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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

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(Pangnirtung)

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(Nattilik)

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(Rankin Inlet North)

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Tuesday, June 13, 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, Honourable Paul Okalik, Mr. Keith Peterson, Honourable Edward Picco, Honourable David Simailak, Honourable Louis Tapardjuk, Mr. Hunter Tootoo.

Item 1: Opening Prayer

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to ask Mr. Evyagotailak to lead us in opening prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Brown.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 097 – 2(3): Satellite-Based Tracking Devices

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. CG&S has completed field trials of new satellite-based search and rescue technology. This was a subject of discussion in the Legislature, and I stated that a report would be made available. I will be tabling the report today.

The department is always interested in finding proved tools for use in search and rescue applications in Nunavut. These systems were tested, but the two that used the new tracking technology were not found to be very suitable for the use in many parts of Nunavut. They also have significant annual costs.

Mr. Speaker, we did find technology that has been used for several years. The personal locator beacon or PLB has a proven record of performance for search and rescue in the North.

The PLB provides 24-hour coverage in all of Nunavut and is economical to purchase with no ongoing costs. Based on the result of the trial, I am seeking a way to provide PLB units for use in all communities.

As part of the next budget process, I will be seeking funding to do this. I will also be working with hamlet councils, search and rescue societies, HTOs, and others to make the units available across Nunavut and promote their use.

Mr. Speaker, this is all part of my department's efforts to improve search and rescue support to communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 098 – 2(3): Strategic Investments Programs

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon to my colleagues. I am pleased to advise Members of this House that the Strategic Investments Program, with \$4 million in funds, is an ingoing commitment of this government.

I have reported to members the results of the Interim Strategic Investments Program, which was administered by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation in the 2005-06 fiscal year. Under this program, \$4 million in public funds were contributed to more than 40 economic development projects directed by Nunavut businesses, industry groups, and individuals.

These projects will help to build the foundations for our economy by investing in mining, the fishery, tourism, arts and crafts and other strategic growth sectors, and by providing immediate employment opportunities through support for business development.

During the coming year the department will assess the results of these recent investments, but the high demand for financial assistance justifies the continuation of the program for the next four years.

The renewed and revised program includes two new funding streams: one to assist private businesses to access the financial capital they need to implement their business plans; and the other to provide financial support to communities and territorial industry groups to deliver projects that help the foundations for future economic growth in the territory.

Applications to these new programs are being accepted now, and I hope all members will encourage their constituents to review the program guidelines and to bring their project proposals to the department for consideration.

We will continue to monitor and evaluate the results of the Strategic Investments Program, and I look forward to reporting the results of our investments to this House later in the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister of Economic Development and Transportation. Minister of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 099 – 2(3): Made-in-Nunavut Language Legislation

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth in collaboration with several other departments, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, and the Office the Languages Commissioner have been developing new proposed language legislation.

I am pleased to announce that the timeline is still on track with the consultations starting this spring with the various organizations followed by full consultations with all 26 Nunavut communities this fall.

The purpose of this consultation will be to inform Nunavummiut on how the Government is proposing to protect and to promote their languages, then to seek further input before the draft bills are finalized.

Following the successful completions of our consultations, it is my intention to introduce the two bills for reading in this House by winter session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 100 – 2(3): Northern Housing Trust - Nunavut Planning Update

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I wish today to update the Members on the \$200 million Inuit Housing Trust for Nunavut. Mr. Speaker, allow me to start by stating how we pleased we are with the establishment of the \$200 million Northern Housing Trust. Social housing is a high priority for this government and we are encouraged that our federal counterparts are prepared to begin addressing our current housing crisis.

We view this funding for Nunavut housing needs as a down payment on the \$2 billion 10-Year Inuit Housing Action Plan. I want to assure the members that this government will do everything in its power to maximize the impact of this funding.

I have tasked the deputy minister's steering committee with preparing and delivering a strategy this summer to link local employment, community-based economic development initiatives and targeted education and training plans with the construction and maintenance of these new units. My goal is for Inuit to experience long-term benefits from this increased level of housing construction.

This summer the Nunavut Housing Corporation will consult with our communities to create Community Housing Plans specific to each community's needs; including the

types of housing for each community, community-based delivery models and training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, in order to bring housing relief as soon as possible to Nunavummiut, the Nunavut Housing Corporation is investing over \$11 million in addition to its current capital allocation to increase this year's housing delivery and to prepare for an early start to construction in 2007. This means that the Nunavut Housing Corporation can plan on delivery of materials for at least a five-plex in every community with the exception of Grise Fiord, Whale Cove, and Chesterfield Inlet which will each receive duplexes.

>> *Applause*

As this is only our first year of intensified delivery, communities can expect to receive additional units in the next two years with the balance of the Northern Housing Trust Fund. I have directed Nunavut Housing Corporation to complete an assessment of each community's needs for housing to ensure that we are allocating units on a needs basis.

I will regularly update the members on the progress of our delivery and strategies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Minister. I would also like to acknowledge Mr. Akasuk's portfolio. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Education. Mr. Picco.

Minister's Statement 101 – 2(3): E-Spirit Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues about Nunavut's stellar performance at the recent Business Development Bank of Canada's e-spirit Aboriginal Youth Business Plan Competition in Quebec City, Quebec in early May.

Mr. Speaker, 97 teams from across Canada participated in the sixth annual competition where groups from Sanikiluaq, Arviat and Iqaluit representing Nunavut. Teams required extensive preparation for the contest beginning in December, 2005. Teams divided the Business Plan, produced a ten-minute video, a PowerPoint presentation, and a trade show booth to demonstrate their business.

I am pleased to announce that the Sanikiluaq team won the best video, which was shown on the evening gala on the closing night of this national competition. The Iqaluit team won three awards for trade show, marketing strategies and team spirit.

They were also one of only eight finalists in the PowerPoint Competition and presented their business to more than 400 people. The Nunavut teams exhibited excellent preparation and courteous behaviour during the five-day event, and received many compliments for their hard work. This competition highlights the creativity and the

dedication of young Nunavummiut and the ability that they demonstrate at the national level.

I'd like to extend our congratulations to all students and educators for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Tootoo.

Point of Order

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to rise on a Point of Order.

Yesterday, here in the Assembly the Minister of Health and Social Services, and I'll quote from the unedited Blues *Hansard* on page 28 and 29, "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the key word the member did not listen to or hear is "service." I said if a person leaves the territory to go to school, then that student in any province would access that provincial medical health care service, not coverage services. There is a big difference there."

She indicated that yesterday in my line of questioning, and on Friday, I also referred to Friday's *Hansard*, and I'll quote Friday's *Hansard* unedited Blues for Friday, June 9 on page 10, the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated, "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."

That statement doesn't say medical services, it clearly states medical coverage. So I think there are two conflicting messages going out in the Assembly and I would like to ask you to rule and make sure that we have the correct information coming out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Ms. Aglukkaq, you may speak to the Point of Order if you wish. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information in March 2006, March 14, I believe, was a question around do we provide medical services for individuals that travel to other jurisdictions for medical. If you go to March 14 *Hansard* the questions are around a person traveling, and I quote, "Strictly for medical." The response to that question is yes.

If a student moves to another jurisdiction, in that same line of questioning, I stated to the House that the student would access the medical services offered by that province. For

example, if I move to Yellowknife as a student, I would access the services offered in that territory.

I was not talking about healthcare coverage. I was talking about the services provided by that province's, or territory's healthcare, which is very, very different from coverage; coverage in terms of insurance coverage. That was the statement that I made yesterday; two very distinct outcomes; services...coverage.

That was my point yesterday, and I don't believe that there is a Point of Order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. I will provide members with my decision on this Point of Order as quickly as possible. In the meantime we will continue with the proceedings of the House.

(interpretation) Thank you, Members. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 3. Members' Statements. Mr. Curley.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 250 – 2(3): Registered Nurses Positions

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I rose and asked some questions regarding nurses in the Keewatin Region, and specifically in Rankin Inlet.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize Mr. Curley. We are currently on Item 3. Members' Statements. I would like to know if this is a statement or if this is an Oral Question. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): I would like to make a Member's Statement. As I was saying yesterday, I asked questions to the minister about the shortage of nurses in the Keewatin region.

She stated that there six registered nurses in Rankin Inlet, and I do have the same information. There are six registered nurses, but the information that was given to us says that there are six nurses and one is dedicated to working with the medical concerns and she does that on a full time basis.

The other two are in administration because they don't have an administrator. So, there are two positions sharing one in the administration work and the three out of six are transient nurses.

The minister stated last evening that all our RN positions are filled. I will be asking questions at the appropriate time in regard to the registered nurses' positions in Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement 251 – 2(3): High Cost of Airline Tickets

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. I rise today to talk about the concerns and the problems the people of Grise Fiord face in regard to airline services.

When I was in their community I heard on numerous occasions that the price of airline tickets was too expensive and that patients who have to travel out of Grise Fiord are being left behind, and that there is a lack of seats going into Grise Fiord from Resolute Bay.

For example, if they came from the south they bring extra luggage, and they don't pay for excess baggage from a southern point to Iqaluit, but if they're going from Resolute Bay to Grise Fiord they pay for excess baggage. Usually what happens is that the excess baggage is left behind because the capacity is full, or because of bad weather, or for whatever reason.

This is becoming a major concern and a problem. If somebody wants to leave their community for example, they can't do that because of they pay approximately \$900 and there was a five percent increase again in May.

They only have one airline servicing between Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord, so they hike up the prices whenever they want. If we use an example like Resolute Bay to Grise Fiord, it's exactly the same distance as Iqaluit and Lake Harbour but the price is \$900. So those are the major concerns of one of my communities.

I will be extending an invitation to the airline that services between Resolute Bay and Grise Fiord. I would like to have a meeting with the people so that they can answer to these problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Member's Statement 252 – 2(3): Congratulations to Kugaaruk Graduates

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also represent Kugaaruk.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the graduates in Kugaaruk. There were four people who graduated: Helen Ittimangnak Jr., Jesse Apsaktaun, Bernard Amautinuak,

Paul Inutuinaq. I would like to congratulate these individuals for completing High School, and I would also like to thank Mr. Picco for being in attendance at the graduation ceremonies, and also Ms. Aglukkaq.

Again, Mr. Speaker, there is going to be a graduation ceremony I believe in August, in Repulse Bay. So this is up to the appropriate ministers who would be interested in attending. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak, representing Akulliq. Member Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 253 – 2(3): Tribute to Jean Voisey

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to pay tribute to the efforts of one of Kugluktuk's community volunteers.

Jean Voisey has been active for some time, with the group of Kugluktuk residents who have been working hard on the construction of the new Roman Catholic Church in our community.

As members will recall, the community's former church burned down in tragedy. Since that time the community has pulled together to work on fundraising and other activities for the new place to worship.

I ask all members to join me in saluting volunteers like Jean. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Members' Statements. We will have Mr. Keith Peterson, Member for Cambridge Bay.

Member's Statement 254 – 2(3): Cambridge Bay Wellness Centre

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about an important initiative that is under development in Cambridge Bay.

For many years the Hamlet of Cambridge Bay has made community wellness a high priority. Our community wellness centre has received many accolades earning a reputation for developing innovative programs that successfully treat people in the community.

One of the best ways to raise awareness for community wellness issues is to talk openly about them. A volunteer group, Nunavut community residents, organizations, and businesses have been meeting for several months to organize a wellness feast, forum, and fair set for the early fall.

Organizers are hoping to encourage people to talk about issues, such as the following: drugs; booze and violence; kids not in school; grief and loss; elder abuse; gambling addiction; suicide; overcrowded housing; food shortage; mental health support; teen pregnancy; bullying; and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. These are some of the issues that make daily life in many Nunavut communities very difficult for our residents.

A basic right for every citizen is a right to enjoy a peaceful and healthy life in their communities, with their families and friends. The wellness feast, forum, and fair organizers do not expect to solve all the issues, however, they hope by bringing the issues out into the open that people are aware that they are supported by fellow residents. By talking we can work to find answers to such questions as: can we fix these problems, what works, what doesn't, what is missing.

I would like the House to join me in thanking organizers of this important event, and working to better lives of their fellow citizens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Nattilik, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Member's Statement 255 – 2(3): New Great Niece

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): I want to start off by saying how much I appreciate and agree with my colleague Mr. Peterson's statement.

Today I am pleased to announce that my older sister's daughter had a baby, and I join in their joy and thanks today. My mother now has another great grandchild with the addition of Donna's daughter who will be christened Ningiulaaq. My mother now has 13 grand children and great grand children. She has not quite caught up with the men, but I have no doubt that Donna, my niece is celebrating this day with her husband Raymeon. My sister Celine's grand child is healthy and doing fine in Yellowknife. I received this great news yesterday and so I am proud to announce it here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Members' Statements. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Member's Statement 256 – 2(3): Shawna Sammurtok – Canadian Science Awards

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): I'm very proud of Shawna Sammurtok from Chesterfield Inlet. A grade 11 student from Chesterfield Inlet won a big award at the Canada-wide Science Fair down in Quebec. She received a bronze medal in the physical and mathematical sciences category.

She did experiments to see what kinds of clothes would be the warmest for going out on the land and her results showed that the warmest fur for clothing was caribou skin, and the least warm was seal fur.

(interpretation) You probably remember Uriash Puqiqnak, when he was a member, used to urge the RCMP to wear caribou clothing, and I think he would be very proud to hear this announcement today.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Members' Statements. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Member's Statement 257 – 2(3): Status of Core Funding for Ilisaqsivik Society

Mr. Arreak: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to follow up on the status of core funding for the Ilisaqsivik Society of Clyde River. I've spoken on this topic before but I would like to take this opportunity to remind my colleagues of the issues at stake.

Mr. Speaker, Clyde River's Ilisaqsivik Society is a community based organization that provides many programs and services such as family counselling, suicide prevention, nutrition education, literacy, and drug and alcohol programs as well as many workshops and support services.

Its resource centre is a central location for a number of groups representing elders, youth, women, and men. The society employs a number of local residents, which is an important contribution to a non-decentralized community with few employment opportunities. The Ilisaqsivik Society is a living example of the Care Closer to Home concept that the government's Department of Health and Social Services so often parades in front of us.

Mr. Speaker, the program and services offered by the Ilisaqsivik Society are funded by a wide variety of project-based annual funding sources. However, the ongoing functioning of the society is continually threatened by the lack of core funding and multi-year support.

I have raised this issue with two successive Ministers of Health. Correspondence has gone back and forth between me, the Ilisaqsivik Society, and the Department of Health and Social Services. There is an ongoing effort to secure core funding for this important entity, which is actually carrying out part of the department's mandate in Clyde River.

In April of 2005, the Minister of Health and Social Services requested complete information on the society's financial situation in order to determine possible strategy for providing long term funding.

That information, a fully audited financial statement was provided to the Department of Health and Social Services in December of 2005. This past March the Minister of Health of Social Services...

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize. You have run out of time, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am seeking unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and also my colleagues.

(interpretation ends) This March the Minister of Health and Social Services committed in this House to try to assist the Ilisaqsivik Society in accessing core funding. It has been a full three months since that commitment was made.

Sadly, I have no new information to report to you. It is important that our government make every effort to provide ongoing core support to community-based organizations, such as Clyde River's Ilisaqsivik Society.

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

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Members' Statements. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 258 – 2(3): Status of Global Warming

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Global warming is going to have a big effect on wildlife. I mainly want to mention polar bears. I don't know if there are currently any studies on that.

At the appropriate time I will be asking questions as to what status they're at and what we will have to do about global warming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Item 3. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 259 – 2(3): Passing of Heather Crowe

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with sadness that I rise today to comment on the recent passing of well-known anti-tobacco advocate Heather Crowe. Heather was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2002. She never smoked herself, but became a victim after working as a waitress for 40 years in bars and restaurants in Ontario. One year after being diagnosed Heather hit the road visiting schools and cities across Canada.

In March of 2003 I had the pleasure, as the Minister of Health, to host Heather here in Iqaluit over a two-day period. She spoke to students; attended meetings; and met with members of the Assembly to let them know about the dangers of second hand smoke.

Mr. Speaker, as you remember, we were in the processing of debating, and passing our own anti-tobacco legislation at that time. At the time one of the strongest pieces of anti-tobacco legislation in Canada.

I believe Heather's visit and her messages resonated with the members, and with Nunavummiut, and helped enable our legislation to pass. Heather was a quite and modest Canadian, who took up a challenge that informed all Canadians of an insidious health issue; second hand smoke.

On behalf of the House and Nunavut we wish the Crowe family our deepest condolences on Heather's passing, and say thank you to her for her courageous struggle and her kind message. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. With that, I also want to put my support by indicating to the House that I was one of the few that she may have reached in Nunavut, and I have been tobacco-free, smoke-free in the last six months. Thank you, Ms. Crowe.

>>Applause

Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 260 – 2(3): Annual Trades Show in Iqaluit

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge and inform members of an annual event that occurs here in Iqaluit. It occurred earlier this spring, and that was the trade show that was held here.

It was a very successful tradeshow with a large contingent of booths from around the Baffin, around the territory, and from outside the territory. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the staff that put a lot of time and effort into organizing and coordinating the tradeshow.

Not only does it open the eyes of a lot of Nunavummiut and businesses in Nunavut to each other and to providers, companies in the south also brings in a lot of money and opens up southern suppliers into circumstances and challenges faced in Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, one of the highlights every year of the tradeshow is the gala banquet and auction, and Mr. Speaker again this year, I and my colleague Mr. Picco were brave

enough to put ourselves on the auctioning block to get auctioned off. We have done this for a number of years now, and look forward to doing it again next year.

Usually the money that is raised in the auction goes to a very worthy charitable organization and this year it went to the Habitat for Humanity organization here in Iqaluit so, I would like to thank him for participating.

Also, Mr. Speaker, we will find out later this week, I am sure, that Mr. Picco was successful in bidding on something at the auction and I am sure he will make sure that we all become aware of what he did successfully buy at the tradeshow.

I would like all members to join me in congratulating Mr. Picco and the organizers of the tradeshow for another successful tradeshow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 261 – 2(3): Breakwater for Arviat

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to state in this House, as we all know that our community is very flat and we do not have any mountains.

And it's a big tide and our hunters in our area who go hunting by boat have constantly been saying, and ever since I became a member, that there is a wharf, but it's only good during high tide. We don't have a breakwater at all in our community and what we were told is that we do have one, but that's all it is.

Vehicles, 4 X 4s and ATVs are getting lost because they are getting rusty as the bottom and the Honda's sometimes go in the water or even some of the people go in the water. When they are trying to unload their canoes, a lot of times hunters will spend the whole day because they are trying to launch their boats. So it is very hard work and it is about time that we get breakwater for the past six years. So I want this to be considered further.

During the appropriate time, I will be asking questions during question period because we definitely need help and I will be raising questions at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the pages who are from Repulse Bay; Denise Malliki, and on the other side T.J. Kringayark.

They are very good, hard-working students and we are very proud. They occasionally go down south, and this summer they will be going down. They have won scholarships, so I am very proud of them and I am very happy that they are here.

My C.A. from Kugaaruk, Louise Ningark is sitting over here and I would like to welcome her also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Member. Denise, T. J., welcome everybody. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am happy to rise so that I can actually get up before my other colleague, I would like to recognize one person, Mary Lee Amigaq from my constituency. Her husband is here as well, Uriah, who is also my relative. I would like to welcome you Mary Lee in the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Brown, Welcome. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Curley.

>>Applause

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Yes, I would like to rise for the person who is on your right, sitting there. She is the granddaughter of my colleague and Rocky Airut who was able to come. I know at this time he would rather be outside, but I would like you to welcome them. I also want Mary Lee to feel welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mary Lee and our pages, welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the person, an individual who is not here, Qappik Atagutsiaq. She turned 80 yesterday and has assisted, has helped a lot in our community of Arctic Bay. She gives instruction in midwifery and has frequently travelled down south. On behalf of the Arctic Bay residents I would like to congratulate her. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr Speaker, it gives me some pleasure today to welcome to the Gallery a sometimes visitor to Nunavut and indeed to Canada, Dr. Anismae Timpson. Anis has been a visitor to Nunavut as the director for Canadian Studies for the prestigious University of Edinborough in Scotland. Many members know the ties between Scotland and the whalers and Nunavut.

She is studying the parliamentary system here in Nunavut, as we are very unique with the consensus style government. Indeed in the commonwealth or any other jurisdiction I am aware of outside of Canada which is the states of Jersey, which is in the Channel Islands between France and England also have the same system of government.

With that, welcome to the Gallery to Ms. Timpson. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Curley.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 296 – 2(3): Number of Certified Registered Nurses

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to talk a bit about a statement that I made. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I would like her to know regarding the status of nursing staff of the Rankin Inlet Health Centre. The minister indicated through her point of clarification that there are no vacancies of registered nurse positions at the Rankin Inlet Health Centre. There are six registered nurses in Rankin Inlet.

My first question to the minister is: can she confirm that all of the registered nurse positions in Rankin Inlet are filled by nurses who are certified to practice in Canada? Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The numbers are provided. There are six RNs and one nurse in charge that are registered to practice. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information that I provided to minister, and the information provided to me from the community states that there are six registered nurses. One is focussed on providing care to the community. Of the remaining five positions, two are actually performing administrative functions. There are three transient nurses who may be providing care in other Kivalliq communities.

Can the minister clearly state for the record whether or not the six nurses in Rankin Inlet are providing medical care exclusively to the people of Rankin Inlet. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information provided to me from my staff from Rankin Inlet states that the nurses; the six and the one nurse in charge are providing services strictly to the community of Rankin Inlet. Those are dedicated positions for Rankin Inlet.

There are international nurses outside of that that does not include the registered nurses. Those are all registered nurses that provide the service to Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek your assistance because the minister clearly did not respond to my question; whether or not six positions are totally dedicated to the community of Rankin Inlet.

I have a supplementary that the people in Rankin Inlet are very concerned that nursing and physician services in their community are inadequate. What assurances can the Minister of Health and Social Services give to my constituents that these services will be adequately provided for. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer I gave earlier is that those six positions, plus one nurse in charge; a total of seven; provide services strictly for Rankin Inlet.

So the answer to the member's question is that yes, strictly for Rankin Inlet. If there are concerns around services and inadequacy of services I would like to know with specific examples that I can follow up with the member on.

As far as I know, and based on information that I was given this morning by my employees in Rankin Inlet, those positions are providing services to people in Rankin Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For clarification is still required. I asked earlier that the same information coming in from the town to the mayor that about 50 percent of the six nurses are transient nurses, or what they call agency nurses.

Can the minister confirm to this House are there transient nurses out of the six nurses that she alluded to earlier. Thank you.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The earlier question was registered nurses. It doesn't matter if they're transient or not, or casuals, or nurses. They are registered nurses.

That was the response I was giving to the member. Are these individuals registered nurses? The answer to that question is yes. Whether they are transient or not was not the response I gave.

Some are transient agency nurses, some are indeterminate, and some are casuals. But, the fact of the matter is; the six positions are filled and the nurse in charge. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Thank you, Mr. Curley. That was your final supplementary question. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for Uqqurmiut, Mr. Arreak.

Question 297 – 2(3): Update on Funding for Ilisaqsivik Society

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

Mr. Speaker, in my Member's Statement I talked about the Ilisaqsivik Society in Clyde River. They have been requesting operations and maintenance funds many times because they are running very good programs. We have been requesting for core funding.

On March 6, the minister had said that they would meet and work with the staff as well as the appropriate departments to see if they could come up with core funding for the Ilisaqsivik Society.

(interpretation ends) Can the minister provide an update on what has been done since March 9 to assist the Ilisaqsivik Society in accessing core funding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I for one am a very strong believer in supporting community based initiatives such as the Ilisaqsivik Society, such as the organization described by my colleague from Cambridge Bay.

The individual has challenged our organization to come up with a way of supporting community-based initiatives such as the one in Clyde River. The task that we've been undertaking within the department was to look at ways of addressing community based health care wellness initiatives overall, not just in Clyde River, but rather, throughout Nunavut.

I looked at different models, like how we've dealt with community empowerment through hamlets, on accessing, or giving programs to them, or can we look at ways of supporting community based initiatives such as the one in Clyde River.

I personally believe that there is a lot of merit to models like that, but the challenge that I'm tasked with is to divide the functions of core healthcare programs such as the services provided by the Department of Health under legislation through the *Public Health Act*, through this *Child Welfare Act* and so on.

So, internally, within the last two months we've been trying to look at what our options are. Once I have those options, I have to then go forward to Cabinet to seek that approval for a base funding type model to be accessed by municipalities. So that's where I'm at.

The information that the member made reference to around the audited information: we have that information. I thank the community for providing that.

The programs that he made reference to, currently we continue to provide those programs through our main estimates. That funding comes from the federal government. We have to report those expenditures to the federal government.

At the same time, the communities that have accessed those programs have to report to us, but I'm trying to come up with a framework that can be used by other communities around those different levels of funding government funding agencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat my question: can the minister provide an update on what has been done since March 9, to assist the Ilisaqsivik Society accessing core funding; yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Arreak. I think that question needs clarification itself, but however, I will allow the minister to respond to the original question and also the request for clarification. Thank you. Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I provided the update in my first response. Internally, the challenge is to set up and structure the organization to respond to community-based initiatives, initiatives as described by my colleague.

That is the challenge that I am tasked with and I am looking at what options we have to set up the framework. The funding of our core is a challenge because the funding currently used by the community is federal funding.

They are not Government of Nunavut funding, so we need to set up the process and structure in such a way that we factor those in, funding sources and so on. That is why I am not responding directly to the community.

As of yet, we have not talked to the community, but internally we are looking at those options. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Your second supplementary, Mr. Arreak. I apologize, that was his final question. Thank you.

Oral Questions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 298 – 2(3): Alternative Energy for Nunavut

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

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Energy has talked about helping the energy. Nunavut has five times the national average. What are the plans for alternative energy in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is correct. The power corporation is looking at opportunities for alternative energy. That alternative energy includes hydro that we have spoken about here in the House, and also involves looking at opportunities for wind. There are issues with the synchronization of wind turbines with our diesel plants, and that is something that we are working on.

So there are other alternative energy sources for example wind, we are looking at opportunities for hydro; we are looking at re-heat within our plants themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do we, in Nunavut, have capacity for large solar power? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some jurisdictions, especially in Europe, had been able to access tidal power. This morning, as an example, I had an opportunity to speak with the Dutch consulate general from the Netherlands on issues around alternative energy in Europe.

Here in Nunavut, Mr. Speaker, although we have very high tides in different areas in Hudson's Bay, as well as for here in Iqaluit, and in Pangnirtung. We only have access to the area for about six months of the year because of the continuous ice.

There are logistic issues to work out. There may not be the economies of scale to be able to go into full tidal power as we have seen in some other jurisdictions. The best alternative that we see right now on the horizon is the opportunity with hydro.

An example, Mr. Speaker, would be if we had a hydro plant in Iqaluit right now at the present time we could eliminate over 13 million litres of diesel fuel being purchased every year to supply the diesel energy plants.

Let me say, Mr. Speaker, for the record that the most un-costly effective way of producing electricity is through diesel and we need to move away from that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the minister give an opportunity for some of the members to go see wind generated energy or other alternative sources of energy outside of Canada so we can see them first hand?

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member earlier. I thought the member had said tidal power and I think indeed he had said solar power.

Mr. Speaker, we're not looking at the opportunities, if I may very quickly, with solar. Again, economies of scale don't allow for the full injection of solar to be used throughout Nunavut. There are other alternatives that we would be able to look at.

On the question the member just asked regarding an opportunity to see some of the sites, we have been invited to visit the cape project in P.E.I., the largest wind project in

Canada, by the minister who was actually here in Iqaluit last year. That is something that we're following up, and if I confirm a site visit to the North Cape, I will inform the members, if they would be interested in actually seeing this site.

I should add Mr. Speaker that the minister from P.E.I. has been very proactive in asking for Nunavut's wishes with regard to wind energy, and opportunities to work with the P.E.I. Government in having some capacity with wind generation in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Your second supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister or the Government of Nunavut going to be asking for additional funds from the federal government because we have a very high cost of energy for operations and maintenance?

Speaker (interpretation): For you information, that was your final supplementary. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member touches on a very important point, and that is; what we're seeing the world economy right now with the price of oil. We see it at over \$70 a barrel U.S.

I said earlier, in Nunavut we have an addiction to oil and to diesel. So, we are looking at the opportunities in the market place. As Minister of Energy I've had an opportunity to speak to my colleague, the Hon. Rona Ambrose, as well as the Natural Resources Canada Minister, Mr. Lund, in Regina two weeks ago about opportunities with our federal partner. That is something that we've been following up; as has the Premier had discussions with Mr. Harper again around the same areas.

I can say Mr. Speaker, that the Canadian dollar right now is at the highest it has been, and when you're purchasing fuel on the open market, on the world open market, and the stock market, that is a good thing for us because we're paying in Canadian dollars when usually prices are in American dollars. That exchange rate will help Nunavut. At the same time, I know that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Petroleum Products are continually looking at the opportunities that are there for price comparisons.

So the government is moving in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 299 – 2(3): Provision of Services for Elder Care

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

I'm sure you will recall, during the Leadership Review, I was asking her some questions in relation to the provision of services for the Elders' Society that had run the boarding home and the elders' centre here in Iqaluit.

I'm just wondering if the minister is aware of what types of agreements are in place with the Elders' Society to administer these and run these facilities for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, the Elders' Society runs boarding home as well as the elders' centre I believe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I had indicated that in my question, but my question was: is the minister aware of what type of arrangement is in place between the Elders' Society and the Department of Health and Social Services to run these two facilities?

Are they contracts or service arrangements? What type of an agreement does the department have with the Elders' Society to run those facilities for them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I understand, there is a service arrangement for the boarding home, and the service that is required for that is to assist the people that are staying at the boarding home, bringing them to and from appointments, from the airport to the center and back, providing meals and so on.

As far as the elders' center, the service arrangement is to process the individuals that reside there, and I do not know if that is a question the member is referring to, but as far as I know, that is a home care type arrangement for the elders' center. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What kind of contract is in place between the Department of Health and Social Services and the Elders' Society, to run those facilities? Maybe that makes it a little bit more clearly for the minister to be able to respond to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As far as I know, those facilities would operate under a service contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Mr. Tootoo, your final supplementary.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is too bad that I have to keep asking the same question two or three times to finally get an answer.

Mr. Speaker, the minister indicated that there is a service agreement in place with the Elders' Society. I understand in the past where that agreement has not been sufficient to cover the costs of providing those services, and specifically with the elders' center that the department has covered off the cost of the deficit to the Elders' Society for operating that program. I know the Elders' Society is a non-profit organization made up of elders here in Iqaluit, and I am just wondering if that practice is still being continued, so that if an agreement that was done.

I think it was almost eight years ago, and it hasn't been changed since then, is not sufficient. Will the department still continue to assist and provide the Elders' Society additional funding to cover off operating losses, and running the elders' group home and costs that exceed the service agreement that is in place? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a bit of background, in Committee of the Whole back in March, we had a discussion around the facilities that we operate through contract services throughout Nunavut.

During that time I made the commitment to evaluating the level of services and funding provided to all the facilities that are operated by service providers on behalf of the government, that work is underway.

As it relates to the specific centers here, we have had over 20 formal and informal meetings with the elders' centre to talk about some of the pressure points that they are dealing with, whether it be training of the staff that are there, to providing services to the elders or whether it be funding, or looking at what services are actually provided and developing some forms of standard. That work continues to be in place, and in fact, we had hired a nurse that has done extensive training of the staff in the facility. We are also looking at the funding sources.

So there are a number of initiatives on the way, not just here, but with other centers that we provide service to or contract to provide this type of service. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 300 – 2(3): Road and Port Project in the Kitikmeot

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

Mr. Speaker, last week the minister during the Leadership Review mentioned that he had met with his federal counterpart Minister Cannon and discussed Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project in Kitikmeot.

I read recently an article in the Nunatsiaq News about a Nunavut Awareness Day that occurred last month in Ottawa, where some Nunavut Ministers were down there to raise awareness about Nunavut. Could the Minister confirm for me that the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road project was part of the Government of Nunavut's 'Nunavut Awareness Day' Strategy that was held in Ottawa last month? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Yes, we fully support the important role in the mining activities that are happening in the other regions. We would also like to work closely with them in regard to the road and port, in regard to the mining activities around there. Thank you.

Speaker: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. I believe I can conclude from his answer that he met with Mr. Cannon, as part of the Government of Nunavut Strategy, 'Nunavut Awareness Day.'

Mr. Speaker, there is no secret that we have been working on this project in the Kitikmeot for years, probably 12 years we have been trying to get the Government of Nunavut to support us.

They say they do, we hear there is a lobbying at the federal level, meeting with ministers and senior officials. But, in the Kitikmeot, it is not apparent that any movement is occurring in Ottawa.

My question for the minister is: can the minister clarify for the House exactly what message the Government of Nunavut has conveyed to the federal government in terms of seeking their support for the Bathurst port and road development in the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We try to have a very close working relationship with the federal government and to keep our dialogue open. We look at ways and means of how we can get these projects going and it's still the case today.

We have to make sure the roads project goes ahead because I am sure it will be very beneficial to the outlying communities. I will keep working on it and when I had a meeting with my counterpart, I touched it a bit, because it was a short meeting.

At the next meeting or when I see him again, I will make sure that this issue comes up again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, thank you Minister. The minister is saying there has been a lot of lobbying; the Government of Nunavut has done a lot of lobbying. I was wondering if the minister could commit himself to accompany a group from Kitikmeot to travel to Ottawa in the fall to make presentations to Minister Cannon and other officials that outlines the strategic value of the Bathurst Port and Road project to Nunavut and to the country of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you. Yes, if Mr. Cannon would be available, I am more than willing to bring a delegation, even from people from the Kivalliq, in regard to the Manitoba road and other things that we need to work on within Nunavut. Yes, I will try to work with them, but I need more information from him as to how we can deal with it in the fall time with Mr. Cannon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that commitment. I was encouraged by his words that he'd like to lead a delegation over. That's good news. I will report that back to the Kitikmeot.

Wolfden Resources has been making a lot of noise recently with their announcement of the construction of an all weather road to support their mining operation in the Kitikmeot. My question for the minister is: can he commit to this House that the Government of Nunavut has not made the Bathurst Inlet Road and Port Project less of a strategic priority in the Kitikmeot because of Wolfden Resources various public announcements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are different mining companies within Nunavut. We have to treat every mining company equally and acknowledge their wants.

The Bathurst Inlet Road and Port Project; we will be working with them the same way. I'm not trying to have a preference as to which should go first, whether if it's an access road or a port.

We want to utilize the funding the best way that we can and we have to look at different things. What I want to do is that I want to treat everybody the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 301 – 2(3): Safe Harbour for Arviat

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the minister responsible for boat shelter facilities, Minister Akesuk. This is in regard to the many boats that had been destroyed in Arviat in 2004.

You know what a safe harbour is; it's to park the boats or canoes so they won't get damaged, where they won't be destroyed. In Arviat we don't have such a thing. You know that we have to pull up our boats if they are not being used.

I would like to ask the minister is I have been told every year that this will be worked on. What has been done up to date on this one because the residents of Arviat want to know? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. We have been trying to work on this since I became the minister with the Department of Transportation. I can inquire about it more. There are some communities where they don't have any breakwaters. I can look into this and find out exactly where those breakwaters are and where if they are to make safe harbours because I am not too clear as to what it is in Arviat.

I have to further discuss in regard to safe harbours and I will check into this further. Thank you.

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

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are still a lot of statements and concerns that were brought up, and those records are there and they have to be

checked. The other ministers, whether the minister changed or not, are still there in our area. The currents are quite strong.

I wonder why they are just listening to it and not concerned because they destroy Hondas or vehicles. The Arviat residents constantly bring about their concerns in regard to this. I wonder why this is not being worked on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we probably know we have to have funding and we have talked with the federal government in regard to \$48 million for marine infrastructure. I have talked with my officials as to how we can bring about the breakwaters or small craft harbours for all the communities in Nunavut.

As I stated earlier, there are some communities where they do not have any safe harbours. I will diligently work hard on this and also I asked the federal government if they can give us more funding to be used in the communities for the breakwaters or safe harbours.

In other communities in other centers in Canada, they have very nice looking harbours. Yes I will ask the federal government as to how else they can assist us, when this is very important. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Akesuk. Member for Arviat, Mr. Alagalak.

Mr. Alagalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if he can write correspondence to those hamlets and communities that he will definitely do something and there is always funding available in regard to that because it should be dealt with in an urgency basis. So I wonder if you can commit to write correspondence to the hamlet councils and your officials so that they can look into this further, especially to the community of Arviat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I stated earlier, I will bring this up to my federal counterparts and mention that this is for the whole of Nunavut, not just for one community in regard to safe harbours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 302 – 2(3): Polar Bear Study and Global Warming

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated under member statements I will be raising questions in regard to the Minister of Environment. In regard to the polar bears, we all know that they cannot live in a warmer climate and we know now in our

communities in Nunavut with global warming, they might go to a cooler area or search for a cooler place for them to be. I wonder if this has been checked into to make sure that they are not moving to different areas of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Can you indicate which minister you wish to direct this to so we'll know? Thank you.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister of Environment. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister responsible for Environment, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think there has been a study done yet on the effects of global warming on polar bears. (interpretation ends) My department is currently working in partnership with several stake-holders to develop a Nunavut-wide climate change adaptation plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will there be a study done to find out how global warming will affect the polar bears. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): The Department of Environment believes that with global warming (interpretation ends) they may be benefiting from climate change which is in my report from my briefing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just asking whether the communities will be involved when they are doing studies on global warming that will have an affect on polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a lot easier to ask questions, but yes, we have a big concern about our polar bear population. We want to be able to do it any way we can to try and protect our polar bears. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 303 – 2(3): Staff Housing for Teachers

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Minister Picco.

I asked the Housing Minister a question in regard to the new teachers that are arriving to the community. There is no staff housing available for two of them. There are no empty units whatsoever in Repulse Bay.

Can the minister check or work with the Housing Minister to make sure that those individuals will have adequate staff housing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We work very closely with the Housing Corporation.

As members are aware, all responsibility for government staff housing units has been turned over to the Nunavut Housing Corporation. We ascertain as a department, in request to the Housing Corporation on units that may or may not be available in a given community, and then we try to ascertain what we can do to facilitate housing for those staff people.

I am aware of the situation in the community that the member is talking and I believe there may be some good news on the horizon, but I haven't gotten a confirmation of that at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister also. It is clear now that many employees were coming from down south and now we are very much in shortage of staff housing. According to what I hear this is what I say.

Could the minister support the Inuit teachers? There are quite a few teachers who work in the education field but the training programs for Inuit teachers is offered elsewhere outside of their communities but these Inuit teachers would like to further their training at the local level. That way we won't need staff housing. Could the minister support those kinds of initiatives in the smaller communities?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the biggest successes that we've had has been supporting local teachers at the community level to take programs to qualify them for teaching in the school. A good example of that was just now in Arviat this past weekend when we attended the graduation there with the NTEP students taking the teaching program at the local level.

I can entertain a proposal from the community to look at opportunities for an NTEP training program. We're running them on an annual basis in different communities. Again the communities that are selected to run the program, as the member has indicated, have to have housing for instructors that may have to come to teach the program, as well as some of the other logistics that may be involved at the community, and the number of students for capacity for the program.

So that is something that we can look at if a request comes forward from the community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 304 – 2(3): Update on the Gun Legislation

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier. Prior to the general election for the federal government he stated that he will be able to respond after the election in regard to the gun legislation in Canada.

I was wondering if the Premier can update us on this issue that we get confused on. Does the Premier have a good update in regard to the gun legislation for Nunavummiut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I met with all the federal party leaders. We have a new government, but they still have not caught up with the legislation.

I met with the party leaders and I asked them to be supportive on removing this legislation. They were softening their positions but one of them was quite difficult. Perhaps this coming fall we'll be able to review this further. They will have to vote on it, all the Members of Parliament.

So that's what I had told the party leaders so I had asked them to at least leave it up to the discretion of their representatives. They were quite open of this but there were small amendments to that operation of the registry. They only made amendment to the procedure but the bill has not been voted on at the Parliament yet. So that's what we'll have to deal with again.

I have told our MP to support the deletion or the removal of the gun legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, Mr. Minister. As he stated, they're becoming more supportive and I'm very pleased to hear that but the application of the Act, because of the application many people who would like to purchase rifles have to wait for a very long time.

They end up not even purchasing a rifle and they end up waiting for a long time, and they don't get certification. They can't purchase a rifle. As long as this legislation is used, can the Premier work with the federal government to ask an official to visit the communities to help the communities fill out gun registry forms. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would like to see the deletion of this act, and that's what we will be pushing for. Perhaps this coming fall they will deal with that.

I could probably ask for that, but they now want to delete or take away this act because we are not in support of it. I used to tell them that we have the worst problems because the application forms have to be filled out and we have encountered many problems with that.

We pointed out many problems that we encounter and the federal government knows about all our problems with the gun registry or legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I feel the same as you; that we should do away with the gun legislation. (interpretation ends) It's like that commercial: if life were like that, we wouldn't need gun license cards.

>> *Laughter*

(interpretation) While this is being used, can you support the community harvesters because we need some kind of support for the hunters, the Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Even though this is not applicable to Inuit, our justice system says that this does not apply to Inuit, and it will not apply to Inuit, but the way the procedure is that is where our stumbling block is. I'm sure we can try and fix the procedure. That's how I could urge my colleagues.

As Inuit, we have rights. We have the right to harvest, even though we don't have licenses, perhaps we can use beneficiary cards that gives us these rights instead.

We discussed this prior to the establishment of government, and the federal government did not want to hear about that, but the new government is much more in support of this. With the support of Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. we could probably do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier too.

Yes, even though we hear that this does not apply to Inuit, some other hunters have to go hunt for other individuals. When the hunters go out to purchase bullets, they are unable to purchase theirs because they do not have certification, and this is being used today. Sometimes their rifles are confiscated because they do not have certification.

The Nunavummiut need support. Will you give us support on that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is very important to us and I have stated this to my counterparts and told them that we had a lot of problems with this Act, especially for the hunters who go out hunting for subsistence and because we do not have farms up here.

I agree with you, we need to do away with this Act and that is what we will be pressing for. As long as this Act is being used, we will ask and look for ways on how the federal government can be more supportive of our needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 305 – 2(3): Review of Elders Service Agreement

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the words that the Premier was looking for is that we need to shoot down that Act. Hopefully, it has run out of ammunition.

Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Earlier in questioning, she had indicated that they are looking at reviewing all areas of service agreements with different organizations that are providing services for the Department of Health and Social Services.

I know and I mentioned earlier too that the Elders' Society here in Iqaluit is running on a service agreement that is, I think it was first started up in 1997, and a lot of things have changed since then, if you just look at just utility costs alone over the last two years with the increases that we have seen in fuel.

The Minister of Energy eloquently pointed out earlier to my colleague Mr. Barnabas about those increases and the rising costs of energy in our addiction to fuel. As a result of these increases, a non-profit Elders' Society here in Iqaluit is operating at an over \$20,000 deficit to provide the service for the Department of Health and Social Services.

Will the minister commit to looking at dealing with that shortfall as quickly as possible prior to a full scale review being done on all aspects of those service agreements to help alleviate this deficit that is being faced by the Elders' Society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department is committed to evaluating all facilities because the sooner issues are faced by other facilities, not just here in Iqaluit. My primary concern is the quality of care that should be provided to the people that live in those facilities. That is first and foremost.

The other piece that we are looking at is to examine what services are required, what services are being provided whether it would be through us or through physiotherapy or through the hospital and so on. That piece is crucial in determining what resources are required by that centre whether it would be the centres here or in Rankin or Cambridge.

So it is part of the overall review that we need to do to determine the concerns the member has raised. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I know as the minister had indicated earlier, that's part of an overall review.

I know in the past, when the elders of Iqaluit have run a deficit and that, in providing that service for the government for elders from all over the Baffin region that live there, the department in the past has been satisfied with the services that have been provided and covered off the deficit amount of the Elders' Society, which is made up again, the nonprofit society of elders here in Iqaluit to provide those services.

Is it right; does the minister feel that it's right that a nonprofit organization should carry the deficit for providing a service to the government for the Department of Health and Social Services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated before, once we have sorted out the services that are being provided by the centre, and whether it's in compliance with our contract. We need to sort that out. We need to know whether in fact they are meeting

the contract requirements, or providing additional services outside that may be driving the cost.

We need to evaluate that, and once all that is sorted out, the quality of care, again, being the primary concern that we have, then we would be able to look at what resources are necessary for the centre.

We don't know for sure at this point in time whether the costs and deficit incurred by the society is strictly as a result of the services that we've asked them to provide. That is a concern that we have.

We need to examine that the funding that we had put forward to these centres are being addressed to meet the services that we've asked for. So that's an examination that we need to do.

At the same time, we need to look at the cost of electricity and so on as part of that evaluation, and look at the standards of quality of care and services also. So there is a big picture. It's broader than just providing financial assistance for a deficit.

We need to examine if that deficit is a result of the services we asked the centre to provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I go back to a comment that I made earlier that; in the past the department has been satisfied with that and covered off those additional costs borne by the Elders' Society.

Is the minister now indicating that they are no longer satisfied with the information that has been provided to them for the services that are being provided by the Elders' Society, and have they communicated that to the Elders' Society? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My staff, since January have met with the centres formally and informally over 20 times to discuss various concerns of the elders' group and the facility providers, and we're trying to address and work together with the agencies in addressing the concerns.

I'm personally involved in getting the updates, and will go forward as the needs are identified. But right now, we need to examine not just the facility here. I'm more concerned about looking at all the facilities in Nunavut whether they are in Cambridge Bay, Rankin Inlet, Arviat, or here.

We need to look at it from the broader perspective and look at whether in fact the financial contribution we provide to the centre is adequate. So, I'm looking at it from that context, and I'm not saying one agency is more important than the other.

What I'm saying is the quality of services provided by the agencies and service providers is adequate and meets the standards that we've asked them to provide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would assume that in a review like this that they would be looking at any changes moving forward into services agreements to the future, and not making them retroactive for the past.

I think in any program or services delivery, it's important to have a good look and review of it, but as for now, and as for what's happened, this is going back to the last fiscal year, the society has incurred over I think a quarter of a million dollars in deficit.

I don't think it's fair that the government can pay a southern supplier and let them have a \$200,000 credit down south, and here expect a non-profit organization in Nunavut, made up of elders, to carry the government for the tune of a quarter of a million dollars, until they figure out whether they're happy with the services that are provided or not.

I am just wondering if the minister can commit to dealing with this deficit as quickly as possible. When can the Elders' Society expect to have an answer? Whether it is this one or any other one, you would think that non-profit organizations need their money to survive. When can they expect to have an answer from the minister on whether or not they will be covered off for that close to a quarter of a million dollars for the last fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I responded earlier the department is committed to looking at the overall service we ask the society to provide. I want to look at what they are providing. I want to know if it's meeting the quality of care services as expected.

I also want to ensure their deficit is a direct result of the services that we ask them to do. It could be a result of other activities that they're engaged in. I need to examine that this is a public fund and we need to evaluate that. I think it's fair to give our staff the opportunity to meet with the organization and to look at that.

At the same time, the staff has worked very closely with the facility service providers to talk about the quality of care and the services, along with the financial pressure points that they're under; it's more than one piece.

Once I have that information I'll be able to address it. As it is right now we're looking at improvements across Nunavut and trying to address various challenges that are faced by service providers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Aglukkaq. To remind members that Question Period is now over. (interpretation) Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 7. Written Questions. Mr. Curley.

Item 7: Written Questions

Written Question 019 – 2(3): Appeals Under the Nunavummi Nangminiqaqtunik Ikajuuti (NNI) Policy

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will direct my written question to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation with respect to the NNI Appeals Policy.

- 1) As of June 1, 2006 who are the members of the Independent Contracting Appeals Board established under Section 18.1 of the NNI Policy?
- 2) Section 18.31 requires the Contracting Appeals Board to submit an annual report to the Government of Nunavut and to Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated. The report is to include a summary of appeals heard and decisions rendered. The report is to be made available to the public. Since April 2000, how many annual reports have been prepared that have been submitted to the Government of Nunavut and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated under Section 18.31 of the NNI Policy?
- 3) What were the contents of each annual report submitted to date under Section 18.31 of the NNI Policy?
- 4) When will the Contracting Appeals Board's Annual Report submitted to date be tabled in the Legislative Assembly?
- 5) For each fiscal year from 2000-01 to 2006-07 to date:
 - a) How many appeals have been directed to GN Contracting Authorities under section 18.11 of the NNI Policy?
 - b) What were the circumstances of each appeal made under Section 18.11 of the NNI Policy?
 - c) How many appeals have been satisfactorily dispensed with under Section 18.11 of the NNI Policy? What were the circumstances in each case?
 - d) How many appeals have been made to the Contracting Appeals Board under Section 18.12 of the NNI Policy? What were the circumstances in each case?

- e) How many appeals have been dismissed without hearing under Section 18.14 of the NNI Policy? What were the circumstances in each case?
- f) How many appeals have been heard within the time limit set out under Section 18.17 of the NNI Policy? What were the circumstances in each case?
- g) How many appeals have been dismissed under Section 18.21(a) of the NNI Policy? What were the circumstances in each case?
- h) Broken down by category of remedial action as set out in sections 18.21(b)(i) to 18.21(b)(vi) of the NNI Policy, how many appeals have been allowed by the Contracting Appeals Board? What were the circumstances in each case?
- i) In each case where the Contracting Authority does not accept the recommendations of the Contracting Appeals Board, it is required by Section 18.26 of the NNI Policy to issue reasons for its decision. In each case since April 1, 2000, where a Contracting Authority did not accept the recommendations of the Contracting Appeals Board, what were its reasons?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Item 7. Written Questions. We will just wait for a little while. Thank you.

Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Item 10: Petitions

Petition 004 – 2(3): Social Housing for Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have 455 petitions for the housing needs in Kugluktuk, and the petition states that: the applicants for social housing have been on the waiting list for a number of years, there are families that are residing with other families in one social housing unit, they are in desperate need for their own space and whereas the community is in full support for others.

Kugluktukmiut wish to express to the government under the ten-year program that social housing for Kugluktuk should be moved up to year 2006-07. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Continue with Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 11: Reports of Standing and Special Committees

Committee Report 002 – 2(3): Report on the Review of the 2004-05 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut

Mr. Mapsalak: Mr. Speaker, I have the honour today of presenting the Report of the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* review of the 2004-05 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut.

As members will recall, the Languages Commissioner appeared before the standing committee on April 6, 2006 to present his first annual report since being appointed to the office on February 25, 2005.

The committee's hearing was open to the public and media to observe. Our report provides a summary of the standing committee's concerns that were raised during Mr. Kusugak's appearance, and identified some of the committee's expectations for his office.

Mr. Speaker, if a member of the public feels that Government of Nunavut has violated his or her language rights, he or she may launch a formal complaint with the Languages Commissioner.

The committee was surprised to learn that the office did not receive any formal complaints from the public in 2004-05 regarding the Government of Nunavut. This could be interpreted to mean that the government is doing a good job and that Nunavummiut are satisfied with the current service being provided in their official languages, or; it could mean that Nunavummiut are not aware of their rights.

The committee did note that the office continues to receive language related complaints about hamlet services throughout the territory. The office tried to resolve each situation when possible, since it is not able to formally investigate these complaints. The committee also noted that the office received a number of inquiries from various levels of government, academic institutions and from the general public.

Mr. Speaker, the committee noted the office developed two documents on the languages issue in 2004-05. The Languages Authorities Discussion Paper and the research report title: Preserving Inuit Dialects in Nunavut. The standing committee discussed these documents with the Languages Commissioner and understands that the creation of a new language authority is a component of the government's ongoing development of the new *Official Languages Act* and the new *Inuktitut Language Protection Act*.

The standing committee also discussed the status of these two initiatives with the Languages Commissioner. The committee noted that the office participated in the Languages Legislation Steering Committee and looks forward to introducing these bills in the House. When the government introduces these two bills, it should also table a comprehensive record of its consultation.

Mr. Speaker, the year 2020 is approaching us quickly. This is the year in which the government proposed to have Inuktitut as a working language. The committee would like to see benchmarks developed to help the government evaluate progress, and working towards this goal.

The committee urges the Office of the Languages Commissioner to work closely with the government in achieving this goal.

Mr. Speaker, the committee noted that the Languages Commissioner has an extensive travel schedule of plans for 2006-07. The community did question some of these plans and sought concerns that the travel will result in tangible benefits to the office. The committee expects the languages commissioner's next annual report to account fully for the office's travel and detail its actual results.

Mr. Speaker, the status of Inuinnaqtun has been an ongoing concern and this committee is fortunate to have an Inuinnaqtun speaking member on it. I understand that the Kitikmeot residents share this concern.

The committee received correspondence from the Mayor of Cambridge Bay on July 25, 2005 suggesting to the government that the Office of the Languages Commissioner of Nunavut expand with a permanent deputy position to be located in the Kitikmeot to represent the Inuinnaqtun speaking region. The standing committee believes that this suggestion merits careful consideration in the development of the new *Official Languages Act*.

Mr. Speaker, the committee appreciates the office's efforts to develop an annual newsletter that outlines its language initiatives and activities. The standing committee encourages the Languages Commissioner to communicate with all settlements and societies including the elders and youth and other age groups in the communities when developing any new initiatives and resources.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee has noted the recent court ruling in the Northwest Territories concerning the adequacy of French services offered by the Government of the Northwest Territories. This could have implications for Nunavut. The standing committee urges the government to review its French language services.

Mr. Speaker, the standing committee was pleased that the Languages Commissioner provided detailed budget information in his report in commencing for his transparency and accountabilities. That concludes the standing committee's report.

At this time I would like to move that the report of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit be received and adopted by the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. There is a motion that the report of the standing committee received and adopted. The motion is in order pursuant to Rule 91. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.
Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Mr. Tootoo.

Committee Report 003 – 2(3): Report on the Review of the 2005 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Chair of the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Accountability, I am very pleased to present the much-anticipated committee's review of the 2005 Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation to my colleagues on the Standing Committee. The Co-Chair Mr. Keith Peterson, Mr. David Alagalak, Mr. Levi Barnabas, and Mr. Tagak Curley.

We worked exceptionally well together during our hearings that were held earlier this year. Under the *Nunavut Act*, the Auditor General of Canada audits the accounts and financial transactions of the Government of Nunavut in order to express an opinion on the government's consolidated financial statements.

The Auditor General also audits the financial statements of the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the Yukon Government. The Auditor General prepares an annual report to the Legislative Assembly in which management issues that arise during the course of the annual audit are brought to the attention of Member of the Legislative Assembly's and the public.

The Government of Nunavut is provided with an opportunity to make management responses to the Auditor General's observations and recommendations. The most recent report was tabled in the House on February 21, 2006.

In late April of this year, the standing committee held three days of hearings to review the Auditor General's most recent report. These hearings were open to the public and media to observe, and broadcast on local cable television and FM radio. In addition to providing and presenting her report, committee members were able to pose questions to senior GN officials on their management responses to the Auditor General's recommendations. Inuktitut and English transcripts of the hearings have been posted on the website of the Legislative Assembly. This report, and the government's response to it, will also be posted on the Legislative Assembly website.

A number of themes dominated the committee's hearings and deliberations. During the Auditor General's appearance, the committee again undertook a productive exchange with her on a number of issues related to the financial management practices and capacity of the GN. The committee noted with concern her observations regarding the need to significantly improve the timelines of the production and tabling of the government's financial statements, Crown agency annual reports, and other related documents.

Other important issues raised by the Auditor General included her office's identification of "numerous cases of non-compliance with Nunavut's financial laws, including seeking the Legislative Assembly's approval to spend money after it had already been spent," the

lack of clarity regarding the government's debt position and the government's structural and capacity challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the report that your standing committee is tabling today contains a total of 15 formal recommendations. In some cases, the recommendations deal with new matters. In other cases, they build upon past issues addressed by the standing committee.

The standing committee recognizes that there have been improvements in Nunavut's financial management practices since April 1, 1999. In a number of cases, these improvements have come about as a result of the government implementing recommendations made by the standing committee and the Auditor General.

Examples of where the GN has earned praise for its transparency include the tabling of annual departmental business plans in the Legislative Assembly; the tabling of quarterly government-wide employment statistics; the tabling of annual reports on contracting and leasing activities; the tabling of annual reports on grants and contributions expenditures; the tabling of Ministerial Letters of Expectation to Crown agencies; and the inclusion of detailed information on prior years' actual expenditures in the GN's annual main estimates.

This year's report of the standing committee contains a number of important recommendations for further improvements in this area.

Other issues addressed in our report include the structure and location of the government's accounting operations, training for Beneficiaries to become accounting professionals and the work of the Crown Agency Council. With respect to the issue of the GN's financial structures, the committee is of the view that the GN should proceed in this area in a manner that is both sensible in relation to the need for effective systems and processes and sensitive to the concerns of communities.

As members will recall, one of the key goals agreed to by all MLAs at our Arviat Caucus Retreat included, "Managing Nunavut's financial resources responsibly by acting decisively on the recommendations of the Auditor General and Legislative Assembly Standing Committees with respect to strengthened financial management across Government departments and Crown corporations." This commitment was reiterated in the government's *Pinasuaqtavut* mandate document.

Our committee's recommendations are being presented in a constructive spirit, and are intended to support our collective commitment to strengthening financial management across government.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude by noting that your standing committee, pursuant to Rule 91(5), is requesting that the government provide a formal written response to our report within 120 days.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to move that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. There's a motion on the floor. It has been moved that the report of the standing committee be received and adopted by the House. The motion is in order. Pursuant to Rule 91(5). All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 005 – 2(3): Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability and that the bill as amended and reprinted is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

And Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 7 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous consent to have Bill 7 immediately referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 7 is referred to the Committee of the Whole for today.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 126 – 2(3): Integrity Commissioner – Letter to Standing Committee Regarding: Bill 5 – An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As members would recall, the Legislative Assembly passed Bill 5, *An Act to Amend the Conflict of Interest Act*, during our last sitting. At the time, I indicated that I would be tabling correspondence received by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability from the Integrity Commissioner on the bill, and I am pleased to do so today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 127 – 2(3): Elders’ Society – Letter Regarding Tammaativvik and Elders’ Home Contract

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a copy of a letter and attached correspondence that I received from the Elders’ Society, there’s carbon copy on it that was sent to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Please provide the documents to the table officers.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Tabled Document 128 – 2(3): Legal Services Board of Nunavut 2005-06 Annual Report

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document: Annual Report of Maliiganik Tukisiniaqvik Board of Nunavut 2005-06. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Please send those copies up to the table officers.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Tabled Document 129 – 2(3): Health Coverage – Students Outside Nunavut Change of Address Form

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No one can accuse me of not being thorough. The other day I tabled the document that talked about the healthcare coverage for students outside of the territory.

I would also like to finish off by tabling a copy of that form that goes along with that cover letter. It’s a request for change form and I’d like to ask all members to pay special attention to Section D where it is talking about temporary absences and the reason for it: schooling; extended vacation; employment; medical; and other.

And also on the second part of that there is a whole section on temporary absences from Nunavut, and also that it is a form that originated from the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Please wait until we get the documents up here. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Ms. Brown.

Tabled Document 130 – 2(3): Trials Report – Satellite-based Tracking Devices in Nunavut**Tabled Document 131 – 2(3): “How to Sealift” Reference Guide**

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table this and this, and this one. I wish to table the following document: Satellite-based tracking devices in Nunavut trials report.

I wish to table the following document; “How to Sealift” reference guide. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Please bring the documents up here. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Picco.

Tabled Document 132 – 2(3): Yahoo News Posting – Aggressive Teens More Likely to Try Tobacco, Pot

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to my earlier statement today I’d like to table a document from Yahoo News about the aggressive teens, an article on aggressive teens who are more likely to try tobacco and pot, marijuana and hashish; any of the known substances that can be inhaled through tobacco-like products like hashish, and like marijuana. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Picco. Please bring the copies up here. Please be patient while we’re waiting for the documents to be brought up here. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Thank you. Going to our Orders of the Day. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Mr. Peterson.

Item 14: Notices of Motions**Motion 019 – 2(3): Extended Adjournment – Notice**

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 15 I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Iqaluit East, that Notwithstanding Rule 4, that when the House concludes it’s present sitting in Iqaluit this week, shall be adjourned until November 21, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Is there a seconder to the motion? I apologize. I didn’t hear the seconder. Thank you.

Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. 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 the Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 7; Bill 17; and Bill 18 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair.

Before we start Committee of the Whole, we will take a 30-minute break.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:55 and Committee resumed at 16:26*

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

Chairman (Mr. Barnabas): Colleagues, I would like to call the committee meeting to order. In Committee of the Whole we have the following items to deal with: Bills 7, 17, and 18. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We would like to deal with Bill 7, and after that we would report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Is the committee agreed that we deal with Bill 7?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like the Law Clerk to join us at the table. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance to make his opening remarks. Mr. Simailak.

Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak about the proposed amendments to the *Liquor Act*. The present *Liquor Act* inherited by the Northwest Territories at the time of division does not reflect the current practice in Nunavut.

The proposed amendments will change references to the Northwest Territories instead the Act will refer to Nunavut to clarify the provisions regarding the sale and delivery of liquor, the issuing of liquor import permits, and the appointment of the employees of the Liquor Licensing Board and the Liquor Commission.

Amendments to the Act will provide that all regulations will be made by the commissioner on the recommendation of the minister as are all other *Liquor Act* regulations, and that provisions regarding the possession and transportation of sacramental wine and other liquor in a restricted or prohibited area that have previously been set out in the regulations, a wide review of the *Liquor Act* is contemplated for the

future. In the meantime, these amendments will harmonize the present *Liquor Act* with current practice in Nunavut.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that Members of the Committee of the Whole may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Would you like witnesses present with you at the witness table? Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Does the committee agree to have the witnesses go up to the witness table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): You can proceed.

Thank you. (interpretation ends) Mr. Minister, for the record, can you introduce your witnesses? Thank you.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Pauloosie Suvega, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Department of Finance, and to my left is Diane Buckland with the Department of Justice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Simailak. Welcome. I would like to ask the Chair of the Standing Committee of Government Operations and Accountability to make his opening comments. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has reviewed Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, with the sponsoring minister and his officials.

The standing committee was generally supportive of the provisions contained in Bill 7. The standing committee has also taken note of the government's intent to possibly conduct a wider review of the statute at a future point.

During the committee's scrutiny of the bill members worked with the minister to develop a number of amendments, friendly amendments I think is a proper term for it, to the bill. One of these friendly amendments removed provisions in the bill to introduce a new appeals mechanism to Cabinet with respect to certain decisions made by the Liquor Licensing Board.

Oh, I've got a tear in my eye, Mr. Chairman. Excuse me.

The committee was of the view that this provision was not appropriate in relation to the decision of an independent quasi-judicial body. The standing committee would however invite the government to introduce further amendments to the *Liquor Act* for consideration of the Legislative Assembly if it's of the view that the current penalties under the act are inappropriate.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my opening comments and the standing committee recommends passage of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we proceed, I would like to remind the members of the following; pursuant to Rule 77(1), the members have 10 minutes for opening remarks. And, pursuant to Rule 77(2), and at the discretion of the Chair, the members can make more than one comment only after every member has had an opportunity to make their remarks.

At this time I would like to open the floor for general comments. (interpretation ends)
Are there any general comments? Thank you, Members. We'll deal with Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*. Clause 1. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 3. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Clause 4. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed

Chairman: Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 6. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 7. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 8. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 9. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 10. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 11. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 12. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 13. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 14. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Clause 15. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Is the committee agreed to Bill 7 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that Bill 7 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) At this time I would like to take the opportunity to thank the minister and his officials. What is the wish of the committee? I am sorry. You can return to your chair. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just waiting for Mr. Simailak to return to his chair. I would like to, as the opening comments of my colleague from Kugluktuk

indicated that since we're finished with Bill 7, I would like to move that we report progress. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We have a motion on the floor 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.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Mr. Barnabas.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 7 and would like to report that Bill 7 is immediately ready for third reading. I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Netser. The motion is carried.

Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. (interpretation ends) Item 22. Orders of the Day. Mr. Clerk.

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A meeting of the Management Services Board at 5:15 this afternoon in the Tuktu Boardroom. Meetings of three standing committees tomorrow morning: at nine o'clock a meeting of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Housing and Economic Development in the Tuktu Boardroom, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability at half past ten in the Tuktu Boardroom, and at the same time, 10:30, a meeting of the Standing Committee Ajauqtiit in the Nanuq Boardroom.

Orders for the Day for June 14:

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. Notice of Motions
15. Notice of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration for Committee of the Whole and Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 18
20. Report to Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7
 - Bill 11
 - Bill 20
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until June 14, 2006 at 1:30.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>House adjourned at 16:40

