boardroom with the Minister of Finance.

Orders of the Day for March 7:

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): This concludes the meeting for the day and we will resume our meeting tomorrow afternoon at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:10*

