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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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(Nattilik)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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(Iqaluit West)

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(Iqaluit East)

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, March 8, 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, Honourable Patterk Netser, Honourable Jobie Nutarak, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon, Premier, Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, and our staff. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 079 – 2(3): International Women's Day 2006

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is International Women's Day and I encourage Nunavummiut to join with people around the world to reflect on the progress women have made and the challenges women still face to ensure that they are afforded equal opportunities in our society.

As the minister responsible for the Status of Women, I stand today to reflect on some of the progress we have made. We are moving forward together in addressing women's issues.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a fundamental shift in attitude in our territory and I believe we should be proud of that. As an example, we recently held the *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* Symposium in Iqaluit, which attracted women and men from numerous communities both north and south to discuss solutions in ending violence against women.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, our government is working with various partners to develop legislation to help prevent family abuse and is also partnering with other organizations in research projects directed towards gathering data on areas where we need to concentrate our resources.

Just as important, Mr. Speaker, is how Nunavummiut are now working together, women and men, side by side, to improve the lives of all of our constituents. This will come about by the growing participation of women in our political process at the community, regional, and territorial levels.

In fact, we now have six mayors who are women participating in shaping policy and our head of state, Commissioner Hanson, is also a very accomplished woman.

Some Members: Hear, hear.

>> *Applause*

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Mr. Speaker, this is a renewal of the important role that women play in our society and it also highlights the partnership we envision for the future of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, it is up to all of us to encourage the women and men of Nunavut to work together as partners to build a better future for our citizens and our families. *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* should guide us in all that we do as we work towards finding solutions and addressing the challenges that women face on this day of international recognition and every day.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 080 – 2(3): 2006 Arctic Winter Games – Day Two

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate our athletes that are in Alaska. They won another nine medals yesterday in Alaska.

Congratulations go to the following athletes:

- Susie Pierce of Iqaluit won gold in the Women's Two Foot High Kick.
- Sean Nipisar of Whale Cove also won gold in the Men's Two Foot High Kick.
- Manasie Kendall of Iqaluit, who won gold in the 500 metre Speed Skating competition yesterday, is bringing home a second gold in the 777 metre competition.
- Philip Keenainak Verreault of Iqaluit won silver in the 777 metre Speed Skating competition.

For bronze medal standings, congratulations go to:

- Steven Klengenber of Kugluktuk for the Men's Two Foot High Kick.
- Joshua Bruce of Repulse Bay for the Junior Men's Two Foot High Kick.
- Isabelle Martel and Calvin Tilley from Iqaluit for Speed Skating.
- Our Open Co-ed Wrestling team also won a bronze.

(interpretation ends) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Members: Here, here.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 192 – 2(3): Recognition of International Women's Day

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize, I'm a little tired today; I stayed up late listening to a great hockey game last night. I was up late and I couldn't finish listening to the end of it; it was too late. It was a good hockey game last night, but listening to it is better than some members watching it. I can assure you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our grandmothers, our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our nieces, and our aunts. In short, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize that today, as the Minister responsible for the Status of Women indicated, is International Women's Day.

Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that women have come a long way since the suffragettes petitioned for the right to vote. However, there are still many indications that equality rights are still in question both internationally and right here at home where hard-won rights seem to be eroding.

Mr. Speaker, the women in this city work hard every day to make it a safe place to raise a family from the 'Take Back the Night' marches to tonight's craft sale and coffee house to celebrate International Women's Day. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite all members to attend the International Women's Day Craft Sale and Coffee House that will be held at the Inuksuk High School at six o'clock tonight.

Mr. Speaker, the fact that in Canada, as I said, a glass ceiling still exists and women make, on average, only 71 cents on every dollar made by men. When I look to the United States, I worry that women's rights are being eroded by newly enacted legislation. When I look to the events around the world, I see the murder of women by their family members being ignored, women are mutilated and little is done. Women do not have access to good medical care and those trying to provide it fear for their own safety.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, it is International Women's Day. Let me bring this statement back closer to home. Mr. Speaker, in Nunavut, our domestic violence, in my view, these cowardly acts of violence, our rates are shocking.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage all members to try and attend the events tonight to celebrate International Women's Day at the Inuksuk High School at six o'clock for the craft sale and the coffee house is starting at 7:30 and should, as usual, be some fine entertainment as long as Mr. Picco doesn't sing there.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 193 – 2(3): Nunavut Economic Development Strategy – Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to tell the House about an important initiative that is underway this week in the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, there's an expression that says when you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Too often, despite the good intentions, individuals, organizations, and governments fail because they didn't have a plan.

Mr. Speaker, the Kitikmeot Economic Development Commission is presently hosting a regional economic strategic planning workshop in Cambridge Bay from March 7 to March 9, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, delegates from all the communities in Kitikmeot are attending this important event. It includes representatives from elders', youth, and women's groups, the district education authorities, hunters and trappers organizations, hamlet councils and the private sectors. There are discussions of folks on planning to develop the Kitikmeot economy over the next 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Nunavut Economic Development Strategy and other studies will be utilized by the participants to set them in their discussions. The four key areas where they will agree to establish priorities are: our land, our people, our community economies, and regional economy.

Mr. Speaker, a key element of their economic planning will be the development of an implementation plan that identifies actions to be taken by communities. Mr. Speaker, we know from our own experience that when strategic plans gather dust on bookshelves and when no one takes on responsibility of the ownership of them, all we have done is waste a lot of time, energy, and money. There are no benefits when this occurs.

Mr. Speaker, the people in Kitikmeot are very proactive and forward thinking. They are not waiting for the Government of Nunavut to tell them how to create economic prosperity and opportunity for their communities. The Kitikmeot region is on the verge of a major economic boost and they are planning to succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in wishing the delegates every success during their deliberations at the Kitikmeot regional economic planning strategy meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 194 – 2(3): International Women's Day – Recognition

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What my colleagues just mentioned about international women's day, as Ms. Aglukkaq mentioned, and our colleague, Mr. Tootoo, I agree with their comments and I am very proud of all the women. As members here your spouses stay home and look after your family while you are here and they do patiently wait for you and they are looking forward to seeing you when you get home.

Way back then, when the men were out hunting, the women would stay home. And now even though you are not hunting, you are here. They are looking after their homes and your children. You will have a good home and I know that your family misses you because we do have a family too. Since today is International Women's Day, I am happy that they are recognized because they work very hard.

Way back then, it seems to be that we were equal. The men were out hunting and the women sewing clothing so that the men could be properly clothed. The way I see it they supported each other.

The reason I wanted to stand up today is that in our community of Rankin Inlet there was a woman who recently gave birth, Barbara Nakulaaq. I wish to congratulate them. They had a little girl. Stacy Anaruaq and Darcy Kablaaliq also had a baby girl. We welcome them to our community.

The daughter's name will be Kanajuq Kablaaliq, who is a relative. Her name will be Kanajuq and they have resided there for a number of years on Marble Island. They used to live in Marble Island, the Kablaaliqs and Putuguqs and Qilalaaq, who is still alive. I just want to mention that we do not hear those names anymore. I do not want to lose those traditional names. I believe Ms. Kablaaliq is listening and she is one of our elders and I am very thankful to her. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 195 – 2(3): Recognition of Wife

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to especially recognize my wife Alacie who I haven't seen for a long time. I would like to apologize to her and I'd like to recognize the women in this House today.

Sometimes we have weird dreams and in one of my dreams I was hitting my wife Alacie. I am totally against violence and in one of my dreams I hit her. In my dream there was a dog and I started walking, but his leash got longer and was going towards me, so I picked up a rock and threw it at him, but he kept coming towards me. It was very near and I was trying to kick the dog. What are you doing? It was my wife I had kicked accidentally. I would like to apologize in this House because I never want to do that to a woman.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 196 – 2(3): Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce Meeting – March 27 to 29

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform members that on March 27 to 29, 2006 in Rankin Inlet the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce will be having their annual meeting. I wanted the members to know, especially the Minister for Economic Development.

They'll be discussing the concerns of Keewatin residents in regard to construction and also in regard to Nunavut Housing Corporation, as well as the Nunavut Arctic College, trades training, the Manitoba/Nunavut road, and also especially the concern of the Kivalliq Marine Sealift contract.

They also want to get more information on apprenticeship trades occupations. We urge the minister to move forward with this. One of my colleagues says that there is too much red tape within the government and there are too many barriers for the businesses.

Just in case the minister didn't know about it, I wanted to inform them that they would be meeting from March 27 to 29, and on the evening of March 27, Charlie Panigoniak will be entertaining. So please come and you're all welcome. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 197 – 2(3): International Women's Day – Recognition

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise today to congratulate the women in my riding and my wife whom I'm so proud of.

Also, I'm so proud of women because they're so capable. Nanga from Resolute Bay has supported and helped all the residents of Resolute Bay and she's an elder. Her husband has passed away and she's very strong.

I would also like to acknowledge Qapik Attagutsiak from Arctic Bay for she has been living alone for some time. She is advising doctors on midwifery. I do want to acknowledge her capabilities. She is always invited by doctors to teach the elders on northern issues. I am so proud of her, so I would like to rise and acknowledge them. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 198 – 2(3): Women's Day – Recognition

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to say how proud I am of women and my wife, my daughters, and my mother whom I'm also proud of.

Also, the women are now being involved in boards and agencies. Just recently in the municipal elections, my two daughters are now members of the municipal council and they are starting to get into the political workforce.

The women are given some jobs that are at the lowest rate of pay and women do a lot more volunteer work than men. So they are the people that help on important issues on a volunteer basis and there are a lot more volunteer women than men.

We should not forget about the widows in our communities. At times, we have to consider them because they work very hard to try and keep their family together and to support them and their grandchildren.

Just so that we won't have International Women's Day just today, we should treat every day to be proud of women because they help us out a lot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 199 – 2(3): Hockey Equipment Donation to Cape Dorset

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to thank my wife and my daughters who treat me very nice even though we attend meetings every day.

I would like to talk a bit about an individual who works in Cape Dorset. The children from Cape Dorset received a donation from Brian Donlevy on behalf of Cape Dorset; 1,267 pounds of hockey equipment were given to Cape Dorset.

Mel Orecklin, who works in Cape Dorset, had been coordinating the hockey equipment to be brought to Cape Dorset. I also would like to thank the airline that brought up the hockey equipment. We thank them; Brian Donlevy, who came from Toronto; we thank them very much because the hockey equipment is going to be very beneficial to the hockey players in Cape Dorset. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 200 – 2(3): Canadian Armed Forces

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, a joint exercise between the Canadian Armed Force and our local Ranger Force was held here in Iqaluit. The Armed Forces benefit from working with and training with our local volunteer Ranger Forces across Nunavut. The training received includes cold weather drills, inter-force cooperation, and traditional skills to survive on the land.

Mr. Speaker, the Canadian Armed Forces are well welcomed in our communities across Nunavut. There is, of course, an economic spin-off to increased military activity and with the demonstrations of our sovereignty.

I have noticed that the forces still come in January wearing uniforms and outfits that were designed for use in southern Canada. The traditional armed forces parkas are well known by the wearers and many of our rangers as being obsolete north of 60. The wind pants are heavy and not well suited to activities experienced out on the land. The gauntlet mitts and wool hats with balaclavas are also below par.

Over 22 years ago, Mr. Speaker, when I saw the armed forces on winter manoeuvres, they used the same equipment they use today. Our soldiers should be outfitted with proper winter wear. I think if they put out a proposal call to the north and took some local suggestions; the forces would be more appropriately attired for the arctic.

Mr. Speaker, a case in point, wearing army green in a winter landscape is pretty laughable, but happens on manoeuvres all the time. Issues with machine guns freezing up and the lack of cold weather grease are also indicative of the forces lack of preparedness for equipment to operate here in arctic conditions.

Mr. Speaker, we are very proud of our armed forces, but we want to see our federal government give them the resources, equipment, and material to do their jobs North of 60. The whole point of the arctic exercises is to learn from the experience. I hope we see these changes with the new government in Ottawa in the coming months so that the

equipment that is obsolete will be changed so that when our armed forces come here to participate, they are better equipped. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 201 – 2(3): International Women's Day – Recognition

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is a very important day, International Women's Day, I rise to thank my wife first of all, for her patience and I would also like to thank...before the session I had to bring in the mother and her daughter who had been down in Ottawa for quite some time for medical purposes, but this special day, I would like to thank along with my wife, and along with members, the two women members at the Cabinet level.

Also, I would like to acknowledge the Department of Health and Social Services for supporting patients and also for providing services so that we could lead a better life. On behalf of all of our constituents, I would like to thank the department, my mother-in-law, Geela Sowdluapik, and my wife Rosie Kilabuk.

I would like to acknowledge them for coming to Iqaluit, and I would like to welcome them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 202 – 2(3): Thank and Recognize His Wife

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to thank first of all, my wife. I'm so proud of her because she is everything to us in our house. When someone gets ill or someone needs help or support, she is always there. She also helps out as a layperson in church.

She counsels many people when they have problems in their social lives. She is very important and she had gone down south to attend the revival church. I would like to say how proud I am. As she is growing older, she still is working very hard. I'm very proud of her. She provides help and assistance to anyone who requests it, and she never refuses anyone whether it is in the middle of the night; when she's needed, she helps out.

Also, I don't want to forget all the nurses in Nunavut because the majority of health centres are staffed by nurses that are women. Since today is International Women's Day, I would like thank the women and say how proud of them. I am for standing up on their own two feet, even though they may be going through difficult situations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 203 – 2(3): Acknowledgement of International Women's Day

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since today is International Women's Day, we acknowledge the fact that they provide a lot of help and I would also like to thank my mother who has passed away. I would like to thank her for her guidance everyday when she urged and encouraged me to attend school. So I have been trying to follow her words. Therefore, I was able to complete my higher education and I thank her everyday of my life because of her advice.

It is going to be very beneficial to me and I am very proud of that and I would like to thank all the mothers. I am sure that they care and nurture their children even though we parents cannot be there for our children all the time. And to our staff and also to my colleagues, I would like to say thank you to each and every one of you and also to my right, Deputy Premier Brown; I wouldn't even know where I would be, so I would like to thank her.

And to all the women, everyday is your day, but today is International Women's Day and I would like to say how happy I am for that. Thank you.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Tootoo: I would like to introduce in the Gallery a good friend of mine and a constituent, Mr. Jude Davidee, who I found here watching the proceedings.

Last week, he came in wearing his Montreal Canadiens shirt, but for some reason he did not want to wear it. Today, maybe it is because they lost to Toronto last night, but regardless of what he is wearing, it is always a pleasure to see him here in the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 230 – 2(3): Nunavut Business Credit Corporation Investments

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

Mr. Speaker, in the budget address last week, the Minister of Finance stated that Nunavut's future lies in a more diversified economy in developing long-term security and creating a positive environment where business industries in Nunavut see it as a good place to invest and to do business.

The Nunavut Business Credit Corporation is our lender of last resort to invest in businesses. My question for the minister is: since April 1st, 2005, how many businesses in the Kitikmeot has the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation invested in? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister of Economic Development, Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have no actual data of the Nunavut Business Development Corporation's statements. The actual approved version of the statements; I would also like to present the statements that we have approved so far to this date from the Business Credit Development Corporation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Just to clarify, I am looking for information from the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation. Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General's Report on page 40 stated that Nunavut's smallest Crown corporation had only a handful of employees. In March 2005, the corporation's comptroller left the government. By the following October, the position had not been filled. I see from the Kivalliq News want ads, employment notices on March 1, 2006, the comptroller position is still not staffed.

My question for the minister is: this small group of employees with no comptroller, how does the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation fulfill its mandate to invest in Nunavut businesses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe we do our very best to make sure that we do our job as requested by our constituents in Nunavut. Again, we are doing our very best to make sure we are fully staffed in the future as this is very important for our territory to have a Nunavut Business Corporation that is helping Nunavut. And also, we have a very active board that is doing their very best to make sure that we do our job with the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation.

So we are doing our very best to staff up our corporation. I think that we will even have something better in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. Mr. Speaker, it is a stated priority of the Government of Nunavut that economic development is important to our territory. I believe that a properly functioning and efficient effect of the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation will help us to develop our economy.

A question for the minister: can the minister commit to tabling a report on the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's investment activities to show us how they approved loans to businesses to help create jobs that increase Nunavut's gross domestic product? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will do that to make sure that we have proper information for my colleague. We'll come up with a report to table in the House. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for his commitment. I hope he means he will table it during this session. I forgot to ask about that commitment.

Loan documentation and security are important to protect the Nunavut Business Credit Corporation's investment in Nunavut businesses. Such small staff and no comptroller, I have some concerns there. The question for the minister: can the minister ensure this House that all loans are properly documented and secured in the event of potential default by the borrowers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know which one to answer; there is only one supplementary left. I will do my very best to table something before the sitting is done. Since we became a government, we have outstanding loans of \$19 million. I do believe that is quite a bit of money that we have loaned out to the territory since we became a government in 1999. I think that we are doing our best.

We want to come up with even better ideas in the future to make sure that our portfolio gets even bigger and more effective to our territory as the businesses are growing up in the territory. I think it is important that we work together and come up with better ideas that we could use in the future, that we get input from my colleagues and the business people in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 231 – 2(3): Positions for the International Nurses

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Earlier in this sitting, there were a number of questions posed to the minister in regard to international nurses that have been recruited to work throughout Nunavut to help us try to alleviate some of the shortage of nurses that we have.

The minister has indicated that there are, I think, around 40 percent of those nurses who are waiting to rewrite their exam to be able to be licensed to practice in Nunavut. My question for the minister is: for the nurses that are waiting to rewrite their exam, my understanding was that they were on payroll, but are there positions throughout the territory that are being held specifically for those nurses once they successfully complete their exams? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The international nurses rewrote their exams on February 10, I believe was the date. Those exams are being reviewed by the National Nurses' Association.

For the international nurses that are recruited to enter Canada, nurses have to be offered a position and have to accept the position to enter Canada. So when they come into Canada, they are in Canada by accepting a position.

During the time they are oriented, they also study to write their national exam and they wrote their exam. Once they have completed their exam, they will be able to cover the full spectrum of the job. Until those exams are completed, the nurses cannot work independently. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated that they have to be offered a job. Does that offer just simply state that they will have a job working for the Department of Health and Social Services or the Government of Nunavut, or does it specify positions in specific communities where they will be working? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The offer is to a specific position in a specific community where there is a vacancy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having said that, I would guess then, in the cases where those 40 percent of the nurses didn't pass their first exams, that those positions are being backfilled, if you want to call it, by casual nurses or agency nurses and there's still a vacant indeterminate position in that community.

I also understand, Mr. Speaker, that there have been a number of cases of Canadian nurses that wish to work in some of those communities that have been blocked from working in those communities because, even though there's a vacant position, they are earmarked for one of the international nurses once they successfully pass their exam.

Can the minister indicate if that is indeed the fact; that they are actually blocking Canadian nurses from applying on these vacant positions in some of these communities; that they are holding those positions for international nurses? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, before we started our efforts to recruit full-time nurses through recruiting international nurses, we used agency nurses in Canada. At that time, there were concerns expressed in the House: the high use of agency nurses was driving the cost of recruitment and driving the cost within the Department of Health for filling positions. So we have tried to balance the two by putting in more efforts and energy in recruiting long-term nurses from the international pool and to hire international nurses, we have to make offers to nurses to come to Canada.

So if there are vacancies in the north for nurses, we are also looking at more efforts again, within Canada, which I have also stated during Committee of the Whole and through various questions raised in the House that we are trying to do both, in Canada, as well as through the international process.

Where there has been an offer made to an international nurse, yes, those positions are deemed as been filled by that nurse that has been offered. Until such time, those positions in the communities remain vacant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess not having a qualified nurse in there would mean that that position is vacant and it would seem that the Department of Health and Social Services, if they have this person in shadowing, they are paying two people to do the job of one.

I guess my next question is; why are they blocking Canadian nurses from working within Nunavut in communities, whether they be a spouse of a teacher or an RCMP, that are going to be in a community for a while, that are not interested in going to any other community other than the one where their spouse is posted; I'm sure there are other vacancies throughout that they could transfer those international nurses to when they do finally complete their exam.

Is this something that the minister would look at so they were not actually saying that we have a shortage of nurses, but sorry we have nurses in our communities that we are not going to hire you because we've got a position here that we are holding for someone for when they pass their exam. Meanwhile, there's someone that wants to be in that community, that has the commitment to be there for a while, and where these international nurses, it doesn't really matter where they go to work in our territory; I'm sure there will always be vacancies throughout the territory for them.

So would the minister commit to looking at trying to address this issue so that we are taking advantage of the expertise that we do have within the territory and actually trying to take steps to hire nurses and not to put steps in to prevent them from being hired? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there are Canadian nurses that are interested in Nunavut, by all means submit your names. We are interested in recruiting from Canada; we are interested in recruiting from nurses in communities that are interested in working for us. The door is open to any nurse that wants to work in Nunavut. We have not closed the door on Canadian nurses because we are hiring from the international pool. In fact, we welcome the individuals to put their names forward and we will take it from there.

I have also made the commitment in this House that I also want to expand the Nursing Program in that when the students graduate that they are guaranteed employment. We invest in training our nurses, but I didn't see that we are completing the circle in actually looking to also hire those nurses that are graduating from our own program. So I'm open to that and I would like the member to also provide the names of individuals that he makes reference to and I will do what I can to assist in the process.

If there are nurses in our communities and there are vacancies, certainly, we will do what we can to support those nurses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 232 – 2(3): Priorities as Minister of Energy

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question to the Minister of Energy. Energy policy and strategy plan requirements seem to be lacking some leadership in this government. Could the Minister of Energy explain in part and inform this House exactly what, he, as the Minister of Energy, priorities are for energy-related responsibility he has? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Usually during Question Period, we try to keep our answers limited and if I wanted to go through the whole mandate and what I'm trying to accomplish as Minister of Energy, it's pretty difficult in this type of forum.

But what I can say to the member is that through the *Ikuma I* and the *Ikuma II* Reports, as well as setting up the Qulliq Energy Corporation itself and moving forward with a sustainable home-grown Power Corporation, I guess is number one.

We have seen over the last several months that the Power Corporation has turned the corner. We are working on the regulatory processes for the provision of energy and energy-related matters. At the same, we are exploring options for alternative energy and, as the member is aware and the Members in the House, we are looking at alternative energy, for example, we are really moving forward now on hydro.

On the conservation side of the agenda, we have opened up for the first time, the Qulliq Energy Centre, which will be focusing on energy-related matters as it works with the domestic, as well as the commercial scene in Nunavut. We are also looking at the regulatory role of the Power Corporation and how that entails in the supply of electricity.

So hopefully that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. According to the Nunavut Gazette, you are the minister responsible for energy issues. So in that regard, I believe the *Ikuma I* and *II* have, in a large part, been implemented. A majority of it is now maintaining of what has been implemented, and so on.

Nunavummiut are looking for energy policy and strategies. Could the minister, during this session table, at least in part, his priorities and plans for the future with respect to energy-related issues? As the minister knows, approximately 20 percent of the budget is assigned to any energy-related issues and requirements for energy needs in Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's opportune that the member raises this concern. Over the last couple of days, we had an opportunity to discuss the Energy Secretariat, which is set up under the EIA. The reason why it's set up under EIA is because there isn't a line item or a department, which holds the energy field. Although I'm the Energy Minister, in the portfolio, there's not a budget that is debated in the House.

With the money that has been budgeted through the Energy Secretariat, we will be working on some of the directions of energy to bring us for the next five to ten years. Part

of that is hydro, part of that is the regulatory regime that's in place, part of that is strategies to deal with energy issues as it pertains to Nunavut as a whole. Some of those, Mr. Speaker, have to include some of the resources that we have.

Very few people in Nunavut realize and recognize that right up until 1986 we had an operating oil well near Resolute Bay. The oil went, the Bent Horn project went, actually into the power plant there and provided energy. Under the federal government, with the subsidy program for northern resource development, we were able to do that.

Right now, 35 percent of known energy resources, oil and gas, are located within the geographic and territorial boundaries of Nunavut. How do we move forward on that?

So as minister responsible, tomorrow, and it's opportune that the member brings it up; tomorrow we are actually going to sit down with the standing committee and go through a whole range of energy-related areas as requested by the committee. At that time, I will be outlining some of the processes and procedures to the committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. I know that the Nunavummiut are grateful that the minister stands up and says how important the energy issues are for Nunavummiut, not only for Nunavummiut, but for proponents that might be interested in exploring for energy in Nunavut. As a result of that, I appreciate that the minister plans to move forward.

I would suggest to the minister that one way to move forward is to incorporate all the other departments that have energy-related issues in their division, in their department, into one department.

Will the minister commit to undertaking that he will move a recommendation to this House; that he, in fact, will actually have one ministry responsible for development strategies, including maintaining current energy needs and policies in this government? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I like the implication that the member raises and I just want to go back to his first comment and that's on the regulatory side of things.

Right now, there has been no exploration for energy. In the High Arctic region that we just talked about where we had 35 percent of known resources in Canada, because the federal government has allowed, under the regulations, allowed PetroCanada to hold those licenses and not exercise their option.

So, as the Minister of Energy, as an example, for the first time in the public now, I wrote the federal minister responsible in the last government suggesting that they actually release PetroCanada so that we can actually get some frontier drilling occurring in Nunavut. With some of the issues around climate change and global warming, I think that's an opportune time to do that.

Secondly, on the second point that the member raised, one of the things that I tried to do a year ago in the House was to put forward \$500,000 to start the Qulliq Fuel Corporation which will amalgamate and integrate issues around subsidies, fuel and fuel costs because the biggest driver for energy-related areas for Nunavut is the purchase of fuel. That is part of the 20 percent of our budget that the member talks about so eloquently. Unfortunately, that wasn't approved by the House.

What I would hope to do tomorrow is outline to the standing committee the directions that I would be looking at as the Minister of Energy and with the money in the Energy Secretariat to come up with that proposal or type of plan and then bring that forward to the House, hopefully if not by the spring session, in the fall, an outline of that type of mandate.

I think the member is raising some really good issues because we need to be proactive on some of these energy concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The points that you raise are important to Nunavummiut, and we need to know exactly what is going on. By having a number of departments, at least five or six departments having some energy related issues; it's confusing to say the least.

I did not hear the minister respond to my earlier question. Will he support incorporating all the other departments' responsibilities to one ministry under his leadership? And if he needs help, he's welcome to request that question to this House. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Energy matters overarch, as the member indicated, across government.

Just as an example, we have the fuel purchasing, we have the Territorial Subsidy Program within the Department of Finance, we have the Qulliq Energy, which is under the Minister of Energy, we have environmental concerns with energy, and that would be Natural Resources under the Environment Minister, and so on. So to amalgamate all of this into one is part of what we talked about in the past, that Mr. Tootoo has raised, which is the issue around the Affordable Energy Fund, the AEF, and that was to show transparently, in the House, how much money and where that money comes from, is voted for electrical issues. I don't think that's moved off the backburner.

Mr. Tootoo's committee has taken the leadership role in asking the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Finance, the Power Corporation and other officials to meet with his committee tomorrow to review this. I would welcome the member to attend if he's not on that committee and give out the direction that we're seeking as a government. Again, it has to be overarching and encompassing.

At this point, I'm not in the position to say that I'm going to take over control over all of the issues around energy. That wouldn't be appropriate. What I can say is that with the help of the committee and the member, over the next couple of days, we'll have a better idea of which direction we're moving in. And with the money and the Energy Secretariat that has just been announced, which is a new program under the leadership of the Premier, I think we're going to start moving in the right direction. A lot of groundwork has been done. Now, we need to move forward with that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 233 – 2(3): Bullying in the Schools – Update

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

On March 6, during Committee of the Whole, he stated that they could not do much with the issue of bullying in the schools. It is not only in the schools. It is also apart of the home environment and in the schools. If you are going to deal with the issue of bullying, we have to include the parents, the leaders, and the whole community in order to combat the issue of bullying.

My question to the minister is: bullying is visible in all the Nunavut communities, what is the Department of Education doing about this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Mr. Speaker, the member is correct. Bullying is not just an issue we have seen in Nunavut. Indeed, it is a national and international concern. I can just start off by saying that starting in October of 2005; the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education acknowledged this point and did start on a process to deal with it on a national level.

On a local level and territorially in Nunavut, we have seen incidences of bullying increase across the territory, particularly in some schools. What we have done is bring forward a number of initiatives, including the TRIBES Program, as well as the effective behaviour support programs, and dealing with this not only on a local level, but also at a family level.

Bullying is something that occurs not only in playgrounds, but it happens in the classrooms and in the schools, and it has been raised in the past. We have a lot of initiatives underway right now to deal with those. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We heard on the news about a month ago that some students are trying to combat the bullying issue and the other communities are trying to organize this. Is the bullying increasing in the Nunavut schools? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not think, by the statistics that we see, in a conversation with schools and DEAs, that bullying is increasing. I think we are more aware of it right now.

We are actually working on a lot of material and plans and initiatives to deal with bullying. I can give some examples. We have a pamphlet and posters are out. They are called, "Bullying – How to recognize it," in the classroom and in the school. We have school student support teams put in place to deal with the issue of bullying.

We have non-violent crisis intervention training, which deals specifically with bullying. We have the TRIBES and EBS that we talked about earlier that specifically deals with training under the *Aulajaaqtut* curriculum. We have programs there which deal with the issue of violence and the issue of bullying.

Again, it is something, as parents, that we need to do to talk to our children about issues around bullying. Sometimes our children are victims of bullying. Sometimes our children are the perpetrators of bullying. So we need to be able to discuss it and deal with it and not only in the contexts of classrooms and school, but in the context of families at home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is very serious. Bullying is very serious, and, again, causes problems amongst the students' lives as they are growing up. And while we are Members of the Legislative Assembly here, are we doing enough to deal with bullying?

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, there are quite a few programs and initiatives underway across Nunavut and in our schools to deal with the issue of bullying. I think, again, that the Government of Nunavut is part of the Canadian Council of Ministers of Education. We are looking at it on a national level and dealing

with some national strategies. We have seen a lot of instances, especially reported in the national media, about bullying, and to some degree hazing at our schools.

I think we are addressing them quite proactively as a government, but again, it is very important that families deal with the issue also in collaboration with the schools and with the support staff at the school. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The students in the schools have counsellors and I believe all the schools have counsellors. Is it more serious in the high schools or in the elementary schools? Does the Department of Education know about this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are aware of issues and incidents that occur at the high school as well as the elementary school level and again, as a group, as the department, in consultation with DEAs and so on, it is something that we are trying to address. I went out and explained some of the initiatives that we have put in place, and I have talked about the importance of having cooperation between families and so on.

The school counsellor positions in our schools play a major role, again, when students that are identified as victims of bullying, then the counsellor has an opportunity to bring forward a resolution plan with that student that is being bullied and the parents with the perpetrators. Now, Mr. Speaker, if the bullying turns to a more violent nature or where a student can be at risk, then there may be legal implications where the law may be involved. So it depends on the severity of the issue, and it depends on the incident itself. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 234 – 2(3): Update – Polar Bear Management Zones

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I raised this last year and I would like to raise it again to the Minister responsible for Environment. This was a concern of my constituents in regard to polar bear management zones. Are they finalizing this now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we have not finalized it yet because research in each different section takes so much time. Our researchers, which we are short of, want to be able to have all the data completed for each study and our goal for completing the Davis Strait Study is 2008 or 2009. I cannot

remember which year we plan to start a study for the southern Hudson Bay. And it is still like that because we are short of polar bear biologists. Before we do get to Sanikiluaq, we will finalize this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was brought up by the HTO to see if they can do the survey earlier and to see at what stage they are at right now.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akasuk

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. I will advise the HTO if we cannot conduct the survey earlier, but only after consulting with the Davis Strait Polar Bear Management Team. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know that the polar bear biologists sometime interfere with the other wildlife. Does the government have a policy for the polar bear biologists to follow once they are doing the study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we do have regulations, but we want to put more emphasis on the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and that's what we are trying to work on. We always try and look at different ways of how it can be best used but we are currently trying to use *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* when we are doing researches on polar bears. We are trying to find some ways of how it can be easier to manage and we will look into those always. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the minister stated earlier, they are doing a study on Davis Strait. I wonder if the researchers; are there Inuit people involved in that study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk (interpretation): Thank you. Before we start studies, we consult with the communities, especially with the HTOs and we try and include Inuit as much as we can because we want to make it known around the world as to how we conduct studies, especially with polar bears.

Yes, we will include the Inuit and I believe there are about three or four communities that are involved during this study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 235 – 2(3): Prescription Drug Medication Supplies

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Constituents have told me that on occasion, their drug prescriptions run out and they are without their medicines for several days or longer. People with heart conditions or diabetes problems are at high risk. There are other people as well that are at lower risk, but they require their prescriptions.

A question for the minister: can the minister describe or clarify the process that the Kitikmeot Health and Social Service Department uses to order prescription drugs for their patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand of the process, the health centre nurses or physicians provide the prescriptions. In some cases, the medications are stored in the health centres, in other cases, those medications are sent up from the drugstore in Yellowknife to Cambridge Bay, and then from Cambridge Bay Health Centre are distributed to the patients. In the smaller communities, all of the prescriptions are currently sent to the health centres in each community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for the answer. My question for the minister: can the health centres have a backup supply of prescription drugs for specific patients who they know are at high risk if their supply runs out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand of the services that are arranged through the drug stores in Yellowknife, or Rankin Inlet, or here, if there is an ongoing need of prescription medication for patients, there is a system in place with each drug store to send out refills on an inventory basis, I suppose so, to each centre. From each centre, they're given out to the patient.

In some cases, there are more commonly used medications that are stockpiled in each of the health centres. From the procedure that I understand, the drug stores resend the refills on a regular basis to the health centres for distribution to the patient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that response. I'm not sure I understood the minister.

Is the minister saying the health centres have a patient tracking system that flags when prescription drugs should be supplied, when they will run out for patients, like specific dates, for long term prescriptions? When that happens, when they flag it in advance, are those prescription drugs sent out to health centres, and then the patients are asked to come in for a check-up, and then they have their prescriptions refilled? Thank you, Mr.

Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is how I understand the procedure to be. The prescription medications are sent on a regular basis from the drugstore to the health centre. Using this example, to Cambridge Bay, and then the nurse and the staff there would then contact the patient to provide that medication. That's the procedure in place as far as I understand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it seems to me that there is the potential for breakdowns in the system. They may not order the supplies, planes may not bring the supplies, or the drug stores may not fill the prescription by the time that they are required. So we have patients at risk.

My question for the minister: the Kitikmeot Regional Health Facility, the new facility that opened last October, has a pharmacy section built in that we thought would be a pharmacy that offers prescription drugs for Kitikmeot patients.

Can the minister update the House and me specifically as to when that pharmacy would open to serve Kitikmeot patients? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We sent out an RFP for those services for the Kitikmeot region.

From what I understand, that RFP will be closing some time this month at which time we will review the submissions. At the same time, an RFP was also sent out for the Kivalliq area.

So eventually, once that process works it's way through the system, then we hope to open that service in the Kitikmeot in the new facility in Cambridge Bay, but right now, the RFP process is ongoing and eventually maybe by the summer, we hope to have that contract awarded and start the process of setting up shop in Cambridge Bay for the Kitikmeot region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 236 – 2(3): Availability of Social Workers

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question directed to the Minister responsible for Social Services.

I'll do a short, brief preamble so that it will be clear. Many young people or even young adults, just this winter, even though they wanted to resolve their problems in their lives, because they hold on to their old issues for so long, they are getting lost in their lives. I heard last winter that young people hold their problems for six to seven years and even though they want to do good in their lives, then they have no place to turn to.

For that reason, the Nunavut Government I know has provided social workers to the communities to help people in the community but the community residents don't know who they really are. They know that the social workers do apprehend kids and they are the ones that help the family out with the kids. That's the only way that they know social workers.

My question to the minister is: why are these social workers not connected to the individuals who are willing to...(interpretation ends)...why are they so difficult to reach when you are in need of counselling? (interpretation) That is my question Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the communities, we have social workers, mental health workers, and alcohol and drug counsellors in most communities. In some cases, those positions are transferred to the municipality. In some cases, they are under the umbrella of the Department of Health and Social Services.

If the individuals are not responding to specific issues, I would like to hear about that, but their primary responsibility is to provide services to individuals in need of counselling and whatnot. The social workers also have a relationship with staff at the school, student counsellors, and so on, as well as the committees, mental health workers, and nurses.

So if they are not providing a level of service, I would like to hear about that; but their primary role in the community is to provide services to individuals in need through mental health workers or through the social workers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that's what we hear in the communities. They hear that we have social workers; we do know that we do have social workers in our communities, but it's impossible to reach them.

I think the main reason, according to what I hear, is that they are usually situated in public places. For example, they are in the nursing station where the public is constantly going through that facility and they are supposed to be talking about confidential matters. They are to counsel the individual confidentially and because it's a public place, they can't even disclose their feelings any more.

I would like to ask another question. It has been known for quite some time by the ministers and also the directors are aware of that we have been aware for quite some time and we have been a government for quite some time and it's not new.

What has the minister done to make sure that there are these kinds of information provided to the community and to make sure you get the names of the social workers and state the location of their office? So provide that kind of information to the communities so that the communities would at least know what to do. Could the minister assure me that she has been working on this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week, I have been speaking to some of the initiatives that the department is looking to do this coming fiscal year as it relates to social workers as an example.

We are examining the roles of each social worker in each community and the type of work that each social worker is carrying out, to also examine the workload of each social worker based on population, growth, and so on. If there is a need for more positions in communities that are larger centres, then we will look into that.

The other area we are also looking at is the support systems of each social worker and to look at really what the caseload work is for each of those positions. At the same time, we are looking at examining what positions we have in the community for how we can better integrate the services.

Having said that, I'm meeting with the Mayor of Arviat sometime this week to discuss the specific issues related to Arviat; from what I understand, she will be arriving here this week to hear firsthand some of those concerns and try and address the concerns of that community. If it means to remove the staff from and to another facility, and again, that is something that we can discuss, but this is the first time that I heard there are concerns related to the staff being at the health center. So that is an issue that I'd like an opportunity, with the member as well as the Mayor of Arviat, to discuss that to come up with solutions that are suitable for every community.

The member also asked to do more promotion on the availability of the social workers and the mental health workers in the community, hours of work, telephone numbers, and contact. I can commit to doing that more for the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it is true and I believe what you are stating, but it's because of funding and they go to income support just to get some funding.

I believe that people who are hurting would be willing to speak to an individual who is available for counselling. It is not for the money's sake; it is for the sake of talking about their problems and issues, and I am sure they would be lining up if there was an individual who could counsel these individuals. So that is how it is with the social workers that work with the individuals.

One issue is that the lay people who work in church, once their people found out that they are trusted people; many people go to those individuals right away. Thank you. That was just a comment.

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

Question 237 – 2(3): Global Warming Issues

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister responsible for Environment, as we have heard and I am sure we are all aware that there is global warming. For that reason, I would like the minister to focus on the environment change in Nunavut. When we say global warming, our scientists are working on this too hastily. I believe that Nunavummiut have to be concerned about our climate change. I believe it is changing.

Could the minister consider discussing this issue with entities and to start collecting the knowledge of Nunavummiut? Have you discussed the matters that what you would like to hear from the knowledge-holders? If we do this together it will be ideal. Is the minister planning on this? Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. Thank you for asking that question. We are working on the issues on what we would like to do to deal with global warming. We want to involve Nunavummiut and also would like to incorporate the knowledge of Inuit as to how we can deal with and cope with global warming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A concern that I have are elders who were born when the weather was extremely cold, we should invite them while they are still alive to get their knowledge, and also you, as minister, know that we need to get the knowledge of these individuals.

If you agree to hold a conference; I believe that the residents sometimes see Green Peace go over on top of the concerns of Inuit and because Inuit are fearful of not being able to harvest any kind of species, perhaps to make sure that sometimes due to global warming, we might not be able to harvest. So could you deal with all of these issues? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. It's very clear and it's going to be very beneficial to deal with climate change in Nunavut. Perhaps it would be good to see the plan right away for Nunavut to make sure the international countries understand what our situation is and also to make sure that the wildlife protectors such as Green Peace know about these issues.

Also, I think the same with our elders; I believe that we should do this as soon as possible and we will consider it very carefully as to when the best time would be to deal with this issue as the Department of Environment. Thank you.

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

Question 238 – 2(3): Federal Government Contact Person

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government also works on behalf of the federal government for benefits like for example, Mr. Speaker, for firearms registration, passports, income tax, senior citizen support, and pension plans. These are all services of the federal government that the Nunavut Government does on behalf of the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, my first question to the minister is: who, in our GN, is the contact person for the federal government here in Nunavut? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are quite a few offices or departments that deal with these issues. If they have connection to the federal government, sometimes we try to respond to some concerns in regard to those issues, but we usually go by way of our MP when my constituents require assistance. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked this question because our elders who receive elders' pension, whether it be a man or a woman, they had come to me asking for help and support. They don't know who to go to and they don't know who the contact person is.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it will be easier for us and at least we will be more receptive to the elders and to the people that we serve such as Nunavummiut. Could the minister commit to me that through our MP's office that they work together to identify a contact person for Nunavut for federal government services? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our MP tries to give support and assistance, but I will try and work closely with her to make sure that we provide the information and we do need to give support and assistance to the elders. I know that we will have to deal with this issue again. Thank you.

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

Mr. Kilabuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know our MP Karetak-Lindell has always helped us out, but she's always traveling and not in her office, and has a lot of responsibility.

I know that our questions are waiting for her. I would like to ask the joint working staff for the federal government and the Government of Nunavut: how is it going to be arranged through her office? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Premier Okalik.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Question Period is over. Going back to our Orders of the Day. 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. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 12 – 2(3): Extended Hours and Days – Notice

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, March 10, I will move the following motion:

I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker deems fit to assist with the business before the House.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 13 – 2(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday March 10, 2006, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit East, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit, it shall be adjourned until June 9, 2006.

And, Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member would like to have unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Peterson.

Motion 12 – 2(3): Extended Hours and Days

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit East, that the Speaker be authorized to set such sitting days and hours as the Speaker sees fit to assist with the business before the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): To the motion. Question has been called. All in favour. All opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Motions. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to seek the Assembly's unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking unanimous consent to move this motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Tootoo.

Motion 13 – 2(3): Extended Adjournment

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, and notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes its present sitting in Iqaluit it shall be adjourned until June 9, 2006.

And further, at any time prior to June 9, 2006, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and members here, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon that the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it had been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. Question is being called. All in favour. All opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Under the Orders of the Day. 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 19, *An Act to Amend the Exemptions Act*; Bill 12, *Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07* with Peter Kilabuk in the Chair.

In accordance with the authority vested in me by Motion 12 – 2(3), the Committee of the Whole will stay in session until it reports itself out.

Before we proceed to Committee of the Whole, we will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House recessed at 15:24 and resumed at 15:51

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

Chairman (Mr. Kilabuk) (interpretation): Thank you very much for coming back to the meeting. (interpretation ends) I would like to call the committee meeting to order and in Committee of the Whole...thank you, Mr. Akasuk. In Committee of the Whole, we will have the following items to deal with: Bill 12, Bill 9, Bill 13, and Bill 14. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to continue with Bill 12 and deal with the review of the Department of Education Main Estimates for 2006-07 and we would also like to deal with the Department of Environment. Thank you.

Chairman: So are we in agreement that we first deal with Bill 12?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Picco, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like to ask my witnesses to join me at the table.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, I see you have escorted them in already. Thank you. And now, Minister Picco, for the record, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate right is Ms. Sandy Teiman, Director of Income Support Programs, and on my immediate left is Mr. David Pealow, Comptroller for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Yesterday, we were on G-12. Education. Branch...or rather, excuse me, G-10. Education. Branch Summary. Income Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,260,000. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his officials again today. Could the minister explain to me and my colleagues what it means when they say, 'Program Compliance' in the first line, Overall Policy Development and Program Compliance, what does that mean? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Program Compliance is a general term used by governments and other organizations and agencies to define the program scope of the work being carried out under an individual program. So as an example, Mr. Chairman, that would include eligibility requirements and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that short response. Where it states policy development, does that include the calculation of rates to pay individuals and families? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The rates and so on; those types of schedules are set in the regulations for income support. When we talk about policies and program support, that would include support at the ministerial level, of course, at the senior levels within the department, as well as meetings that we may be involved in at the national level; whether they be PT, the provincial, or territorial level, or the FPT; which is the federal, provincial, and territorial level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. It seems like a couple of years ago, I raised the idea of using the income support funds to help unemployed folks get to the mining, remote worksite. Would that have come under policy development? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member did, almost two years ago I believe, raise the issue on travel to remote sites and what we have done within the Department of Income Support is we have put a program in place, specifically for that issue. If someone is on income support and needs to be transported to a remote worksite, as an example, then those costs are covered under the Income Support Program. Travel to remote worksites for those on income support, the good news that it's included now and there is a program for that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. As they say, better late than never. I should have done this at the start of the meeting. I want to go on the record as having welcomed our witnesses Ms. Teiman and Mr. Pealow. Welcome to the committee's appearance. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate whether that remote worksite assistance is being utilized by any clients in any of the regions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have advertised the program with a brochure and all Income Support offices are aware of the program. There has been uptake on the program, and indeed, there are individuals on the program. I don't want to give you who they are or anything like that, but I can say that the program is being accessed. There is promotional material out there advertising the program. Indeed, our staff and workers in the field are knowledgeable of the program itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm glad to hear that it's being used. Can the minister explain with a bit more detail of how the

income support folks calculate the levels of support to pay to clients? It doesn't have to be any specific community or region, but how they calculate that? I'm wondering if it takes into consideration the high cost of living in Nunavut that affects all of us? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I walked through a scenario the other day in Question Period with Mr. Curley; I believe it was on the program eligibility requirements on income support. Income support is a program of last resort. It is set up by this government and other jurisdictions in the country to help individuals who have not got other sources of income, or indeed, full-time employment, or part-time employment.

The Income Support Program is operated through individual contracts with individual families and/or our own staff through the Government of Nunavut in any given community.

The program itself is set up so that costs are covered within a zone. So for example, cost of living amounts under the program would be different depending on what zone you are in as a family. So let's use an example, Mr. Chairman, if you were in Zone Five, which includes Grise Fiord and Kugaaruk, then you would be receiving more income support than someone who is in say Zone Two. So there are five different zones available.

When a person wants to go on to income support, anyone over the age of 18 in Nunavut is eligible for income support. They apply to the income support officer, the income support employee looks at the actual income of the individual in question and determines if that person is eligible and then determines what the level of support will be and that would be based on family support mechanisms that are in place, for example, does the individual have dependents, a spouse, and so on.

So in the short answer, I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that overview and it does help, to some degree, to understand how it's calculated. I get a lot of individuals approach me in my office when I'm in Cambridge Bay or send emails; they seem to think it's insufficient. I'm not sure what the answer is when they are only getting a couple hundred dollars, and then it costs you \$50 for a bag of groceries and you are supposed to make it last a month. It's very difficult for the folks.

With that in mind, do the income support folks here work with the income support individuals in the hamlets to provide counselling to income support clients in terms of how to budget their needs for a month so they can make the money that they receive

stretch longer so that they aren't without food for two weeks out of every month? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Follow that, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, we have done some program changes this government has in the last year and a half that have been well welcomed by income support recipients across Nunavut. We increased the rate by 15 percent, as the member knows; five percent and then ten percent.

We have also taken Co-op dividends, so if the members use their income support when they are buying supplies, groceries, and so on from the individual Co-ops and the Co-ops pays out of dividend at one time, that would be included as an unearned income and would be subtracted from their income support. That's not the case anymore. So that gives them an opportunity for extra dollars in their pockets.

The question on is it enough, Mr. Chairman, is a good question. We know that the cost of living is very high across Nunavut. So if you had a family of five, for example, in Kugaaruk, they would receive roughly \$1,500 under the Income Support Program for food allowances, then there would be also other monies that would be available for your power bill, light bill, phone bill, oil bill, and so on.

Again, the Income Support Program is a program that's out there as a program of last resort. Again, I would hope to be in a position to be able to increase the amounts available under the Income Support Program within the budget framework upcoming.

As I said earlier, we have increased it by 15 percent in the first year and a half of this government and those were the first increases in the program since 1998. So those were the first increases in seven years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. For clarification, Minister Picco, \$1,500, and that's for how many days? Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: That is for 30 days. That would be a 30-day or a one-month period. Individual months have different days, some with 31 and some with 28 as we know. On the average, it's 30 days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that information. Does the minister's staff or his income support staff, do they have an idea how much it costs for families - take that family in Kugaaruk, five individuals - do they know how much it would cost normally to provide healthy meals for the family for a month? I know the number he gave us is \$1,500, but would it be more expensive to feed that family if they had enough money to buy the food? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We work with what the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has put forth as a food basket and we try to use that to help ascertain the rates. I just want to clarify what I said earlier, the amount in Kugaaruk for four, it was \$1,150 a month; for five, it was \$1,356; and for six, it was \$1,519. So I just want to make sure I got the right line.

I think the other point to be made, Mr. Chairman, the biggest complaint that we have on the Income Support Program, I think the member is alluding to this, was the amount that is available, and when we look at the total income if somebody in that family is working, then those monies are subtracted away from it. If somebody wins bingo as an example and when they go get their income support, that money can be subtracted from their income support payment.

So we need to be able to look at the regulations and we have internally right now, are undergoing an internal review of the Income Support Program from some of the comments that we have heard. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Just as a reminder to my colleagues, whenever possible keep your responses and questions short and to the point. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that caution, I will try. Under Contract Services, there is an amount budgeted for \$285,000. Can the minister describe what Contract Services pays for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit is delivered on behalf of the Government of Nunavut via contract. The contractor increased the price for the delivery of that benefit. That is being done through the offices of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. Same question for the fees and payments for \$928,000. We see a decrease from the last year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We took the, that was a transfer from fees and payments to cover the contract costs that the member had just asked about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell us what the fees and payments will cover? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, 585 seniors, \$135 a month. I will try to keep my answers clear and to the point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. You are doing well so far. Mr. Peterson

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have any more questions on this page. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Nope.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While we are on this page, I would like to ask the minister about the lack of housing in Nunavut and the lack of employment opportunities.

There are a lot of individuals who are eligible for housing and able and willing to work, but due to a lack and shortage of housing and because of no job opportunities, they end up staying with their parents and collecting income support. Are those individuals eligible to get additional support say for heating costs and energy costs?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the husband and wife have three children and they have dependents in their families, the total income of the family is included when we look at the benefits applied for the Income Support Program and we also look at the expenses.

So if there was an issue, for example, with the electrical bill, which does not happen very often with the Power Corporation, if they have issues with the oil bill or the phone bill, then those costs can be covered within the context of the program.

There would not be extra support given specifically for that common law couple, lets say, that were living with the head of the household and the spouse. That is my understanding of the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Maybe I have to explain more. In Nunavut, there is a shortage of housing and high unemployment. So dependents have to live with their parents, or their families, or mother and father, but they are eligible to get the income support. My question: if those people that are getting income support, would they be able to help the father or the mother pay for power bills or electrical bills? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just spoke to Sandy about it. It is my understanding that the total income within the home is included, and if those children are with the parents, they are not able to get their own home because of the lack of housing in the community, whatever costs are in that home and the family is on income support, those costs are covered.

They are in subsidized housing, and their oil bill and light bill, and so on, those still would be covered under the head of the household when that person gets their income support. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Are you done? Thank you. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In my opening remarks, I mentioned, in regard to income support, especially students or young people who have finished school and while they are still in school they still can apply for income support.

I realize that there are not that many job opportunities in the communities. If they work part-time or work for a while, then that money is deducted from their income support. How does the department, for example, plan in order to motivate those income support workers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are some exemptions in place. If you are working and you're a single person, pretty much you would be exempt for up to \$200. For families it would be \$400. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Everything costs a lot more up in the High Arctic and the store owners, especially in the Quttiktuq; High Arctic, we only have Co-ops and they try and support the local Co-ops and a lot of the time, the income support cheques doesn't last very long because they try and buy as much as they can on fresh products. I wonder how they can be helped more when that is the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we've been doing over the last year and a half on this program is review, first of all, the amounts. As I said earlier, we did increase that by 15 percent. We have changed the exemption. So for example, the new energy rebate from the federal government is not included as earned income, so it will not be subtracted from the income support cheques.

We have done the same thing, as the member indicated, with the Co-ops. In some communities, for example, in Grise Fiord, where there is only one community, which the member represents, people would get a dividend from there. There would be opportunities for the dividend being paid out by the Co-op not to be subtracted from the cheque.

We've also increased training opportunities and allowances under the program. Improvements to the program since division includes: the remote worksite that Mr. Peterson talked about earlier, we've put transition benefits for income support recipients in place, there's been training allowances initiated, we've established the Nunavut Social Assistance Appeal Board, we exempted the Co-op patronage refunds which we just talked about earlier, we exempted the child disability benefits that we talked about earlier, we've continually developed and distributed training manuals out into the program, we've also hired a compliance officer.

So a lot of program changes have been put in place, and again, we want to be able to review the amount of monies available under the Income Support Program. There's no argument on the amounts and how much is going out. If you're in social housing, you're fully subsidized. We have not increased the amount of electricity per unit; it's still at 6 cents a kilowatt hour across the territory and this hasn't increased over the last ten years. We've also included opportunities for training; so if someone's on income support, they get extra support for training.

So I hope that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. After the 15 percent increase and we know that Sheila Fraser went up to see how the prices are up there, shortly after she left, there was an increase on the costs of goods and food by 15 percent. It seems like they're upping the increases that they do get from Income Support. Once an increase was made by 15 percent, the prices went up 15 percent.

So that doesn't help a bit for Income Support recipients, especially with people who have a large number of children or relatives. I wonder if his department does any studies to see what the prices are in the communities or in the stores. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Before I go on to Mr. Picco, I would like to welcome the Mayor of Iqaluit Elisapee Sheutiapik and other visitors. Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, the member raises a good point. In the High Arctic and in some of the other communities, but in the High Arctic specifically, Grise Fiord, and as well in Kugaaruk, we see some of the highest prices in Nunavut.

What we are doing as a department and a government is working with INAC, the federal government, to cost out that healthy food basket. We do have a program underway that the members may be aware of.

For example, in Kugaaruk we were looking at the parcel post amount under food mail and lowering that amount again so that the families in Kugaaruk would have an opportunity to buy healthier foods, fresh produce, and so on. That program is continuing.

So the quick answer to the member is yes, we do monitor the cost, prices, and we work with INAC on those costs within the food basket that is available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Here in Iqaluit, there is a food bank as well as in other big communities, but in the small communities, it's almost impossible to open a food bank.

It's because the Inuit share country food and they're assisted by the hunters, fortunately, we don't see many hungry people who are desperate to have food, even though they have run out of store-bought food.

Sometimes even through the radio we hear young parents or single people who are asking around looking for food through the radio. I wonder if his department can assist those smaller communities in getting food banks in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the community of Iqaluit, we have three organizations that deal with some of the issues that the member has talked about. Of course, we have the homeless shelter, we have the soup kitchen, and we also have the food bank.

We're seeing the numbers increase at the soup kitchen among people who have to go there to get a meal. We also know the work of the food bank is continuing and expanding. A proposal has been put forward by the community that has been accepted and there is work under way right now to build a new soup kitchen as an outreach program of the Anglican Church, as an example, and that project is moving forward.

Those monies were accessed under the SCIP Program Funds. The SCIP Program Funds are the monies that were available under the federal homelessness initiative. Other communities, not just here in Iqaluit, have started food banks and members are aware of that in different communities. At the same time, we're working with INAC to cost out that food basket and look at the amount of monies that we can make available.

The Income Support Program is a program of last resort and is there when there are no other employment opportunities available, or income opportunities. So we're constantly reviewing the program and trying to make it meet the needs.

If organizations or groups across Nunavut want to open up a food bank or a soup kitchen and need some assistance to do that, where possible, I'm sure the Government of Nunavut would help step up to the plate, and with the different organizations and departments, we have, within our mandate, to try and help facilitate that if needed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. There is probably information available from about three regional offices that we mention on this page. Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We all know that the income support rate is not adequate even though it was increased and the Food Mail Program can be used with people who have Visa cards. The income support recipients don't usually have Visa cards. If they use the Food Mail Program, then they can get a lot more with their money. I wonder if his department can make that option available where the income support recipients would be able to use the Food Mail Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We changed the program allowing recipients to use their income support to the vendor of choice. So if they can get an account and they phone down to Marchè Turenne in Montreal and want to order food like that, they had the ability to do that through the Income Support Program with a cheque. If they are in Arviat or if they are in Rankin Inlet, the same program, again, is in place. They order from Thompson, or Churchill, or Winnipeg.

There are approximately 13,830 people in 3,251 households receiving income support every month in Nunavut. The average time a family or a household is on income support over a 12-month period was approximately six of those 12 months and that's based on 2004. The other six months of the 12, the family members or the household would have had other income. That may include employment income or it might include EI benefits. That would also be eligible for a client and that's one of the issues too. In many cases, people have worked and they are eligible for EI, but haven't; whatever the issue is at different times; had an uptake on the EI Program through the federal government and

thus are on income support. Roughly, a little under \$24 million was spent on the program in 2004. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you. I didn't know that's how it was set up. Does the public know, or does your department do an ad, or provide information for the income support recipients about the process? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Minister Picco, before I recognize the minister, the details on G-12 and G-14 you will see the amount of dollars for the Income Support Program. I'm allowing these questions only knowing that maybe this will avoid more questions on this program when we get to that page. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The answer is yes. The income support workers are aware of the program and have been communicating that as on an as-needed basis when the clientele come forward. We also put pamphlets and so on out, too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Because the ministers don't have the same main estimates, that's why I'm asking those questions and that concludes my questions. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. (interpretation) I have no more names on my list for this page. (interpretation ends) Education. Branch Summary. Income Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,260,000. (interpretation) Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Total. Expenditures. Education. Branch Summary. Income Support. Thank you, my friend. \$2,260,000. (interpretation) Agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. G-11. Education. Branch Summary. Adult Learning and Post-Secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$24,188,000. I see a hand. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is that a hand or a finger? I would like to ask the minister about trades and occupations. When I was in Toronto area this week, I heard quite a lot of talk from the mining companies and some of the companies that support the mining industry that there is a huge need for qualified and trained journeymen in most of the trades. They are quite concerned that we do not have those individuals in Nunavut, and under the Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements that the mines signed with regional

Inuit associations there is a requirement to hire individuals from the different communities.

If the people are not trained and do not have the trades training, it is very difficult to hire them. I am wondering if the minister could comment on what his department is planning to do to train people in the Kitikmeot for the jobs. Careers are going to be coming forth. Tahera opens in a few weeks and likely Miramar in a couple years if a federal minister approves their license. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Recognizing the fact that we are in G-11, which also includes G-12, I will just remind the minister to bring in new witnesses at his convenience. With that, Minister Picco, respond to the question please.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With that, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the member for the questions on the Income Support Program, and thank Ms. Sandy Teiman. Sandy has been working on the Income Support, as members know, within the department for a long time. We are trying to make some program changes and to reflect some of the needs that were raised. I would like to thank Sandy for her time.

With that, I would like to take this opportunity to invite Mr. Mac Clendenning to join me at the witness table as the President of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Likewise, we thank Ms. Teiman for her appearance today too. Welcome to the table Mr. Clendenning. Where were we? We were waiting for a response to that question from the minister and his witnesses. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A quick question with quick answers on the trades training programs that have been a part of the college; a lot of work has been done working with the Nunavut Mine Training Focus Group, which has been set up specifically to deal with some of the issues around training for the mines.

This is an exciting time right now in Nunavut. We just had word that the next mine has been moving forward, which is the Doris North Gold Mine. I believe that there are 150 positions available through that site. The Department of Education, through the leadership of Mr. Clendenning, is moving forward now to begin discussions with the Doris group to see what type of training needs and opportunities have to been in place.

In Baker Lake, for example, we have just completed some of the heavy equipment operator training by actually contracting with Morrisburg and actually had some people down doing heavy equipment training. Baker Lake, as an example, is looking at bringing a heavy equipment operator simulator which may be used and we are reviewing that program proposal.

So there has been a lot of work done on pre-trades and mine training itself. Most of the work has been through the Mine Training Focus Group. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister give me a quick overview of the membership for the Mine Training Focus Group? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I would like a quick overview, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Mine Training Focus Group, through the Department of Education, has also identified a half-time person year to hire and the dollar values for it. The Industrial Mining Training Coordinator for Nunavut will work as a program facilitator to link funding sources with existing needs, and work on the ASEP Program proposal, which has been endorsed by all sectors, I must say including the group from the Kitikmeot who have been big supporters of it.

However, when we put the program proposal for ASEP in, and the members have heard me talk about it, the federal government came back with the response that it was one of the top program proposals that they had received and yet there were no dollar values available and asked us to resubmit it. That in itself would give us the extra dollar values to move forward.

I believe the Mine Training Focus Group is headed by Mr. Bruce Rigby through the Department of Education. It includes people in the mining sector, as well as some from the construction field and trades, as well as including people on the education side, training, and so on.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I was going to ask about the ASEP Program because I recall the minister and I having a debate about it in the House almost two years ago when they were developing an application. I was concerned, at that time, that the application would be submitted and there wouldn't be sufficient funding or any funding available for that program. I'm aware, in the Northwest Territories, that they also submitted a similar application and they were funded. I think they're doing quite well.

I'm wondering if the minister could indicate if he's having any success whatsoever in Ottawa talking to the federal officials. Everybody supports it in Nunavut, but do the folks from Ottawa support it. We desperately need the funds to providing training to the folks up here. It's very unlikely that we have enough funds ourselves to provide the training that we have to provide to people to avail themselves of the employment opportunities that are coming from the various trades sectors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Things have changed on the federal scene and I think we all recognize that. The Department of Education has met with HRDC officials which have the lead on this file, on the ASEP file.

We met with them the first week in February to examine the situation around Nunavut's proposal. The officials indicated, at that time, that they were not in a position to support part of our proposal we put forward, although we had such positive feedback, and then we have the buy-in from all of Nunavut and the previous regime that was in place.

The HRSDC officials indicated to us that the Kelowna Agreement contained elements that support what we've said in our identified and said in our ASEP proposal and also in the Mine Training Focus Group.

The financial package associated with the Kelowna Agreement is currently under review by the federal government. What we need to do now is to pick up the pace. Again, two weeks ago, I had contacted the Federal Minister Dianne Findlay through our office in Ottawa to seek a meeting with her immediately to discuss among other issues, our ASEP proposal and to move it forward.

And now, as the member has indicated, with the Doris North Program moving forward, we can go back to the federal minister and say, "Look, we've got two mines, we've got a plan. We need finances; we need to be able to pay for this plan."

Other significant factors playing a role, and this includes the land claim and the different articles within the land claim itself and Mr. Berger's soon to be released report which indicates support for training through the land claim.

So we're going to meet our obligations, the federal government is going to meet their obligations. We need support, and the ASEP proposal will certainly do that.

So I hope that helps clarify for the member and brings him up to speed on where we are right now. The next step will be for the minister to meet with our federal counterpart and I would hope to be able to do that in the next two weeks after the House is finished sitting and again, see if we can get some movement on this proposal. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I would tell the minister that he tell his federal colleagues there that it's getting quite critical because we have the Tahera and Miramar, and Wolfden Resources is submitting their EIS in April. From there, they may proceed to develop the Inmet Project, and we have the Bathurst Inlet Road and Port Group doing their work; there may be synergies happening there; I'm not at liberty to speak about it, then we have Cumberland Resources in Baker Lake. When I was in Toronto, I talked to the Baffinland Iron Ore people who were working on a project up here in the Baffin.

It's not going to happen overnight, but certainly it can happen between now and the next five to ten years. We can't be putting programs in place six years from now; we have to put them in place now so they get the training that they need.

With that in mind, Mr. Chairman, the minister announced a couple of weeks ago about putting some funding into the high school trades shop in Cambridge Bay. I am wondering if the minister could provide a bit more detail on what the department's plans are to convert the workshop and utilize it for trades training in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are moving forward on a lot of different fronts with training aspects. We are continuing to deliver pre-trades programs and trades programs in Nunavut, including heavy equipment; I just gave you some examples of that; we had people last year involved in a welding program course, as examples.

In the Kitikmeot, specifically, we just are underway and the program should finish on March 31; there is a Pre-trades Program running in Cambridge Bay, in the member's community. So those things are going on.

Mr. Clendenning just mentioned to me that he will be meeting with the Director of HRSDC also this week to discuss the issues around the ASEP Program. So I think that's some good news.

Getting on to the member's specific area of concern and question, I think the answer is very positive. I think in Cambridge Bay, what I've suggested to the member and to the House, we are moving forward with the Trades School Program, which is needed even more when we hear some of the developments that are occurring in the mining related field. We'll be upgrading in the school in Cambridge Bay; there's extra space through the shop that's there; the equipment needs to be upgraded and so on.

What we will be doing is going in there and spending the necessary dollars to upgrade that facility and be able to use that as a trades training shop in the school and use that for the region there, that way, we'll be able to be able to use the clientele in the Kitikmeot to provide that much needed training.

So that's a good news story for Cambridge Bay, but also for Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Minister, can you tell me: will the trade school also be available for the use of the high school students? Is that something that your department is looking at? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. It will be a community resource, but also a Nunavut-wide resource. What we are hoping to be able to do is deliver specific mine training in Cambridge Bay that will include the Millwright Program, we are trying to target 2008; we are also looking at the Mineworker Program, to get that to start in the fall of 2007; and add that on to some of the pre-trades programs that we've already started talking about.

As well as the communications that we're having and will continue to have with some of the mining interests that are moving forward to see if there's something if they need a certain program, then the college and the government will step up to the plate and try to deliver that so we could get the training in place. Also with regards to that, trades access programming will also be provided in Cambridge Bay, specifically for the mines and mine involvement.

When we talk about mines, Mr. Chairman, it's very important to talk about not the old traditional way of looking at mines with a pick and shovel. Mines today, especially remote mine sites, the heavy equipment operators, snow plough operators, we need people to keep the runways clean, we need administrative support, we need logistic people, we need administrative people, and so on. So mines can follow the whole gambit, not just actual physical mining. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I know I talk a lot about mining, trades in mining, but there's a requirement for trades people in the construction industry working for hamlets, working for governments, so we can't forget that, Mr. Chairman. I hope that the department will keep that in mind when they are developing trades training in the Kitikmeot.

I have a question on Nunavut Arctic College courses, in particular, one course called the Inuinnaqtun training course. I'm kind of curious how this works when you operate a two-year course, and then you cancel it half way through and there are six or seven students on the course. What happens to the students who have invested a year or more of their lives into the training? Could the minister comment on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, on the training aspects, I think it's important to point out that because we have our land claim in place in Nunavut that gives us extra incentive and extra ability not to control, but to help facilitate activities within Nunavut with mining as an example.

Part of that is under the IIBA, Impact Benefit Agreement, there has to be training aspects there and allow for training for Inuit to take these jobs at the mines. If the mines had to be conducive to this if they sign off on the agreements, Nunavut Arctic College is ready to step up to the plate and if they need to have a program, we need to be able to put it together and so on. So I think that's part of the good news here. It's not just a pure government thing; the mining companies take responsibility through the IIBA.

The Kitikmeot Inuinnaqtun Interpreter/Translator Program is on hold. We started the program off with I believe there was six students. The attrition rate in the program was very high and it was decided by review of the program, with the people involved in the program itself, that we will put the program on hold. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the information on IIBAs. Before I became an MLA, I was with the Kitikmeot Inuit Association, so I had the opportunity to negotiate three or four of them with the various mines operating over there and in the Northwest Territories.

I know from my negotiating experience that the mines are very willing to work with the Government of Nunavut and the communities to help provide the training, but they, for their part, say that they are not 100 percent responsible for providing training. This government has to have some responsibility. While they will provide the training or work towards that, they can't provide it all; they are miners. That's what they used to tell us all the time.

With respect to the Inuinnaqtun language course, some of my constituents have asked me what happens when the course is on hold, what does that really mean? Are they going to start up again and are they going to have an opportunity to go on the course again and complete their training? They are kind of up in the air with respect to their future and that's something that they want to be trained to do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Later this month, there will be a meeting of the Inuinnaqtun Language Committee Group to review the aspects of the program, and then we will see from that committee meeting where we will be going with the program itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I suppose this leads into my next area of concern. When the Nunavut Arctic College develops a course or offers a course, how do they determine what course they will offer? First of all, is it necessary, secondly, where does the funding come from or how do they secure it, and then thirdly,

when students apply for the courses, are they students who are eligible or meet the criteria to be on the course? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are a lot of issues around being able to find and locate proficient Inuinnaqtun speakers who want be able to instruct the program, and two, to be able to take the program.

This program is underway for over two years, and planning and the other logistic as well as administrative work had to be put into it. We were hopeful that the program would move forward, again, the attrition rate was very high, and the committee reviewing the work that has been done, the Inuinnaqtun Language Committee, will be meeting later this month and then they will be reporting back to us to see what the next steps were. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Sounds like another meeting for you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. The problem that I am having with this and some of my constituents and their immediate families is that the students gave up other jobs or their careers to attend the course.

I recognize what you are saying about attrition, there is always attrition in any course, but there are people who were still on that course when it was put on hold. When it was put on hold, the students had to start scrambling to find other jobs and what to do with their lives. It was a very traumatic experience for them and that is when I started getting phone calls and visits from the students. They want to know how this happened to them. I could not really give them an explanation. I wonder if the minister could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Just to remind you of the 15 seconds left on your clock. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There were some logistic as well as administrative issues with the program, included the academic requirements that were included in the program. Several of the students were not able to meet those requirements.

The Inuinnaqtun Language Committee Group, which were under the auspices of this program, met and decided to put the program on hold. They are meeting again now later on this month, in March, to review the status of the program again. There were issues there with attrition as well as people not coming for other reasons, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister tell us how much it has cost the department for that course to date? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a good program; there are issues around being able to find people with the language fluency in Inuinnaqtun to continue the program. We have secured an instructor, that instructor had left; we had to find another instructor.

Of the six students through that academic program, in the first semester, only one successfully completed the academics. It was felt by the language committee, because of some of these issues, that it was needed to put the program on hold and then move forward after this meeting in March and that is what will occur.

I don't have the dollar values for the actual costs of the program with me here Mr. Chairman, but I can get those dollar values and make them known to the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Your last and final question, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I look forward to getting the dollar figures.

My final question concerns an issue I brought up before with the minister and it concerns ABE students who, in their minds, are still students. Some of them are struggling in Cambridge Bay to make ends meet and they're wondering why they are ineligible for FANS assistance or some kind of assistance from the Department of Education to help them with their studies. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Students who are eligible for income support can receive a training allowance while they're in the ABE Program. However, the Adult Basic Education upgrading programs are not FANS eligible.

FANS eligible programs are programs that lead students to a diploma, or degree, or some form of post-secondary and that's one of the reasons that they're not eligible for the ABE Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very happy to see the minister at the witness table with his officials. I think it's a spot that he likes very much.

Just following up on Mr. Peterson's question, I know the minister is eagerly awaiting the standing committee's report on the review of Nunavut Arctic College, the point that Mr. Peterson makes is something that was echoed in every single community that we went to that those students that are taking Adult Basic Education receive next to nothing for education.

The minister indicated that there was a training allowance allowable for those individuals on income support, and I believe it's somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$200 a month extra that they get, which isn't a whole heck of a lot for people that are going to school, especially if they have to put their kids in daycare, they're not at home to make stuff for lunches, extra stuff for lunches, and books and all the different studying time that takes them away from their family.

The minister had indicated that the Adult Basic Education was not eligible under FANS because it didn't lead to a diploma program or something like that. Would the minister be willing to take a second look at that to allow some kind of FANS funding that's just a policy change?

Would the minister commit to doing that to make it more affordable for people to go back to school and further their education and become employable, to work in our communities across the territory rather than being stuck on income support because they don't have the training, or the skills, or the education to get into the workforce? Would the minister commit to looking at that and reporting back to this House? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Yes, I would. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we all love his short answers. The clock is not ticking away on him now, that's why it's short.

When, Mr. Chairman, could the minister commit to doing that by? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll be very quick. One will be when we receive the report from the standing committee because the member has said it is part of that and I would want to make sure I reviewed that. Two; I would hope to be able to bring it forward once I receive that report probably this spring session, probably in June, which is the next scheduled for us. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure the standing committee report will give you plenty of ammunition that you need to provide funding for a program like that where we know of the 75 percent drop out rate; that means 75 percent of the kids that enter into the school system end up having to go through Adult Basic Education to further pursue any training, to even qualify for any training opportunities. So I sincerely hope that that is something that they are taking a serious look at.

My next question deals with programs at the college. How does the college determine what programs that they're going to offer in a particular year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: A one-year advanced programming compilation is done through the annual calendar of the college that gives the students an opportunity to apply for different programs.

Second, the college reviews the programs on an as-needed basis and looks at what's available within their budget; as the members know that budget is being debated right now. There are some programs that will be based on it, for example, the Environmental Sciences Program and so on.

Third is if there is a specific request for a program, a good example of that was the Government of Nunavut requesting a Law Program and/or the Nursing Program, the Department of Education, in consultation with the college, reviews program requests on an as needed basis, and then looks at the time frame, and what the logistics, administrative, as well as the financial costs involved in delivering that program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the college, through the Department of Education, work closely with the other government departments to determine if there is need for any training programs targeted towards any field that may be in need in any other government departments? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Deputy Minister of Education attends all deputy minister functions and meetings with the other deputy ministers. In the course of those types of meetings if training requests and so on are brought forward, then the deputy minister would take note of that and then pass it on to the president of the college. The college president has been located here in Iqaluit over the last months, and the president also has been getting direct feedback from the other deputy ministers concerning specific programs and services that need to be delivered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am wondering if the Department of Justice has requested any training programs being offered for correctional workers. The Minister of Justice has indicated here in this House over the last few days that Inuit employment levels, "horrid," I think was the word he used, that they weren't very high.

If you want to entice people to work in that field, then you'd think that they would provide training opportunities for those interested in working in that field to take a training program to better qualify them to be able to work and handle a work environment like that. I'm just wondering if they've received any requests from the Department of Justice for correctional officer training. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some examples of the consultative work that has been done and requests made for different training options include the Maternity Care Workers Program from the Department of Health, the mental health diploma that's been put in place through the college, the Municipal Training Organization courses through CGS delivered by the college, some of the human resource program courses that we see that are going on.

Specifically on the justice issue, Mr. Clendenning, the President of Arctic College, will be attending or his officials will be attending a meeting in the Yukon where the three territories are looking at opportunities within the criminal justice system for programs to be delivered at the colleges.

Specifically on the BCC or the Department of Justice coming forward with a program or an idea for a Correctional Facility Program, I don't have information on that right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess the Minister of Justice didn't ask the Minister of Education or the department, through the college, to look at offering any programs as such.

Given the fact that you look at Kugluktuk where they now have a centre there where they have the majority are Inuit staff, here at the Baffin Regional Correctional Centre and the Young Offenders are always having a hard time attracting qualified staff and that's one of the reasons that the Inuit employment levels are so low.

I think if the government was serious about trying to address their Inuit employment levels, they would provide training opportunities for local Inuit to be able to take to be able to enter into that particular field.

So I would urge the Minister of Education and the president of the college to take a serious look at that if the Department of Justice is serious that it wants to increase their Inuit employment numbers, then maybe they should start looking at training Inuit to be able to work in that field.

As far as I know, they can't just walk in off the street and start working in a correctional centre. You can walk in off the street and stay there, but you can't walk in off the street and work there.

So I ask the minister to commit to looking at that with the Minister of Justice and letting me know how it went. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Just another reminder I reminded you with earlier, where and when possible, try to make your questions and responses short and to the point to allow more questions or answers during your time. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to leave an impression that there hasn't been any...I'm sorry, I don't have that information with me. There have been some preliminary discussions with Mr. Clendenning and with some of our senior officials about the issues around the criminal justice system and training.

It was only last week that Mr. Clendenning had received the letter from the Deputy Minister of Justice from the Yukon looking at a tri-territorial opportunity under a criminal justice program for training.

So I would agree with Mr. Tootoo's remarks. Mr. Okalik, as the Minister responsible for Justice, has been working very hard to try to increase the Inuit employment numbers, and the member has some good suggestions and I will have an opportunity to discuss those with the minister responsible. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My next question deals specifically with the college itself and with Inuit employment levels. Could the minister inform us of what their levels are? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we do have information pertaining to the current Inuit employment staffing levels at the college, every department of the government, including the college has been asked to provide that information and I will look at it by employment, and so on and by category. So we do have that information. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I'm sure he will provide that to us in a second, but please proceed, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Judging by the smile on his face, I think he has found it now, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you. No, Mr. Chairman, I had it earlier, and I just wanted to make sure that I had the most current numbers available so I asked Mr. Clendenning to provide those to us.

Right now, the number in the senior management, the middle management, as well as the professionals, the paraprofessionals and the administrative support areas of the college, under administrative support we're at over 93 percent. The paraprofessional support is over 48 percent. The total positions within the college itself are 123. There are 18 vacancies at the current time within the college itself.

In many of our communities including Arctic Bay, Qikiqtarjuaq, Cape Dorset, Clyde River, Hall Beach, Pangnirtung, Pond Inlet, Resolute Bay, Sanikiluaq, Baker Lake, Chesterfield Inlet, Coral Harbour, Gjoa Haven, Kugaaruk, and Taloyoak, we're at 100 percent Inuit employment.

So the total number is: 123, 18 vacancies, we're at 85 percent capacity. The total percent of IEP would be 44 percent. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One of the recommendations that was in the general review that the minister has yet to table in this House, I think you just provided the executive summary to us and provided a copy with lots of missing information to the standing committee, but I'm sure if it hasn't been tabled...I'm not sure if it has or not, but hopefully it will be.

One of the recommendations in there talked about strengthening the senior management at the college, and I'm just wondering if the minister can give us a bit of an update on what they've done in that area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A lot of work has been put into strengthening the senior management of the college including the IEP under that program. As members are aware, all members received copies of the external report of the college as the member has indicated.

A good example of some of the strengthening of the programs and services at the senior management of the college here in Iqaluit at the Nunatta Campus, which is the largest

campus in Nunavut, Peesee Pitseolak has taken on the senior management role of the college campus here. In the Kitikmeot, we have Fiona Buchan-Corey who has taken on the management and leadership role there, of course another beneficiary under the land claim program.

Of the recommendations in the external review, there were 75 recommendations, I believe 90 percent have now been completed or are still under way. Ten percent of the recommendations need further work and they are a longer-term process within those recommendations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just wondering, in light of the recommendation of strengthening and building stronger senior management at the college, does the college look at providing or allowing education leave for staff that are choosing to further their education to help better position themselves for the work that they've been doing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. All the professional development that is available under the current collective agreement for employees is available to college employees. So they're treated no different than that.

Under the *Excluded Employees Handbook*, if the person is excluded, again, there are options for professional development there that staff members can take advantage of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to ask the minister how many of his senior staff have asked for and been granted education leave. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information provided to me shows that we have two instructors right now who are on professional development leave from the college. As well, we have a senior director, senior management person who is also on professional development leave.

Again, we are limited by the agreement that is in place on professional development, which is, in many cases, no different than other departments in government. Again, they are dictated by whatever the precedent is in the collective agreement, as well as in the included/excluded employee's handbook. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the three that are on there right now, as the minister indicated, are any of them beneficiaries? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: How many? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Out of the three people that hold the three positions, two are instructors, one is a senior manager, in this case the senior manager, who is on professional leave, is a beneficiary. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That leave that the minister is talking about for their senior manager/director, I do not know what he called him, is that the same type of leave that other staff are on as well because when it comes to treating all staff the same that they are on their leave is on the same conditions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Just to remind you, you have 18 seconds left on your clock. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are different aspects of the professional development that is available to staff. If you are an instructor, as an example, there is a Professional Development Fund you have access to. If you are a senior manager, again, there are opportunities within the *Excluded Employees Handbook* that dictates what type of leave that you would be eligible for. So that is what the case here is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I tried to match Mr. Peterson with his 18 seconds. That is why that question was so quick. Mr. Chairman, is the minister indicating then that the only beneficiary who is asking for leave on this, is just basically on leave and as instructors that get paid basically to be off for education leave, that in this case, the only beneficiary that looked and requested leave is off leave without getting paid, is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. You probably forgot that you had seven seconds left I believe in the last question after your 18-second notice. Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No. What I am trying to say is that under leave, that is available; there are rules and regulations in place and enough.

If you are an instructor, you actually pay into a fund and under the collective agreement; X number of dollars is available to an instructor who goes on professional leave. They are not allowed to take professional leave every year or so on.

Whoever applies for that leave as an instructor has an opportunity with everyone else who applies, and then it is reviewed based on the request and based on professional development and based on the years of service and so on.

In the case of the *Excluded Employees Handbook* and the senior manager again, the same process is applied. If someone is seeking professional development and they have enough years in depending on what that professional development is, it can be leave without pay, it can be with pay, it can be with subsidized pay, and no different than any other agency or department within government where these types of criteria are put in place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We are on Education. Branch Summary. Page G-11. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for his announcement recently for trades schools including Rankin Inlet, as well as Cambridge Bay, I believe and also for Iqaluit.

It included, the locations for those trade centers, but it was not altogether clear in terms of, aside of the \$10 million that was announced last fall, has the minister gotten any further information as to exactly what amounts have been allocated from the federal contribution that was announced through the Throne Speech I believe it was? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we have said with the announcement on the trades school, and I thank the member for his support to move forward with the facility in Rankin Inlet, we said we would access the \$10 million available to the Government of Nunavut under the Northern Strategy monies that were put forward, but also, we needed to bring forward a supplementary appropriation for the accommodations and so on, and we've talked about that a little bit where we've said that there is no good in expanding a program offering in the community of Rankin Inlet, as an example, and not have student accommodations.

So that will be extra money needed for that. I don't want to get into the details of how much those are yet because they haven't been presented to the House, but I can say that the total project cost for the three facilities that we've talked about will be more than the \$10 million, but the majority of that would be in one community, which would be Rankin Inlet, and it includes the accommodations that are needed for family accommodations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I have further questions with respect to the development of the program, could you tell this committee who exactly is responsible for development?

I note that you did announce that the Trades Certification Board has a role in that, I believe, but again, I think you could help us understand a bit more. Could you tell us if it's Arctic College that is responsible for guiding the evolution of the Trades Program and if the programs have not already been developed, when can we expect the minister to announce the programs for each of the centres? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, the auspices for the Nunavut Trades School Program is under Nunavut Arctic College.

I must, again, give credit to Mr. Mike Shouldice in the community of Rankin Inlet, who has been one of our key leads on this program and still continues to be one of the leads on the program in the community for us, for the college.

At the same time, the program dollars announced very recently include the funding of the Northern Strategy dollars and the values there. The next phase will be the accommodations and so on and those dollar values.

That more information, as the member is asking for, would be available when we do the supplementary, so I can get into detail on the amounts of what they will be, but it is plus the \$10 million. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Yes. Will there be an additional advisor or group of advisors helping those people, the vice-presidents in each region, because I do believe that you really need to have more specialists to develop the program.

I don't believe we're just looking for certificates in the carpentry, the plumbing, or these regional three mainly, mechanics, or heavy equipment. I truly believe Nunavummiut; the youngsters are looking to enter into red seal certificates in mechanics and whatnot, and

not just that, but also really preparing for the future development for the opportunities in the mining industry.

I'm not looking for special technology stuff yet. We probably don't have enough dollars for that kind of stuff. We need to incorporate early opportunities for trades aside from the three main ones; heavy equipment, plumbing, and carpentry. Does Arctic College not feel that you need more resources?

I truly was thankful when the minister indicated he would be hiring an Expert Panel to develop the NTEP Program. I believe you need trades people to guide you in developing trades programs. Are you going to do that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Curley is correct. We need to be able to look at what's there logistically and training wise to be able to guide the process for the new Nunavut Trades School.

Part of the announcement was to have a Nunavut Arctic College Trades Coordinator who will be coordinating the trades and Mr. Curley, again, is correct. There's more than just heavy equipment; we are talking about millwright programs and welding programs, and so on, at the same time, in conjunction with the Nunavut Apprenticeship Board, look at the apprenticeship trades, which is probably the whole gambit, which includes for example cooking is an apprentice-able trades. Electrical, plumbing, carpentry are standard ones are apprentice-able trades, and so on, and millwrights.

So these are the types of programs that also would be coordinated and then on top of this, under the Adult Learning Strategy, which we have put in place, we have a group that are looking at the different types of trades and the different learning opportunities that are coming up. So I believe, through these four different mechanisms, we are going to be doing a lot of what Mr. Curley is talking about.

At the same time, once we get this program rolled out and if there is a need to have a more of a Nunavut-wide central group just to specifically deal with trades, other than the Apprenticeship Board, which deals with the regulatory and licensing of apprentices, then that's something, Mr. Chairman, we would be willing to look at and bring forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I thank the minister for his response and I look forward to seeing further reports and announcement, perhaps a more detailed announcement in the future specific to the regions because they likely will differ from, for instance, here in Iqaluit, as well as Cambridge Bay and Rankin Inlet.

So could the minister give us a bit of a timeframe, really, probably have some further announcement? The reason is that there is a known expectation that the Trades Program will now be available for young men and women in Nunavut. So it is important that we do have a bit of an understanding that we not get ahead too far as well.

So I would like the minister to give us at least a feeling of that there will be a certain period in time that they will make further announcement to the program development for the Trades Program. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct; he's stealing my thunder as it were. We are working on a process right now where we will be bringing forward, in the next session which is in June, the dollar values, more announcements of programs we are looking at offering in the three regional centres, and a breakdown of such. And we are also looking at some of the work that we talked about already in Committee of the Whole with the Mine Training Groups and the Adult Learning Strategy.

So that commitment is there for the member and we will bring that forward in the next session which is in June. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciated the announcement when you did make it; I believe it was during your opening comments that heavy equipment certainly was part of that. I certainly hope that the mechanics were a big part of that. Eventually, we need electricians for many of the buildings that we construct; including the government's infrastructure all require specialists of that kind. So eventually, hopefully, that will be part of that.

For the conclusion, I would like to say that for instance, the mechanics, when we looked at all that, I think all of the major provinces that we depended on like in Quebec, Manitoba, and Alberta certainly had been involved.

For instance, in Rankin Inlet, we just had one of our boys spend, at least during the last two years, at least a year in Red Deer of all places. So eventually, hopefully these kinds of programs, inter-provincial quality type of red seal programs for mechanics or what not, eventually will be closer to home.

So I am looking forward to the federal announcement that the minister will bring to the House. When he does that, certainly, the capital plans and programs will be included in that. Certainly, when these programs are developed, I'd like to encourage, again, the minister to come into the community, along with the trades people, because the trades people need to be involved in an official role, whether it be advisory or whatnot for ongoing. Can the minister share that optimism again with us? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you Mr. Curley. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have moved, I think, pretty fast on this as a government. Coming out of the Arviat Retreat in 2004, we said we wanted to have a trades school. I went through quite a period of time looking at the FOL site and so on, and that didn't work out and we moved very quickly with this plan.

I believe it is probably even a better plan. And just for the information of the members - we are going to continue with all the trades access programs that we are having now in three communities; Cambridge Bay, Iqaluit, and Rankin Inlet for across Nunavut.

On Rankin Inlet specifically, some of the programs that we are planning on holding, and I will give a better overview in a month and a half's time, we are going to move forward on the Plumbing Programs, the Oil Burner Mechanic, the Housing Maintainer, the Electrical Program, including an Electrical Apprenticeship. We are also looking at the Heavy Equipment Operator, the Heavy Equipment Mechanic, as well as the Automotive Mechanic and Small Engine Repair, which we will deliver through that trades school.

There are different start times: 2007, 2008, and 2009. We are looking this is 2006 right now; I would hope to be in a position to be able to announce in June with some authority that we will have the trades school facility open in late 2008, early 2009. Again, we have to get it up on the ship and so on.

At the same time, the work in Cambridge Bay, we should be able to move forward very quickly. We want to move forward with the mineworker program, which is inclusive of all the work that we heard of when we talk about mining. So that will be moving forward, that's the fall of 2007.

We are going to be moving forward with the Millwright Program, which is a very important program for mining in 2008 in Cambridge Bay. Here in Iqaluit, we are also moving forward with the Trades Access and the Carpentry Programs. So that's some of the good news that's coming forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's report on the announcement on how the trades program is being planned. Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a further question that is slightly related with respect to Rankin Inlet.

Last fall, it was approved in the amount of \$450,000 for planning in, I believe it was design funding for accommodations that are required for the academic program. Could the minister state to the committee if that process is ongoing and it is a separate program from the trades program. Am I correct in that? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are moving forward, as the Member knows and the House knows, with the program of student accommodations in Rankin because of some of the issues that were raised in the House.

The money that was allocated within the budget framework will also be included now when we move forward with the trades school. We need that extra money and I don't want to get into the details of money because that money is not before the House, but the substantial sums of money that are needed in the community to move forward with family accommodations and to expedite, and be expeditious in planning.

So I will just leave it at that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am correct in understanding then that the \$470,000 right now has been incorporated into the trades school and as a result of that, it was part of the announcement made recently in Rankin Inlet that the facilities for accommodations would need to be built.

So it's a bit confusing from my side, my position, because I have not seen your capital briefing document with respect to the two, what was already announced for design and planning for accommodations, and also, I realize that we need accommodations for students that are entering into trades programs.

So am I correct then that they have been profiled into a single project? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Yes, he's correct.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Am I correct then in assuming that the \$470,000 has been, that we approved, has now been allocated primarily now for the trades school accommodations also to be supplied within these units for the academic side of the program? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct that the money allocated for student accommodations in Rankin Inlet will be used for student accommodations in Rankin Inlet and will be part and parcel of all program offerings by Nunavut Arctic College within the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In view of the fact then that the two programs have now been incorporated into one, it would seem, in my view, that you would need a slightly larger facility in order to meet the two needs. Would that be part of that or... what I am trying to get at is the Assembly was provided with certain assumptions here that the academic side required a certain amount of family type units for students there that are taking courses, whether it be management courses or whatnot on the academic side.

Now, I am led to believe that what we were provided with in the fall had been amended and changed and now is being primarily directed to the trades school. Will it be larger slightly or the same plan that was approved in the fall will now be moved to the trades school? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Very good timing. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, there is really no mystery here. There was money in the budget for student accommodations in the community of Rankin Inlet. Those monies will be used for the accommodations that need to be brought forward. The program scope of things or programs being offered in the community have expanded, so therefore and thus, we need to be able to expand the budget of the accommodations at the same time.

I can tell the member that Mr. Shouldice has been working with us from the community and is aware of what the student accommodation needs are and we are incorporating those as we move forward.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. We will take a short 10-minute break. Thank you.

>>Committee recessed at 17:38 and resumed at 17:53

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for returning. (interpretation ends) We are on Education. Branch Summary. Adult Education and Post Secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$24,188,000. Mr. Peterson, we will allow you a few more questions.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask the minister about page G-12, Student Financial Assistance: can the minister tell us how many students access that program in the north and in the south? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Just for clarification, is the member talking about the FANS program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I do believe so, but we'll confirm that with Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am referring to Student Financial Assistance. Grants made to individuals supporting advanced and post secondary institutions. \$5,607,000. Page G-12.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct, and we can give the total number of applications and enrolments in the program. For 2003-04, there were 1,073 applications. There were 840 enrolments. That's an increase of 28 percent over the previous year which was 2002-03. Total number of enrolments is inclusive and includes the total amount for both the fall term and the winter term.

I don't have the number with me of how many are within Nunavut or actually in other universities, whether it is down south or in other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. A valiant effort anyways. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would presume the minister and his staff can get that information and table it at some point. The \$5,607,000 that you are budgeting, would that cover all expenses for our students and their families for tuition, books, travel to university or college, living expenses, rent? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct; those costs would be inclusive. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Another question, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you Minister. The reason that I asked the question, I had an opportunity with the Standing Committee of Health and Education to meet with the students in Cambridge Bay.

It was interesting that some students from out of town were talking about dropping out or not returning to Cambridge Bay after this year because apparently, they can't return home during the school year, or if they do return home, they have a family of six; they have to leave a few kids in Cambridge Bay. They say travel doesn't cover all of them. I am seeking clarification for that. It seems a little bit strange that you would not assist the students to get home for Christmas or if you did, they couldn't take their entire family. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the FANS Program is not set up to provide a lot of transportation back and forth, to and from colleges, or universities, or programs. As an example, if we have a student who is taking the program in Edmonton, at the University of Edmonton, we would not be flying that person back and forth to Iqaluit on a regular basis.

What the program does is provide airfare, airplane tickets, for the recipient to the recognized educational institution and return flights home. That is no different than many other programs that we are offering in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I will allow you to use your final question and then we will move on to another member who hasn't raised a question. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It might be advisable to the minister to inform the students that participate in that program that the program doesn't fund mid-year or mid-term trips home for the entire family. When we met with them, some of them were saying that they were definitely planning to drop out of the course. A lot of them don't want to drop out, but if they knew up-front, it would certainly be helpful.

My last question on the, unless you give me some more time later on, is on the college contributions. There is \$15,899,000 budgeted and it looks like a \$700,000 decrease. I wonder if the minister could comment on why there is a decrease in the funding for the college when, in the past, there was a trend upwards. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just very quickly on the two questions. On the FANS Program, every student that takes a program applies to FANS through their community adult educator. The program is explained to them and what benefits they're supposed to receive, what those entitlements are, including trips and so on.

Quickly on the number in the books is a reduction, that's because of the contribution agreement out of the program area under the O&M expenses. I think the member is remembering when we were talking about before where we transferred the costs, for example, of operating, oil, and so on, have been picked up directly by the college; those costs were transferred out to the Department of Community and Government Services.

I think that's the amount that's reflected there and some of the changes that have been asked about. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask a question under G-12, on Early Learning and Childcare Trust Fund. There was funding under 2005-06 revised estimates. There's no money allocated to that. I would like to know why there is no money allocated to it this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Just from observation, good question Mr. Barnabas. Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are the dollar amounts that were available to us from the Trust Fund by the federal government. As most of the members are aware now, with the new federal government in place, that program is being scrapped by the federal government thus the amount there is nil. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the department, are you going to try and get this money back from the federal government?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There have been ongoing negotiations and I have written our federal counterparts to try to set up a meeting with that person in the next couple of weeks to discuss issues around the Early Learning and Childcare Program and the new program the federal government is bringing forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Trades Program; I have a question on that subject. Under 2005-06 in the main estimates, the \$148,000 was used. Now they have taken out \$25,000 from this funding out of the planning. How come this funding was deleted from that area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That was a program shift within the department. The money hasn't increased or decreased. The money was shifted to a new program called Skills Can; Skills Program Canada, which operates training programs, and so on. There's no reduction here. It's just a change in that line item. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have any more questions.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. We are on Education. Branch Summary. Adult Learning and Post-secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$24,188,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: We'll allow you one final question on this page, Mr. Peterson. Go ahead.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I better make it a good question since we are talking about \$24 million. Can the minister tell us how the Nunavut Arctic College is accountable for all the funding it receives? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There are several checks and balances within the system to help make Nunavut Arctic College accountable.

First and foremost is an annual audit by Auditor General for Canada, which is found in the annual report; which was tabled in the House and made public as a public document.

The second check and balance which makes Nunavut Arctic College accountable is included and inclusive with the board of governors of the college under the auspices of the college board of governors and operation of the college.

The third aspect is through the Crown Agency Council of the Government of Nunavut, which works with all Crown agencies of the government and puts in place directional letters and expectant letters of what is expected of the Crown agencies within those auspices.

The fourth check and balance is put forward again through this public forum in the House when budgets are debated and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Even though we may be working to rule, I enjoy my privileges as an MLA and asking questions.

I alluded earlier, I think it was yesterday during my opening comments or question to the minister that the Arctic College had accumulated a deficit of over \$1 million, and \$1.5 million or more, and the minister indicated, through his announcement, that the college now has a deficit of only \$310,000. That is minus \$1.2 million in one year. I don't know what kind of managers or financial officers Arctic College has. If any other business had an accumulated deficit of \$1.5 million, they could probably use some advice that your financial officer has in order to wipe out a deficit of that size to only \$310,000. How did they do it Mr. Minister?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: I think I've tried to explain as best as I could in Question Period in the House. As the members know, the college was given an extra \$1.3 million for the 2004-

05 fiscal year to strengthen its financial situation. The board of governors then directed the management to apply that directly to the deficit and that reduced the deficit from \$1.6 million to \$300,000 that we've talked about.

So to keep those costs in line, reduce the deficit, the college looked at some other economies of scale, some administration savings within the administration, and kept that deficit to \$300,000.

So the quick answer is: the supplementary appropriation from the government to the college reduced the deficit from \$1.6 million to \$310,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't know where exactly the additional contribution was made.

Was that reflected through the supplementary estimates available because surely we're not seeing it here? Even the current contribution to Nunavut Arctic College is about \$60,000 less than last year. So exactly where was it recorded, and when did we approve it? Was it through last spring's supplementary? Maybe the minister can help us out a bit on that. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last budget cycle, again, I stated for the record, for the fiscal year ending 2004-05, the college received the additional monies, as I have stated and restated, \$1.3 million to strengthen their financial situation.

The board of governors looked at that and directed it to be applied to the deficit as outlined. It went through the proper procedures, which means it went through the Financial Management Board to the House and was approved.

So that's my understanding of it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the minister's helping us out on that.

Were there any specific conditions where some of the recommendations that were made by the consultant, were they part of the condition in wiping out the \$1.2 million at least contribution towards the deficit reduction because I know it's very unusual where a deficit has been incurred, whether it be communities or hamlets, that there are normally tonnes of conditions. What specific kinds of conditions were attached; if the minister may give us some ideas? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for his question. After the external review of the college, some different items were in there. One of them, for example, was issues around the deficit coming out of the external review of the college; that's when the money was appropriated to reduce that deficit.

I asked, as the Minister Education, asked the college to prepare a Deficit Reduction Plan. The management then discussed with the board of governors about the accumulated deficit of the college and how it could be reduced, and eventually eliminated.

They have done good work, as we've said we're down to \$300,000. We've talked to them about some economies of scale, as well as looking at do I need to increase the administration fee charged by the college, and any monies raised from the administration fee charged by the college, the third party contract would be applied directly against the current deficit.

The college has come forward and balanced its budget. I also asked that on a conservative basis, is there an amount that could be charged for a contract administration fee. How much of that would be available to us if we did that. For budgeting purposes, any additional fees received by the college to be used to put against the amounts available to control the deficit.

I also asked the college to look after the need for a tuition fee. Any increases in tuition fees, again, would be put towards the Deficit Reduction Program. I know that Aurora College, in the western territory, has had two increases since 1999 on their fees. They have increased to \$865 from \$720. Right now they're up to \$1,040 in 2004.

So those are some of the ideas that have come forward; the contract administration fee; the tuition fee increase to be used to put toward the actual remaining deficit that's available; for a total of little over \$300,000.

The amount received on the contract administration fee would be around \$175,000 and the amount for the tuition fee increases would be about \$130,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Education. Branch Summary. Adult Learning and Post Secondary Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$24,188,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Education. Branch Summary. Career and Early Childhood Services. G-14. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question to the minister is on the Daycare Contributions. Early Childhood Program Daycare Contribution in the amount of \$1.5 million; that's pretty steady throughout the last three years at least, as well as this coming fiscal year.

My question to the minister is; could he give us exactly when the federal program will be cut because my understanding that they'll be continuing on with it for an additional one year, but the minister had made it appear to sound that it's not going to be available this coming fiscal year and yet there appears to be some conflicting statement from the federal side that it could be continued for one more year, and so on. Could we get a precise understanding whether or not the \$700,000 that he has announced through the House last year will be coming in this coming fiscal year now? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Just a reminder before we proceed, G-14 and G-15 are the two pages we're working on right now. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Clendenning for his good service with us today and while we are dealing with the post-secondary budget and I take this opportunity to invite Ms. Pam Hine, the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education back to the witness table with the indulgence of the committee. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. I see everybody is in agreement. Please proceed. So I take this time to welcome Ms. Pam Hine to the witness table. Welcome, Ms. Hine. So with that, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. I've got to try to un-convolute the issue with the...the federal government announced, under the leadership of the former Minister Mr. Dryden, an Early Learning and Childcare Strategy of \$5 billion payable over five years. The amount available to Nunavut was about \$700,000 based on the population amount, or per capita, and as the members know, we did not agree with that and we didn't sign on to the agreement.

However, as part of the program and the announcement, they allowed for a draw down as a measure of good will for all jurisdictions, in our case, we were allowed to draw down to the per capita amount that was available to us and that's what we did.

For the upcoming year, the government changed. Mr. Harper took over and they announced that they would not be honouring those agreements. However, jurisdictions, the 10 provinces that had signed on to the agreement would get the additional year that they signed on to and for.

We are still in negotiations with our federal partner to also have an uptake for per capita funding on that and that's why I can't, at this point, or the government acknowledges those monies in the budget because we haven't concluded those agreements or

negotiations. That's why I'm trying to seek a meeting right now with the federal minister responsible to move forward to be able to finalize that.

If we are able to finalize an uptake of the program, the previous Liberal program, which they will allow for another one year, fiscally, then we would be able to access those monies because we did not sign on to the agreement. If they don't allow us to do that, then we will not have the opportunity to draw down on those funds and the federal government will move in with their \$1,200 per child amount or per family amount, which is why we want to meet with the federal government and try to explain some of the issues around the extra expenses we have in Nunavut to see if we can have that amount indexed.

I hope that helps and un-convolute the convolution on this question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Convoluted or not, can the minister tell me exactly what amount he has drawn down for the funding that would have been available if we had signed on to the program because it was not entirely clear whether it was \$700,000 only, or part of it, or was it more than once? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member. I believe the amount is \$652,000 that we have drawn down on. And again, I used the base amount as an estimate or a guesstimate of approximately \$700,000 for every \$1 billion allocated was the per capita amount. In this case, it was \$652,000.

We would anticipate receiving another \$652,000 if the federal government will allow us an uptake on it. If they are extending it for another year for other jurisdictions, then we want in too and that's what we are going to ask for. However, that has to be negotiated and that's going to be the amount included. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: I appreciate it. The federal program, as I understand it, was to develop lifelong learning for daycare facilities where they were applicable and so on. Was that part of that or was it just for O&M purposes? What was it exactly was the funds received for? And if he has any recollection, exactly where was the money spent for that amount? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The whole process that we had with Minister Dryden was to create under the Liberal government a National Childcare Strategy and Program.

There were different, we called them “quad” principals agreed to during those negotiations which would be put in place. There were certain qualifications and standards that each jurisdiction would have to maintain to have an uptake on these programs.

One of the reasons why we wanted more money was because we felt that the per/capita amount would not give us the opportunities to see through the total program, and I again thank the members for supporting us on that motion for Premier Okalik while he was in Kelowna to push that point.

Secondly, on the amounts that were available to us, as the member has asked, again was based on the per capita amount and we would hope to be in a position to draw that down.

Where the money went that we did draw down; I have an Education Advisory Committee that I put in place when I first became the Minister of Education which has several members from different daycares across Nunavut.

Through that process, and with the childcare family allocations, we distributed the money to all the operating daycares within Nunavut. So, as an example, in Kimmirut, \$5,375 was given to the pre-school and to the daycare in Kimmirut received \$20,828.

In Rankin Inlet, in the member’s community, the Ajajaa Pairivik received \$10,153; the Kitaujaq Society Daycare; \$19,111. And the Rankin Inlet preschool actually received \$5,972.

These monies then were used by the daycares toward their operations and maintenance expenses: whether that was a breakfast program, whether fixing broken pipes, or buying new material and equipment for the children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Curley. I do not have any more names on my list. We’re on G-14 and G-15. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for bearing with us here.

Could the minister explain why the Income Support Program increased by \$2.2 million this year over last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That amount was for forced growth within the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister be a bit more specific on what he means by forced growth within the Income Support Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: The definition of forced growth in governments is a term that is used to indicate an increase in the amount of funding available to a said government, or department, or program, based on forced growth features. For example, these would include population increases, increases to the cost of living allowances; it could increase the CPI and so on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

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

You said earlier that the program hadn't received an increase since 1997. Yet since 2004, I think this is third increase. Why wouldn't there have been forced growth increases in years prior to 2004, but yet now we're seeing forced growth increases? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (Mr. Arreak): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the chair Mr. Chairman.

The short answer for the member, and again, he asked me what forced growth was, and I gave him the example. One of the things of forced growth is the extra costs of a draw down on programs.

So if your population is increasing, then you would expect to have a larger uptake on a given program. That's forced growth and that's what we mean there. The 15 percent increase to the income support amount would be exclusive of any forced growth amount, meaning that's actually new money put into the program.

So the rates would be increased contingent on whatever the applicant would be eligible for. The 15 percent is real increases; the forced growth amount only maintains the status quo of the amounts that are available. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. On page G-26 of the business plan under Priorities for 2006-07, priority of the development and implementation of an electronic case system for use across Nunavut, can the minister clarify it for the House what system they are using currently to administer the Income Support Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are using, right now, the *Agga* system, or in *Qallunaatitut*, the hand system, which means a manual system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister indicate or see if they have investigated systems from other jurisdictions, or could the minister indicate whether or not he expects some costs to be associated with implementing this electronic case management system that's mentioned as a priority for 2006-07? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The case management system that's in place for income support, and this has a long history in files, we have gone out and we have tried to find systems that would work for us.

There is an RFP being put in place right now to be finalized and advertised during March of 2006, and that's this month. Several companies have expressed interest in working with it and submitting proposals for the Government of Nunavut.

We would expect that once the RFP is complete and comes back, an analysis will be done and they will look at a cost/benefit analysis on the proposals that have been submitted.

It's very important to be able to have the electronic case management systems in place, not only does it customize the information it has received, it will give us a better correlation of that information, stats, and so on, which will help us do a better job with the program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Will this system be a system that, if it's implemented, the hamlet councils that are under contract with the department could easily use or interface with the Government of Nunavut's system? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The inter-compatibility of the new program is one of the things that we would want to have in place with it. So the quick answer would be yes, it would be inter-compatible with the other equipment being used and by the other contractors that we would have under the employ of the government. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. On page G-25 in the business plan under Community Income Support Delivery, there's a decrease of \$366,000. It says it's a regional administered program, funds individual communities through service contracts to deliver the Income Support Program. If there's a decrease by \$366,000, does that mean that there's a decrease in community organizations delivering the Income Support Program in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the Community Capacity Building Budgets Program, we have issue where the amount was decreased and we are trying to ascertain the amount right now as I speak in opening it and as I continue on with this monologue, I hope to be in a position to answer the question. It's a transfer between the Building and Careers Compliance or BCC and the Community Capacity Building or CCB Program. So in actuality, it's not an actual decrease, it's a transfer of program dollars.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure everybody else is as confused as I am. I was talking about page G-25, the Community Income Support Delivery Program that decreased by \$366,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When the budget documents were being presented in this book that we're reading from, there was confusion between the two acronyms that were being used, and I gave an example that the BCC, which is the Building Careers and Compliance, and the Community Capacity Building, which is the CCB.

Corporate Services will prepare a Financial Management Board Report submission to correct this error, and the hamlets providing these services on behalf of the Government of Nunavut will not experience any reduction in service because of the err of acronyms.

The convolution and the monologue have ended. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: I think everyone is getting a little tired. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had to pick a good one for the minister. It was worth a question, if you use logic and common sense you think the communities are giving up the program.

My final question is on page G-25 of the Business Plan, the Seniors' Fuel Subsidy, it's budgeted at \$130,000. We know that the cost of fuel is continuing to be high. It will probably increase; I don't think it's going to decrease. It is mentioned that it is income tested; I recall the other day the minister had mentioned; he was quite specific. How many seniors in Nunavut own homes and qualified for this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program is available to any Nunavummiut over the age of 60, who is considered low income, who owns their own home.

Last year in Nunavut, there were 45 homeowners who had an uptake on this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I wasn't expecting you to call my name. My question Mr. Chairman is; it's stated in the business plan...first of all, I would like to thank the minister during question period...

The eligibility is very difficult and the minister stated when I asked him to check into this further, it's in regard to some elders keep their grandchildren, but the eligibility criteria, how long can they have a boarder or their grandchildren's income to make sure that it doesn't go over \$39,000? Can the minister make it where that the homeowner, sometimes some children will be there maybe a week, would their income be included in their eligibility criteria? It seems like they are used to disqualify them in regard to the fuel subsidy. It makes it harder for the seniors. I wonder if the minister can tell us if this can be remedied. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That program, and there are program criteria in place for this program and the eligibility requirements. The case that the member brings up is an interesting one. We believe that the elders should not be penalized.

When you have a visitor in your home; if I have someone visiting me for two weeks; that person is a visitor; is not considered a permanent resident of that household, then their income should not be included in the case management of that subsidy allocation, or the amount being applied for.

The quick answer to the member is no. On a short-term visit, that person wouldn't be included. However, if I take a grandchild into my home and the grandchild is now living permanently with me, is considered as a member of my home, and has an outside job, then that income is counted. Because the person is a permanent resident or a member of

the household, it can then be included for the total income of that household. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do I understand if that person doesn't stay for a whole year, but stayed for six months, let's say, as long as it's under a year because it doesn't specify that in the pamphlet.

The reason I brought this up is what qualifies so that person who stays with them, if they only stay with them for a year, not less than that, then it wouldn't be included. Is that how I understand it? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through questioning in the House on this program, Mr. Curley raised some issues with the documents and so on. On further review, the member was correct and we've sent the pamphlet back for translation changes to make it more accurate, based on some of the things that Mr. Curley has raised, so we appreciate that.

Again, the clarification on the eligible income depends on the case worker; the income support workers. There is an appeals process in place if needed for individual clients to be able to move to the next level. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Are you done, Mr. Curley? Thank you. I don't have anybody else on my list. At this time, we can't vote because we don't have a quorum. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Did you forget our names?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. We are page G-14. Under Education. (interpretation ends) Career and Early Childhood Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$38,182,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Page G-16, and G-17. (interpretation ends) Education. Curriculum and School Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to recognize the clock, I'd like to report progress.

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

Opposed. Okay. (interpretation) The motion is defeated. We'll proceed. We're on page G-16, along with G-17. We don't have a quorum again.

We are on G-16 and G-17. Curriculum and School Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$10,003,000. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: G-19. Education. School Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Kattuk.

Committee Motion 04 – 2(3): School Bus Services in Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion on this issue. Mr. Chairman, I move that this committee recommend that the Department of Education review the current status of school bus services available to students in Sanikiluaq, and that the department consider purchasing a new school bus for the community in 2006-07 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with debate on the motion I have a few comments to make as to procedures.

Every member has the right to speak once to the motion for a total of 20 minutes. The mover of the motion speaks first. The mover of the motion has the right to the last reply which closes the debate. To the motion, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the ministers know that our school busses are very old, it's being serviced by the hamlet, and it uses a lot of money.

The District Education Authority is concerned it is falling apart now. So I think our community is growing and the DEA is concerned that we need bigger school and Nunavut is growing now. I'm looking forward to the motion to pass today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will certainly support the motion. I think it's appropriate; I don't believe it's too much for the community to be asking for services of this kind that are important to our students and also safe and reliable.

The situation we have in Rankin Inlet is that...I was amazed at how some of the communities have first class bus services in places like Iqaluit. I had always taken it for granted until my boy, who was out with me and he looked at the bus and he says, "Wow. That would be about one trip to Area 6 if we have a bus service like that."

In Rankin Inlet, to go to one location, the bus goes three times and it was so shameful, not long ago, that there was no security, the bus drivers were questionable, even. There was a letter sent to the principal and a number of parents because there had been problems in the bus and the bus driver...I really, truly believe that your department, Mr. Minister, should put in guidelines.

If they are going to be contracting them out as they do in places like Rankin Inlet, there must be guidelines for the safety of the students and I do really, truly hope that they would be run by more professional business or what not, whether or not for profit groups like we experience in a place like Rankin Inlet.

I'm not 100 percent sure of whether or not there was safety checks on the run down, old bus that we are currently using in a place like Rankin Inlet. I certainly hope that will not be the case of this motion when it's eventually funded. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through questioning in the House, the member has raised the issue of the school bus and we are on our O&M budget right now and this is a capital item.

However, recognizing that it is a capital item and that it is an issue that the member has raised in Question Period, the department is trying to ascertain what dollar values we have available to us within the capital budget to be able to purchase the given motion item.

I note that the motion does state that the department is to consider purchasing a new school bus and that's something that within the budget framework that we have available for us to go to.

On the issues that Mr. Curley has raised, there are regulatory regimes in place for licensing and certifying our equipment on the road in Nunavut and that does also pertain to the buses.

Part of the leadership of the department, and the member is correct, is to look at what processes are in place for school buses and when they should be brought to purchase and how those types of contracts are allocated and allotted.

So with that, it's a capital item and we recognize that there are some real issues with the bus service in Sanikiluaq. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Picco. If you want to vote and you want your vote to count, you have to be in your seat and it goes along with the other members to be in their seats. I have no more names on my list if you wanted to speak to the motion. Mr. Kattuk, do you have any more comments to make? Okay. All those in favour please raise your hand.

Please raise your hand if you are opposed to this motion. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

Moving along; we're on page G-18 and G-19. Department of Education. School Operations. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I would like to ask the minister with respect to exactly what the roles the Director of Education are providing in the regions. I believe in the regions, I don't know exactly how the school districts are working out because there does not appear to be all that much leadership these days.

Could the minister or deputy explain to us what they do; what they provide? What are their mandates and are they there 100 percent of the time? We don't appear to have that experience now in Rankin Inlet for the community, and where are they located? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have three regional operations centres for the Department of Education as it pertains to the K to 12 system.

Those regional offices are in Kugluktuk, Baker Lake, and Pond Inlet. The Director of Operations is the supervisor of schools and coordinates all the activities within the schools, the principals, as well as the coordination and the facilitation with the District Education Authorities out of those three regional offices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So in terms of the Kivalliq region, did I hear the minister say Baker Lake is the location for the Director of Education, where all the other programs appear to be located in Arviat? Am I correct in that?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The School Operations, which is administration and supervision of schools and so on as I indicated, is based out of Baker Lake. The director is based out of Baker Lake.

Arviat holds the Nunavut Arctic College education facilities as well as the Curriculum Services Division of the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How long has the Director of Education for the Kivalliq region, as far as I know, been located in Rankin Inlet?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Director of School Operations, as far as I know, has been in the community of Baker Lake since I've been minister and my understanding is before I was minister; so certainly, over the last several years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the minister providing that information because obviously there must more than this number of directors in the whole administration. Are there other similar roles in terms of other programs? Are there other directors that are located at Rankin Inlet? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the decentralization process, the majority of our positions have been decentralized outside of the regional centres; in this case in the Kivalliq. We do have decentralized offices in Arviat as well as in Baker Lake. In the Qikiqtaaluk, we have them in Pond Inlet and in Pangnirtung. In the Kitikmeot, we also have them in Kugluktuk. The majority of our leadership or supervisory positions are located in the aforementioned communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Currently, I believe there is an acting position based in Rankin Inlet and in that acting position, is that an Acting Director for School Operations; the Director of Education currently based at Rankin Inlet now? Is the position vacant in Baker Lake? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a position that we have within the department in Career and Early Childhood Services. That is vacant, as the member has indicated, in Rankin Inlet; that's the position. It isn't the Director of School Operations or School Services; it's under the ECE Program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: So the minister earlier indicated that most of the school operations are directed out of Baker Lake; curriculum development are based in Arviat. I'm not exactly sure what is based in Rankin Inlet. Who directs the positions that are based in Rankin Inlet and exactly what are they?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated earlier, the bulk of our operations for that region are based out of Baker Lake. We do have a position within the Early Learning and Childcare Services Branch of the department based in Rankin Inlet. I think we have an acting person in that position right now. In Arviat, we have the curriculum school services, as I spoke about earlier.

I don't have the Rankin Inlet organization chart with me, so I can't say exactly what supervisor positions and the director positions that would fall under the School Operations Branch have been ascertained and identified, as I've given that answer to.

If the member knows, specifically, of what position he is speaking on, what the name of that position is, or title of it, then I would probably be able to answer it quickly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. If anyone can navigate through the bureaucratic titles, I don't think it's me. I think you are going to have to help us out in this one because the case that I'm reading is G-18, it indicates that the Executive Director of School Operations supervises and administers all schools.

So if there is an executive director, could the minister help provide exactly if that position is currently occupied and based in Baker Lake? Am I correct in that?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I'll ask the deputy minister to explain those two positions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Ms. Hine.

Ms. Hine: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Education is divided into almost two major divisions. One is the School Operations side of it. The member is correct; there is the Regional Director of School Operations located in Baker Lake for the Kivalliq region. In Rankin Inlet, there is the Director of Career and Early Childhood Services, which is the other side of the division. That office is located in Rankin Inlet for the Kivalliq region.

As the minister stated before, there is also part of the Department of Education Headquarters located in Arviat, which includes also the Curriculum and School Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Hine. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I appreciate the response from the deputy minister clarifying my question.

My question then is I understand that position in Rankin Inlet is acting director. Can the minister or the deputy minister tell this House, this committee, exactly when the full-time director will be hired for the position that she quoted earlier? Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The position right now is out for active competition. The position closes effective March 10.

The incumbent in that position is the new assistant deputy minister of the department and that person, right now, is attending the Council of the Education Ministers of Canada meetings in Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The person who was just indicated has now been hired as assistant deputy minister. Where is the assistant deputy minister position located?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: It's located here in headquarters in Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: So I understand the minister that the current acting director, in view of the fact they've been appointed assistant deputy minister, will now be relocating to headquarters?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: That is correct. The person is in the position and the members have met the individual in question at different standing committee meetings all summer. She is now representing the department ably in Yellowknife.

Part of the employment offer is to move to Iqaluit. So the assistant deputy minister will be moving to Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: I move that we report progress.

Chairman: Okay. Thank you. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. Thank you. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Kilabuk: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 12 and would like to report progress that one committee motion was adopted. And Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder for the motion? Mr. Barnabas seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion. Opposed. Abstained. 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 that there's a standing committee meeting tomorrow at nine o'clock, the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability at the Tuktu Boardroom, followed by the meeting of the Regular Caucus at eleven o'clock.

Orders of the Day for March 9:

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 09
 - Bill 12
 - Bill 13
 - Bill 14
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): We will resume on Thursday, March 9 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:07*

