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Speaker: The Honourable Peter Kilabuk, M.L.A.

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

Chair, Management and Services Board

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq
(Nattilik)
Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Responsible for Status of Women Council

Tagak Curley
(Rankin Inlet North)
Striking Committee; Management and Services Board; Regular Members' Caucus

Keith Peterson
(Cambridge Bay)
Striking Committee; Management and Services Board; Regular Members' Caucus

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk
(South Baffin)
Minister of Economic Development and Transportation; Minister Responsible for the Nunavut Housing Corporation

Joe Allen Evyagotailak
(Kugluktuk)
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Hon. Ed. Picco
(Iqaluit East)
Government House Leader; Minister of Education; Minister of Energy; Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism, Homelessness and Immigration; Management and Services Board

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(Arviat)
Regular Members' Caucus

Peter Kattuk
(Hudson Bay)
Regular Members' Caucus

Hon. David Simailak
(Baker Lake)

Minister of Finance; Chair of the Financial Management Board

James Arreak
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Steve Mapsalak
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Hon. Louis Tapardjuk
(Amittuq)
Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth; Minister of Human Resources

Levi Barnabas
(Quttiktuq)
Chair, Full Caucus; Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole; Regular Members' Caucus

Patterk Netser
(Nanulik)
Minister of Environment; Minister Responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board

Hunter Tootoo
(Iqaluit Centre)
Striking Committee; Management and Services Board; Regular Members' Caucus

Hon. Levinia Brown
(Rankin Inlet South-Whale Cove)
Deputy Premier; Minister of Community Government and Government Services

Hon. Paul Okalik
(Iqaluit West)
Premier; Minister of Justice; Minister of Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs

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Simanek Kilabuk

Hansard Production
Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Friday, June 9, 2006**

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, Honourable Levinia Brown, Mr. Tagak Curley, Mr. Joe Allan Evyagotailak, Mr. Peter Kattuk, Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Mr. Steve Mapsalak, Mr. Patterk Netser, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

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

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Deputy Premier, Ministers, and Members of the Legislative Assembly. First of all, we will look at Ministers' Statements. Minister Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 090 – 2(3): Premier Absent from the House

Hon. Ed. Picco (interpretation): Good morning and I would like to welcome you. An announcement that the Honourable Paul Okalik will be absent from the House today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 091 – 2(3): Congratulations to Sheila Watt-Cloutier

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

It is my pleasure to stand and congratulate Sheila Watt Cloutier for being the recipient of two more environmental awards.

Yesterday on June 8 she was presented with an award. (interpretation ends) Sheila Watt-Cloutier received the Outstanding Commitment to the Environment Award from Earth Day Canada. This award recognizes her national and international efforts to promote effective responses to climate change.

She was also, as recently as June 4, presented with the Citation of Lifetime Achievement during the Canadian Environmental Awards. That award cited Sheila's work for

environmental protection and sustainability for Inuit, as well as her leadership and influence on key issues such as persistent contaminants and climate change.

Sheila has accepted numerous awards for her work promoting the Arctic and educating the people about the impacts of climate change not just in Nunavut, but around the world as well.

In the past 14 months she has also received the International Environmental Leadership Award at the Green Cross Millennium Awards, the Governor General's Northern Medal, the International Environment and Development Sophie Prize and was named one of the champions of the earth by the United Nations Environment Program.

Mr. Speaker, Sheila is a tireless dedicated advocate for the Arctic, and for the Inuit. In one of her recent speeches, she said, "An Inuk hunter out on the ice is a sentinel, a first line of defence and a warning about climate change..." However, sometimes the sentinel alone on the ice needs help and a voice so that the rest of the world can hear him...and Sheila is that voice.

I hope that you will all join me in extending congratulations to Sheila not just for these awards but also for her hard work and commitment to protecting the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 229 – 2(3): Umingmak School Graduates

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning, Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I would like to wish the people in my riding and my wife and children a good day.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honour students at Umingmak School in Grise Fiord who are graduating this year. They are:

Sarah Kiguktak
Rhoda Akeeagok
Robbie Kakkee, and
Monica Kiguktak.

Mr. Speaker, last's year's graduate, April Akeegok will also be joining this graduation event as Umingmak School did not have a graduation ceremony last year. I am sure she will be pleased to celebrate this day with her fellow students.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member for the High Arctic, I would like to recognize the educators and parents of these students. They are truly committed to making a difference in the success of our children and I commend them for it.

Mr. Speaker, education must be a key priority for our government. We need to strengthen our education system, and help our youth achieve their full potential.

Mr. Speaker, these graduates will also inspire other students to complete their high school education. I ask them to encourage other students to continue to work hard towards this goal.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this year's Grise Fiord graduates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Member from Kugluktuk, Joe Allen Evyagotailak

Member's Statement 230 – 2(3): Medical Travel Escorts and Airline Services

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to be back in the House this week in order to raise concerns on behalf of my constituents in Kugluktuk.

I would first like to note the community's appreciation for the condolences that we received following our recent tragedy. I know that the families appreciate this.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, I am committed to hearing directly from my constituents. Last month, I held a public meeting in Kugluktuk to hear their concerns. Some of the issues that were raised with me included the concerns surrounding medical escorts, bird flu, and the airline service.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my colleagues have raised the issue of medical escorts. In Kugluktuk, people are also concerned about unilingual Inuinnaqtun elders going to Yellowknife or Edmonton without having escorts. I am committed to raise this issue with the minister.

Mr. Speaker, during our last sitting, I raised the issue of our airline service in Kugluktuk. I noted that the government recently introduced a Fuel Tax Rebate Program to attract more mining exploration and development activity in Nunavut. I look forward to hearing an update from the Minister responsible for Transportation as to what can be done to encourage more air carriers to serve our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a productive sitting this month. Thank you

>>*Applause*

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

Member's Statement 231 – 2(3): Repulse Bay Fishing Derby

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the people who worked extremely hard in Repulse Bay in regard to the fishing derby. I am not going to naming them all, but I will also not be naming the names of the people who won in the fishing derby because it is going to take too long.

I would like to congratulate the people who did an excellent job in organizing the fishing derby and I think there is \$30,000 that was given to the people who won in that fishing derby.

I would like to congratulate the individual who won and I would also like to say that I did participate in the fishing derby and I am very pleased that I was able to go back home without getting snow blind.

It is an annual event with me and this is the first spring that I did not get snow blindness, and I was able to go home in one piece. I think, last year, I came here in the spring, and could hardly see.

I would like to congratulate the individuals and the volunteers who put together that annual event, and it was a joyful event for all the families participating. Again, I congratulate the people who put this event together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 232 – 2(3): Congratulate Rankin Inlet Elementary School Students

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today because of course we congratulate a lot of people and we are very proud of the elementary schools.

I would like to enjoy this event with the people of Nunavut. Starting from kindergarten to grade five we are very proud of the elementary school students, especially the parents, the grandparents, and relatives.

In Rankin Inlet there is an award for elementary school students and it's in remembrance to Heather Solomon, who was a teacher in Rankin Inlet. On behalf of Sally and me, we

would like to congratulate an individual who worked extremely hard and joyfully participated.

Our grandchild, Meagan Netser got the Heather Solomon Award. She also got a bicycle. Be proud and congratulate your children and your grandchild. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. For your information we only have one page in the House. Our page will not be able to go the second or third floor at this time. For your information we only have one page available.

Members' Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet South and Whale Cove, Ms. Levinia Brown.

Member's Statement 233 – 2(3): Congratulations to Whale Cove Graduates

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate the graduates in Whale Cove. As you know, I represent Whale Cove. This is the second year that Whale Cove has had graduates. Last year was the very first time that they had graduates, and this is the second year.

In Inuglak School there were three graduates who are very young, and were born around 1986-87. They completed their Grade 12. I would like to congratulate Germaine Ikualaaq, Rachel Panika, and Levinia Voisey. They are the three graduates.

Also I would like to thank the individuals who participated in the event: Mayor Sandy Adjun, from NTI, Raymond Ningeocheak, and Nancy Karetak-Lindell, who is our Nunavut MP. It was a beautiful day and the school was elaborately decorated.

We celebrated this event with the parents of the graduates and I'm sure that the whole community of Whale Cove also congratulates these individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Members' Statements. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Member's Statement 234 – 2(3): Arviat Kindergarten Graduates

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to congratulate the children from Arviat.

I am very happy that things are starting to grow and the earth is starting to grow its vegetation. It is going to turn green and it is going to be very scenic out there of which I am very pleased, but I would like to tell you that in Arviat, as you know the kind of terrain we have, but I apologize that we can't grow any mountains or cliffs in our area. We have no high mountains.

The one thing that I am very pleased about is that five and six year olds, the kindergarten students, have celebrated and held their graduation ceremony and have been promoted to grade 1.

My grandchild Lacreia Flynnne, who is named after *Niviksarnaaq*, was the grandmother of many people, was one of these graduates. She was the first woman in the north to sew with a sewing machine to make dresses and she was one of the very first people to start selling clothing using a sewing machine back in the 1900s.

She had a manual sewing machine and my grandchild is named after her. I was very happy and I know that she will never forget that. It will encourage her to stay in school and complete her schooling, especially for those kindergarten students who graduated this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Members' Statements. Minister Akesuk

Member's Statement 235 – 2(3): Congratulations to Cape Dorset Graduates

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Tonight in Cape Dorset there will be a graduation ceremony at the Peter Pitseolak School. The ceremony will start at five o'clock p.m. The graduation ceremony will start at 7:30 p.m. tonight.

The students who will be graduating are: Helena Workman, Joe Salamonie, Pitseolak Toonoo, Jesse Toonoo, Evie Pootoogoo, Margaret Hutchings and Arnirniq Oshweetok. These are the graduating students today and I am very proud of them. I would like to congratulate them along with their parents and teachers. I would like to thank them for providing them support. Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Members' Statements. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Member's Statement 236 – 2(3): Nunavut Association of Municipalities Annual General Meeting Resolutions

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House about the successful Annual General Meeting of the Nunavut Association of Municipalities that was held in Cambridge Bay last month from May 6 to 8.

Mr. Speaker, as members are aware, NAM is a Nunavut-wide organization composed of the territory's elected mayors.

Mr. Speaker, through the mayors, NAM represents the interests of 31,000 Nunavummiut. NAM plays an important role in advocating on behalf of Nunavummiut at the territorial and national levels.

Mr. Speaker, NAM has a seat on the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' Board of Directors. FCM is the national organization that represents all Canadian municipalities. Our membership here helps to amplify the voice of Nunavut's communities.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the President of FCM, Ms. Gloria Kovatch, attended the AGM last month as keynote speaker. She told me that she was very honoured to be able to come to Nunavut for the AGM.

Mr. Speaker, the mayors took the opportunity to raise many issues and concerns with the Minister of CGS and her officials. It was important for the minister to attend and hear first hand from the mayors. Often, mayors feel that the GN does not want to hear from them.

Mr. Speaker, the senior levels of government must not forget that the mayors and councillors and municipal staff are on the frontlines each day trying to make their communities better places to live. It has been said many times before, and I'll say it again, "They are being asked to do more with less." We owe it to them to support and listen to them.

Mr. Speaker, as with every AGM, the mayors passed a number of important resolutions. Later in this Session, I will be tabling them for the ministers and their staff to review and take action on as required. I encourage the Government of Nunavut to pay particular attention to the resolution entitled, 'Resource Revenue Sharing Framework for Nunavut Communities.'

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like the House to join me in congratulating Mayor Elisapee Sheutiapik on being elected the new NAM President. Joining her on the NAM Board of Directors are: Elizabeth Copeland as Vice-President; Michelle Gillis from the Kitikmeot; Lootie Toomasie from Baffin; and Stanley Adjuk from the Kivalliq. We wish them all the best in their positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member of Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo

Member's Statement 237 – 2(3): Tribute to Inuksuk High School Graduates

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to arrive to today and acknowledge and pay tribute to 32 young individuals that graduated from Inuksuk High school this year. They had the Graduation Ceremonies on June 3, 2006.

The heading for their graduation was called Remember- This is where our lives begin. It was a great ceremony I had the honour of attending, along with my other two colleagues from Iqaluit; the Minister of Education Mr. Picco and our Premier were all in attendance. It was nice to see a lot of proud parents and students.

As I said yesterday, I was relieved. I think that was the word that could describe how the students and some of the parents felt after that graduation. Another thing that I would like to note on that that there was actually the tribute and dedication to the parents was a trilingual affair; there was Lily Maniapik, Lisa Kolola, and Maude Giroux-Cote; one did it in English; in Inuktitut; and one did it in French. I thought that was something that was really unique.

>>*Applause*

Also I would like to congratulate the two valedictorians; Loren Teiman, and Matthew Jewis. They did a nice speech, although I think they were a little bit nervous when they were up there standing in front of everybody.

Also I would like to acknowledge that I had a nephew graduate; Anthony Tootoo, and a cousin, Darren Irniq that graduated. I would like to congratulate them on that. I look forward, and I'm sure as all of us do to a higher number of graduates. This year there were 32 graduates. I think if you look at the dark side of it, I mean that's a good thing, but we have a 75 percent drop out rate; there are 96 students that didn't make it there. I hope that as time goes on we see that drop and those numbers increase.

Again, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the 32 graduates of the Class of 2006 at Inuksuk High School this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We congratulate them. Members' Statements. Member for Coral Harbour and Chesterfield Inlet, Mr. Netser.

Member's Statement 238 – 2(3): Tribute to Jobie Nutarak

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to remember our late Speaker Jobie Nutarak and pay a tribute to him. I was his Deputy Speaker. Even though he would look to me and say, "Oh, my Deputy Speaker," in Inuktitut meaning smaller speaker, and say, "Me."

He was always eager to work and he was very proud to do his work. I think only once that I took over for him as the Deputy Speaker. Even though I was very interested in sitting at the Speaker's chair, but he enjoyed his job so well and he rarely got sick. He was very healthy, which I was not too pleased because I wanted to sit in that throne.

Even though he was a small human being he left a huge legacy behind. We will think about him during this meeting. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Yes, we all feel your comments. Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Igloolik, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Member's Statement 239 – 2(3): Broadcasting of House Proceedings

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have the most number of students graduating in Igloolik. Perhaps I will probably congratulate them after I attend the ceremony. I would like to also say how I'm thinking about our late Speaker. I would like to state again that when you're a Member of the Legislative Assembly, our constituents are always proud of us.

To date, during the Session, when our proceedings are not televised yet, even though Aboriginal Television should be airing to Nunavummiut, we are aired through the local television in Iqaluit, but we should be broadcasted throughout the whole of Nunavut because the public out there would like to hear us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to urge all of us to start broadcasting our proceedings again because we are Canadians. All of the Canadians have their rights to listen to their elected officials during their deliberations because we need to make our constituents be aware of our proceedings and to make sure that they at least understand what's happening with it. So we have to be open to the public.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the staff of the Legislative Assembly to start working harder on broadcasting our proceedings before the session or before our term is over. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 240 – 2(3): Congratulate Sanikiluaq Graduates

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You will have to excuse me, my voice is a bit hoarse yet I don't know why.

First of all, perhaps, I would like to state that when I called home yesterday my son, who is 12 years old, he said to me, "Father, we have no more ice. We can now go boating in our community." And I expect to stay here for another whole week.

I would like to congratulate the students from the school in Sanikiluaq. On May 31 we had a graduation ceremony. I would like to congratulate Mr. Picco for coming down to Sanikiluaq to attend the graduation ceremony. The students that graduated are: Martha Kitoosuk, Sarah Kudluarok, Caroline Meeko.

So we were all so proud to see them graduate and also the parents were there to congratulate those children. I would like to acknowledge the parents of the students who were providing support to their children to complete or to graduate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

I have an opportunity to recognize visitors in the Gallery. I would like to recognize first of all my older brother Allen and his wife Pitsiula Kilabuk. They are here in the Gallery, welcome to the Gallery. And to the left I would also like to welcome, my almost brother-in-law Joe Inuk. I would also like to welcome Eva Onalik.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 6. (interpretation ends) Oral Questions. (interpretation) Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 279 – 2(3): Health Care Coverage for Students Outside the Territory

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, on March 14, during our last sitting I asked the minister about students being covered for healthcare when they leave the territory and she had indicated at that time that if a person moved for whatever reason that they have to apply for coverage from that particular province.

My question for the minister is: does the Department of Health provide any assistance or information to notify those students that their healthcare coverage for Nunavut would expire and that they have to apply to that other jurisdiction that they're going to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Individuals that move from province to province are covered for three months; it doesn't matter if you're a student or not. They are covered for three months and during that time you are to apply to the jurisdiction that you moved into to be covered for medical coverage.

Speaking to my colleagues, and the Minister of Education as part of student financial assistance package there is an information sheet advising students to apply for medical coverage in those jurisdictions that they attend school in after three months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your first supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a form here from the Department of Health and from the Program Officer for Non-insured Health Benefits for Nunavut, and it's a student studying outside of Nunavut form. I don't know if that's the one that minister is referring to here, but the first paragraph says, "As a student living outside of Nunavut attending an educational institution you will continue to be covered by the Nunavut Healthcare Plan, provided that you are going to return to Nunavut when you've completed your education."

We have a form here that says that you are covered for the duration that you're out, and the minister is indicating twice now that you're not covered. So I'd just like to ask for some clarification there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It would be useful to share the information that he's referring to. What I do understand is that coverage for healthcare coverage doesn't matter if you are student or not. If you move to another jurisdiction you are covered for three months from Nunavut. After three months you are to apply for the jurisdiction that you're in.

Whether the information that's outlined in the student financial information, I have to go through that, but from what I understand, at the medical insurance program, if you move to another territory, or another province, you have three months to apply for coverage in those jurisdictions. During that time you are covered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your second supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sharing this information that comes from the Department of Health, I know that it was after that I raised those questions in March that there are some parents that fill out these forms every year to make sure that their children maintain their healthcare coverage for Nunavut.

I would like to ask the minister if she could, for the record, clarify is this program is something where students are covered because they're out for education purposes and they still live up here; they're just out for school; that they're covered for the entire time that they're out to school, and not just for three months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. (interpretation) Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think one distinction that has to be made in that line of questioning there is that under the Non-insured Health Benefits Inuit are covered across Canada. If you're in any jurisdiction, as far as I understand, that

medical coverage is with you. If you're a student it is a little bit different, and if you're a non-beneficiary, there are some differences there.

I think we need to be very clear which group of individuals we're talking about in responding to the member's question. If it's a beneficiary, non-insured health coverage will cover. If you're a non-beneficiary, and you're a student then there are different positions there also. If you moving to another jurisdiction then there is the three months coverage, three months timeline, but from what I understand, as an aboriginal under Non-insured Health Benefits those individuals are covered in those jurisdictions under that program. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the minister if she can look into this because I know this form talks specifically about all students, and then there is a specific area for students that are land claim beneficiaries. So, these forms, the Department of Health and Social Services form tells them that they are covered throughout the year. Is the minister saying that they're not?

I would really like, for the parents' sake and for those of us that are really wondering what's going on, whether children are covered under the Nunavut health care system or not. I would like a straight answer on this because their hearing from the policies and programs of the government, they're hearing that their children are covered, and from the minister, they're hearing that they're not.

So I'd like to get that clarified for their sake. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will provide the information as to who's covered under the Non-Insured Health Benefits programs, when people transfer to other jurisdictions, how that process works.

I will also provide information to the member on the student process, and how that applies to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Under the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program, Inuit are covered under that medical coverage, so there are differences in that, and perhaps the member can also table the form in the House. I can also check to see what document he is referring in further researching the information.

I'll be prepared to share that information on the program guidelines and information for medical coverage with the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Going back to Orders of the Day. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 280 – 2(3): Staff Housing for Teachers

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, just before I came here I received a phone call from the principal in the school in Repulse Bay. The concern was that there will be about six new teachers, and out of those six teachers, four of them won't have any accommodations.

There are no empty units at all in Repulse Bay for those four teachers. I would like to ask the minister, I wonder if his department knows ahead of time if those employees will have staff housing units to go into. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we try and deal with these situations and we realize that we have a shortage of housing for the employees.

We try and look for alternative ways, and look for funding to build the needed units. I can certainly understand your concern and perhaps we can work with the Department of Human Resources on how we can make some units available, especially if they're new employees coming from down south to Nunavut. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is very important and we feel very strongly about education. They should be accommodated well. They will have to stay in a hotel because there is no housing available.

If you're going to be living in a community, you don't particularly want to spend your whole time there in a hotel. I wonder if the minister on an emergency basis if they can be provided staff housing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we can look into this and if there is a unit available in the community, then we will look into this before those teachers arrive in the community. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Your second supplementary, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for his response. My last question is: can the minister advise me on this during this sitting so I can tell my constituents about this? Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will be talking with the people, the principal and the teachers that will be going there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 281 – 2(3): Comprehensive Strategy for GN Financial Structures

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I am reading the news release from May 1, 2006, the Government of Nunavut concerning plans in financial management.

The minister announced the completion of an internal report commissioned by the Government of Nunavut entitled, “The Review of the Government of Nunavut’s Financial Statements.” It made a number of recommendations.

Some initiatives were outlined by the minister that the Government of Nunavut was going to implement. One of them says a comprehensive strategy to produce public accounts within the timeframe required by legislation. As we all know, that has been a long-standing problem with the Government of Nunavut.

My question for the minister: can the minister expand on what that means and whether that includes penalties for not complying with the legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning to the residents of Baker Lake. Yes, we are constantly working on this and we have to produce things every year, and it is getting easier.

We are expecting to have more improvement within the departments. We work with the finance officers and we try to meet the deadlines and we are going as planned when we have deadlines to meet.

At this time, we have not set penalties for missing the deadlines, but if they are not doing what they are supposed to be doing. It would probably be like that. There are still developments and improvements in this area.

There have been a number of features and those were released in a news release. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier on in the news release, there is a comment that the Government of Nunavut has mandated that deputy ministers provide additional focus on their accountability for results and management of financial resources.

I think that there is a lot of fuzziness and I do not understand what that means. Can the minister clarify what focus on our accountability means for deputy minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the government departments, the deputy ministers are the managers of their department. They have to be well aware of what's happening in their department and to be responsible for their staff.

We told the deputy speakers that there's going to be more focus and accountability in regard to the financial aspects in their department and also to meet their deadlines. We stated to the deputy speakers that they will have to be responsible, to focus, and to be accountable. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your second supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

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

Again, in the same news release there's mention of an implementation of a plan that concerns working and pinpointing where adjustments might be needed. I referred to these statements before for various ministers and members on this side continue to follow up and ask them about those types of plans.

I'm wondering if the minister can commit to us today that he will table a copy of the implementation plan in the House next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will look into the issue and see if I can table that next week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister. I'm sure this next item will be a question of interest to a lot of people in communities in Nunavut. There's mention of a possible reconsolidation of financial processing and payroll operations at both the headquarters and regional levels. Can the minister clarify what the position is of the Government of Nunavut with the possible reconsolidation of financial processing and payroll functions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I believe that was also your final supplementary. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This was mentioned by the Auditor General and we will also told by the Auditor General.

In the communities there are finance officers and we have been asked if we should reconsolidate or centralize the financial positions because there's too many finance officers in the communities.

We will have to reconsider these positions and see if we can recentralize these positions in order to expedite the process. The bandwidths are too small and we have to wait many, many hours in order to get the financial papers from one community to another. So we will have to consider if we could recentralize. It's too cumbersome at this point.

With that, we will consider this issue and we will have to decide where those positions are going to be relocated. Of course, the position might stay in the community. It's something that we will have to seriously consider. I can't say when at this point, but it's under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Oral Questions. Mr. Curley.

Question 282 – 2(3): Medical Escort Policy Review

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

During the committee meeting, the minister tabled the draft Medical Escort Policy. We weren't pleased with the Escort Policy. The medical officer doesn't know whether individuals who are going on medical travel need an escort or whether they need assistance.

The minister stated yesterday that the Medical Escort Policy is under review and there is a possibility that it might change. How long is it going to take for you to review this policy and to implement these changes? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had committed to providing a revised Medical Travel Policy to this House and I'm still committed to that. Back in November I had shared a draft document for my colleagues for input on and to hear their concerns.

At the same time I had received some revisions to that policy and I was not satisfied that it adequately addressed the issue around under what situations would an escort be

required. I've asked the department to review all the issues that have come before us in the past and to date where questions around escorts have been an issue.

The medical travel itself for a patient is not in my opinion...I think that's fairly clear. Where it's not clear is around when an escort is required. I've asked for more review based on all the indicators that test the questions that we have received from people in Nunavut. So that is still in the works and I've committed to also trying to incorporate family input into when to decide when an escort is required. So I am committed to providing that.

The other concern that I had in regard to how that was administered was that at the community level, if an escort is required and so on, the appeal process was centralized to one person in the whole territory. I didn't agree with that in that I think individual program managers for that particular region should have the discretion to review a file along with the health care professionals and be a professional to make an informed decision on whether an escort is required or not.

So there are changes being done in that way. And I also want individuals at the community level to be able to have the authority to actually do the case management of a patient. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. As a reminder, please keep your questions and responses as short as possible and to the point. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that there have been enough concerns and suggestions raised by members of this assembly and my colleagues, Members of the Legislative Assembly from all over Nunavut.

The people are calling for changes. Why does it take over six months to change the policy when it is very obvious the policy currently has implications now, particularly with our elders?

I can give the minister one example, and I did during the operations and maintenance estimates, that the elder from my own constituency was given a wrong medical prescription because he didn't have a translator when he saw a doctor. He was nodding as usual, and smiling, and nodding, and nodding, when he should have saying no, no, no, no. Therefore, he was given a wrong medical prescription and he even to date hasn't really recovered after a major heart operation.

So I am asking the minister why it takes over six months to change a very simple policy direction. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the policy stuff, I have asked for feedback and I am working on that to present to this House. I don't want to rush

through the process yet. We have concerns that have been raised and every case is different, every situation is different and I am trying to have a policy that factor in all those different situations that we encounter in deciding. Of course, I am dealing with one right now in regard to a person that has been in the community for over three months. Could we do a switch then? That kind of discussion has to take place.

Some of them are covered under the Non-insured Health Benefit Program and some of them aren't. So we need to factor in all those costs implications as well. I have been instructing the department to come forward. I'm as eager as individuals here to present that policy. I hope to have that revised document within the next month or so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. (interpretation ends) Your second supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I welcome the minister's indication that the policy will be changed within a month. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of cases that have happened, particularly in my area, in my constituency, along with my colleague from Rankin Inlet.

There one case, another example is that there was an elder that was sent down to Winnipeg but didn't have a medical escort. He is physically handicapped because of a huge stroke that he had once upon a time. So therefore, he couldn't really keep himself hygienically protected. In that condition, there were no individuals to help clean him and so on, so one of my constituents volunteered to help him out.

Mr. Speaker, it is urgent those elders be given some help and I'm asking the minister that he can temporarily suspend some of the provisions of policy and put in a temporary provision to allow for proper escorts for medically handicapped elders. Will he do so? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you. (interpretation) I am very concerned about the issue that you have brought up. We have to make sure that we provide the proper services to the elders. The policy is outdated and we have to provide proper services, especially to the unilingual people. I will make sure that we have a new escort policy. Even when this old policy still applies, I commit myself to make sure that we draft a new policy. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you. I have a supplementary question in regard to the Medical Policy. When I read the Medical Policy it states that the chief medical officer

from the regions would make the decisions of whether the patient requires an escort or not. It seems like everything was directed towards the medical officers.

I would like to tell the minister that the local health centre staff; the nurses and the head nurse, and if there was a doctor in the health centre in the community, they know what's happening; they know which patient is critical or not critical.

Perhaps the health centre officials or the interpreters, who have been working for a long time in the health centres, or somehow if they could be included in making decisions as to whether the station requires an escort or not. Could this possible? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, that's how that policy is administered. The nurse or doctor in the community will decide if a patient in a community if a patient requires travel to another jurisdiction for medical treatment.

The second piece of information is determining if the person will require an escort or not is made at the community level with the health centre as well as the doctor or specialist; the area where it transfers to a central focus is; I don't know if it's the chief medical officer, but there is a person in Rankin Inlet that appeals go to for escorts. If there is no escort, there is an appeal mechanism in place.

I am examining that and I think that appeal process should be handled by the region, by the staff there, and not centralized to a community in Rankin Inlet.

The other concern I have is that the person reviewing the appeals should also have the background as a nurse or a doctor to make those informed decisions. So that is part of the review process, and my hope is to have those decisions made at the community level within region's staff, or doctor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. I quickly welcome Tanya Mason to the Gallery. Welcome.

(interpretation) The next on the list for Oral Questions is Mr. Barnabas.

Question 283 – 2(3): Resolute Bay Water and Sewer Pipe Repairs

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services.

First of all, I would like to thank the minister for visiting my constituency when she was first given this portfolio, but Mr. Speaker, when I visited my constituency of Resolute Bay they are experiencing a problem in regard to the sewage pipeline, or lagoon, and also the water pipes.

That requires maintenance all the time. When contractor does maintenance work, though they have a contract, the Municipality of Resolute Bay is being charged for maintenance work. The Municipality of Resolute Bay doesn't have authority to make that decision because municipal services for water and sewage are limited.

I was wondering what kind of response the minister could give me to this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for Community and Government Services, Minister Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to thank my colleague for posing those questions.

In Nunavut, yes we do experience many problems with water and sewage services, some on water delivery and some communities are on the utilidor system. I am very sensitive to what you're talking about because the Municipality of Resolute Bay is going through difficult times.

In 2006, in Ottawa, the Treasury Board had signed a Canada Strategic Funds worth \$20 million. The High Arctic is to use \$7.2 million but it would have started in 2005 to 2008. But I expect my staff to discuss this with the community.

Since Iqaluit is the headquarters perhaps, my staff can have discussions with the Municipality of Resolute Bay and don't wish to see them go into debt. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for her staff's help in providing information to the community. I know this is going to be a very difficult issue to resolve.

I know that we need to make an extension on the utilidor system. The new lots are now being developed in my community. For example, if their debt is increasing, it's going to become a B community from our A community, it's also going to effect the funding that's provided to the municipality. It's going to have an impact on that funding provided.

I was wondering how you're going to deal with this issue. What is your department going to when the municipality is just building debt with that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) My officials will probably need to go to that community and visit the community to do a visual inspection, perhaps, just make a short report.

(interpretation ends) The scope of the project will be validation of the current water and sewage system, and all necessary upgrades to the distribution system and the sewage treatment system.

A simple solution may exist for the parking system, and if so, the cost of the upgrades could be as low as \$3 million. But however, if an entire new system is required, the cost could be as high as \$10 million.

So I think that the Department of CGS is prepared to forward the money, whatever necessary there because Nunavut matches that \$20 million, the Nunavut Government matches it. So, we're looking at about \$4 million to \$49 million within our cost frame; I think it's possible, and I will monitor this closely with the staff of CGS and make sure that the hamlet is not running into deficit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. (interpretation ends) Mr. Tootoo.

Question 284 – 2(3): Deep Sea Port for South Baffin

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to coin a phrase that one of a former colleague of ours used to say all the time, is that, it's no secret that the Cabinet Ministers were down in Ottawa last month, a meeting with their federal counterparts.

My question to the Minister of Transportation is: in his meeting with his federal colleague, did he give any indication to him as far as the Government of Nunavut's stance on a deep sea port for South Baffin? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we talked a little bit about that. There were other areas that were on our agenda. Again, we would like to see a deep-sea port built in South Baffin in the near future. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. (interpretation ends) Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think all of us remember Mr. Harper's commitment to a deep sea port here in Iqaluit and I know for the last number of years Mr. Picco has done as he would say, 'Yeoman service,' in trying to push that project ahead.

The city council and myself and other members for Iqaluit have done a lot of work in putting together a feasibility study and a plan for a deep sea port here in Iqaluit. Can the minister indicate, he said that he'd like to see one here in South Baffin at some time. Did he give us any indication as to what the government's priority location was to his federal colleague? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've done a couple of studies on two possible sites; one here in Iqaluit, which is very new, and in the past we have done Kimmirut Road and Port also. That's still on the map.

I'd like to see if the federal government would commit any money; whether it's to Iqaluit or to Kimmirut I would be very happy. So anything that's coming to South Baffin is a good project for us to accept from the federal government as most of the money would come from the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that during those meetings last month that I know that the mayor and deputy mayor were down there with Mr. Picco meeting with the Minister of National Defense regarding the port here in Iqaluit. I understand it has been reported that the Minister of Transportation was meeting with his counterpart saying that they should have a port in Kimmirut.

I am just wondering if we have a message to go to the federal government that we make sure that it's a consistent message that either one is fine. That both of them that you're looking at let them know that and not have two different people going to two different ministers with different priorities. I am just wondering if he could clarify that there is consistency in the messages that's being sent to your federal counterparts, as far as project priorities here in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Please try and keep your preamble a little shorter to give other members time to ask questions. Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all do our very best to have the same message. Again, as the Transportation Minister, I would love to work closely with the City of Iqaluit or either with the community of Kimmirut. I want to make sure that I treat every community or the city here equally towards the projects that we want to see in the future in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The minister indicated in his earlier response that the Kimmirut Road and Port Project is still on the map and that's going back a number of years now and the one for Iqaluit here was fairly new, I know it as well.

Can he indicate of where things are at with evaluating either of those projects, where his department's at with that, or are they looking at leaning towards one or the other as far as feasibility and support as a priority go? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The port here was Mr. Harper's campaign promise. I don't know where they're at with that right now. A project that we did a study on the Kimmirut port is still sitting there where it sat for a couple of years, not a number of years, a couple years.

Again, me myself, as the Minister of Transportation, I want to start doing something about one of these two projects. The military is the one that is really going for the deep sea port here in Iqaluit.

So one of the other two will go ahead sometime and I will be in supportive of but I trust that it is about time that we start talking again where about the Kimmirut road and port. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Oral Questions. Mr. Kattuk.

Question 285 – 2(3): Sanikiluaq Medical Airline Contract

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have confirmed that and I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services where in Sanikiluaq the people who are going on medical to Winnipeg have to fly for usually over three hours.

I wonder if there is a speculation or does it specify under those contracts what kind of airline they should be using and if the airline must provide a toilet? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the contract for medical travel from Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg, there is a provision in the contract to have washrooms on those flights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, is that the case? Is there a washroom on the aircraft that they use now for medical purposes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that member raised this issue on several occasions now and recently as a couple of days ago. From what I understand, in the past they have removed the washrooms to accommodate another patient, which caused some concerns about having that service provided on those aircrafts.

As far as I know, that situation has been addressed and yes, there are washroom facilities on those aircrafts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I define washroom as one room, but from what I have seen, it is not a room. It is a portable toilet, which is behind one of the seats and this is not acceptable.

I am pretty sure that most people will not use that portable washroom and the flight is usually over three hours and they have no access to go to the washroom because they will not use one, which is behind a chair.

I wonder if the minister can have discussions with the airline that has the contract to take medical patients from Sanikiluaq to Winnipeg. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I committed to the member to reviewing the contract for that service that is currently provided for Sanikiluaq.

At the same time, I am going to see what additional improvements we can make for providing that service in the next requested proposal in renewing that contract. The contract is in place right now, and from what I understand, the airlines are adhering to that contract requirement.

However, in light of the concerns that the member has raised, I have committed to examining that further and what sort of improvements we can make in providing that service to Sanikiluarmiut and yes, I will look into that and report back to the member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. (interpretation) Member Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is very reassuring, as this has to be dealt with. It has been like this for too long. The aircraft that is currently being used is way too small. It's a single-engine aircraft and they use it for three hours with only one pilot. I had to tell one of the pilots "look I am not a pilot at all, so don't fall asleep on the plane". Those kinds of things have to be checked in to. I wonder if she can check into that a bit further. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the member for again raising the issue; I have committed again to reviewing that.

The procedure approaches that we will follow in trying to provide that service is that we go through a 'request for proposal process' with certain requirements that we are expecting the service provider to meet.

As far as I know, the contracts are in place with the service provider. They are meeting those requirements. However, in light of the concerns the member has raised when we go through that process for a new contract or renewing a contract with a service provider, we can incorporate those types of terms into the request for service proposal.

At the same time, with the service provider, we will try and raise the concerns you are raising related to the toilets as well as to the single engine and single-pilot concern. Collectively I would like to get that information and have an opportunity for my officials to meet with the airline providers to address some of your concerns. In terms of what types of models for aircrafts; I can also provide that information to the member.

As far as I know the current contract requirements are being met and we would have to renew that process to address the members concerns. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Kattuk that was your last and final question. Oral Questions. Mr. Arreak.

Question 286 – 2(3): Medical Transportation Arrangements

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health in regard to the hiccup situation. I often hear this from my constituents and also from other people that this has not been solved. After the transportation office was moved to Pangnirtung, they are still encountering problems. Is the Minister looking this at this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister of Health, Ms. Aglukkaq

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The short answer for the member is yes. We are working on it. We are also putting in place a new booking system with the airline, an electronic system.

The other areas we are also looking in to improving through the hospital as far as the health centers is an electronic appointment system this will allow us to better track appointments with doctors here.

We have also been working with the airlines to come up with the travel arrangements or booking systems. So yes, every day improvements are being made and we are looking at launching that new system within the next week or so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, minister that this is being worked on. So, are you going to open a transportation office here in Iqaluit? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the travel administration, there is one here in Iqaluit, as well as one in Pangnirtung. I think there are two things to consider in trying to better coordinate travel arrangements and so on.

First of all, everything was done manually, and we are trying to address that through coming up with an electronic management system of booking appointments. The other piece is the whole travel arrangement, logistics required to getting the patient down to Iqaluit, to Pangnirtung office, or from the Iqaluit office.

So, yes there is that service being provided through the Iqaluit hospital, as well as the Pangnirtung regional health and social service office. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, minister. Is it the policy of the Department of Health and Social Services that once they have seen a doctor then they have to make their own flight arrangements?

Will this continue where they have to call the hospital or the health centres to go home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are trying to make improvement. Again, I said earlier about booking appointments with the specialist.

When the person has to see a doctor down here in Iqaluit, we are trying to develop a system where that is tracked through an electronic means. As it is right now, this is done on a manual basis, and when the person is done, the information about their appointments have to be transferred.

Some people can make the call themselves and make their travel arrangements, but in the case of unilingual individuals we provide that service. So, it depends on the individuals themselves, but the system we are trying to improve is the coordination of efforts

between the health centres in Baffin, as well as the hospitals and the airlines, and the patient.

So there are a number of people involved in that, but there is a difference between the booking of the appointments and the travel, and different groups are involved. So, we are trying to improve that through coming up with an electronic system and we hope to have that in place in the next week or so in partnership with the airlines. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your last supplementary, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and I would also like to thank the minister. I would like to ask the minister why the patients have to call the transportation officer when they have seen the doctor and tell them that they want to go home.

Some of them, if they call they might go home without even seeing the doctor. Why is it that they have to call the transportation officer on their own? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some patients, when their appointments are done, the information is conveyed to the travel coordinator. The travel coordinator then makes the arrangements on behalf of the patients, particularly in providing the service to unilingual individuals.

There are also medical travel arrangements or medical appointments that we make for Government of Nunavut employees, for example who, when they are done their appointments, can contact the airlines to make their own arrangements to go back.

The point I am trying to make here is that individuals that require the assistance for travel arrangements or appointments, that service is provided by the Department of Health and Social Services staff.

In some cases individuals themselves will contact the airlines when they're done their appointment. In our situation, the service that we provide is that we notify the travel coordinator staff to make the travel arrangements for a patient whose appointments have been completed, but not until such time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. Question Period is now over. Before we proceed, we will take a five-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 11:30 and resumed at 11:41*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. Under Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Mr. Clerk.

Item 8: Returns to Written Questions

Return to Written Question 010 – 2(3): Government of Nunavut’s Expenditures on Advertising for Employment Opportunities

Return to Written Question 011 – 2(3): Crown Agency Expenditures on Advertising for Employment Opportunities

Return to Written Question 013 – 2(3): Impact of the 2002 Budget Measures Implementation Act

Return to Written Question 014 – 2(3): Government Contract Regulations made under the Financial Administration Act

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

Return to Written Question 016 – 2(3): Individual Education Plans

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I’m tabling Returns to Written Questions 010 – 2(3), 011 – 2(3), 013 – 2(3), 014 – 2(3), 015 – 2(3), and 016 – 2(3) that were filed in my office while the House was in recess. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Today, I wish to table...I apologize, we’re having technical problems. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 113 – 2(3): Statutory Tabling Requirements of Reports and Other Documents in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut – June 2006

Today, I wish to table the Table of Statutory Tabling Requirements. That went very well. This list is regularly updated by the Legislative Assembly and tracks the status of legally required tabling requirements for government annual reports, financial statements, and other documents.

The current version of the document indicates what documents have been tabled as of June 1, 2006. I trust that all members will find this useful in monitoring the timely production and tabling of legally required documents in this House. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 114 – 2(3): Health Coverage – Students Studying Outside Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish I didn't have to do this, but I do. I would like to table a copy of the Government's own policy here for students studying outside of Nunavut where it clearly indicates that students living outside of Nunavut attending school will continue to have health care coverage. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Please bring the documents to the Clerk's table.

Thank you. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 115 – 2(3): 2005-06 FANS Benefits (Financial Assistance for Nunavut Students)

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table another one of the government's own documents and that's the 2005-06 FANS benefits package. Within the package, there is a note to the program guide.

On page 2, where it talks about residency it says, "If you've been away from Nunavut because of work assignment, schooling, or medical reasons you may still be considered a resident of Nunavut." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Tabling of Documents. Minister Picco.

Tabled Document 116 – 2(3) Response to Letter of Expectation – Nunavut Arctic College Board of Governors

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to table a response of the letter of expectation updated to March of 2006 from Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Picco. Can the document be presented to the table please.

Thank you. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Curley.

Tabled Document 117 – 2(3): Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting Resolutions 2006

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to table a document dated May 1, 2006. It was a letter written by Ellie Cansfield, who is the President of the Kivalliq Chamber of Commerce. It also states that there were ten resolutions that were tabled at their meeting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Arreak.

Item 14: Notices of Motions

Motion 017 – 2(3): Appointment of Speaker – Notice

Mr. Arreak Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit East, that Peter Kilabuk, the Member for Pangnirtung, be appointed Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

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

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Notice of Motions. Mr. Mapsalak.

Motion 018 – 2(3): Legislative Assembly Appointments – Notice

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that James Arreak, Member for Uqurmiut, be appointed Deputy Speaker and the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole and that the appointment of Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be revoked.

AND FURTHER I move that Levi Barnabas, Member for High Arctic, be appointed Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole and that the appointment of James Arreak be revoked.

AND FURTHER I move that Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be appointed to the Management Services Board.

AND FURTHER I move that prior appointments for Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, to standing committees be revoked.

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

>>*Applause*

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Thank you. (interpretation) Sorry, that was Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Mr. Picco.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 16 – Family Abuse Prevention Act – Notice

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, that Bill 16, the *Family Abuse Prevention Act* will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Thank you. I apologize; I didn't see you, Mr. Simailak.

Bill 17 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #1, 2006-07 – Notice

Mr. Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, that Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #1, 2006-07* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bill 18 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #1, 2006-07 – Notice

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, that Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #1, 2006-07* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Brown.

Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – Notice

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, that Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Fund Act* be read for the first time.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Brown. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister Picco.

Bill 20 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2006 – Notice

Bill 22 – Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act – Notice

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, that Bill 20, the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendments Act 2006* be read for the first time.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, that Bill 22, the *Settlement of International Investments Disputes Act* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any other Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills? Mr. Simailak.

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act #2 – Notice

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, June 12, 2006, that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act # 2* be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Mr. Arreak.

Item 16: Motions

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like unanimous consent to deal with my motion today. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Arreak, please proceed.

Motion 017 – 2(3): Appointment of Speaker

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members.

WHEREAS the office of the Speaker is vacant;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Member for Iqaluit East, that Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be appointed Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Members of the Legislative Assembly. It is with great sense of humility that I accept the responsibilities that you have chosen to bestow upon me as your new Speaker.

As I follow in the footsteps of our late colleague, and friend, I know that your expectations of me are great. As Speaker, it is my solemn responsibility to uphold the rules of the Legislative Assembly. The Speaker will safeguard the dignity of this House and preside in an impartial fashion over our proceedings and deliberations. I pledge to do so to the best of my skill and ability and I thank all of you for your trust.

I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude to my constituents in Pangnirtung. They have supported me since 1999. I have always worked for their best interests in mind. I can assure my constituents that I will continue to vigorously represent their interests and aspirations from my new position.

I wish to take a moment to address the people of Tununiq as we share in your loss and join in on your mourning. The memory of our late colleague will endure.

On behalf of all members I would also like to address the two matters of consequence for the people of Pond Inlet. The by-election to elect your new Member of the Legislative Assembly will be held on October 16 of this year.

The instruments to formalize this decision that we have taken will be prepared at the appropriate time. Until your new member takes office, the concerns of the community may be conveyed to either the appropriate Minister or to the Chair of the Regular Members' Caucus of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Joe Allen Evyagotailak, the Member for Kugluktuk.

I would again like to thank my colleagues for their support. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Back to the Orders of the Day. Item 16. Motions. I'm sorry. I had skipped a person. I am just on a learning curve. Item 15. Notices of Motions. Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek consent from the members, just like Mr. Arreak, to deal with my motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The member is seeking consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? Since there are no nays, Mr. Mapsalak, please proceed.

Motion 018 – 2(3): Legislative Assembly Appointments

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I made a mistake. I apologize when I said a bill instead of a motion, and I also would like to thank my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) WHEREAS Section 42 and 43 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provide for the appointment of a Deputy Speaker and Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole;

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

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

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make appointments;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that James Arreak, Member for Uqqummiut, be appointed Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole and that the appointment of Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be revoked;

AND FURTHER I move that Levi Barnabas, Member for High Arctic, be appointed to Deputy Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole and the appointment of James Arreak be revoked;

AND FURTHER I move that Honourable Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, be appointed to the Management and Services Board;

AND FURTHER I move that prior appointments of Peter Kilabuk, Member for Pangnirtung, to Standing Committees be revoked.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. The motion is in order. To the motion. A question has been called. All those in favour. All those opposed. (interpretation) Thank you. The motion is carried.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Thank you. Please wait a moment as I am missing document.

Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. (interpretation) Thank you. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills.

Members, before we read the Orders of the Day, I would like to read and inform the members of a letter from the Deputy Commissioner:

“I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut, the passage of the following bills during the Third Session of the Second Legislative Assembly:

- Bill 17, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #1, 2006-07*
- Bill 18, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #1, 2006-07.*

Nakurmii.”

(interpretation) That is the letter from the Deputy Commissioner Helen Maksagak.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) 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 Monday, June 12:

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

- Bill 16
- Bill 17
- Bill 18
- Bill 19
- Bill 20
- Bill 21
- Bill 22

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

A reminder to Members of the Regular Caucus, there will be two standing committee meetings scheduled for 3:00, and that will probably commence now at 2:00. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until June 12, 2006, at 1:30. (interpretation) And I would like to ask the members and the staff to go upstairs to the committee rooms. (interpretation ends)

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 12:06*

