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**Thursday, March 9, 2006**

**Pages 1531– 1614**

**Iqaluit**

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

## Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

### *Speaker*

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

(Tununiq)

*Chair, Management and Services Board*

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

(Nattilik)

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

#### **Tagak Curley**

(Rankin Inlet North)

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

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

(Iqaluit West)

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

(South Baffin)

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(Kugluktuk)

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

#### **Keith Peterson**

(Cambridge Bay)

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

#### **Peter Kattuk**

(Hudson Bay)

*Regular Members' Caucus*

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

(Iqaluit East)

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

#### **David Alagalak**

(Arviat)

*Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Peter Kilabuk**

(Pangnirtung)

*Deputy Speaker; Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **James Arreak**

(Uqqurmiut)

*Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole*

#### **Steve Mapsalak**

(Akulliq)

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

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

(Baker Lake)

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

#### **Levi Barnabas**

(Quttiktuq)

*Chair, Full Caucus; Regular Members' Caucus*

#### **Hunter Tootoo**

(Iqaluit Centre)

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

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(Amittuq)

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

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

(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)

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

#### **Patterk Netser**

(Nanulik)

*Minister without portfolio*

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Hansard Production

Innirvik Support Services

**Box 1200**

**Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0**

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

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

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut**  
**Thursday, March 9, 2006**

**Members Present:**

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akasuk, 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. Curley to say the opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

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

**Item 2: Ministers' Statements**

**Minister's Statement 081 – 2(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation 2004-05 Annual Report**

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member. Later today, I will be tabling in the House the 2004-05 Annual Report of the Qulliq Energy Corporation. I had released the financial statements for this period and tabled them for members last session. At that time, I had the pleasure of pointing out that in 2004-05 Qulliq Energy turned in its lowest operating deficit since 2001, demonstrated significant management capacity to review operating expenses, and truly showed that this was the beginning of a turn-about for the corporation.

Today, the additional materials in the annual report show some of the highest levels of Inuit employment, increased plant efficiencies, a stable workforce, and one of Nunavut's most successful decentralized locations in Baker Lake. The management of the corporation appears to have been able to work within the guidelines provided by the Government of Nunavut to build an increasingly stable and successful utility. You will also notice that the opinion of the Auditor General is provided without reservation for the first time in several years.

The un-audited results for Qulliq Energy in 2005-06, the current year, show this operating trend continuing with new revenues supporting the corporation, even as we all face increasing fuel costs.

I expect that the members are aware of the work the corporation is currently doing on the initial site work for a hydroelectric generation facility near Iqaluit. You should also note that Qulliq Energy is seeking external funding to continue and expand this work in order to conduct a Nunavut-wide survey of appropriate alternatives to diesel generation.

Mr. Speaker, I anticipate shortly referring to the URRC a number of issues related to the residual heat projects, which we expect to see coming on line this year in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet. This will assist the company and the public in understanding the financial and the environmental value of the projects and in defining their accounting treatment.

These financial statements show remarkable and commendable improvements in the financial health of Qulliq Energy Corporation, but they do not yet show revenue capable of sustaining a conventional operating and capital program. A healthy company has the means to invest in new plants and to improve equipment and engines, especially when greater energy efficiencies can be achieved.

The staff and board continue to move forward with increased efficiencies and with a careful eye on our bottom line.

Mr. Speaker, the corporation is moving in the right direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Minister's Statement 082 – 2(3): 2006 Arctic Winter Games – Day Three**

**Hon. Patterk Netser:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Halfway through the 2006 Arctic Winter Games, Team Nunavut has won a total of 28 medals to date. For our most recent wins, I would like to congratulate:

- Bradley Iasutisluk of Gjoa Haven who won gold in the Alaskan High Kick with the height of six feet four inches.

Silver medal winners went to:

- Joe Audlakiak of Arctic Bay in the Junior Men's Finger Pull, Inuit Games.
- Susie Pearce of Iqaluit in the Sledge Jump, Inuit Games.
- Our Junior Male Doubles won silver in Table Tennis while our Junior Female Doubles won Bronze in the same sport.

Team Nunavut will be bringing home additional medals from the Dene and Inuit Games. Athletes who won bronze medals in these games are:

- Tom Naqitarvik and Thomas Levi of Arctic Bay for the Stick Pull in their respective categories.
- While Steven Klengenber, Sandra Nuliayok Ruben, and Sean Nipisar for the Triple Jump in their respective categories.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

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

#### **Member's Statement 204 – 2(3): Prospectors Mining Meeting – Toronto**

**Mr. Peterson:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to report to the House on my recent participation in the Prospectors' and Developers' Conference that I attended in Toronto earlier this week.

Mr. Speaker, PDAC is the largest annual mining conference in the world. It is well attended by individual entrepreneurs, companies and representatives of nations involved in the mining sector. There are around 13,000 registered delegates.

One of the reasons for my participation was to attend a meeting between Wolfden Resources and the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Technical Committee, which is headed by the Kitikmeot Corporation. The news media have reported recently that the two companies' infrastructure projects in the Kitikmeot are in competition with each other. I am pleased to report that the two parties actually had an extremely positive meeting.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to visit many of the exceptional display booths that promoted the mineral potential and business opportunities in our regions of Nunavut. Our territorial representatives were working very hard on our behalf to explain to visitors the vast mineral potential in Nunavut.

When I stood in the Nunavut section and looked up at the banners of China and Brazil, I realized that we have some serious competition in attracting mining companies. Mr. Speaker, in only a few short weeks, Tahera Corporation will officially open Nunavut's first diamond mine. The display case at their booth exhibited an impressive collection of polished diamonds from the Jericho pipe. Visitors were lining up to view them and I'm sure that once they're selling on the global diamond market, Nunavut will gain a reputation as a world-class source of diamonds.

Mr. Speaker, Miramar Mining also had a booth at PDAC. In fact, while I was talking to their representative, an individual from New York came up and announced to us that she was the happiest Miramar shareholder in Canada that day. Apparently, she is a significant shareholder of their stock, and, along with all investors and shareholders, she was waiting for a positive recommendation from NIRB to the INAC Minister. The NIRB recommendation came on Tuesday. I might have been the happiest elected official in Canada on that day.

Mr. Speaker, one common message I heard from most folks involved in the mining sector in Nunavut is the requirement for an educated, skilled, and trained workforce to work at the mines or for companies supplying goods and services to the mines. They wanted me



to convey a message that they are prepared to do their part in assisting Nunavummiut to acquire skill sets and education to actively participate in Nunavut's growing mining sector.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Government of Nunavut to make this a priority area and support their training efforts. There are no shortcuts: training programs must teach real skills that will enable our constituents to take advantage of real opportunities. Mr. Speaker, the time is now for all of us to do our part. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

**Speaker** (interpretation): Members' Statements. Mr. Arreak.

### **Member's Statement 205 – 2(3): Lack of Job Opportunities in Clyde River**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to talk about Clyde River.

As we are well aware, the capital of Nunavut has the most job opportunities and we have now heard that \$2.3 million has been set aside for the building of the hospital. I'm not exactly sure where this is coming from, but there are absolutely no job opportunities in Clyde River and there are no outside monies coming in.

For example, in my community, if they were asking for a gas attendant, the salary would be at minimum wage and there would be approximately 35 people who apply for that position. It's not a very good job and it's not a very high paying job, but you get that many people applying for that same position.

The government keeps saying that they would like to be closer to the people, closer to the communities, and repeatedly, I've been trying to get some money to be used for the operation of a visitors' center.

I have asked for approximately two percent, if you look at the total operating costs, but when the government refers to us being closer to the communities, I think that they should give more financial support. If we are looking at \$ 2.3 million, it seems like they were easily accessible and it seems like they didn't have to go through the negotiating process.

I heard from a member that they are setting out \$ 2.3 million for the hospital. Now that that the information is public, it makes me think about the have-not communities; we are told that we do not get the financial support because they are a volunteer group.

I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleagues.

This is something that I am seriously concerned about. The smaller communities that are non-decentralized have been left on the back burner for way too long. Even when we are asking for employment opportunities, you have to repeatedly keep asking for it and we are not well off. We are not as comfortable as the larger communities. We also do not have the human or financial resources that the larger communities do have or receive.

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

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

### **Member's Statement 206 – 2(3): Lack of Employment Opportunities in the High Arctic**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, what I would like is to make a comment on the lack of employment opportunities in the smaller communities. When Pan-Arctic, in the 1970s, was up and running, there was ample employment opportunities in Arctic Bay and in the outlying communities like Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Grise Fiord, and Resolute Bay.

There were people from the communities who went back and forth from their community to the Pan-Arctic side and we can still see that. I think we are still able to create those job opportunities. There are mining opportunities or possible opportunities up in the High Arctic area and these smaller communities are always looking for the creation of job opportunities.

I will be directing my questions to the Minister of Energy at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Member's Statement 207 – 2(3): Lack of Job Opportunities**

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After consulting with my constituents, I have been urged to make a comment and to remind the government about the agreement they made, and again, like my colleagues, it is in regard to the lack of job opportunities.

There is an increase in the population of Pangnirtung and, of course, we are proud of our students who are graduating from the high school and we see more and more graduating, but then again, there are no job opportunities and there are more and more people unemployed.

(interpretation ends) There is an opportunity this government can act on, unlike my colleague from Clyde River and the situation he faces; this is to open the community-decentralized positions to Pangnirtung residents. Pangnirtung has many people willing to work, but just does not see government moving fast enough to finalize its plan.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we have a growing number of people looking for jobs in the community. Just to give you a couple of examples of the number of people willing to work, fisheries alone saw over 200 people involved in the fishery activities over the course of the winter when the ice conditions were good because there was simply nothing else to do. Today, it is rare to see any more than 20 people involved in the actual fishing activities over the course of the winter because of the poor ice conditions. Parts of plants that depend on the fish resource is dependant on the fish coming in to keep the 50 employees a day that are holders of seasonal jobs when there is fish to process.

Mr. Speaker, this clearly calls for the government to live up to its commitment and identify the jobs that were stated for Pangnirtung and make them further available to the residents of Pangnirtung and not just hope that the people can be found from outside sources while we have the unemployed numbers in Pangnirtung.

Sure, if the concern is lack of qualified people in my community, tell us where those jobs will be and we will give the people time to train to become qualified for those positions. Mr. Speaker, years have come and gone already while we could have been training constituents of mine for these jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 208 – 2(3): International Women's Day Event**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, I'd like to rise and acknowledge the efforts of the Qulliq Status of Women Council for events, the crafts sale, and the coffee house that they held last night in celebration of International Women's Day. I had an opportunity to attend the crafts sale. I had to leave prior to the coffee house. It looked like a tremendous turnout for the craft sale and I hope that the individuals that were there selling items sold what they wanted to. I am sure that the coffee house was a big success as well. So I would just like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their efforts in putting together those events and commemorating International Women's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

### **Member's Statement 209 – 2(3): Fuel Delivery Salaries**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in regard to fuel. In the communities they have fuel contractors. I do not know how they operate, but I have heard and have seen that when the price of fuel goes up the delivery contractors' salary does not increase and also their assistants who deliver gas and fuel stay at the minimum wage level. Even though the price of fuel is increasing, their salaries do not increase and this should be considered more by petroleum products.

At the appropriate time, I will be raising questions to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and welcome at this time one of my constituents, Nadia Ciccone. Thank you for being here.

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

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

#### **Question 239 – 2(3): Qulliq Energy Corporation Funding**

**Mr. Tootoo**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Energy. First off, Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the Energy Minister for his rather illuminating presentation this morning to the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

I believe that we had a very productive exchange of views and that there is a lot of fuel for thought after that meeting. Mr. Speaker, we know from this year's budget address that the Government of Nunavut is projecting that it will need some \$51.6 million in supplementary requirements in the coming fiscal year.

The budget papers indicate that uncertainty over the price of oil is a part of it. In recent years, this Assembly has been asked to approve millions of dollars in direct funding to the Qulliq Energy Corporation to offset its losses.

Can the minister enlighten the House today as to whether or not he will be bringing forward requests for such funding in the near future? And if so, how much will be required? And will there be a supplementary appropriation bill for us to consider during the upcoming spring Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): That was more than one question. Minister for Energy, Mr. Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the enlightenment of the member, and not to be facetious or even vociferous in my response to him, my responses are to his five questions; no, no, no, no, no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Laughter*

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister probably doesn't realize how many people he made happy by saying no.

It's our understanding that the Utility Rate Review Council has rejected outright the Qulliq Energy Corporation's request for a capital stabilization rider, or the new plant-funding proposal.

In light of this, what is the Qulliq Energy Corporation's capital shortfall? What projects may not proceed as a result of that decision? And, how does the corporation plan on securing sufficient capital funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): When you are raising questions, can you please ask one question, not three different ones. You are only allowed three separate questions. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the member's first question, and the member has been informed, and the public in general; the capital stabilization rider application by the Power Corporation was rejected by the Utility Rate Review Council. That means that the Power Corporation has to fund, within its own resources, the capital budget proposal for this year, which amounts to a little over \$7 million.

In any given capital program that is brought forward, there are always deferrals on certain items and you are trying to prioritize the items that need to be brought forward based on specific needs. That prioritization has been done and it falls within the context of the stated \$7 million in the capital budget for this year. It has gone to the minister for sign-off and it has also been approved by the board of directors. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate your comments and it's always worth a try. Can the minister indicate, as he has said, the budget has been approved for the capital budget, around \$7 million; does the corporation have the financial capacity to meet that capital plan? I'll just leave it at that and won't ask a second question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, the capital plan has been approved, a little over \$7 million, by the board and signed off by the minister. There are some other projects that we would like to bring forward within the capital project framework. We are, as I indicated to the members this morning in the briefing with the committee, we are trying to access federal funds for those.

I'm endeavouring, right now, to confirm meetings in the week of March 20 with different federal ministers to bring forward our requests. Those include some geo-technical projects, additional residual heat projects, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the minister's comments, I appreciate them looking for extra federal funding, and as the Minister of Finance said in his budget address, there's now a lot of hope in our federal counterparts listening to us down there. So hopefully they listen to him.

Regardless of this additional funding coming in or not, can the minister indicate, for all the Members in this House and the listening public, how much, if any, of an increase in their power bill they can expect to see in the next 12 months, aside from the fuel stabilization rider that has already been in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amounts budgeted and allocated for the Power Corporation, under its revenue stream, have to go back to last year, to the process under the Utility Rate Review Council. The Utility Rate Review Council allowed, at that time, a 3 cent increase to power rates. It indicated, at that time, that anything over a 15 percent threshold would be a rate shock for Nunavummiut.

So in that Utility Rate Review Council, last year, they allowed for 15.8, almost 16 percent increase, and a 6.3 percent after the external review, and some other work that the Power Corporation had put in place and would be able to document.

I have not received, officially, the external review yet, as an example. Once I receive that external review, I review it myself, I give it then to the Utility Rate Review Council, who will review it, and then there's an ask available to the Power Corporation of 6.3 percent for this fiscal year, which would be about 1.8 cents, or 2 cents, a kilowatt hour.

This is all up to the Utility Rate Review Council; they provide a check and balance to the corporation. We do know that they had approved the 6.3 already, as everyone knows; it was in the Utility Rate Review Council report from last year. Now, the Power Corporation has to substantiate its need for that 6.3 percent, and that's part of the process of the external review, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 240 – 2(3): Oil and Gas Exploration in the High Arctic**

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under Member's Statements, I mentioned I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Energy. (interpretation ends) In the High Arctic, there is a lot of natural gas and oil. Can the minister explain why no work is being done there? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In questioning over the last couple of days in the House, I did allude to the fact that as the Minister of Energy, at the last Ministers of Energy Meeting that I attended, we had raised with the federal minister responsible that the federal government has leases on certain parcels of land in Nunavut, especially and including in the High Arctic, where there is at this time around 35 percent of all known natural gas and oil reserves belonging to Canada, and that there has been no activity in these areas because the federal government has not pushed the leaseholder, in this case PetroCanada, to actually option and act on their leases in the High Arctic.

That's the reason why there has been no activity on these leases and in these areas. This is probably the major reason for that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will Nunavut include this as part of devolution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Absolutely; devolution will be the key to the economic success of Nunavut.

The amount of monies that we see for example going to the Province of Alberta from royalties from oil and gasoline has put that province into such an enviable position recognized across North America.

We're now seeing where the Newfoundland Government with its offshore oil resources is also benefiting from these oil and gas wells. Through a devolution process we would hope that the Government of Nunavut would also benefit from that type of production. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is this a federal government issue or a Nunavut issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is part of the excellent work that the Premier has been showing leadership on, on the national level, and on the national stage.

Right now, it is a federal responsibility and the federal government will recoup the royalties, but they also have control over who moves forward to develop these areas within the Nunavut boundary. So the key on this would be devolution.

I also wrote the federal minister responsible about six months ago indicating to them that we would like to see some movement by the federal government to either got to the leaseholder, in this case PetroCanada, and say, 'Are you going to actively explore your options on our land, or if you're not, then relinquish them and come out to bid, and give other corporations, entities, and businesses an opportunity to do so.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe the minister can ask the federal government to move on the oil and gas exploration in the High Arctic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some of the studies indicate that over the next 20 years that royalty regime could be over \$500 million on the Melville Island side alone if that goes into production.

Again, when you're holding almost a quarter of all known natural gas and oil opportunities it bodes well for Nunavut's future, but what we don't know, Mr. Speaker, is if we did more exploration wells and so on, would we find more? And the answer would probably be yes.

So that's why, for us in Nunavut, we see global warming, we see climate change, we hear about more traffic through the Northwest Passage area, and the opening up of areas that, right now, may not be conducive to more exploration. So we need to be able to move forward.

So we are pushing the federal government. We have written letters. Again, as the Minister of Energy, I am seeking a meeting with our federal counterpart and I would hope to be in a position the week of March 20 to be in Ottawa. I have confirmed some meetings today and I would hope to be able to enlarge on those in the coming days. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Question 241 – 2(3): Update – Arctic College Letters of Expectations**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Education. Yesterday, your answers to questions on Arctic College were very informative, but we didn't have a chance to ask you any questions on...last year, you wrote a letter in April, a letter called, 'The Letter of Expectations for Arctic College.' I think the letter was four pages long. Maybe the minister can answer me on whether those letters have been tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the idea of bringing forward the letters of expectation, it was a good one. It followed on the Auditor General's Report of last year and it was followed up with the creation of the Crown Agencies Council. The letters of expectations for all Crown Agency Councils were tabled here in the legislature. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Like the other Crown agencies, including QEC have already tabled their letters of expectation and their responses. In the minister's view, has the college complied with at least six objectives that the minister asked them to focus on, as well as a number of management issues that he outlined in his letter? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did table the annual report of the college, which updates the member, the members, and the public at large on some of these issues. I can say in the affirmative that they have been carried out.

Secondary to that is the external review we did on the college. There were 75 recommendations there, some of them were overlapped within the letters of expectation, and 90 percent of those recommendations now have been complete or are ongoing.

The biggest issue that the college faced other than the management side of things, and I think we have addressed those and we have answered some of those questions for the members over the last few days during the budget debate, were issues around the fiscal situation of the college, which wasn't very good, and I think we have explained that at some detail in the House where the deficit was reduced down to about \$300,000; from a little over \$1 million. The lion's share of that reduction came from the supplementary appropriation through the FMB. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Curley:** Thank you. I appreciate the minister referred to the annual report. I did check the annual report, but it did not spell out or appear to have covered all of the issues that you raised with the college in your letter to them on April 5, 2005.

So I'm wondering whether or not they are actually going to comply specifically with the reference that you said that these documents must be tabled at the same time the corporation's annual budget for 2006-07 is tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

So I believe the report, in itself, is not sufficient pursuant to your letter. Will you be tabling more information soon? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct. Again, we have several days left of this session and there is some other information that I will be tabling on behalf and for the college. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Question 242 – 2(3): Davis Strait Polar Bear Survey**

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, I was asking questions to the Minister of Environment. I did not have a chance to finish my question, so could I ask him on the research on education survey. Is he involved in that?

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): The research or survey in Davis Strait near Kimmirut, Igloolik. Our communities are involved on this research and I would like to consult with them using *Inuit Qaujimaqutuqangit* in regard to the Polar Bear survey in that area and the Davis Strait area because they do hunt in the same area from the same group of polar bears. We will be seeking their advice on this subject of research on polar bears in Davis Strait. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not understand exactly whether if he answered yes or no. Are the Inuit involved in this survey or research on polar bears? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, they are with the Inuit hunters. The biologists are working with the communities; so yes.

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

**Mr. Kattuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to ask are individuals, or hunters, or people who have knowledge on polar bears being involved in the research or study? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Community people and the hunters are involved in the research. So I do believe when we say communities because where there are different communities that are in that boundary on Davis Strait, and any community has Inuit, and I do believe saying communities is proper so that I do not have to point out one individual person. Yes, the hunters are involved in the research. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister usually states that the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* Policy will be used to consult with the communities. How are they going to use the *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* in this regard? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** The area that is being researched will use their knowledge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Question 243 – 2(3): Federal Funding Arrangement**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, in the budget address two weeks ago, he mentioned that the Government of Nunavut had watched in dismay, “When the federal government imposed a 3.5 percent fixed rate.” In a media report at that time, the Nunatsiaq News say Premier Paul Okalik said this week he’s still happy with the new funding arrangement that Prime Minister Paul Martin is offering Canada’s three territorial governments. So apparently, the government was happy with that deal.

The question for the minister is: if the new framework deal was so bad at that time, why did the Government of Nunavut sign it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The 3.5 percent was agreed upon and it's not enough for the whole of Nunavut. It's quite not enough. We always get 57 percent of what we originally requested. It's usually not enough and 3.5 percent is not enough as well, but we had to sign it. We had no other choice. It will be supplemented in the near future to make it more agreeable to our liking. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Most of us in our personal lives don't sign deals we don't like, unless we have a gun to our head. Maybe that's what happened. In the budget address, he stated that Nunavut did better under the old agreement and the minister commented on that. However, the analysis overlooks the fact that the Government of Nunavut was always bailed out at the last moment by timely injections of funds from Ottawa; funds for health, being an example.

My question for the minister: if the Government of Nunavut knows that we are only going to receive 3.5 percent in the current deal, what financial directives did the Government of Nunavut contemplate to keep the budget within the 3.5 percent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are continually working on this issue. The 2006-07 budget estimates that we are dealing with now and the federal government had agreed to 3.5 percent. We've been working with the Ottawa officials and we've been working with the two expert panels and also the Council of the Federation Advisory Panel.

We are working with the two panels and probably at the end of the month they will probably table the documents. So the Ottawa officials are waiting for these, but the federal government is now transferring funding to us that is inadequate for all three territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that. The minister's budget address also mentions the panels, and I'm glad that the minister has brought them up again.

The budget address mentions the two panels are going to be making a recommendation to the federal government with respect to the Territorial Formula Financing Agreement. The minister just said that the government is hopeful that the recommendations are positive and favourable to Nunavut, that the government will be receptive to assisting us with more funding.

My question for the minister: what contingency plans does the Government of Nunavut have in place to deal with the very real possibility that the new federal government will maintain the status quo, 3.5 percent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, we have been told by the Prime Minister that the expert panels, once they finish their review that they will be reviewing, they will be meeting with the three territorial governments in regard to that.

I've already met with the federal government's finance minister. We expect that they'll be using the expert panel's recommendations, but they're reviewing at this time. It'll be easier to tell what the federal government's viewpoint is by this coming summer or fall as to what the recommendations will be from the expert panel, but we do have expectations that are positive for Nunavut in helping the Nunavut territories. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. I know that we probably had similar expectations in 2004, I recall a lot of hype that we were going to get a good deal and then, as the minister said in his budget address, we watched in dismay.

Since Nunavut was created in 1999, our budget has nearly doubled and it still is not enough to deliver all the goods and services, and maintain a healthy and happy lifestyle for all our Nunavut residents that other Canadians take for granted.

My question for the minister: is the government of Nunavut now reaching a point where some budget cuts will have to be made in order to provide basic, essential programs and services to Nunavummiut in areas of health, education, housing, and power? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are looking for a way that we can better utilize our resources within our government, especially to have better services, healthy communities, and to make sure that they live comfortably. We are always looking for ways to cut costs and how to spend our money wisely. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 244 – 2(3): Type of Aviation Fuel in Arviat**

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Petroleum Products. Mr. Speaker, can the

minister tell me, since there are many types of aviation fuel, in Arviat, what kind of aviation fuel do we sell? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Arviat, the aviation fuel that is transported there is different, there is Jet A fuel, diesel fuel, and gasoline. I am looking for that information, but I am sorry because I did not really respond to the member here. I would really like to give adequate responses because these are very important to the question.

It is going to be very informative to the communities and to us. I really do want to provide the proper response, so I will take it as notice and I am very sorry, and I am not really feeling comfortable, but I really would like to give you adequate response, but I remember it was Jet A fuel. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): The minister is taking the question as notice. They will respond later on, so thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for Uqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

#### **Question 245 – 2(3): Support for Ilisaqsivik Society Core Funding**

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Last year, I had asked this same question in regard to Ilisaqsivik core funding; if they could provide assistance because *Ilisaqsivik* is very beneficial to the community and also creates employment opportunities and it also helps the community to revive.

The minister stated that once they get their financial statements that they were going to start on again. Is the minister ready to support *Ilisaqsivik* now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department committed to providing assistance of trying to address the request of the society. Part of the request is to request a copy of an audited statement. That information has been received.

One of the challenges that we face in trying to provide assistance is that the funding that they use are vote 4 programs, and we approved in the main estimates the \$11 million that we receive from the federal government.

The society receives funding for their projects under that vote 4 funding. At the same time, the society receives funding from other government departments, not just health; education being an example, Culture, Language, Elders and Youth being an example.

So there has not been a movement to provide core funding to the society at this point in time. The file is being examined and we are trying to come up with means to try and address their request, but as it is right now with the Department of Health, there is no core funding for the society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The *Ilisaqsivik* Society does a lot of work in our community, and they also counsel people, they also counsel people who have mental health needs.

I also saw a document in regard to a Mental Health Nurse that will be going to our community. We already have a counsellor from the *Ilisaqsivik* Society and this mental health worker that is proposed for our community is provided funding even though that individual doesn't even know our culture and language. Why can't you provide core funding to our *Ilisaqsivik* Society where they all know our culture?

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health provides core funding to health centres through social workers in every community.

Those are our core programs; the health centres in every community and social workers, and that position, the mental health nurse, I believe that you mentioned, is part of that core funding for that community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I understand her, it seems as though I have not received any answer to my question.

The Member's Statement I did is not too good to hear, but there is \$2.3 million funding and in my community we're requesting far less than that and there are hardly any employment opportunities in my community.

Even though this sounds impossible, but when it's already existing and operating in our community, it's very beneficial. Can the minister assure me that you'll provide, even though you do not approve core funding, that you'll provide some form of assistance and support to the *Ilisaqsivik* Society as your department and as a government also? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my earlier response, I did say the department will try and work with the other departments to try and respond or address the concerns or requests being made by the society.

The society accesses grants and contributions funding from various agencies and some of them are from Health, but there's a lot of other funding that they receive from other departments such as CLEY, or Education, or the federal government.

At the same time, the society provides programs such as Internet Access, Youth, Drop-In Centre, and/or Moms and Tots, or after school programming that does not fall under the Department of Health activities.

So to try and coordinate internally within other departments to request how we can better address their concern is one that I will commit to do to try and assist the society.

At this point in time, the Department of Health does not have a core funding outside of the services offered by the health centres, nurses, mental health workers, social workers, and CHRs, and so on, but I will commit to having my staff meet and work with the other departments to try and assist the society in accessing funding for their core programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Arreak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not satisfied with the replies she just gave me and it's true that the society is giving service to the communities that she mentioned that's only a partial list of what they are doing. Trying is a negative reply I'm getting. Will the government be helping the *Ilisqisvik* Society in Clyde River? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't dispute the importance of the programs being offered by the society at all. What I am trying to work through here is how we can provide core funding to a society outside the Department of Health and Social Services programs. That's the challenge that I'm tasked with and I did agree to working with the other departments in trying to address the request from the society.

And for the record, in that fiscal year, the Department of Health provided \$227,000 in programs for the society. So we have provided assistance and you are asking for additional funding to fund positions for the centre and that's the challenge I'm tasked with outside the current Department of Health and Social Services core programs in the communities.

I committed to working with the other departments in trying to address the concerns. But at this point in time, I cannot provide core funding to the society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.



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

**Question 246 – 2(3): Total Number of Decentralized Positions for Pangnirtung**

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. After he has responded, I will want to have further information before I get into it anywhere.

We don't know how many positions are going to be decentralized to Pangnirtung yet. There were 69 positions slated for Pangnirtung and on October 2, 1998, the Office of the Interim Commissioner announced that there would be 78 new positions. On July 5, 1999, the government announced that the Secretariat confirmed the number of 78. On June 3, 2003, a GN announcement indicated that 71 positions have been decentralized to Pangnirtung. A GN return to written question from November of 2005 also indicated the number as being 71. And I'm still wondering if it's 71 to date.

My question for the Premier is this: can he confirm for me today what the total number of decentralized positions will be in Pangnirtung? And how many of these are filled currently? And how many positions remain? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): I can confirm for the member that the number is still at 71. It is not going to be decreased or increased. It is now written in stone and there will be no changes. To date, we have 57 filled positions and we are currently looking at filling the other positions which are in the works. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for confirming the number, which, as he said, was written in stone.

I have another question because we keep hearing different numbers and I know those 57 positions are not filled by beneficiaries. There are just a few positions filled to date. I would like to ask the Premier if he can make an announcement to the mayor and to the people of Pangnirtung that there are 71 positions.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Yes, I can.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope the employee's positive response would be that in 2006-07, it states that the government is looking to fill the positions. It says that one of the goals of the department and Premier is to plan a Second Annual Decentralization Plan and Reporting Meeting for 2006 to provide an update on the status of decentralization in Nunavut.

Can the Premier tell me what issues are impeding the filling of decentralization positions in Pangnirtung and will he commit to tabling a report at the upcoming decentralization meeting? Thank you.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I would like to thank the member for bringing up those questions.

We were in a much compromised position when we were dealing with decentralization because they were written or the promises were announced by OIC, and we went through a hard time. I really do thank the member for having been a part of decentralizing those positions to the communities. He made a huge contribution at that time.

There are now 18 positions. Some are being filled and some are not filled yet. We will keep the people of Pangnirtung informed of what position is available so that the local people can apply for those positions and fill them.

So we're going to be doing that this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to hear that and I do support your commitment to keep the people of Pangnirtung informed because, as I said earlier, if they are informed ahead of time, they can make the plans and take further training.

Mr. Speaker, I have another question to the Premier. Will the Premier commit to consulting with affected Members of the Legislative Assembly before any more changes to the numbers take place in decentralized positions including the Department of Health and the Medical Transportation Office that is in Pangnirtung? We still have problems and we hear that there are still hiccups that they have to deal with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Paul Okalik** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are 71 positions that will not be changed. The number will not change and we are going to concentrate on filling those positions in those departments. From Economic Development and Transportation one position, four from education, five for Environment, and five for the

Department of Health and Social Services. We do have to complete filling those positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 247 – 2(3): Department of Finance Plans**

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to again direct my question to the Minister of Finance. It's in relation to a publication and I look forward immensely to receiving every year; that's Auditor General's Report. I'd like to quote a little bit from the Auditor General's preface. On page 1 it states, "Six years after Nunavut's creation, I'm surprised at how slowly financial management has improved."

On page 2 it states, "Your accounting staff has spread throughout Nunavut in small decentralized groups. Large organizations need professional accountants to provide financial leadership. At present, your government does not have enough professional accountants for such a decentralized environment and certainly not enough to deal with all the problems needing attention. This report looks at options to give financial management the rapid boost it needs so that your government could continue to try small changes, as they have done for the past six years, however, that approach has not worked so far and there's no reason that it will in the future."

It also indicates that she recommends, to some degree, re-centralization to establish basic financial controls. And that they would look at, once these improvements have been made, the government could again consider decentralizing those accounting functions.

My question to the Minister of Finance is: given those comments made by the recommendations, what plans does the Department of Finance have in relation to the comments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working on this issue ever since we got the report. We have reviewed the recommendations ever since we became a territory. We are implementing the recommendations and she made a recommendation to make sure that we have a centralized functioning agency.

In regard to finances, she recommended that we put all those financial positions into one community. That would mean that we would have to move out the other Government of Nunavut positions that are in that community. We are working on it at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Auditor General had indicated that they basically re-centralize temporarily until they get their financial controls in place and that basically, it could be just a temporary recentralization to build capacity.

Is the Department of Finance looking at doing exactly that; are they planning on temporarily recentralizing some of these Finance positions until they have the capacity to be able to decentralize those positions again? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, it is currently in discussions. We have not finalized a decision yet, but we are debating on the Auditor General's recommendation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that there have been other temporary moves of decentralized positions back to here in Iqaluit, for example, if that is where the Department of Finance plans on recentralizing that function, and I know the President of Arctic College has temporarily been reassigned here in Iqaluit at no cost of jobs moving to replace that out of Iqaluit to Arviat because that is just a temporary move. So can the minister commit that that will be the case with any temporary recentralization of any financial functions in the Department of Finance? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, we are trying to find some ways as to exactly what we will do and go with the recommendation of the Auditor General, but we have not completed it yet. So at this stage, I cannot really give you a definite answer. We are still in the process of working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Tootoo:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I know that the government has had this report for quite some time and I would assume that quite a bit of work has been done on that. Can the minister indicate at least if the government's Department of Finance is leaning towards a temporary recentralization or a permanent recentralization of that function? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. David Simailak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, but like I said earlier, we are not finished with it, but once it is completed, I will give you a definite answer. We are still in the process of looking at it. So at this time, I cannot give you a definite answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 248 – 2(3): More Resources for Diabetes**

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health. Mr. Speaker, diabetes is on the increase in Canada. A few weeks ago, I talked to a lady who was attending a workshop on diabetes. She told me that Nunavut needs to be aware of the dangers that diabetes poses to the health of Nunavummiut. My question for the minister: will the department be providing more resources for diabetes education in diabetes clinics for the Nunavut population? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department has discussed the Diabetes Strategy to address the issue in Nunavut to increase further awareness and prevention and care and treatment services for Nunavut. That trial has been completed and the strategy itself and more work will be implemented in the next year or so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, the department has released a report on diabetes in Nunavut for the period of 1997 to 2002. A question for the minister: has the incidence of diabetes in Nunavut increased since the last published incidence of .29 percent for this period? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue on diabetes is one that we need to do a lot more in terms of trying to identify the ways of prevention, and one example that we have done to try and address the issue around diabetes is the program led by the department around 'Drop the Pop' that involved youth as one example of one of the initiatives that we have in the community.

In terms of the numbers, there is potential for the numbers to go up for people with diabetes in the north if we don't start to address it from the area of prevention in our communities through public education and so on. I would like to try and concentrate more of the energy of the department to developing prevention strategies in our community level, one of them being the whole issue around diabetes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to hear the minister tell us that there's work being done on diabetes. Mr. Speaker, diabetes is a very serious illness, it can cause blindness, it can cause heart failure, liver failure, the whole gamut. I think you could also have your legs amputated due to blood pressure issues. It's a very serious illness.

Mr. Speaker, the department participates in the National Diabetes Surveillance Program. A question for the minister: can the minister tell us when more recent information on diabetes will be released in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to share with the member, the numbers last year, 2002, 41 new cases were diagnosed in Nunavut. The number in Nunavut represents about 1.72 compared to Canada.

Anyway, we do participate with the federal government in areas of trying to come up with programs for Nunavut so that the material in the area of prevention is also in Inuktitut and so on.

Yes, further work will be developed. There are also promotional activities for healthy living activities and exercise, as an example, as well as diet. So that type of information is being developed, there are some commercials in the community, as an example, 'Drop the Pop' activities, and the whole promotion of healthy living. And the department will be doing more in those in the next year or so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that information. Mr. Speaker, the lady I was talking to said that the Department of Health has to get out there and work with the communities.

So I'm wondering: can the minister be more specific as to what activities the department is going to do this year or in the upcoming year to raise the level of awareness of the dangers from diabetes to the population of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Hon. Leona Aglukkaq:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can share with the member the plans for the communities and I completely agree with you that we have to get out into the communities.

One of the things that I have been talking about, areas I have been talking about in the House was to involve more communities in the whole area of prevention-type programming in the community, healthy living strategies through our committees, through our CHRs, and to examine the roles of those committees, as well as CHRs in the area of prevention.

At the same time, in our business plan, we stated that we are looking at developing a Public Health Strategy and that will involve...this is one piece of that, but on overall prevention, a Public Health Strategy to be established in the next year. So there are those types of initiatives underway.

At the same time, I agree with the member: we have to do more in informing the population of the effects of poor diet, lack of exercise, and so on. I will commit to the member to share that information with the Members in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Question Period is now over. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Mr. Curley.

### **Item 9: Replies to Opening Address**

#### **Reply to Opening Address 02 – 2(3): Mr. Tagak Curley**

**Mr. Curley** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to rise today, there is almost an emergency and I don't think I will be here tomorrow. Especially, we heard that in Whale Cove, one of the constituents, who we are very proud of, passed away. He was out on the land and he was, unfortunately, found. He is not very old; he is just slightly older than my colleague from Arviat, who is Paul Kaludjak's uncle. He is my cousin and I am very proud of him, and he is a real outdoors person. His grandmother was old. So our relative, we send our condolences to the family. I can say as for us hunters, we look up to him because he was a man and we think of you, Levinia.

I will not be able to complete the questions that I wanted to ask because I will have to leave tomorrow as my wife had to go to Winnipeg. I will have to look after my son and our grandchild. That is one of the reasons why I brought that up.

What I wanted to ask questions on was for us Inuit we rely on the animals and on the land because what we hear from the federal government and Nunavut that the population of the polar bears is decreasing and we will have to do something. And we just recently heard that the Wildlife Fund is now going to Kitikmeot and they are saying that we have to work every way to preserve them.

When they say that, the way I understand it is that the number of polar bears is decreasing or that we will have to stop hunting polar bears, but that is how I understand it, that we will have to decrease the polar bear quotas and in Hudson Bay, Keewatin, Rankin, Whale Cove, Arviat, and around that area. There are only 900 polar bears in that area.

Inuit are saying that the polar bears go to different places. They do not stay in one place. They say in one region there will be less because of early thaw out or early thawing out of the ice. Are the polar bears gone or have they simply moved to a different region?

If we are proud of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, then how come the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and the biologists cannot work together? Maybe we should not even try. With the climate change, we definitely have to understand the Inuit culture and the polar bears don't just come from Churchill, they come from the Fox Basin area where they migrate down and pass through Manitoba, but some of them seem to go back and forth.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Inuit and the scientists are not working together. Maybe they're not to work together.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker my question is to the scientists. I think it's appropriate because the International Polar Year has been proclaimed for 2007-08. Isn't it exciting that we be a part of that; that we don't just leave it to the federal government to take care of all the events?

I would like the Minister of Education to listen to my concerns for once. I believe he should. Here is an opportunity for students that are involved in high school and Arctic College to get involved with the science in Nunavut.

I believe Nunavut has always, when it was still part of Rupert's Land and stuff, were very much part of scientific studies and evolution; very exciting. And I have made statements that scientists, including our biologists, really can work together. I think I can work with a biologist, but they don't come around asking me. I can't force him.

But whose role is it, as far as the government is concerned, to encourage them to work together with traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge? Which one of these is fallible? Only the Inuit view, or should we accept the fact that the scientists' views are sacrosanct; that no one should question about it when they say polar bears are being depleted?

Mr. Speaker, I would like to quote an assessment of what scientific theories are. Here's what it says, "Scientific theories are made to be overturned." Wow. That writer better be taken off the face of Nunavut if he's from Nunavut, right? And it says, "They manifest culture as surely as traditional knowledge does." This particular fellow said, "A theory can never really comprehend the true complexity of nature, only provide useful ways of organizing it until a better theory comes along. In those terms, the Inuit with their indiscriminate assimilation of whatever information came to hand had produced a superior theory of how their environment works.

This particular individual surely has a respectful knowledge of Inuit knowledge, and how important it is. The only problem is that this writer is not from Nunavut, so we may have to dismiss him. He's from Alaska. He has seen how traditional knowledge possessed by Inupiat was fundamentally important to all aspects of scientific studies including polar age studies, biology, ecological systems, and all the other scientific stuff.



They work together. Their governments are finally a little more respectful of what scientific criteria should be before they give them a grant. So I'm asking all the ministers here that they better find ways to encourage scientists to work together because our biologists are telling us polar bears are decreasing.

If polar bears are decreasing, let me say this Mr. Speaker, the quotas that are allocated to your community will not be met. Maybe you'll get only one out of 20-some odd bears that your community is being allocated. So what are we worried about? If there are no bears in my constituency, there won't be any polar bears killed. So they won't be depleted; they just won't be around. They may have moved somewhere else.

I think this government needs Inuit support to encourage that scientists work with us because according to the information I read that all scientific theories are made to be overturned. Not just by dismissing them, but by the knowledge of other people who have better understanding of what the region or the nature of the wildlife really are.

I believe the Canadian Wildlife Service should be encouraged to meet with locals instead of using the officials of the Government of Nunavut to do the dirty work; meeting with the community and saying your views are not accepted. Let them go directly to the communities. That is one way I believe the scientific knowledge and Inuit knowledge will meet together. They do that in Alaska, and they do it the healthy way. And they have found ways to work together.

I'm hoping that this means this opportunity that we have will eventually be met. I'd like to just quote one review of the particular book that I'm reading. It says here, "An insider's view of the two subcultures; one being Inuit and other *Qallunaaq* way; the scientific view. Mr. Wolf's forced back and forth narrative illuminates the tension between traditional and scientific and provokes questions about which is more reliable, if one can't or should do without the other."

At least they question whether or not the two should work together or not. Here in Nunavut, we don't even question that. Biologists, scientific views, that's the answer. Inuit knowledge is not important. It's a shameful tradition that we are practicing right now. I'm hoping that we will work together.

This particular book is available from our friendly bookstore in town, it's called, 'The Whale and the Supercomputer.' It's a very fascinating book. If I was the Minister of Environment, I would ask every single wildlife officer and manager to read that book. The two cultures clashing together, two important views; one not more right than the other, but they found ways to work the scientific disagreement and traditional knowledge.

So Mr. Speaker, there are a number of questions and I hope someday that we will have a little more professional relationship in terms of all the scientific issues that we normally come by, and that licensing the terms of references of all the branches of this government normally issues to scientists, or whoever they are; whether they be anthropologists would include that they meet not only with the organizations.

We are famous for saying, “Meet with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated; meet with them.” No, make sure that when they are going to Clyde River that they meet with the elders in the community; that’s the way to do it; that’s what they do in Alaska.

Mr. Speaker, I have a number of questions that I had wanted to raise, as I mentioned earlier. I will not be here when the Department of Justice issues a raise; the budget comes forth. There were issues that I had concerns with last year with respect to the role of the RCMP relating to the *Motor Vehicles Act*. I believe the *Motor Vehicles Act* is very important. It provides conditions for licensing vehicles, as well as safety of vehicles, including the proper licensing requirements for people who drive and use vehicles, for instance.

Many of these smaller communities the RCMP tells me that they don’t have a particular mandate to deal with the traffic, and whatnot, in smaller communities. It’s just not part of their role. It may be the role of the bylaw officers and so on, but the question is; the *Motor Vehicle Act* is an important piece of legislation. It affects aspects of people in our communities, except for the hunters who use snowmobiles and so on, including the ATVs and all the other vehicles required that they be licensed and insured.

So what is the purpose of having it insured? Privately insured, to say the least, we don’t have a public system. However small a community in Nunavut may be, everyone who is driving an ATV must have insurance coverage, liability coverage. And what is the purpose of liability coverage, Mr. Speaker? I believe that is there to ensure when an accident does happen that the government itself does not pick up the cost for liabilities or injuries that occur. I believe the insurance companies may have a responsibility to cover not just a vehicle if the public insurance is part of that, but in our system of government right now, when accidents do occur and injuries do occur in smaller communities, no report is submitted.

That’s why I got into a bit of a situation in my community constituency. I thought it was not right that the serious accident happened with a young boy experiencing three broken pieces on his one leg, very serious even to now, was never properly investigated.

I believe all governments must ensure all incidents are reported by the officials that are listed in the *Motor Vehicles Act*. I believe that the Fire Marshal’s office has the responsibility for carrying the injured person to the medical centre. I don’t believe they are authorized by the *Motor Vehicles Act* to represent the liability issues on those kinds of things. So Mr. Speaker, I think we can do more and better representation for the injured people when accidents do happen.

Mr. Speaker, in terms of my constituency, the community continues to advocate for better recreational facilities. It’s a big community; even the students continue to say they have nothing to do most of the time. I appreciate the minister’s support where the minister is involving the Association of Municipalities involved with planning for those kinds of

things. I really believe that we need to do more to speed up, where possible, the replacement for older buildings. It should probably be put on higher priority.

(interpretation) I was going to elaborate earlier Mr. Speaker; the students have stated at times that they don't have much to do. I have tabled a letter stating that there should be a camp outside for young people to go to learn how to hunt and the wildlife officers should work together and establish a camp that can employ young people and people who are hunters not too close to the community, but a little bit further down so that...(interpretation ends)...I think it's an excellent idea.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the Department of Education should have a role in that if they want to teach some of our youngsters the tradition of survival on land. Again, the question is: whose role is it; does the government have a role in that?

And the students offer one good example: build a camp that can be occupied at least half the year, I say, and the students can earn some living with the trap lines or whatever, or seals they caught. So these kinds of things should be thought out. I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, they should be just shoved onto the Inuit organizations. I think we can build stronger young people, boys and girls, if they were able to take advantage of that thing. Right now, it's volunteering; some groups sponsor events during the summer months, but I believe we can do better than that.

Mr. Speaker, during the last two weeks, my colleague, Levinia Brown and I have been hoping that a couple of students would have come here two weeks ago. Adeen, Sandy and Rocky Airut have been trying the last two weeks to come here and help us out as pages for the Assembly, but due to the weather, they were not able to come in. So we are now hoping that they will be able to come in the spring Session.

June is a difficult time, as we indicated to the members during our full Caucus meeting, weather permitting and hunting condition permitting. Rocky Airut will be here. If the hunting conditions are too good, I know Rocky will not be here, but he just might be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Thank you. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports on Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

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

#### **Tabled Document 097 – 2(3): A Brief Summary of QEC 2004-05 Annual Report**

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: A Brief Summary of the QEC 2004-05 Annual Report. I also note that the annual report can be obtained in Inuktitut. However, the Inuktitut language version has not yet been officially approved by the AG's office. It will not be officially released until the approval has been received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### **Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills**

#### **Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – Notice**

**Hon. David Simailak:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on March 13 that Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 9, *An Act to Amend the Exemptions Act*; Bill 12, *Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act, 2006-07*; Bill 13, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #3, 2005-06*; Bill 14, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #3, 2005-06* with Mr. 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.

We will take a 20-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:31 and resumed at 15:59*

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

**Chairman** (Mr. Kilabuk): Thank you. Order. Thank you. I would like to call the meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole, we 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:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to proceed with Bill 12 and continue with the review of Department of Education Main Estimates and Business Plan, followed by the Department of Environment and Community and Government Services. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. 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, if you would care to take the witness stand. Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table with you sir?

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

**Chairman:** Minister Picco, do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table? Sorry. In absence of the response I was looking for, does the committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

**Some Members:** Agreed

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister Picco you shall take the witness stand please. Thank you Minister. For the record, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me today on my immediate left is Mr. David Pealow, the Comptroller for the Department of Education, and on my immediate right, I had to look now to confirm, is Pam Hine who is the Deputy Minister for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Members, we were dealing with the Education. Branch Summary. School Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$105,492,000. (interpretation) Are there any further comments to that page? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to welcome the minister and his officials back to our hearing.

On page G-34, the business plan, it looks like you're increasing the PYs by 40 since last year. Can the minister give us a breakdown of what those positions would be for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. That is a good question, however, I should have put in my reminder; just to remind members not to ask questions which are hypothetical or questions that are seeking an opinion, and it is at the discretion of the Chair. Members may speak more than once on the details of the page we are working with. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, to the committee.

There are several reasons for the difference in the number of PYs in education. It is due to a combination of factors. I won't go through the whole 43 positions, but basically under Curriculum and School Services, there is an increase in services of two PYs. One is for the French Language Services Consultant, as well as the French Administrative

Assistant. Those are two PYs, but they are also from the third party agreements we have with Heritage Canada.

We also have, under Corporate Services Division, an increase of 1.5 PYs, which also includes the Community Access Program Coordinator position. Under the Heritage Canada positions previously not counted in our education PY count, which are Heritage Canada's positions, that is 3 PYs.

We also have the Director General for Superintendent Commission Scolaire for Francophonie, which is one PY, and we also have new school positions of over 19.85 positions.

So I hope that helps answers some of the questions for the member. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister get into some details on the 19.85 PYs for the schools?

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of these were announced in the budget. We put in the budget last year and we have them in place this year. And members will remember me talking about over 80 new positions and we started gearing up and funding those positions, and so on, so some of those new PYs are contingent on that.

In teachers, we have an extra 6.2 positions, program support positions of 3.5, student support and language specialists of 2.6, school counselling positions of 3.35, we have more custodial help of 4.1, for a total of 19.85 positions. I also talked earlier about some of the other positions available.

So hopefully that helps break down the numbers for the member. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. The minister has heard me raise this issue before in Cambridge Bay with respect to career guidance counsellors.

There's a school community counsellor, who are very important to the school system, but then there's career guidance counsellors who are very important as well. The career guidance counsellors work with students in grades nine, 10, 11, and 12 to help them select courses and programs of study that will assist them to get through grade 12, and then pursue their education beyond grade 12 either in the Arctic College or other post-secondary institutions or trades schools.

My constituents have been quite vocal about this to me. They would like a career guidance counsellor position in the high school in Cambridge Bay. The minister and I met with the DEA last year. I wondered if the minister could comment on the overall philosophy of view of the Department of Education with respect to finding funds for a career guidance counsellor in the high schools in Nunavut, in particular in Cambridge Bay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we had discussions last year about increasing the number of positions that I put within that budget framework, we looked putting actual bodies in the schools.

In the member's community, a recommendation came forward from the school that they would like see a community school counsellor position created and we were able to fund that. I would agree with the member that more career counsellor positions should be created within the budget. I didn't have the luxury and the dollar values this term to do that. I would hope to be able to look at bringing that position forward. The member has made a good point.

I'm only aware, right now, of one position filled full-time for a career counsellor position that is here in the high school. That's been in place for many years. So I would agree with the member that there needs to be more career support. At the same time, we do have career development officers at the community level in most of our communities. There are also other career opportunity help, for example, in the member's community, through the Department of Education with our office there.

At the school specific, there isn't the availability of dollars within the current existing budget to be able to create that new position. We have created a counsellor position in the community; it the school community counsellor, not a career counsellor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Just a reminder; whenever, give your responses brief. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Just for the record, could the minister explain what the difference is between a school community counsellor and a career guidance counsellor so we have it in the record for readers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding the position of a career counsellor at the high school level; grades 10, 11, and 12; is to provide direction for the students at the high school on different opportunities and options for a career path. The school community counsellor position works in cooperation with the school staff and

work with issues of behavioural issues with students, truancy issues with students, and provides guidance support and counselling services to our younger students. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that explanation. I am hopeful that the minister is sincere that he will bring the position forward.

I believe strongly that a lot of kids who are in High School nowadays need a career guidance counsellor in the school and who know them and have developed a level of trust and respect for the students so that the students can open up and confide in them.

I understand that there are career placement officers or career guidance officers, or whatever you call them, in the department. They are more for the adults in the communities than the teenagers that are in the high schools. So that is something that is very important.

I wanted to ask the minister in this area about education for children with learning disabilities. What resources does the department have available or is developing to help children with learning disabilities that are in the K to 12 programs? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the last year, we have created over 40 new student support assistants who were hired to support our classrooms. That brings to over 123 across the board, and there have been specialists hired for unique issues, for example for hearing impairments, blindness and so on.

We are also moving forward with funding for a coordinator of functional and diagnostic assessments services and that position has been advertised. The closing date, I believe, was March 3. That, again, is a position where we are dealing with some of the diagnostic issues with students who may have learning disabilities and so on. We will be able to diagnose those properly and professionally so that we will be able to move forward with help. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, minister for that information. Could the minister comment though on how many individual education programs there are throughout Nunavut in the various schools and in high schools in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Picco.



**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not quite catch the question. Could the member repeat the question again? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson, can you please repeat your question.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to repeat again. I hope I have the correct description. It is called an individual education plan. It is for students with disabilities.

A special program is set up for the kids with disabilities where teachers work with them in the schools. I am wondering how many of those are there throughout Nunavut in all the elementary schools and high schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the member for repeating his question. The best information provided to me is that we have between one and two percent of the total student enrolment who would be on an individual education program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister, for the record, tell us what the one or two percent translates into in real numbers? Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco, do you have the actual numbers?

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Seeing that I am the Minister of Education, I will have an opportunity now to ask a question and I would suggest to the member that the total enrolment of the schools in Nunavut are 8,000, and so one percent of 8,000 would be the number on IEP. So if the member would want to do the high end, he could take two percent of 8,000 and that would be the number. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his; I am not sure if it was a question or a comment, but I am sure all of us here can calculate it. I am sure the readers out there would like a number. Some will probably have to rush out and get calculators. Can we get a low number and a high number for the record? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just gave him the answer, I am sure the member can calculate that amount. So if it was 10 percent of a hundred, it would be ten. In this case, between one percent and two percent of the total amount of 8,000 would be

added in IEP. So the member, I think, would be able to very quickly deduct from that of 8,000 is the answer he is seeking. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Picco, we will try once again. What is the figure for that place which he is asking for? Thank you.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** I just gave it, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I am not sure that you did give the answer. What is the real number, do you have that number? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I will allow the minister to attempt to answer that question again, if it is not possible, then he could get one of the staff to do so. Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought I did a very good job of answering the question for the member, and gave him an opportunity to calculate that and he is now going to check to see if my calculation was correct. If the range is between one and two percent of 8,000, then the member knows that the amount could be within that range of less than a hundred, probably around 80 would be the number, in total across the territory, if the number of one to two percent is used. So that is the range and that would be the calculation.

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

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Minister. I have my numbers here, but I will not waste more time in the House to try to get the actual number. Can the minister provide some information on what are the costs to the education system for an individual education program for a student, which is K to grade 12? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends on the individual IEP that is in place. Some students would be in a full-time program, meaning they would be attending school full-time; other students may be only attending in the afternoon or half time. Some students may be on a program where they may be in the school semi-frequently, meaning they might only attend school two or three times a week. So all these types of programs depend on what the program actually is specifically, meaning each program is geared towards that specific need of that specific child.

I do not have the dollar value and what the total costs are with me, again, it is contingent on what those costs are based on each individual plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information; I am sure that the costs are considerable because the students require a specialized education.

Does the minister have any information on how successfully the IEPs are, in terms of graduating the students, preparing them for life after high school? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We do not track the students that were on an IEP separately for graduation purposes compared to students that were not on an IEP.

All students, when we look at the graduation rates and numbers, are collated given grade 12 and so on. It is not based on IEP or what have you, it is based on the actual graduation rate by school, by community, and that's correlated into a number which would reflect Nunavut as a whole. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of these 939.3 positions under School Operations, are any of them teachers/librarian-type positions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have a breakdown of that specific of where if a teacher/librarian position is one of those given positions with me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Does the school or the Department of Education fund librarians in the schools? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Picco.

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Libraries, public libraries, and so on fall under the Department of CLEY, I believe.

In each school, where possible, we do have what we call a resource area now and the resource area/library would be maintained for the total school itself, meaning we wouldn't actually have a dedicated position within the school for that as what we would

call a librarian position. What we do have is the program support teachers and some of the other full-time teachers and staff who maintain the library.

It would be unrealistic, Mr. Chairman, to have a librarian position in the majority of our schools across the territory when we heard from the members and the public at large that they want to see more in-classroom support.

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

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I do not believe I have any more names on this page. Education. Branch Summary. School Operations. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$105,492,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Go back to page G-4. Education. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$184,268,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Is the committee agreed that the Department of Education is concluded?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Thank you, Minister and Minister, do you have closing comments for the committee?

**Hon. Ed. Picco:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for their good work and I think we have done a pretty good job of reviewing the budget. We have had some opportunities to increase the budget over the past year and a half and increase the number of positions, which has been a benefit for our schools.

I look forward to this June when I will be able to report back on some of the work that is occurring on the *Education Act*.

For Mr. Peterson and others, Mr. Clendenning, who is with us today in the House, will be, in the next couple of days, working on connecting with the Miramar people on the Doris North Project to see if there is an opportunity for training that the member has raised and some other members have raised with that project now that it has received regulatory approval. So that's something that we will be following up and I know that the member and members are interested in that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister and thank you to the staff.

I would now like to ask Minister Akesuk, Minister of the Department of Environment to make his opening remarks. Mr. Akesuk.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear in the Committee of the Whole to represent the department's main estimates and business plan for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Mr. Chairman, the Department of Environment's proposed budget for 2006-07 is \$16,642,000.

I would like to take a few minutes to quickly highlight some of the accomplishments my department achieved in 2005-06 and some of our challenges for the upcoming fiscal year.

July 9, 2005 was a proud day for Nunavummiut, especially for those who dedicated their time and commitment into the making of a *Wildlife Act*. On that day, the modern and made-in-Nunavut *Wildlife Act* was proclaimed into law. The *Wildlife Act* was the first piece of legislation that recognizes Inuit knowledge and I'm very proud of our accomplishment.

Mr. Chairman, the next step will be to proclaim regulations under the *Wildlife Act*. My department has continued to work very hard through the Legislative Working Group to accomplish this goal. There are still some issues that require further discussions with our partners, but I am optimistic the regulations will come into effect over the next few months.

One of our challenges this coming year is polar bear management, especially in Baffin Bay and Western Hudson Bay. New western research information indicates that the Western Hudson Bay polar bear population is not healthy, and is estimated to be lower than we thought when the quota was increased a few years ago. We also learned that Greenland hunters have been harvesting an unsustainable number of polar bears from the Baffin Bay population we share with them.

Mr. Chairman, having said that, I am happy to say that Greenland has now implemented a polar bear management plan with a new quota system in place as of January 1, 2006. My department will continue to work with Canada and Greenland to come to an acceptable polar bear management agreement for Baffin Bay and other two shared populations.

Mr. Chairman, you will be pleased to know that beneficiary conservation officer training in my department is going very well. As you may recall, my department established a Conservation Officer Training Program last year with positions for three trainees. Two beneficiaries have been in training since last fall in Pangnirtung and Kugluktuk. The third

successful candidate wanted to finish his Environmental Technology training before accepting the trainee position. He will start in April in the Kivalliq.

Mr. Chairman, if resources permit us, we plan to continue these training programs so that in time, most of our conservation officers will be Inuit.

One of my future goals is to make sure there are two officers in each community, especially in larger ones. This would provide the officers with more security and support, and the second officer could ensure that communities continue to be serviced when an officer goes on holiday or if a position becomes vacant.

Another area where we are working hard, in partnerships with other government departments, is solid waste management and plastic management. These two areas have been a great concern of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. However, this initiative will also require partnership with other departments and associated financial resources.

Members of the Legislative Assembly have also expressed concerns with the Government of Nunavut's harvester support programs. My department has been working closely with NTI on a joint review of our programs. As I promised in the last session, this report will be made available to members.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the fisheries and sealing section, the Fisheries Strategy is being implemented. We continue to support emerging fisheries in Nunavut. We continue to lobby the federal government for our fair share of resources within the adjacent waters of Nunavut.

Part of the Fisheries Strategy is the establishment of the Nunavut Fisheries Training Consortium. 81 percent of beneficiaries who register for this program successfully complete it. I understand that 39 beneficiaries have now received their certificates and are qualified to work in offshore boats.

**Some Members:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Our Parks and Special Places Division continue to work with other stakeholders in areas such as the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan and Inuit Impact and Benefit Agreements, Canadian Heritage Rivers IIBAs, and designation of the Coppermine River as a heritage river.

Mr. Chairman, on top of the specific initiatives I have highlighted, I'd like to remind you that the Department of Environment is responsible for a wide range of regulatory and legal obligations for the Government of Nunavut, including working in partnership with five of the co-management boards created under the land claims agreement.

As you can see from my brief presentation, we are proactive in providing the best services with the available resources to Nunavummiut.

We have challenges ahead of us. I am positive with my leadership as Minister of Environment my department will be able to tackle those challenges in 2006-07. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table with you?

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Some members:** Agreed

**Chairman:** Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in? Thank you.

For the record, would you please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is my Deputy Minister Simon Awa, and on my left is Steve Pinksen, Director of Policy, Planning and Legislation.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Does a member of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* have comments? Mr. Arreak.

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

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to be able to give the committee's opening remarks as we begin consideration of the 2006-07 Main Estimates for the Department of Environment. Later on, members will have an opportunity to ask questions regarding these estimates.

Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has had the opportunity to meet with the minister and his staff. The minister was able to give an update on his department's proposed expenditures.

Mr. Chairman, members are concerned about the polar bear issue. Members were pleased when the polar bear quotas were increased in some areas of Nunavut last year. However, the minister has recently indicated that the polar bear population is estimated to be lower than previously thought.

Mr. Chairman, at the same time, the United States Government is considering adding the polar bear to its endangered species listing and this could have an economic impact on communities where sports hunts take place. Mr. Chairman, members expect the minister to keep the committee informed on this issue.

Mr. Chairman, members are also concerned about compensation for hunters who have lost equipment. Although the department administers a disaster compensation program, this program does not cover damage to property or equipment damaged by animals. Members urge the minister to consider such issues when reviewing its disaster compensation program.

Mr. Chairman, members were pleased that the department is making efforts to increase the number of Inuit conservation officers through its Conservation Officer Training Program. Members would wish to see more beneficiaries serving as conservation officers in their own communities.

Members encourage the department to work with Nunavut Arctic College in preparing environmental studies students for careers in this field.

Mr. Chairman, members look forward to seeing the results of two recent studies conducted by the department on the Peary Caribou and Polar Bear Deterrents.

Mr. Chairman, members understand that the department is continuing work on the drafting of regulations for the new *Wildlife Act* and that it has been consulting with communities. Members wish to be kept fully informed on progress in this area.

Mr. Chairman, members are aware that not all entities may agree with some areas of the draft regulations. Members urge the minister to work closely with NTI and NWMB to resolve any outstanding areas of disagreement. Members will recall that the Committee tabled a letter on this matter on May 5, 2005.

Mr. Chairman, the committee is committed to the development of Nunavut's fishing industry, as this sector has potential to create much-needed employment for Nunavummiut. Members note that the department is starting to implement its Fisheries Strategy. The committee will be monitoring this issue with attention.

Mr. Chairman, members are concerned about Nunavut's turbot fishery. Members have noted that federal government is preparing to make fish off of Nunavut's coast available to southern fishing interests, despite the recommendations of its own Advisory Panel.

Mr. Chairman, Nunavut's sea is bountiful. We must be given the opportunity to develop our fishery and work towards economic self-sufficiency.

Mr. Chairman, members eagerly look forward to reviewing the department's draft Sealing Strategy. Mr. Chairman, members note that the minister recently held discussions with the Greenland Home Rule Government with respect to the banning of the importation of Canadian seal pelts to Greenland. Members urge the minister to continue his efforts to promote and defend the sustainable harvesting practices that are used by Inuit when harvesting seals.



Mr. Chairman, members note that the department's business plan indicates that a new departmental strategic plan is under development. Members look forward to reviewing this document.

Mr. Chairman, members note that the department has conducted studies on the establishment of territorial parks in Clyde River, Kugaaruk and Coral Harbour. Members expect to be kept fully informed on these initiatives.

Mr. Chairman, it has come to the committee's attention that some areas of responsibility in relation to land use planning have been transferred from this department to EIA. The committee sent a letter to the Minister of EIA with respect to this issue and looks forward to a response.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I anticipate that individual members will raise their own comments and concerns on the department's 2006-07 Main Estimates.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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

I suggest to members that whenever possible you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Mr. Kattuk.

**Mr. Kattuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have some concerns that I would like to express on the research council, and also the western scientists, and the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*. I have been working with scientists for quite a while. How far are we in getting closer together in meeting with the scientists, also with *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*?

I have concerns on the fact the Inuit and the wildlife had been studied for so many years. To be more careful of the wildlife; to be more concerned about the status on the land and their habitat when they are studying the animals that they use helicopters to survey the polar bears. I do believe that they do scare the polar bears from their habitat.

I know *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is better even though when we do hunt the polar bears we try not to disturb their habitat. We do hunt using motorboats; we do not use motorized vehicles so that we will not scare the animals. This should be respected as well by the scientists. If we are going to be using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* by the scientists then they should be more considerate of the animals that they are studying.

I know that the animal rights activists use the helicopters to disturb the animals as well. If they had been more considerate of the animals they would be using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* and have more respect of the animals that they are studying. The hunters know more about the animals than the people who are studying them.

Are they using the hunters to help the scientists so that the scientists will not have to use the helicopters to do the surveys of the polar bears, or even motor vehicles to do their studies on the land? They should be using *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* as a rule to respect the animals that they are studying so that they will not scare the animals in their habitat.

Up to this date we know that the scientists do scare the animals that they're studying. After the studies have been through the area the animals become thinner because they have been disturbed so much to the point that they cannot eat. Studying polar bears would have an effect on their habitat and their way of life and their environment.

If they can use the local hunters and trappers when they're studying the animals in that area, they know how to approach the animals in their own land and they have their own rules and procedures to approach the animals. For that reason, I would like the minister to know about this aspect, so I'll be asking some questions on the researchers that they should have more respect to the animals and use the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. (interpretation) I have no other names on my list. (interpretation ends) Environment. Branch Summary. Corporate Management. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$2,516,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Environment. Branch Summary. Program Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$13,126,000. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page I-21 of the business plan, there is a priority for 2005-06 to complete and install new program directional and interpretive sign in your Parks in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet and Iqaluit. Status is ongoing. The project was tendered and awarded. Can the minister give me an update on the current status on that project and if it will be completed in the new fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Before I proceed, I should have reminded the members that we are dealing with page I-6. However, that also includes I-7, I-8, I-9, and I-10. Thank you. Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe this summer they will be on a press release. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. .

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It says that the contract has been awarded. Who has the contract been awarded to? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The tendering process goes through CGS. We do not have the company who is doing the signage, but we can get back to you and give you the contractor's company or name. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for making the commitment. Mr. Chairman, I have asked the question of the minister a couple of times in the past about the status of the Kitikmeot land use plan.

Last year, the Nunavut Planning Commission and Department of Environment were trying to arrange meetings together to discuss it and it seemed like there was a problem. I think they did have a meeting eventually. Could the minister give me an update on the status of the Kitikmeot land use plan from his department's perspective? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I have my deputy answer that question? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Please proceed.

**Mr. Simon Awa (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Planning Commission has an acting chairman. The acting chairman met with the minister. Also, the Kitikmeot land use plan update was given to the minister. It's ongoing.

I can only report that the Nunavut land use plan is ongoing at the same time as the Kitikmeot land use plan. It is an ongoing process and it was stated by the NPC.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and his deputy minister for their answer. The information that has been given to me in the past by the Nunavut Planning Commission folks is that it was essentially complete; at least they felt it was complete, but they were concerned that the Government of Nunavut did not think it was complete.

I wonder if the deputy minister could indicate to me, following their meetings with the interim executive director, if they feel that the information that the Government of Nunavut seeks will be forthcoming and that the Nunavut Planning Commission will be

able to complete the West Kitikmeot land use plan in the current calendar year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am aware that we have the final draft of the framework document. The land use planning is coordinated through EIA. So once that goes through it goes to the Cabinet. So we'll be in the position where we can help the Kitikmeot land use plan. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. The minister's priorities on page I-17 of the business plan says, "...work with NIRB, the Nunavut Impact Review Board, to review major development projects in Nunavut." Does the minister anticipate that there'll be additional major resource development projects in the upcoming fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our goal as the government, as the Department of Environment is to make sure that we have a close working relationship with NIRB to deal with exploration permits, or NEIS, NIRB, and hopefully we'll have more work done this year on potential mines in Nunavut. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for the information. Can the minister confirm for the House if it's his department that takes the lead on behalf of the Government of Nunavut when dealing with the Nunavut Impact Review Board and major resource development projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we take the lead with other departments of the government. We work together to make sure that we come up with a proper impact assessment. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister just clarify for me when there are appearances before NIRB, or when NIRB asks for input from the Government of Nunavut, is his department the only department on behalf of the Government of Nunavut that makes the submissions to NIRB with opinions on behalf of the government? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, we're not the only department. Like I said, we work with the other departments within the government to go in front of the NIRB. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. It seems to me it could be very confusing to proponents that there could be possibly as many as five departments with an interest in major resource development projects in Nunavut. You could have three departments in support and two departments not in support, so the mining companies and major resource developers have to know; be very clear in their mind of who is representing the Government of Nunavut at the table when they're submitting their EIS applications to NIRB.

I wonder if the minister could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have one appointment under NIRB that comes from the government. I do believe that's good representation from the government. So I don't feel left out on the NIRB process as we appoint a person to sit on the board. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the NIRB appointment process, governments have their appointees; I am talking about when the NIRB review process gets underway. They send out information packages, including the information on the submissions to hamlets, governments, government departments, individuals, Hunters and Trappers Organizations. They could be considered interveners.

So they ask for comments and if you have five or six government departments getting that information, they could all have the same opinions or individual opinions, but they all represent the Government of Nunavut. Which department would take the lead in representing the Government of Nunavut's position on major resource development projects? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you. I will get my deputy to answer that question.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Awa.

**Mr. Awa** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For example, if there's a proposal for mining development, they send out concerns to be answered and they usually send the information out to anyone, including the government.

As our department, we deal with environmental impact statements. As a government, we have one document that's going to be given to NIRB. For example, the Education, Culture, Department of Environment, and other departments put their submissions together and give one submission to NIRB. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Awa for clarifying it for me. I think you clarified it for the mineral developers who are exploring or developing in Nunavut.

I have another question on page I-17 under priorities: assess and determine strategies to deal with solid and hazardous waste and other contaminants in Nunavut's communities.

A few years ago when I was with the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay, we put together a proposal. We got a quote from a company in Yellowknife that they would come in and they would assess the environmental contaminants in and around our community. It would cost \$32,000 for them to do that work. They wouldn't necessarily do any clean-up, they would just identify where all the contaminants were. Of course, hamlets are historically under-funded when it comes to even basic stuff. So we just didn't have \$32,000.

We took it to Nunavut Association of Municipalities and there was a NAM resolution that came forward out of one of the AGMs calling on the Government of Nunavut to assist municipalities to identify contaminants in and around our communities, and then develop strategies on how to contain them and clean them up.

We have to work with the Government of Nunavut and work with the federal government. The federal government, in particular, is a very tough department to deal with, DIAND I'm referring to, because they could hit the mayors with substantial fines. They would send letters out saying \$100,000 fine and/or one year in jail.

I was wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the minister could comment on whether her department is working with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities or individual hamlets to help them determine the environmental contaminants in and around our communities so that at least they know what they are and they can develop strategies to address the contaminant issues. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we work with the Department of Community and Government Services. When there's a municipality that's contaminated, we work together to strategize.

The federal government had some funding made available for national funding, but I still didn't quite understand the fund with the \$3.5 million. We got a new government and I can look into it to make sure that the fund is still available at the federal government level.

Next time I go down there I can look into that. We've been requesting their policy for two years now and they haven't given us a copy of their policy, so therefore, I can look into it further once I go back down to Ottawa.

I will look into it to make sure that funding was made available for contaminants clean-up by the federal government. I will work with Community and Government Services on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

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

I think it's very important that the federal government be alerted to the environmental conditions in and around hamlets; that most hamlets in Nunavut are under-funded to deal with contaminant issues and environmental issues.

I know the government is doing the best they can to assist hamlets. I know Community and Government Services is doing that, but there is a problem there is when we have to direct a lot of our funding to environmental issues and contaminant issues in communities. It means that limited funding is not available for community halls and ice arenas and other essential services in the community that we require.

I know the federal government has very stringent laws and regulations that are national in scope and they want us to clean up our environmental contaminants in and around the communities. They should be aware that hamlets don't have the resources and for the most part the Government of Nunavut doesn't have very many resources.

So could you talk to your federal counterparts and alert them to that and ask them to work with the Government of Nunavut and work with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities to come up with a plan over the next 10 years to assist municipalities with contaminant issues around their communities? That would be a great help.

I wonder if the minister could comment on that Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As soon as we get out of this session, I'll try to make as many appointments as possible with my colleagues in Parliament in Ottawa on concerns that we have in the department that I represent.

Again, we will work very closely with the stakeholders to make sure that we, from our territory, are recognized where we are and what contaminants are in the communities. Again, we're going to work very closely with Community and Government Services to make sure that we're on the right track and right page when we go see our colleagues in the federal government. Thank you.

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

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

One last thing I want to bring up with the minister; last year, I wrote a letter to the minister on behalf of Kitikmeot Foods, who had requested support from the minister to be able to harvest the caribou on Victoria Island before they cross the channel, the Coronation Gulf to the mainland.

The caribou can't cross until the sea ice is frozen. There is a requirement of their permit they have that Kitikmeot Foods can't harvest them until they're on the mainland. The problem they have there is they have to be in the field and bring caribou carcasses to the abattoir to be processed within an hour of being harvested. Because they cross to the mainland, it's more than one hour distance away.

The Kitikmeot Food folks think that if they're at the edge of the ocean on Victoria Island just waiting for the freeze-up it would make it a lot easier and facilitate their harvest. The minister wrote a letter saying that he didn't think that could be done.

I wondered if the minister could comment on whether he has given some more thought to that and if he is prepared to go down to Cambridge Bay and meet with Kitikmeot Foods to discuss their request in person. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it is important for me to say that as the territorial government, we have to go through the Canadian Food Inspection Agency regulations and again, I think that we could try to certainly talk to the federal government to get ideas how we could deal with this issue, or how we could harvest the caribous in another way so Canadian Food Inspection Agency will approve it. So I think that the government will try to work with the federal government to make sure that these are met in the future.

Anything that is economical in our territory, we have to find a way to make sure that we harvest in the proper way that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency prefers. That is the regulations that we go through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. We are on a page I-6, I-7, I-8, I-9, and I-10. Mr. Kilabuk.

**Committee Motion 05 – 2(3): Review of the Department of Environment’s Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Program**

**Mr. Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion. I move that this committee recommends the Department of Environment review its outdated Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Program as an urgent priority;

And that this review results in a clear definition of natural disaster that is appropriate to Nunavut’s circumstances;

And that the review takes into account the needs of Nunavummiut engaged in the fishing sector;

And that the Minister of Environment tables a new policy for the program no later than the last sitting day of the spring 2006 session. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. The motion is in order. Before we proceed with the debate on the motion, I have a few comments to make relating to procedure.

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. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments are not very long. I think it is very clear as to the length of the definition used which I am requesting for change. As it is now, I have spoken about this matter in the House before, forest fires are not very applicable in Nunavut, which this program exists under.

Or rather, Mr. Chairman, I want to go over a few things that are in the current application forms and process. I want to use this to highlight some of the changes I am requesting, and it will be very easy to see why.

Under the current program, the maximum that a harvester and hunter can receive is \$4,000 per occurrence. As I have stated in the House a number of times over the course of the years, sometimes a hunter or fisherman will lose in excess of \$30,000 or more; in this application, there is a requirement to be eligible; your earnings have to be at least 25 percent of your total earnings. Under the format, the approval process requires the approval of the regional superintendent. I am not sure how that is handled today.

There is also no schedule or timing when harvesters or fishermen can expect their compensation. I remind you again, the last few that I’ve tried assisting out of my

community have had to wait over a year, which is way, way too long in my view. It should not be acceptable to any application process under this government's programs.

Also, in the statement of income, there is also a requirement of a minimum for \$7,000, and I'm not sure how that is applied in the application process itself. Without the proper explanation the minimum of \$7,000, it's hard for me to determine how that would be applied against me or for me versus the 25 percent requirement that is also listed in the application process.

What's not here also is the transfer of rights for individuals living with beneficiaries under the land claims agreement and what has transpired since. I also fail to see how those are reflected in the old one. I have the list here in front of me and the wording clearly has just taken away Northwest Territories with Nunavut being stuck into the application process.

I have had at one time in the last year verbal arguments, and by way of email, with the staff at Environment when I used the title of wildlife officer when I should have been using conservation officer. That struck at me quite hard and consistent when I had failed the proper wording of conservation officer. I highlight that because in wanting this change and for the department to be able to demand that, I use the proper wording of conservation officer, is it not only fair that I, in, return seek proper wording be used by this department and the language that they use in the application process.

In my communications, it was made pretty clear to me that I was wrong in using the word - wildlife officer. I will not make an apology about it. It was a true, honest error that I made, but one applied against me as a punishment of me using the wrong wording.

So I will, through this motion, want the Disaster Compensation Program clarified in a way that is reflective of the circumstances that we face in Nunavut and also with the resources that we have here in Nunavut.

Mr. Chairman, I do not see how Members of this House can oppose this motion with the work that has already been ongoing to reflect the support of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. Are there any more comments? Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To the motion, I'd like to make a couple of comments. As we are in the stages of doing the research of the Harvesters' Support Program, we are in the final stages of approving the report. Once the report is done, the report goes to the Members of the Legislative Assembly for input and recommendations when we're putting together a draft policy that will be Nunavutized for our people in Nunavut.

So we are in our very final stages of finishing the report. Once the report is done, we will do a draft and we'll get input from my colleagues here. We're also working closely with

Nunavut Tunngavik Inc., so it's not just the government's policy. We want to make sure that it also reflects the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement to make sure that beneficiaries benefit from the policy.

Again, we're a public government. We want to make sure that we represent each and every individual in the territory. The beneficiaries don't need a hunting license. The non-beneficiaries would need a general hunting license in order to qualify and be a full-time harvester in our territory.

So we're doing our best. It's going to depend on how soon we can come up with a policy. Again, it's not just going to be the government's policy. We're going to make sure that we get input from each and every one of you and also work closely with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

So I agree with the motion and we're doing our very best to make sure we're doing our job as fast as possible, but doing it too fast might have hiccups that we use in the government now, hiccups in the policy, but we want to make sure that we don't have that.

Again, I agree with my colleague that it's an urgent priority that we come up with the disaster compensation that will benefit our constituents in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Akesuk. For your vote to count, you'll have to be sitting in your member's chair. Are there any more comments to the motion? Mr. Kilabuk.

**Mr. Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess to close this with my comments, if you ask me what comfort and trust I have in this department's dealings with the compensation program, I really have no backing documents to support the way this department has handled the request application for the compensation program because as early as this week, the same fishermen that lost gear are still waiting for their final payments from the previous year. It's been over a year.

Without putting in the guidelines and time schedule for this department to work with, I'm afraid that we will miss this opportunity of producing something that Nunavut has been waiting for long enough already.

The minister's comments can only support the tabling of my request no later than the last sitting of the spring 2006 session to bring forward a copy of the new policy.

I think that his comments can only support this because as he states, the government is a public government and it is the expectations of all Nunavummiut, harvesters and fishermen, to have the department appropriately, in a timely manner, produce a policy that they've been waiting for long enough. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Kilabuk. The debate is now closed. We'll now vote on the motion. (interpretation) All those in favour of the motion, show of hands please. Opposed. Abstentions. The motion is carried.

We are still on pages I-6, I-7, I-8, I-9, and I-10. Department of Environment. Program Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$13,126,000. Mr. Barnabas.

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a question on I-7. Fur Price programs, there's a \$40,000 cut on that line item. Could you elaborate on that please?

**Chairman:** Minister Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you. The Fur Pricing Program has been successful in the last three or four years, and it is a revolving fund. We thought being at \$70,000 is enough. We have not been losing any money with the furs. In the past, we have done that. I do believe that it is appropriate for us to put another \$40,000 to another area, which I do not really know where it is as some years have gone by. So with the fur industry on top, I think \$70,000 as a revolving fund is enough to cover in case we get into losses in the future. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same page there is a \$60,000 increase for 2005-06; it was \$20,000, then in 2006-07 it is \$80,000. This \$80,000, how many communities would that compensate? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To every community in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Barnabas** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You say that for an individual, it would be \$4,500. Is there an increase to the individual compensations following the increasing numbers here? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Mr. Akesuk.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$80,000 has been increased, but if there is a change in the policy we would increase the number shown here, it is dependent on the policy that is being drafted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no other names on my list. Page I-6. Program Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page I-13 of the business plan, the Community Harvesters Assistance Program, CHAP, could the minister provide me and the House with the definition of an outpost camp for the record? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Where you live in an outpost camp six months on the land, where the outpost camp is. Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Akesuk. If I understand, it is at least six months being on the land. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Could the minister tell me or give me some information on how many outpost camps there are in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By estimation, it's about 40 for the outpost camps in Nunavut. I can't give you the region by region but we have about 40 outpost camps. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister tell me how much funding each outpost camp is eligible for under this program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. We are having fun today. Minister Akesuk, go ahead.

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation):** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When they apply for funding for outpost camps, we give the funding to the regional offices for them to fund the outpost camps. The three regional offices usually get applications from those people who are wishing to set up outpost camps. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If you have ten families living at one outpost camp, is that considered one application or is that considered ten applications for funding under the CHAP Program? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** That's almost like a community; ten families. I guess we go through by one outpost camp. It goes through application, so everybody fills out applications as required. We don't really know how much each camp gets, but we do our very best to make sure that we maximize our funding to those outpost camps. Again, it's the regional wildlife organizations that handle the money on an application basis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that information. I'm glad that he made that comment, "almost like a community," because in the Kitikmeot, in my riding I represent the two communities of Bay Chimo and Bathurst Inlet. At Bay Chimo, there's ten families living there and they're considered an outpost camp. And in Bathurst Inlet, there's four families living there and they're considered an outpost camp.

I've been told that each outpost camp is eligible for \$5,000 of funding. So if you have a single family somewhere in Nunavut and they're considered an outpost camp, they're eligible for the same amount of funding, say \$5,000 that a community of ten families are eligible for, which is the same amount. I'm having a hard time reconciling that in my mind. That's why I asked that question. We have ten families in Bay Chimo and they should each submit an application for up to \$5,000, which would be \$40,000. The regional budget is I think it's a total of \$50,000.

You said that there are 40 outpost camps in all of Nunavut, so I know where there are 14 of them. They define an outpost camp as a family living for six months of the year on the land.

I wonder if the minister could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the CHAP Program allows us to give money to the regional wildlife organizations, again, for them to handle the allocations and how they think it would be best for them to deliver the \$50,000 that goes to Kivalliq and a \$100,000 to Baffin. It is really up to the RWO to allocate the money to where they think it would benefit the best.

Again, there are not ten families living in Baffin that I know that lives in an outpost camp and I think the \$50,000 is allocated the best that they could. Our department wants to work closely with those two communities or outpost camps or whatever they're considered.

On the Bathurst Inlet, there is a lodge there and we have to be very careful to make sure that people that are living there are people living off the land and not profiting any from the lodge. I think it is really up to the RWOs that are in each region to hand out whatever

allocations they want to do and what they think is best to spend the money on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Any more questions, Mr. Peterson? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that explanation. I think Bay Chimo might be the only outpost camp in the entire world that is on a map of Canada. I do not know too many outpost camps that can claim that.

This is a problem I have in my riding is that the folks in these two communities; they do not consider themselves outpost camps. They consider themselves communities, but the government considers them outpost camps so they fall in that category. Because they are considered outpost camps, they are eligible for funding under the CHAP, but obviously the CHAP Fund is insufficient to meet all their needs. And yet the Department of Community and Government Services doesn't consider them communities, so they are not eligible for any funding under the Community and Government Services.

The poor folks down there fall under that grey area between two departments. How do you help them with their needs? And they have housing down there, they have fuel tank farms, airstrips, and the only thing they do not have is water/sewer trucks. They have television, satellite and Honda generators, and they have Global Star telephones.

So they are like communities, they are not like outpost camps the way that we think of outposts camps in the Kitikmeot. I think the two departments, Environment, and Community and Government Services should get together and find a way to coordinate in providing some help to the folks in these two communities, and a lot of you in other departments as well, who are listening in, the Health Department and the Education Department.

There are people down there and there are kids who need education. There are elders down there that need health care. The government should find a way to provide them with the same level of services and programs that other constituents in my riding are receiving. I will just close that comment just for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you very much, Mr. Peterson. (interpretation) I do not have anybody else on my list, I-6. Environment. Branch Summary. Program Development. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$13,126,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Back to I-4. Environment. Department Summary. Detail of Expenditures. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$16,642,000. Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Do you agree that the Department of Environment is completed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. I would like to thank Minister Akesuk, his deputy Simon Awa, and Mr. Pinksen. Mr. Akesuk

**Hon. Olayuk Akesuk** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just briefly, I would like to thank the members and the interpreters and all the staff that are here tonight, and my staff. Thank you.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk and his officials. At this time, I would like to ask Minister Brown from Community and Government Services to say her opening remarks. Minister Brown.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I feel honoured to appear before you and my colleagues as the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, and respond to your questions about the 2006-07 Main Estimates for the department.

Before we begin reviewing and discussing the details of 2006 and 2007 main estimates, I would like to highlight some of the very positive aspects of this year's estimates. The 2005-06 fiscal year saw considerable increased funding to communities. In keeping with the spirit on *Pinasuaqtavut* and the goals of *Pijarnirnirsat Kattujjiqatigiittiarnirlu*, we have enhanced transparency and reduced the complexity of core municipal funding.

This enhanced funding and the increased simplicity has allowed communities to improve the quality of programs at hamlet. This represents an unprecedented increase of 30 percent for communities over the past three years and this new level of funding is maintained in the 2006-07 budget.

I am also pleased to announce that we are exploring new and efficient ways of conducting the business of Government while advancing key initiatives that will reduce operating costs and save the Government of Nunavut money over the long term. The increasing cost of the heating of our buildings is a concern to government.

As a department, we are working with our partners to implement significant energy conservation measures; our *Namminiq Makitajunnarniq* is enhanced. This is a policy which supports our commitment to improving energy efficiency of government owned and leased facilities. The framework for energy efficiency enhancements flow from the Nunavut Energy Management Program; the program was developed in accordance with the *Pinasuaqtavut* objectives of this government and I am very pleased to announce that policy was approved by cabinet in November 2005.



These energy efficient measures will save money. The technologies selected and in process of being implemented in government buildings are proven to have a three-year payback. The Government of Nunavut will re-invest its savings into other existing facilities further reducing energy consumption and cost.

Mr. Chairman, Community and Government Services staff are service oriented. We are willing to try alternative program delivery methods to achieve our goals that represent increase self-reliance for Nunavummiut and increase the quality of our programs to communities and government.

We are exploring ways of reducing the costs of purchasing petroleum products for the territory and expect that this approach will see savings in future years. A cost and benefit review of current fuel purchasing processes and alternatives is currently underway.

Other successful municipal programs reflect increased *Namminiq Makitajunnarniq* and creative new ways of working in partnership with our hamlets and directly supporting our communities.

The Fire Protection Strategy is now in the process of full implementation with \$2 million of direct support continuing in the budget. Using these dollars, we are able to offer many training courses for firefighters and to provide additional firefighting equipment to community fire departments.

The Fire Strategy Program directly supports communities and the NAMIX Program by reducing the instances of fire losses.

Mr. Chairman, CGS has a budget exceeding \$160 million with 332 positions in six regional and decentralized offices and Iqaluit. CGS responsibilities are broad and impact the day-to-day activities of Nunavut communities and all other departments within the GN.

We are pleased to confirm that progress was made in the very critical area of equipping and funding search and rescue organizations over the 2005-06 year.

Phase I has been completed and the increased amount of \$500,000 is now part of the base program funding and will fund Phase II of this critical program. This will enhance community-based search and rescue capability and preparedness across Nunavut.

Several years ago, communities told us they wanted more training opportunities delivered locally in hamlets and we responded by totally changing the way we deliver our training. As a department, we are committed to *Ilippallianguinnarniq*.

Listening to our community leaders has vastly improved our training results and has resulted in significant operating improvements at the municipal level. Financial stability has increased and the quality of programs has improved. This continues to be an area of focus for CGS.

By listening and acting upon wise suggestions from our community leaders, we are developing *Inuuqatigiittiarniq* one day at a time. An IQ approach to managing the affairs of this department, Inuit employment planning, and our land claim obligations to the people of Nunavut have been and continue to be priorities of CGS.

CGS sponsors internal training and development initiatives on an ongoing basis and participates in Human Resources sponsored initiatives, which enhance opportunity to Inuit beneficiaries. The department has a Training Committee comprised of senior managers dedicated to the task of honouring our obligations set out under the Article 23 of the land claim.

Mr. Chairman, as we stated in the department's last appearance before this standing committee, CGS pursued funding for more community infrastructure and addressing related environmental issues with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities and other partners.

This year will see the rollout of major infrastructure funding initiatives in cooperation with Canada and the Nunavut Association of Municipalities. Combined, the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund and Gas Tax Program agreements will mean an additional \$53.5 million invested into municipal infrastructure over the next five fiscal years.

That almost doubles the level of capital investment in communities. This new funding will foster more employment opportunities in Nunavut. It supports employment for our trades school graduates and it ensures communities make significant progress on their municipal infrastructure deficit.

Mr. Chairman, CGS also continues to invest significant effort and resources to ensure that we continue to improve services to all government departments. Over the past year, we focused on improving informatics.

That will continue in the coming year along with a particular emphasis on improving capital project management services, and addressing Petroleum Products Division issues in response to the report regarding gasoline quality.

The Department of Community and Government Services is faced with many challenges in the accomplishment of its mandate to serve departments and support social and economic opportunities in communities. Some of the challenges are financial while other challenges are not. Good leadership, positive direction, and a service orientation are all priorities of CGS and we continue to strive to improve.

Our focus on Public Service means we are here to assist our clients and partners in Communities and Government resolve issues and problems.

This concludes my opening remarks and I am now ready to respond to the committee's questions on the 2006-07 Main Estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Yes.

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

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in please? Thank you, Minister.

For the record minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my immediate left is the Deputy Minister, Mr. Tom Rich. On my immediate right is Mr. Michael Rafter.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. I could almost swear that I've seen them before somewhere, but I'm not sure where. Does the co-chair of the standing committee have any comments? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide you with the comments as the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development. The Committee has reviewed the 2006-07 Main Estimates and Business Plan for Department of Community and Government Services and had the opportunity to meet with the minister in January.

The standing committee recently received information from the department that was requested during its review of the Capital Estimates. Committee members specifically requested information detailing actual capital expenditures broken down by project. Members remain concerned that projects that are approved by this Assembly through the capital appropriation process are sometimes deferred and that the funding may be transferred to the projects that were not originally approved by the Legislative Assembly. Members recognize that the department must have some flexibility to ensure that projects are completed in a timely manner and within budget. However, members would ask the department to increase its transparency with respect to final project expenditures.

Individual Members of the Legislative Assembly have raised concerns with the standing committee with respect to the issue of the inter and intradepartmental budget transfers and reallocation that occur from time to time during the course of a given fiscal year. In cases where capital projects in specific communities are impacted, the appropriate Members of the Legislative Assembly are advised by way of correspondence. In some cases, there is a perception that there has been an excessive and unbalanced reduction in

funding for projects in non-decentralized communities. The committee would wish the government to approach this issue in a fair and balanced manner.

All Members of this House recognize that the recent change in government at the federal level has caused uncertainty with respect to a number of initiatives that had begun under the previous administration. The committee urges the minister to meet with her new counterparts at an early opportunity. There are encouraging signals that the new federal government does recognize the unique challenges and opportunities facing Nunavut and the north. It is incumbent upon the ministers to make well-substantiated cases to Ottawa when it comes to such areas as federal investment in infrastructure.

Members are pleased in the increase in core funding for municipalities. Committee members have consistently advocated for adequate funding for municipalities to enable them to provide an appropriate level of service to Nunavummiut.

This increase, in addition to the work of the recently formed Nunavut Community Infrastructure Advisory Committee, is an important step towards empowering communities to increase the standard of living for our constituents.

Committee members were pleased to note that the number of municipalities carrying a deficit continues to decrease. Members also noted that one of the department's priorities for 2006-07 is to initiate formal discussions with municipalities for movement to a tax-based structure.

In the past, members have noted that an extended transition time will be necessary and that municipalities should not be rushed into assuming town status. Committee members remained convinced that there must be grass-roots support for these initiatives and a clear understanding of the ramifications prior to taking the transition to becoming a taxing authority.

It's the committee's understanding that the department's review of the Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Program is in its final stages with pilot projects to begin in three communities in the 2006-07 fiscal year.

The standing committee has continually stressed the importance of transparency with respect to reports that initiate significant changes to Government of Nunavut policies, especially where those changes will increase the budget that Members of this House will be asked to approve.

Committee members look forward to reviewing recommendations that are made based on the department's review of the Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Program.

Members were pleased to note that the \$500,000 contribution to local search and rescue organizations that was recommended by Members of the Legislative Assembly during last year's budget deliberations is now an annual contribution. In our harsh and

unforgiving climate, successful searches are often conducted by those people who are the first responders. It is essential that we support them to the best of our ability.

Mr. Chairman, members are pleased that the minister remains committed to increasing training opportunities for municipal employees. Members appreciate efforts made by the Municipal Training Organization to account for its activities. The committee encourages the minister to continue working with her colleagues to ensure that municipal employees continue to receive training.

Members are concerned that information appearing in the department's business plan is not always consistent from section to section. The committee urges the minister to ensure that her department's business plan is not unintentionally misleading.

Members are concerned that the Government of Nunavut intends to fund the Nunavut Association of Municipalities Insurance Exchange beyond the original three year commitment due to large scale infrastructure losses that put a large strain on the fund.

Members recognize that the members of NAMIX have worked very hard to get the exchange up and running but are concerned that it will never be self-sustaining.

Members noted with interest that the department's proposed budget for 2006-07 includes \$45,000 for grants to university and college students under the new Technical Professional Studies Program.

The committee understands that the purpose of this fund is to encourage students to get the training that will qualify them for technical positions with Community and Government Services. I urge the minister to track the success of this program to determine if these grants are the most effective means to that very desirable end.

Members noted that the request for proposal for dry cargo re-supply was issued in January. Members understand that this is a time-sensitive issue but remain concerned that the request for proposal has been issued prior to the completion of Mariport Group Ltd.'s report on re-supply in Nunavut. The standing committee looks forward to reviewing this report and urges the minister to table it in this House.

Members would like the minister to move towards a free market approach that will bolster competition and decrease costs rather than entering into multi-year contracts with one service provider.

Members are concerned at the projected costs of petroleum products for the 2006 re-supply. It appears obvious that the maximum limit of the Government of Nunavut's Petroleum Products Revolving Fund will need to be increased in order to meet the rising cost of these goods.

Committee members are concerned that the minister has not been forthcoming with them with respect to the department's intentions to bring forward legislation to amend the

*Revolving Funds Act.* The standing committee urges the minister to bring forward any legislation in a timely manner.

Committee members are pleased that the minister has continued to table detailed annual reporting documents with respect to government contracting, procurement, and leasing activities. Members urge the minister to continue tabling these documents in the House in a timely manner.

That concludes my opening comments. Individual members may have their own concerns and comments as we proceed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Before we proceed, I would like to remind members of the following because we have six pages to approve on this department. According to Rule 77(1), you have 10-minutes to speak and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion, but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

I suggest to members that, wherever possible, you ask your detailed questions during the page-by-page review of the departmental estimates.

Do members have any general comments? Any comments on this side? Thank you.

We will start on J-5. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Under Directorate. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$7,899,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. J-6, which also includes J-7, J-8, and J-9. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Community Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$51,505,000. Mr. Alagalak.

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also would like to welcome Minister Brown and her officials, and I'm glad that she's down there at the witness table.

My first question is; this 2005-06 under Community Support, it's reduced by approximately \$1 million. What's the reduction for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could I ask the member to clarify the question please? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Alagalak, clarify your question please.

**Mr. Alagalak:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In 2005-06, you had, under Grants and Contributions, \$45,026,000 and in 2006-07, you had \$44,669,000. So the difference here is that this year, there were some decreases in this funding. So I'm asking for what purpose this grant was decreased. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. A sharp eye. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a combination of different programs under the difference that the member is asking. There were additions to community fuel and utilities built into that budget. Could I ask Mr. Rich to give an addition to that please?

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

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister said, there are a number of things that make up that particular item. There are about eight different items and what you are looking at is actually an increase on the revised estimate. A year ago, the main estimates were \$42,000. So in terms of the increase, it's actually increased by about \$2 million for this year over the main estimates.

During the course of the year, there were some individual expenditures and there were some that went up and some that went down. So in terms of what we actually spent, yes, you are correct, it was \$45 million and it's reduced, now, slightly. Some of that reduction in grants and contributions is a normal progression of the NAMIX grant, which was \$1 million and down to \$500,000, which was part of the agreement. There have been some changes in CTI agreements, etcetera.

Overall, we're actually up over the budgeted amount that was in; it's just the actual expenditures. It also reflects some internal changes that were made in the department. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Alagalak** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it was last year or the year before that they were going to do another planning on (interpretation ends) Crown lands, and hinterlands, industrial lot development, and commercial lot development, residential lot development, and so on.

(interpretation) For that reason, quite a few communities have asked me many times that they want to purchase or get a lot for their commercial or industrial area because industrial area lots...(interpretation ends)...because one can pile up a whole bunch of garbage, and then he would still have a right to do so.

There seems to be a lot of misunderstanding as a contingent in a community in a point where to understand before frustration starts over applications regarding the type of land or the type of business or the types of things that they're thinking doing to do in the community and there seems to be a problem of funding arrangements from the government to the hamlets for providing sufficient funds for surveying and so forth. In the last talk I had with the constituents that they had to wait a year, at least, for the surveyors to come in to identify a certain area for their purpose.

In my own opinion with this \$44 million to granting the communities to pursue a betterment for their communities in identifying land surveys and other developments to get them ready for use by the community residents.

I want to ask the minister if it had improved over the last couple of years to try and develop lands and the type of lands in the community. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, land issues usually come up. And the federal government is responsible and also municipalities are responsible for lands.

In our department, we now have land officers in all the communities though the funding we get from the federal government is still being negotiated. He asked me if this has improved. It seems like it has improved. And also the community land officers are now being trained through the Municipal Training Organization. This has improved quite a bit since Nunavut was created on April 1, 1999.

We know that we need to develop this further and make progress on the issue of dealing with lands. We've been negotiating with the federal government on this issue. We are continually working on it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman** (interpretation): Thank you. I have no more names on my list. I'm sorry. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We need more space on these tables here to spread stuff out.

I would like to ask the minister on page J-7, there is \$135,000 budgeted for the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, it's been at that level for a few years. I'm wondering; do you think the Nunavut Association of Municipalities has expanded to the level where they may require additional funds to support their operations? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Nunavut Association of Municipalities has been provided funds by the Government of Nunavut and also through meetings we provide them with funding.

But I can only say that the Nunavut Association of Municipalities has never requested additional funds, so that's why there has been no change on this line item and as the Government of Nunavut we try to provide them any way we can. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell us how their relationship is with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities, how it's been in the last year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown** (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to thank my colleague for asking this question.

We've had very a close working relationship with Nunavut Association of Municipalities and we provide assistance to them in any way we can when they make requests on special projects.

Also, in regard to your earlier question, the funds were \$100,000, but now it is \$135,000. There was an increase in 2003 to \$135,000. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for answering that question.

Mr. Chairman, in the past, I have advocated that the Government of Nunavut consult with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on a number of issues related to municipalities.

I'd be very happy to see that at least one department is doing that with you as minister of the department. I've heard a lot of good comments from mayors and municipal staff across Nunavut. There are a couple of areas where the Nunavut Association of Municipalities has asked to be involved, or have consultations in the last six months. They didn't seem to get a proper response or due respect from the government, and that's with respect to wanting to be consulted.

The Nunavut Association of Municipalities represents 25 or 26 communities in Nunavut, all the mayors, and everybody in those communities, not just one group of people. It's everybody.

They wanted to be consulted on the Northern Strategy funding. They requested participation and were denied. They've recently requested to be involved in negotiations on devolution. Again, they've been rejected.

I'm wondering if the minister can comment on what the Government of Nunavut's view is with respect to Nunavut Association of Municipalities, and the group of mayors that the Nunavut Association of Municipalities represents, in terms of participating or being consulted on important initiatives like the Northern Strategy funding and devolution negotiations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Community and Government Services works closely with the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on many issues.

We value our relationship with that organization highly, and we have a copy of the responses to the Nunavut Association of Municipalities on their 2005 resolutions that were directed to Community and Government Services.

We had advised them that we would provide information on the process as it unfolded. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Brown. To respond to the number of requests I've been getting in the last minute or so for a short break, we'll break for ten minutes and get back to Mr. Peterson's questions. Thank you.

*>>Committee recessed at 18:10 and resumed at 18:23*

**Chairman:** We're on J-6, which includes J-7, J-8, and J-9. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Community Support. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$51,505,000. Agreed?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Sorry. Mr. Peterson, I must apologize, did you have more questions on J-6? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Yes, I did, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Okay, in respect of your agreement before the break, I will allow you to go back to J-6 to finish up your questions under Community Support. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just before I begin, I would like to clarify for the record that the Mariport Study was tabled two days ago. Just for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On page J-7, that Technical Professionals Studies Program, there's an amount budgeted for \$45,000. Can the minister explain what that program is for? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, the member, for asking that. The Technical Professional Studies Program, which he indicated, is \$45,000. This program provides a one-time bursary for post-secondary students. This program was created by senior managers for Nunavummiut attending post-secondary studies in technical areas in the department; I guess informatics systems and planning computers in IT, as well as engineering, community planning, fire college, and lands administrations.

The program policy guidelines applications will go to Cabinet for consideration and implementation for the 2006-07 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. Can the minister tell me if every eligible applicant that applies under this program, will they receive funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In relation to that question, no, there will be a limit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Will the successful applicant, when they graduate, be required to work in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're still working on that. It requires a bit more work before we conclude that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page G-8, Leadership Forum, there is \$100,000 to facilitate leadership meetings in Nunavut. How many leadership meetings are usually held in Nunavut on an annual basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Good for him. Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question. It's usually the regional mayors that have their meetings. The three regions have their separate meeting, sometimes all together across Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. The meetings that are held, is there one annual meeting in each region? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's the case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. We're moving right along. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What is the purpose of the leadership meetings that are held with the mayors? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. They have some types of issues and concerns about their communities. And it's an opportunity for them to get together on an annual basis. It's important for them to meet face to face, and that's what the meetings are. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. When the mayors get together and they discuss the issues, your staff is there, I presume. When the mayors make recommendations or pass resolutions, are they given to your department to act on? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's exactly what happens. We like to see those resolutions and those motions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson, please show your hand before further questions. Thank you. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister.

Could I ask the minister to table the minutes or the resolutions from the last group of, year of leadership meetings in 2005, table in the House, and then the responses to their recommendations or resolutions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Minister, I take it that's for all the regions. It's not specified Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I think it's possible to get those resolutions. I don't think that will be a problem, but as for the minutes we may not get them. They have to be requested from the mayors themselves. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I hope you can find the minutes because presumably the mayors come to the meetings and someone from your department kept the minutes of the meetings, or a record of the minutes.

I would like to see those minutes, and I'm sure all my colleagues would like to see what the mayors are recommending and then of course, there are the resolutions that they put forward and the responses to those resolutions; if the minister could comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I appreciate the member's request however, the minutes are done in different ways, in different varieties, and they do belong to the mayors, so I think the request must go to the mayors instead of my department.

We do get copies of the resolutions. That's why I thought it was an easy answer to get copies of those resolutions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister Brown. Fair enough. Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister tell me which mayor in the Baffin, Kivalliq, and Kitikmeot regions I have to contact to get the minutes? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I believe anyone of the mayors from the different regions; Iqaluit, or Kivalliq, or Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I'm sure the mayors are listening in, or when they read the *Hansard* they're going to ask why the minister is making it so difficult for me to get the copies of the minutes from their regional meetings.

Surely there must be copies sent to the Department of Community and Government Services. I'm sure they would want the Members of the Legislative Assembly and ministers to read those minutes.

Further along down in the page Mr. Chairman, not on that page, sorry I'm on the wrong page. On page J-9, the Water and Sewage Services Block Funding, the amount is the same this year as last year. The minister has tabled the Water and Sewage Services Subsidy Policy Report or a Summary Report and Recommendations.

I'm wondering if the minister can comment on the next steps for her department in terms of implementing some of the recommendations in that report. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the minutes, there is a process for that.

Usually, the mayors approve those minutes before anybody can access them. That's why I think it's difficult to access them until they have been approved, because they meet every year. So say if they met last month, one year from last month, they wouldn't be approved. So I think that's why we can't access them easily.

As for the question that the member has on water and sewage service block funding, I think there has been a little increase there I see from 2004-05, there's an increase for 2005-06 and I wish to have, perhaps...that we are doing pilots and recommendation to Cabinet, as well as recommendation to FMB. Yes, the member is correct, I did table that report recently in the House. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me what the department intends to do with the report of recommendations as it pertains to involving municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I ask my deputy minister to answer that question please? Thank you.

**Chairman:** Most definitely, Minister Brown. Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister stated, we are going through a process that involves, first of all, starting with pilots. In the report that was tabled two days ago in the legislature by the minister, there is a recommended new policy, which involves the base funding formula.

We have worked with three municipalities to start pilots. There has already been an initial meeting with those three municipalities that are Chesterfield Inlet, Kugaaruk, and Pangnirtung. They were picked because of the different types of systems they have and it allows us to try out the new approach to the funding formula with three quite different communities in terms of their particular systems. We have scheduled a presentation on the new formula to be made at the NAM Annual General Meeting, which is happening this spring.

At that point in time, we will give a thorough briefing to all of the communities and they will also receive a copy of all the documentation. Then as the pilots perform, we will keep NAM up to date on what happens with the new formula and their reactions to the documents that we have provided to them on the new recommended formula.

We anticipate coming back to the minister in the fall with the initial results from the three pilots, and based on that, we hope that she will feel inclined to take recommendations forward first to Cabinet for the policy, and then to FMB for any funding that's required as a result of changes to the policy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rich. That's a very detailed explanation. That clarifies in my mind that a lot of this work is going to go forward. It's not just going to sit on a shelf and gather dust as a lot of government studies or reports do. We have to help our municipalities as much as we can.

Further down on the page, Mr. Chairman, the Community Government Access Protection Program I guess it's the NAMIX Program. There's \$500,000 budgeted for NAMIX this year. Is this the last year that NAMIX will receive funding? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's last year's. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. So after the end of the fiscal year 2006-07, NAMIX will be fully self-sustaining and will not require any additional funding from the Government of Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are not in discussion about future years right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me how the NAMIX Program performed in the current fiscal year 2005-06? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I ask Mr. Rich to respond to that question please?

**Chairman:** Permission granted. Mr. Rich.

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can provide an update that the minister has not had yet because I recently had a meeting with the NAMIX board here in Iqaluit and have not even had a chance yet to fully update the minister on the meeting. NAMIX has been performing well but there have been challenges.

The challenges are the fact that we in fact have had in the last two years more fire incidents than we would have liked to have seen; for instance, a fire in Cambridge Bay last year, which caused some drawdown.

Currently they are running about \$2 million that they have accessible to them. They would like to be in a situation where they have at this point in time \$5 million accessible to them for immediate issues. The challenges that NAMIX faces are understandable. It is a small insurance exchange that is serving 25 communities and it is quite new. It has performed well in its first four years of operation, but the NAMIX board does have concerns that more funding may be required for long-term sustainability.

They have not made a formal presentation to government yet with regards to that, but as I mentioned we have had very positive preliminary discussions and I am anticipating that the NAMIX board will be making a formal presentation to the minister in the near future following the meeting that I had with them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rich, Minister. In the opinion of the minister, would you say that the NAMIX Program has performed admirably in the last four years and that it has achieved its original objective which was to provide affordable insurance coverage to municipalities? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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



**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that question for the member. Yes, I would say yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Could the minister call me if they do come forward with a request for additional funding that your department can support them and recommend additional funding to the Legislative Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Before I proceed, just to remind you of the 22 seconds left on your clock, Mr. Peterson. Minister Brown, please proceed.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes we certainly can consider that request. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-9, Community Development Fund, could the minister provide a brief overview of what type of projects would be funded with the \$1,050,000 budgeted? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Pretty good timing. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, member, for that question. The MTO, out of that \$1,050,000, they get \$800,000 for the training, and hamlets also receive \$250,000 that is out of that money too. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, minister. Mr. Peterson you are one second above and beyond your record from yesterday. Please proceed, Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the minister tell me how many people were trained out of MTO programs in 2005? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. In 2005-06, as of December 12, 2005, there were 593 participants. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will thank the minister for that answer. The Municipal Training Organization seems to be a very valuable organization in terms of training people in the communities, and I take my hat off to the people who came up with that idea, and the hard working staff at the MTO. When you have 550 people on various training programs in Nunavut it's a large coordination effort.

I'm wondering, Mr. Chairman, if the minister could tell me; when there is a two week training program under way for Level 1 firefighters, does the government pick up the wages of the volunteer firefighters who have to go on those two week courses?

Would their salaries be covered or would it be something that their employers would be expected to pick up? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson for your line of questioning. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it's very popular, that Municipal Training Organization. It touches a lot of people's lives in the communities and it sure enhances their training.

As for the question the member asked, we pick up their travel costs and their living allowance, for food and lodging, but unfortunately we don't cover salaries. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. As a courtesy to our colleague, we went back to J-6, after we had approved.

So we will proceed to go to J-10. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Government Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$54,412,000. Are there any questions? There being none. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$54,412,000. (interpretation) Do you agree?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Chairman:** Thank you. Community and Government Services. Branch Summary. Protection Services. Total Operations and Maintenance. Just a reminder, this also includes J-13. Total Operations and Maintenance. \$5,433,000. Are there any questions? Mr. Peterson.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page J-27 of the Business Plan, there is the fire equipment. There seems to be a decrease in the provision of equipment there is a shortage of basic essential firefighting equipment for municipal firefighters in Nunavut.

We had \$99,000 last year. It's decreased to \$54,000 this year. With an emphasis on fire prevention, why would there be a decrease in providing fire equipment to our firefighters in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank the member. \$700,000 was taken out of that \$1.1 million on J-13.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Minister. (interpretation) Anything else? Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Sorry for that. Also, \$45,000 was assisted to other areas in the Fire Marshall's Office. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. I've talked to some of the volunteer firefighters in Cambridge Bay and they've told me in the past that they have to do a lot of fund raising to purchase essential firefighting equipment.

I thought that was strange that they would have to do that because you would think that the government and the municipalities would provide that equipment. They are risking their lives to provide essential services to communities and anyone who has witnessed the firefighters respond to a fire would understand what I'm talking about. They have to go into very dangerous situations.

I'm wondering why the department would decrease that particular budget item. In my mind I would think that they'd work to increase the funding for basic essential firefighting equipment. Can the minister comment on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Those are very good comments, Mr. Peterson. Of course, we're all concerned when it comes to fire protection. I must say that it has improved over the years greatly and significantly as well. The \$45,000 was for training. The \$2 million program has made the \$45,000 program redundant.

I would like to ask Mr. Rich to add on to my comments please. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As the minister was explaining, we now use the \$2 million Fire Strategy as the primary source of funding, which is what she was referring to. So if I could, I would refer to you page J-13. On page J-13, the second item down, the fire equipment one is the one that you're talking about and the one that reflects the change in the budget in the business plan.

This is what used to be the only funding that was available, which was \$90,000 and then reduced to \$54,000 for fire equipment. What we have done with the advent of the Fire Strategy is created a new fund for fire equipment. So if you look immediately above that, you'll see the Fire Prevention Strategy. That's showing as \$1.1 million. Out of that \$1.1 million approximately \$700,000 a year is now used for equipment. So basically, what's happened is we've gone from \$90,000 a year to an increase to \$700,000 for fire equipment, and that's done directly with the communities.

Over the past year we established a standardized list of fire equipment. We're working with the communities to survey each community to determine where they may have shortfalls with that equipment. We are using the \$700,000 to provide additional equipment to communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister, and thank Mr. Rich. That's very reassuring. Perhaps, in the future when you're preparing a business plan and your main estimates, you could be a bit clearer. It seemed to me when you're reducing the fire equipment; it's less of an emphasis, and I'm learning now is that there is more of an emphasis. So I compliment you for doing that. I'm sure the firefighters in Nunavut are very appreciative that there's that much money available to buy the equipment that they need to respond to fires.

Just below on page J-26 of the business plan; search and rescue; there's \$500,000 budgeted. I know that in my opening comments we were pleased to see that the department has budgeted this amount again this year.

Could the minister give us a bit of an overview of how the \$500,000 was used that we recommended to be used for search and rescue? How was it used this year, the current fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank the member. The search and rescue funding is directed specifically to enhance community search and rescue capability. For 2005-06, it was allocated \$390,000 for equipment enhancement like global positioning systems, GPS, and things like binoculars, and first aid kits, VHF radios, etcetera for each community.

Every community received the same initial equipment scales, Global Positioning Systems, binoculars, first-aid kits, VHF radios, and satellite phones following the workshop, which was held here in Iqaluit in 2005.

Also, additional requests by communities are being requested and will be delivered prior to the end of this fiscal year. Examples include such things as personal flotation vests, PFV flotation vests, flare guns, reflective vests, flashlights, and additional GPS.

There was \$110,000 for a territory-wide search workshop to seek community input towards the future direction of Community. Also, search and rescue across Nunavut, delegates from each community held in Iqaluit that met December 6 to 8 of 2005.

If that's satisfactory, that's my explanation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that very good information. It sounds like the funding that we approved is very well received by the search and rescue groups across Nunavut. In fact, it seems like maybe they have been a bit neglected over the years and were very happy to receive that level of funding. I could certainly see where they might even require more of it, that level of demand that you are budgeting for it again this year.

Could the minister give me or provide the House with a bit of an overview of how the search and rescue groups interact with the department in terms of when they respond to a search and rescue emergency in a community? How does that tie in with your department? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, very much, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the search and rescues in the communities are very important and we really value their volunteerism. They really do a lot of work. We work very, very closely with them and our communication is very close with each community and is growing better all the time. It enhances and...we have more room to improve as well, but from what I saw at the last workshop, they were very glad to get together because it's something that they don't do often because of lack of funding.

But now I think the members here realize that it's very important to keep that funding ongoing to ensure that they have planning together because they have major work ahead of them and I can tell you that sometimes it could be really stormy out there and you can't see anything, whiteout, and the local community members who are volunteers are out there doing their best to do the search work.

So we really recognize their efforts and their volunteerism coming from the CGS Department and also, we are informed of the searches through our regional offices in each region and RCMP is the lead in the community. We get an incident report on the results right away. My staff informs me any time of the hour, and as you all know, you are all elected here too. So you get phone calls any time of the hour, it doesn't matter if it's five in the morning, like this morning.

The search and rescue team are out there working hard and like I said, it's coordinated through the regional offices and we try to provide them anything that they need. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. That's very helpful information. Can the minister tell me if there is a territorial Search and Rescue Organization or is there consideration to establish a territorial rescue organization? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I caught you with a whole hand out. Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I would like Mr. Rich to respond to that please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Rich:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It depends a little bit by what one means by a territorial search and rescue organization. So there are two formed organizations and one that will likely be formed.

At the territorial government level, there is officially a deputy's search and rescue committee which is; Emergency Management Committee is the real name of it. They have an overall responsibility for coordinating government responses on emergency management.

There is an officials' level committee that does the work and again that's an emergency management committee. In terms of search and rescue, until recently there wasn't a designated contact at the community government level in each community.

There is an official responsibility in each community because that's the RCMP. The RCMP, under our agreement with the RCMP is in fact the designated coordinator for search and rescue in each community. So, we in fact liaise very closely with the RCMP, and in fact have improved our relations with the RCMP remarkably over the last two years, we have a very close working relationship with them.

One of the things that were discussed at the search and rescue conference that happened in December was the formation of a territorial organization with the fact that we now have about 75 percent of the communities with a formal search and rescue organization.

I suspect we will see the formation of a territorial search and rescue organization made up of the chief representatives of each of those local search and rescue societies in each of the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Rich. Again, that's helpful information.

The search and rescue groups in each community, they function much like the fire departments. They work for the best interest of the residents of the communities. I've often wondered why the search and rescue groups don't fall under the auspices of the municipal council. Then they would be provided directly with support for their activities and the training and be provided with the facilities as well to store their equipment and

have a place where they can meet. Is that something that the department is considering discussing with the hamlets? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Chairman:** Minister Brown.

**Hon. Levinia Brown:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is a very good comment from the member. I think they can, if council wants it that way. I think the hamlet councils in the communities have a lot to say, and give directions in those areas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**Mr. Peterson:** I thank the minister. One of the reasons I made that comment or asked that question is Mr. Rich just said that 75 percent of the hamlets have search and rescue groups. There are 25 percent of the hamlets that don't. Could you imagine if only 75 percent of the hamlets had fire departments and 25 percent didn't?

So I fully believe that wherever possible, there should be a search and rescue group in a community so that they can respond immediately to emergencies. Even an hour or two can save a life. And if you have to wait for search and rescue from another community to come along, that's time that could be lost in saving a life. So I'd urge the department to continue those discussions with the hamlets and the search and rescue groups to see if that makes sense.

That's just a comment Mr. Chairman. I have no more questions. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Alagalak:** Looking at the time and looking at you elders in the Chambers, you look pretty tired. I move to report progress.

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

Thank you, minister. We will see you tomorrow, thank you.

**Speaker** (interpretation): Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Kilabuk.

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

**Mr. Kilabuk:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 12 and would like to report progress. We had one committee motion which was adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to.

**Speaker** (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Mr. Kattuk. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. 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.

Orders of the Day for March 10:

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 05
  - Bill 06
  - 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 adjourn for the day and will meet again on Friday, March 10 at 10:00 in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 19:10*

