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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

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**Iqaluit, Nunavut
Wednesday, June 14, 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. Curley to lead us in prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Good afternoon Mr. Premier, Ministers, and Regular Members. Before we proceed with our Orders of the Day I would like to make a ruling on the Point of Order from yesterday.

Speaker's Ruling

(interpretation ends) Yesterday the Member for Iqaluit Centre raised a Point of Order. I have reviewed the matter and I'm prepared to give my ruling. Our rules define a Point of Order as any departure from any written, or unwritten rule, or custom of this Assembly, or of parliamentary tradition.

The issue for which the Member for Iqaluit Centre asked me to rule on is an issue of interpretation and is appropriately dealt with through debate. It is not a matter which relates to the procedures of the Assembly, or to parliamentary custom, or tradition. Accordingly, I find that there is no Point of Order.

(interpretation) Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank you for that expedient work on that ruling. I have no problems to stand up here today, and say I was wrong, and I'm sorry that I caused that extra work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Going to the Orders of the Day. Item2. Ministers' Statements. Minister Tapardjuk.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 102 – 2(3): Workplace Harassment Policy

Minister Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the Government of Nunavut is committed to guiding principles of *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit*, reinforcing the Inuit value of respecting others, relationships, and caring for people. To provide a workplace free from all forms of sexual and personal harassment, and as part of the Occupational Health and Safety Program, the Department of Human Resources has developed a Workplace Harassment Policy. In the spirit of guiding principles of *Pinasuaqtavut*, *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit Katimajit* reviewed and fully supported this policy.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that this new policy addresses all types of harassment detailed in the *Nunavut Human Rights Act*. In addition, the new policy surpasses the Act by also addressing harassment of a general nature, including rude, degrading, or offensive remarks, or email, threats, or intimidation.

The new policy focuses on increased awareness, early resolution, and the use of mediation to resolve complaints. The well-being of employees, and the values of integrity and trust which are the foundation of a sound organization, are promoted.

Mr. Speaker, detailed guidelines for managers have been developed to accompany the policy. In addition, the Department of Human Resources will be training and appointing Workplace Harassment Coordinators to assist managers.

The Workplace Harassment Policy will replace the existing Sexual Harassment Policy and it will contribute to a respectful workplace across the GN. I will be tabling the Workplace Harassment Policy in this House at the appropriate time today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 103 – 2(3): Skills Canada Nunavut

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, good afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to update the House about Skills Canada Nunavut. Skills Canada's goal is the same across the country: helping young Canadians realize career opportunities by developing their skills and trades and technology fields.

Mr. Speaker, Skills Canada Nunavut has a volunteer board of directors with control over its own resources and the capacity to fundraise to increase the participation of Nunavut youth in training since September, 2005.

Skills Canada Nunavut hosted its first territorial skills competition in April with 50 students from across Nunavut taking part. More recently, the national skills competition in Halifax had 13 Nunavummiut students.

The Department of Education proudly supports the organization by sponsoring the executive director position. The executive director assists the volunteer board in establishing partnerships with business, industry, and labour as well as increasing the exposure Nunavut youth have to the skilled trades and technology opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, one way of inspiring our youth is through the creation of skills clubs throughout Nunavut. Professionals in the communities are encouraged to volunteer their time to teach youth the skills of their trades.

Skills clubs are already running in Baker Lake, Pond Inlet, Sanikiluaq, Iqaluit, Igloolik, Kugaaruk, and Rankin Inlet. Several other communities have requested information about starting skills clubs.

This helps guide both our secondary, as well as our post-secondary, students towards exciting and challenging career options in skilled trades and technologies. Presently there are skills clubs in carpentry, restaurant service, cooking, graphic and web design, TV video production, hairdressing, aesthetics, and workplace safety, giving young exposure to interesting hands-on career options.

Mr. Speaker, there are many partners to acknowledge, too many to name. However, they do include local business, labour, and individual professionals, to partner with Skills Canada Nunavut. This shows a great example of *Piliriqatigiinni*; working together for a common cause.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. *Piliriqatigiinni* is a long word I agree. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Netser.

Minister's Statement 104 – 2(3): Improved Disaster Compensation Policy

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last session, the Department of Environment tabled a review of the Harvester Support Program that was undertaken jointly with Nunavut Tunngavik Inc.

One of the main recommendations of this report was to increase the maximum level for individual claims under the Disaster Compensation Program. I am pleased to advise the members that the Department of Environment takes this recommendation very seriously.

Although the overall changes to the Support to Harvesters Policy are not entirely completed, we have moved quickly to revise Schedule A1 of the Support to Harvesters

Policy. Retroactive to April 1, 2006, applicants are eligible to receive up to \$10,000 to cover the loss of equipment due to unavoidable natural disasters.

As before, residents of Nunavut who hold a General Hunting License or are Land Claims Beneficiaries who suffer losses or damage to equipment should visit their local Wildlife Office for assistance in completing the application forms. Applicants should provide documentation such as receipts and photographs to ensure that their claims are dealt with quickly.

Mr. Speaker, this policy is very important for Nunavut harvesters who earn a substantial portion of their income from harvesting. Losses due to unavoidable natural disasters are devastating, especially with today's high cost of equipment.

The Government of Nunavut is committed to strengthening and developing our land-based economy. This improvement to the Disaster Compensation Program is only the first improvement to be made as a result of the review of harvesters support programs.

Over the next few months we will continue to work with Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated to revise all of our harvesters support programs. I expect the new programs and delivery mechanisms to be implemented by the fall of 2006.

At the appropriate time, Mr. Speaker, I will table the revised policy. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Minister's Statement 105 – 2(3): World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, we all know too well, that comparatively liberal nature of Inuit socialization has become a serious concern to us as it gives the youth and young adults an opportunity to develop their own behavioural codes without the control or directives of grandparents, parents, or elders.

We all know too well that this emerging generational gap is contributing to the erosion of a basic structuring principle of Inuit society including the obedience, caring and respect principles.

The breakdown of these key directives of social interaction, the following parental direction and displaying friendliness and congeniality towards older people results in the increase of unacceptable behaviour.

Today, as in the past, survival of the family is of paramount importance in Inuit culture. However, today the threat is not starvation. It is the social breakdown and loss of culture and identity.

These are the factors which put the Inuit established mechanisms of social control and the role played by the elders or parents in the back burner. Sense of usefulness, pride, self-worth, and sense of dignity are shattered from a once proud Inuit society.

The family is the primary foundation for passing on the knowledge, values, beliefs, language, social norms, and expectations. The traditional kinship structures are the basis for traditional, social activities, and economic interdependence in Nunavut communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with this concern that Nunavut is participating in World Elder Abuse Awareness Day tomorrow, June 15, 2006, and that will be their day. We can have a better understanding and it is to mark their day.

Meaningful community dialogues and ongoing consistent collaboration amongst community agency groups and Government of Nunavut departments must take place. Unlike other members of the family, elder neglect and abuse is largely under recognized or treated as an unspoken problem.

To help raise awareness, my department in collaboration with the federal, provincial, and territorial governments responsible for seniors has developed posters, educational materials, magnets, and stickers for distribution across Nunavut and the rest of Canada.

I encourage all Nunavummiut to discuss this issue with their families in an effort to educate and prevent the neglect and abuse of our elders. Nunavummiut elders form a crucial member of the family and they deserve to live safely, with dignity, and respect. They should be made to feel proud.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 106 – 2(3): Second Payment for Seal Pelts

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope this goes through the CBC regional news. I am pleased to advise members and Nunavummiut that seal harvesters will receive a one-time second payment of \$5 for every skin purchased under the Fur Pricing Program.

>> *Applause*

Cheques will be mailed by the Department of Economic Development and Transportation by August 15, 2006. This year the average price for ring seal pelts at the Fur Auction in North Bay was approximately \$70, which is close to last year's high prices. Almost all pelt purchased under the Fur Pricing Program were sold because they were generally high quality seal skins.

At auction, the seal pelts are evaluated by size, colour, and quality. The pelts that sell for the highest price at auctions are clean, have been stretched well, and have no stains. This year I hope that we will receive even higher prices at the auction. I assure you that these higher prices would be passed onto harvesters. All harvester can help to make this happened by cleaning and stretching the skins well.

The objectives of this Fur Pricing Program includes supporting harvesters, ensuring Nunavut sealskins will reach world fur markets, promoting Nunavut sealskins as a sustainable by-product of traditional harvesting practices, and encouraging harvesters to improve the quality of the skins. Harvesting of sealskins continues to be an important practice for both our culture and for our economy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Going to the Orders of the Day. Item 2. Ministers' statements. Minister Brown.

Minister's Statement 107 – 2(3): Technical Professional Studies Scholarship

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to announce that the department is in the process of providing scholarships to high school achieving university and college students from Nunavut. This is to encourage students to stay in school to complete their studies.

The students have to be enrolled in post secondary technical studies in the field of engineering, informatics, community planning, business studies, and college programs of fire fighting, training and prevention, and land administration.

Our government requires young with the appropriate training to fill technical jobs in government offices in a number of communities. This new program addresses particular areas of need for the department and supports career opportunities in government in general.

We will be able to support at least 18 students at approximately \$2,500 each per year. Guidelines are now being developed for the implementation in the fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. (interpretation) Going to the Orders of the Day. Members' Statements. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Akasuk.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 262 – 2(3): Congratulations to Graduates

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my other community of Kimmirut there are going to be activities happening this evening.

Two students are going to be graduating from grade 12, and I would like to congratulate these two individuals and also their parents, and the teachers. Their names are Leo Aqpik and Robert Qimirpik. Robert Qimirpik was one of the individuals who was paging at one time. I would like to congratulate these two individuals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 263 – 2(3): Cultural Event in the Kitikmeot

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about an upcoming cultural initiative that will promote the Kitikmeot in the Basque country located in northern Spain.

Mr. Speaker, a representative from the Basauri City was in Cambridge Bay last month to meet with people and to arrange a cultural and historical event that would bring singers, artists, performers, and historians from the Kitikmeot to the Basque country in October. The purpose of this event is to give the local Basque people an opportunity to see and learn firsthand about the culture and history of the Kitikmeot.

Mr. Speaker, in the past, former cultural events organized by representatives of Basauri City have brought in artists and performers from the countries of Tibet, North Africa, and Japan, and the Maori People of New Zealand and the American Indians of the United States have also participated. By all accounts, the events have been well attended by thousands of people.

Mr. Speaker, our Kitikmeot delegations will not be large but it will represent us well. The members of the group are: Tanya Tagaq-Gillis, throat singing; Inuk Charlie, carving; Attima Hadlari, drum dancing/Inuksuk and qamutik making; Miriam Aglukkaq, she will be chanting, singing *Ajaajaa* for Attima when he's drum dancing; and Doug Stern, he will be presenting the history of Cambridge Bay and photo displays.

Mr. Speaker, the events such as these provide an opportunity to meet people in other parts of the world and to tell them about our unique territory and the people who live there. These are very worthy events to attend.

There will be costs associated with the Kitikmeot participation in this event. The organizers and participants are hopeful that the Government of Nunavut will provide some financial support.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the House to join me in wishing the Kitikmeot delegation success at the upcoming event in the Basque country of Spain. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Members' Statements. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 264 – 2(3): Kugluktuk Graduates

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to honour students of Kugluktuk high school who have graduated this year, are: Emma Evaglok, Adam Kikpak, and David Topilak. I'm very proud of those students and I'm sure that parents and teachers are too. Those students are future leaders.

I encourage all students from Nunavut to work toward completing their education and work toward a professional career. Nunavut will need them to fill the positions that we often hire out of Nunavut. Congratulations to the parents and also to the teachers who worked just as hard to ensure their students completed their high school education.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating this year's Kugluktuk students.
(interpretation) Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. We congratulate the students. Members' Statements. Member of Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Member's Statement 265 – 2(3): Hydroelectric Development Update

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to update the Legislative Assembly on the status of how people of Hudson Bay are responding to hydroelectric development in Northern Quebec, which has potential for a significant impact on the community of Sanikiluaq.

Last month, the *Nunavummi Tasiujaquarmiutiqatigiit Katimajingit*, or Nunavut-Hudson Bay Interagency Working Group made a presentation to the public hearing in Montreal on the Eastmain-Rupert Expansion Project.

NTK, which is based in Sanikiluaq consists of representatives from Hamlet of Sanikiluaq, Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Inc. and Qikiqtani Inuit Association Inuit Association...

These groups use cooperative approaches to study and report on development in Hudson Bay and James Bay to ensure that the concerns of communities of Sanikiluaq,

Nunavummiut, and the Government of Nunavut are addressed. NTK findings are arrived at using both accepted scientific methods on Inuit matters and observations.

In 2004, I had the honour of being appointed by the Premier of Nunavut to the Environmental Representative to the Sanikiluaq Environmental Committee on the Nunavut-Hudson Bay Inter-Agency Working Group.

The Inuit of Sanikiluaq are the only permanent residents in Hudson Bay and James Bay. We take our responsibility to protect the marine environment that surrounds our homes and the Belcher Islands very seriously.

This environment is the source of much of our food and is at the heart of our culture and way of life. My constituents depend on waters surrounding our home for belugas, seals, walrus, polar bear, water fowls, and fish. In turn these animals depend on those waters and islands for migration, moulting, and breeding. It is crucial that the health of the marine ecosystem is protected.

Speaker (interpretation): I apologize, member, at this time you are out of time. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

(interpretation ends) This was the key message that we brought to last month's hearing. I'm grateful for the participation of Inuit leaders at last month's hearing, including James Eetoolook, Lucas Arragutainak, and Peter Aatami. Members of the REAL Panel asked a number of questions and I am hopeful that our concerns will be acted on.

Mr. Speaker, I will have to begin publishing to report further news of our processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. At this time under Member Statements. Member for Rankin Inlet, Mr. Curley.

Member's Statement 266 – 2(3): High Cost of Living in Nunavut

Mr. Curley (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Nunavummiut are facing difficult challenges because of the high cost of living, especially the hunters. They really can not afford to purchase. I do not know if they can continue to live traditionally as the way they do.

Nunavummiut pay for high expensive energy costs in Nunavut. On the recent Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council, which was tabled on day one to increase 6.1 percent but it has not increased yet. Right now in Rankin Inlet 38.63 per kilowatt hour is paid by a homeowner who is not working for the Government. The businesses pay a cost of 33.0 per kilowatt hour. The most expensive kilowatt hour is in Kimmirut, 69.42 per kilowatt hour for a private home which is not staff housing, for private business a cost of 57.52 kilowatt hour.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, the application has been put forward by the NPC for proposed rates. These documents are really quite complicated and I wanted to quote only a few of them. The proposed Schedule E-1 talks about a 24-month collection period, Schedule E-2 talks about an 18-month collection period, and 12-month collection period Schedule E-3.

I believe the burden on the rate payers for Nunavut for residential is really unbearable, and I will be asking the minister that he defer any further playing with the monthly terms from 12 months, 18 months, to 24 months.

They should be across the board with single rates rather than adjusting them every six months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Curley. Members' Statements. Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 267 – 2(3): Joamie School Top Fundraiser

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Joamie School was recently recognized by UNICEF for their fundraising activities during trick-or-treats this past fall.

Mr. Speaker, Joamie School was the top fundraiser in Nunavut and all proceeds go directly to help Rwanda to help provide furniture, blackboards, and other necessities for the children through the Nelson Mandela foundation.

It is important to note that Joamie School and staff did not forget to support our own local community. A recent food drive by the school raised over \$2,000 and a *Qamutik* load of food for the local food bank.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Principal David Serkoak and the Vice-Principal Elee Higgins, the staff, and students of Joamie School for their generosity and support of those less fortunate here and abroad. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. Item 3. (interpretation ends) Members' Statements. (interpretation) Thank you. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Premier.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge all of those visitors, but we have a visitor from overseas. From the Netherlands, Council General Jan Hessling is here along with his staff with Daisey Sowdluapik and May Belleau.

So I would like to welcome them for visiting Nunavut.

>>*Applause*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual from Hall Beach. Jake Igvigiaq, who is my CA in my constituency, is here to attend a different meeting but I have asked him to come here to get recognition.

I would like to recognize him and he is my CA from Hall Beach. Thank you.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to acknowledge an individual from Coral Harbour who has been our mayor for a very long time, who was the president of NAM, and he has spoken for the Department of Education to consult with the *Education Act*, Johnny Ningeongan to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Simon Kulliktana who is originally from Kugluktuk and also grew up in Kugluktuk. Mr. Speaker, I have known Simon's parents for so many years and also I know that Iris Ajjukak, all I'll mention is that she was also very proud that she was my nurse when I was born.

Mr. Speaker, Simon's father, David Kulliktana, who has been working for the Government of the Northwest Territories for so many years, I just wanted to mention that also. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. I would also like to rise to recognize a hard working member of the team of the Nunavut Development Corporation, and also the Chairman of the local DEA of Rankin Inlet, Mr. Darren Nichols. Welcome to the Assembly.

>>Applause

I wish to make one remark about the Member from Igloolik and Hall Beach alluded to a community of Hall Beach. I wanted to thank that particular member because he was very involved in helping out when my brother had a heart attack and died, and the constituent member of my colleague should be recognized for his hard work during that time. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize an individual from my riding, Mr. Jason Tologanak. Jason and I worked together at the Kitikmeot Inuit Association. He worked for me at the Hamlet Council of Cambridge Bay, and Jason is now a Hamlet Councillor himself and I think he's the Chairman of the Community Economic Development Committee in Cambridge Bay. Welcome Jason.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize Johnny Ningeongan. Johnny was the President of Nunavut Association of Municipalities when I was the Vice-President. He stepped aside and left some big shoes for me to fill. I fill them long enough for him to come back and take over for a while. I am not sure what his plans are for the future but Johnny has done a lot of great work for municipalities in Nunavut. So welcome Johnny.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today on behalf of, I'm sure all the members, especially Mr. Tootoo, myself, and Mr. Okalik to welcome to the Gallery a long time staff member of the Assembly, and the family, the Rose family,

and the newest Rose, born on June 9, at 2:05 p.m. The little baby and the proud father are over there. If the members could just turn immediately to your right, there he is; the little guy, Luke William Theodore Arluk-Rose. Welcome to the Gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Congratulations and welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Ms. Brown.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize and acknowledge an individual from my constituency from Whale Cove, Manu Nattiq. Also, I knew this individual's parents; they used to live in Rankin Inlet but now they live in Whale Cove, and I would like to recognize this individual today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. Welcome to the Gallery. (interpretation ends) Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. (interpretation) Thank you. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 306 – 2(3): Airline Service to Grise Fiord

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

(interpretation ends) Last week my colleague from Kugluktuk raised an issue on airline services to the communities in Nunavut. The minister acknowledged that communities with an air service from only one airline are at a disadvantage, when compared to communities with service from more than one airline.

Yesterday I made a Member's Statement outlining concerns my constituents in Grise Fiord have because of the high cost, limited seats, and scheduling problems related to air travel.

Can the minister tell me what actions his department is taking to improve the level of air service available to my constituents in Grise Fiord? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister responsible for Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akasuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we want to work to improve this for the whole of Nunavut, for the communities who receive one airline schedule flight.

We would like to resolve this situation because this is very important. The airlines in Nunavut, I'm sure when I became the Minister responsible for Transportation, I will have to take on the responsibility to consult with them to make sure that they have scheduled flights, especially for the communities that receive one airline. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the private sector is responsible for providing air service to all communities in Nunavut. Can the minister tell me what role he feels that his department has to play in increasing the level of service available to all Nunavut communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we play a big role as a government to make sure that our constituents have proper transportation or access to any airlines that would want to serve the communities.

Our answer is to argue with the airlines to come up with ideas of how we can improve the transportation of community by community for our territory as our constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Mr. Speaker, the service that is provided to Grise Fiord is unique and different especially for those people who have to go on medical travel.

They encounter problems because they cannot travel to Iqaluit in one day and sometimes they have to overnight too. I wonder if the minister can assure me of what he is doing with the airlines to improve the service that is provided from Resolute Bay, if they go on medical leave.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government, we have to make sure that we properly serve our people in Nunavut; whether go for hospital reasons, personal or business travel.

(interpretation) As a government, we have to make sure that these services are provided. As a government, we have some agreements with some airlines and we are trying to make improvements in Nunavut to better serve our constituents. As the Minister of Transportation, I will do my best within Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Fuel Tax Rebate is geared toward miners, and it has been adjusted so that it can also be geared to hunters and trappers by the Department of Finance.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, what does the minister think about the idea of providing some form of Fuel Tax Rebate to airlines to encourage them to provide service to smaller communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think again, I have to work with the Minister of Finance in order for us to come up with ideas of how we could serve better airlines.

Maybe with the Fuel Tax Rebate, the costs of transporting people could go down. Again, we haven't discussed that. I think that we could start talking about how we could use this Fuel Tax Rebate for the airlines. Who knows what can happen in the next year or two. It is very premature to say that we'll do it, but we could start discussing this with the Finance Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Question 307 – 2(3): Fuel Tax Rebate Program

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. I know that information on applying for the new Fuel Tax Rebate that's available on the Government of Nunavut's website.

Many of my constituents do not have the same access to electronic information. Can the minister tell me what communication plans have been in place to ensure that all eligible harvesters have equal access to information regarding to the program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Informing the communities; we have worked with the Department Executive and Intergovernmental Affairs to inform the people in the communities through the local radio and we made it available through others. They're trying to find some ways of how they can inform the public.

All the members have received this information, the hamlet councils and hunters and trappers associations have been given that information. So that's what we have done up to today to inform Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. Can the minister tell if someone has been designated in each community for the purpose of answering questions related to the Fuel Tax Rebate Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we have not designated anyone to be the communications officer sort of thing, but we have informed the hamlet councils and HTO's and we have provided local radio stations with tapes that they can play in the local radios. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again Minister. I think it would be very good to have someone there to answer questions for some of the unilingual Inuit.

Can the minister tell me if there is a toll-free phone number that my constituents can use to contact someone for assistance in completing their application, and access detailed information for the Fuel Tax Rebate Program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware at this time of whether we have a toll-free number that can be utilized. That's a very good suggestion and I will definitely look into this, and if we do, I will inform the members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. (interpretation ends) Your final supplementary, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again, Minister. The gas tax rebate provided assistance for mining companies. What about those people who use their own gas to get their soapstone or other source of quarry that carvers use? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People who quarry their own, I'm not aware if they are included at this time, but we're only offering this to harvesters, hunters and trappers, and miners. I can certainly look into this and inform the member of how it is done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 308 – 2(3): Territorial Formula Financing

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Finance, it concerns recent news and developments about the federal budget and funding for Nunavut.

Mr. Speaker, a few days ago the long awaited Report on Territorial Formula Financing was released by the Federal Expert Panel which was established in 2005. Can the minister advise the House of what the next steps will be in working toward on the recommendations contained in the report, that appear to be beneficial to Nunavut and the north? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will be tabling a document under Tabling of Documents, but I can say on June 26, 27, and 28, the Ministers of Finance will be meeting and the Federal Finance Minister will be there and we will be able to ask him questions at that time.

For the Territorial Ministers, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, and the Yukon, we will be meeting with them and also meeting with our federal counterparts. So we are currently working on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the recent federal budget contains good news for Nunavut assuming the new funds for housing comes through for us; they announced \$300 million and \$200 million of this is for Nunavut. The federal budget stated that it's a one-time investment, and the Premier last week mentioned that he told the Prime Minister or the Minister of Finance that it was a good start.

So my question for the minister: can the minister tell the House what discussions he has had with his federal counterparts to include additional funds for housing in Nunavut in the future federal budgets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have not talked to the Federal Finance Minister in regard to this. So at this time I have not discussed this with the federal minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that candid answer. I hope that the minister will get an opportunity, as soon as possible, to stress to the Minister of Finance that we desperately need housing. \$200 million as the Premier said last week is a good start but certainly not sufficient for our needs.

Mr. Speaker, I recall in the minister's recent press release on the federal budget that he was disappointed that the federal government has not made any changes to the Northern Residency Deduction. I noticed last week that the Premier of the Northwest Territories publicly stated that this issue is being put on the backburner for the time being as far as the three territorial governments are concerned.

Mr. Speaker, can the minister clarify for us today what the Government of Nunavut's position is on this issue? I believe that changes to this area could be beneficial to all Nunavut residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we feel very strongly, especially the Nunavummiut and I have met with the federal minister on this. I have indicated to him and I will definitely bring this up again with him at the end of this month's meeting. I always bring this up when I meet with him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank the minister for that answer. I look forward to getting an update from the minister some time this summer, hopefully by the fall session.

Mr. Speaker, the previous federal government worked with the three territories to develop a new northern strategy. Part of that strategy involved providing some additional funding to Nunavut, Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Can the minister update us today on the status of the Northern Strategy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this currently being worked on by the Territorial Premiers; as Finance Ministers any way we can, we try and

help them. Every time we meet with our federal counterparts, it is progressing well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Rankin Inlet North, Mr. Curley.

Question 309 – 2(3): Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council

Mr. Curley: My question is for the Minister of Energy. According to the most recent Annual Report of the Utility Rates Review Council, which the Premier tabled on Monday, the URRC which revealed an application for Qulliq Energy Corporation for a fuel stabilization rider that was received on February 24, 2006.

The QEC application asked to continue the existing rider until September 30, 2006. The URRC also indicated in an annual report that council expect to submit a report to the Minister on the rider, on or before May 24, 2006. Has the report been received; if so, what did it recommend? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker(interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. Minister of Energy, Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The member is correct in his questioning. The report has been received and the recommendation by the URRC to the Power Corporation and the government was to continue the 3.98 cent fuel rider.

At the same time the Power Corporation was tasked to complete an external review on the corporation itself in regard to administrative as well as logistic and financial issues of the corporation. That also has been completed.

I have had an opportunity to sit down with the external reviewers as well as the board chair to speak on direct consultation with that. So the answer, to the member very quickly, was a continuation of the rider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: That confirmed that additional burden of electricity to rate in a modest 3.9 percent. On May 9, the Qulliq Energy Corporation issued a news release indicated that it has applied for a base rate adjustment of 6.1 percent.

According to URRC's Annual Report quote, the council has been in ongoing discussions with Qulliq Energy Corporation on an understanding rate increase. The URRC expect to see, in the near future, certain outstanding information. What is the status of Qulliq Energy Corporation's application for base rate increase? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank the member for raising the issue because it gives us an opportunity to speak about it in this public forum. As the member has known in the last sitting, we talked about the general re-application process and at that time, a little over 12 months ago; the Power Corporation received an increase of a little over 16 percent.

At the same time, in the URRC report they acknowledge that there was still a shortfall of 6.3 percent in the revenue base for the Power Corporation. The URRC said in that report which is, again, public knowledge because the report was tabled and has been available to the public, that the Power Corporation could apply for the extra 6.3 percent rate increase to make up that shortfall if they had followed several outstanding issues.

And I just mentioned earlier in my response that probably the largest one was completion of an external review by an independent group. That has been completed and the report has been filed.

What the corporation has done because, again, they have continued to cut back on expenses and have really done a very good job on the administrative side of the corporation is that instead of asking for the 6.3 percent, which is what the URRC acknowledged, the Power Corporation came forward and asked for 6.1 percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. 3.9 percent plus 6.1 percent in my calculation, indicates 10 percent possible increase for power rates for consumers, QC's May 9 news release also stated that, "The rate change filed this week does not include the anticipated fuel price increases in 2006 re-supply. The resulting fuel cost will be calculated and delivered to URFC in September 2006 as an adjustment to the existing fuel rate rider." How much of an increase in the fall should our consumers, homeowners, expect to see from this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member is in tune to what is happening in the world at large, and as we know, in Nunavut, we have no control over the pricing mechanisms that are in place for the world price of oil.

It is very difficult, right now, to say what that cost will be, not only to the consumer, but also to the government; 80 percent of the revenue generated by the Power Corporation comes directly from the government.

I need to correct for the record some of the things that the member has said. There wasn't a 3.9 percent increase, it was a 3.98 cent rider put on the power bills which is a prerequisite that's there, it has been acknowledged by utility companies across the country, and indeed, has been in place at different times in the history of Nunavut.

It is a rider to cover the extra cost of fuel. A rate increase is a permanent amount of money that will be put onto the rate, and as the members know, since 1998 there has only been one increase in the power rates. That was the past April of a little over 16 percent, which related to about 3 cents a kilowatt-hour.

So if the six percent amount went through, then the members, I am sure can figure out the basic math, that the increase would be a couple of cents a kilowatt hour. That is why the Premier moved very quickly, and put the subsidy amounts in, of 700 and 1,000 kilowatt hours. This means that during the peak period and the dark period and the coldest period, instead of it being subsidized for just 700 kilowatt hours, all Nunavummiut are subsidized up to 1,000 kilowatt hours.

So if the consumer keeps their power bills down below that amount, then they won't see an impact on the rate increase, because it is covered under the subsidy, however, the fuel subsidy rider of 3.98 cents, which will be in place until September 30, is on the bill of the consumer. How much that will increase, or if it will increase, will depend on the cost of fuel when we purchase it later this season.

And again, Mr. Speaker, I don't have any information to tell us what that will be yet; we haven't purchased or transported it. We are watching it very closely and the Minister of Finance is watching it very closely because we are the largest purchaser of fuel in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that the subsidies that were approved by this House were based on the 2004-05 fuel increases worldwide. Since then, there have been significant amount of increases, but there has not been any additional subsidies proposed by this government.

Why should the public take the minister's assurances that there will be a modest rate increase? Should the minister not consider additional exemptions to circumstances of consumers in Nunavut in view of the fact that we can no longer just pass on these rate increases, whether it's the fuel rate rider or not, because the cost of electricity in Nunavut is really exceptionally high and consumer rate base is so small that we can no longer afford it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand what the member is trying to relate, but I want to just add as the minister in the House that the choice of words, when the member says, you know, why should the people of Nunavut believe the assurances of the minister, that to me is impugning. I want to suggest to the member and to the House that the veracity of the comments of the minister are correct and what I suggested to the

minister and I believe *Hansard* will show and demonstrate that what I said was the veracity and the truthfulness of the comments.

What I can say for the record for the member, for the House, and for Nunavummiut is that the difference between the costs of fuel for the Government of Nunavut since 2003 for what we bought in 2005 is \$70 million. We paid \$70 million more than we did in 2003. Who pays for that, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, the people of Nunavut and the Government of Nunavut pay.

So if 80 percent of the customer base comes from the revenue bases from government, then that's what we'll pay. What I can say to the member is that the Government of Nunavut, through cross-subsidization, has guaranteed that rates remain. For example, 80 percent of all Nunavummiut live in social housing. That rate, no matter in Nunavut, is still 6 cents per kilowatt-hour and hasn't changed since the 90s.

The rates for commercial customers to residential customers who own their own homes have increased by the amounts we talked about; a little over 3 cents. So Mr. Speaker, again, we don't know what the rate increase may or may not be, it depends on the cost of oil.

And I said in an earlier comment that the Canadian Dollar now is over 90 cents. Last year, it was a little over 80 cents and that has helped us when we're buying fuel on the world markets because of the better exchange rate; so all of those factors have to be put in place.

Again, the Minister of Finance, the Cabinet, and the Minister for Petroleum Products are monitoring this situation everyday, and we are in the process right now to look at those costs. I will report back to the House and to the people of Nunavut when we know what those costs are.

However, I can say that there will no increase to the subsidy rate, the FSR, the Fuel Subsidy Rider, of 3.98 cents until at least after September 30, and the base rate of 6.1 percent is still before the URRC Committee and they provide the check and balance to the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I will just remind all ministers that you're responses should be made shorter, to the point, and based on the questions. I remind both sides of this House.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation) Thank you. Oral Questions. Mr. Mapsalak.

Question 310 – 2(3): Budget Carryovers

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Finance. This was a question I had brought up at an earlier date, but I'm asking it again for further clarification.

I am going to be asking these questions because the hamlets see approved budgets for the year coming, or approved budgets for a five-year term. I'll just use an example; Repulse Bay was supposed to get a nursing station but it's been repeatedly deferred. We're told that we spent a certain amount of money for that project and if this money is not used, what happens to that money that was originally budgeted for a particular project?

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the capital projects for this year, if funds are not used for a particular project, they might be referred to the New Year.

They can be carried over to the New Year, and if there is going to be a change it's usually carried over to the following year. I'm sure that this is going to be one of the questions in the House. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course we would like to know exactly what happens to the unused amounts of dollars. They are budgeted for particular projects.

I'm assuming that if you don't use that money at the local level, they are given back to the government because I don't think that you're allowed to keep the surplus. If the hamlets have a surplus, is it a requirement to give back the unused funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Government of Nunavut has unused funds, they would be given back to the federal government. If a capital project doesn't use the funds, then they would be deferred back to the department or they can be carried over to the New Year. Thank you.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier, this project that I was referring to have been deferred repeatedly over the years, and when you look at the finances, it seems like there has been money used for that intended project.

This has happened on more than one occasion in Nunavut and sometimes there is money budgeted for a particular project, and then the following year the money is gone without informing the communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All the departments, when they make their capital project estimates. If it's not going to go ahead within that particular year, then they can request to set aside those funds and carry them over, and the carryovers can be approved again. If the department does not expend the capital estimates or wants to make any project, rather than the ones that they were going to do, they have to request for permission.

It's up to the discretion of the departments as to how they want to deal with their unexpended funds. They can request a carryover, if they want. If they want to cancel the project, or if they don't want to work on the project anymore they have to request for permission, or they have to request for approval. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, as I stated earlier on that we have experienced this through the Nunavut Government more than once.

Do I understand that the departments, every time the department's ministers want to request a carryover, do they have to request for approval to carryover? If they do not agree with that could they go ahead as planned? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated earlier on, it's up to the discretion of the department ministers, more so than our department. We manage the finances for the whole of the government.

If the departments request for proposals and if they change their plans to make a different proposal within the year they have to request for approval. If they're approved the funding could be used for something else. That's how the system is set up right now. They follow the majority requests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 311 – 2(3): Lack of Airline Service to Sanikiluaq

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you could state "*Tasiujaqjuaq*" as my constituency's name, I would appreciate it. I will be asking in regard to the

community of Sanikiluaq. Perhaps during the fall session I will probably be bringing it up again. This will need to be resolved again before the fall session.

My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I have three main points in my question. This has been a concern in regard to the lack of toilet facilities on the airplane, the airline being too small, and one of them having one pilot without a co-pilot. For that reason I had asked the minister last week. Does the minister have an update for me now on that issue, to update the residents of Sanikiluaq and me? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk, Member for Hudson Bay. Minister for Health and Social Services, Minister Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. He had asked me this question on Friday in regard to the three concerns that he has.

I met with the deputy minister and spoke to the three concerns. They were asking questions and we wanted to find out when this agreement will come to an end. If we're going to come up with a new agreement we were considering that the community take part and be more involved.

So we're now reviewing the three points that you are concerned with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think this should be geared directly towards the new contract. This issue has to be resolved today rather than waiting for a new contract.

This is very difficult to be experienced by the patients. I don't think we necessarily have to wait for a new contract. This is a concern today. It needs to be resolved today. Could the minister tell the residents of Sanikiluaq she will try to resolve this situation today so that the patients can at least have a more comfortable ride? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the member raised the issue around the washrooms back in March I believe, those issues were discussed with the airline and as far as we were concerned the airline had met the terms and conditions of the contract.

The other issues around the size of the aircraft and the member's concern around one single pilot is new information that the member has brought forward as concerns. I have shared that information with my staff and we are looking into it.

To change the type of aircraft would be changes to the current contract. So we need to go through that process of evaluating what the conditions are of the contract as it is right now, and to move forward, we would have to make revisions to that contract.

So as it is right now, the staff has been instructed to look at that to start addressing the single pilot issue concern that you have and the single engine. But, as it is right now, those were not information that I had in March.

The issue around the washroom has been addressed and the member continues to raise that concern this week. So I have again brought that concern to my staff and my officials to look into.

So I want to reassure the member that we are looking into it again and I will report back to the member and to Sanikiluarmitut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. She said that the washroom facility issue had been addressed but it's not satisfactory to the people who travel on an over three-hour flight.

Like I said in the House, it's a portable toilet. It's not a washroom. It's behind the last seat of the airplane. My further question is; does the minister know how many aircraft types that company has, that are used by the Department of Health? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear the member's concern and he's telling me that it is not satisfactory in terms of the washrooms. I've heard that, and I've discussed that with my staff to look into.

So, again, I want to reassure your concerns have been conveyed to the department and will be discussed with the airline provider. Do I know what kind of aircrafts this company has? No, I don't.

If the member would like me to come back with the types of aircraft the company provides, and in terms of proper terms used for whether they are King Air, or what not, I don't know that. I can report back to the member on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 312 – 2(3): Employee Screening

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the minister responsible for Department of Human Resources.

Mr. Speaker, I know that with the high turn over rate that the government always has a challenge recruiting and retaining employees. That department is very busy in trying to do that.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the minister is when they get an application from an individual what process do they go through to verify the information that the applicant has provided on their application? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister for Human Resources, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the question, if I understood the question correctly, we work with all the departments. We work with the appropriate departments that are trying to hire or that have employment opportunities.

Yes, we use the priority hiring policy when we are reviewing the applications for jobs because that is our policy and it states on the guidelines. The Department of Human Resources assists the departments with the exception of the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Department of Education for hiring teachers. As an example.

We review the applicants along with the department. Any individual who has applied for a job, if they are interviewed and if they get a 60 percent point mark, then this individual can be considered.

Also we will note two issues, like if the applicant identifies the references, we request for two references. The applicant identifies his or her references upon request and sometimes we have to do criminal checks on the individual applicants.

When we are screening and during the interview stage, we interview them to see whether they have experience and how many years experience, and what kind of education they have and the language or languages spoken are considered. We also ask as to what kind of training they had done. So, those are the guidelines we use for hiring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know a number of years back we had a so called psychologist working at the Baffin Correctional Centre that was not really a psychologist.

I know with internet, scams are out there today. People can buy degrees and diplomas right off the net. I think we know individuals that may have done that in the past. What

mechanism does the Department of Human Resources do to verify the information? For example someone puts down that they have a Bachelor of Science or if they put down that they are a registered nurse or something like that. How does the department look at verifying that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Those applicants, the qualifications and the certificates or diplomas that they have are usually given to those people once they complete their education, especially when they earn their degrees or diplomas.

Those applicants who apply to the Nunavut Government are required to send those diplomas or certificates, and we ask for those. If we have a question, regarding their credibility, we definitely follow-up on them; along with their application forms, they have to send their diplomas and certificates to get a job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for that response.

Mr. Speaker, what would happen or what would the department do if they discovered that an applicant for a position had put false information on their application? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once the departments inform the Department of Human Resources, they would take some kind of action. If the Department of Health hires a doctor presuming that he/she was a doctor but they weren't, once the situation arises, then they would be dealt with accordingly.

Only when the circumstance arises...we don't have any plans for hypothetical situations. Only when the actual circumstance comes up, then we would know what to do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the minister aware of any instances like that where there was false information put on someone's application within his department or any of the other GN departments? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since I've been with this government I haven't heard anything at all where people put false information on their application. Up to today, I haven't heard of any. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 313 – 2(3): Child Tax Benefit Supplement

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

Mr. Speaker, during our March sitting I raised issues relating to the extremely high cost of living in Nunavut's High Arctic communities, especially my constituents. As I noted at the time, individuals who are on income support and especially those with small children often find it very difficult to make ends meet.

(interpretation ends) The federal government recently introduced the *Universal Childcare Benefit Act* as part of its 2006 budget. If the legislation passes it will come into effect on July 1, and parents with children under six years of age will receive a benefit of \$100 a month now that the details of this program has been confirmed.

Will the minister reveal to this House whether his departments will claw back the federal benefit of \$100 a month from benefits received by individuals on income support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Minister responsible for Education and Income Support, Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't take credit for that question. The short answer is no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All he said was no.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, all families with children are eligible to receive the Canada Child Tax Benefit, regardless of income, but the Child Tax Benefit Supplement is treated differently.

As the new federal Act transfer role, the Child Tax Benefit Supplement into universal childcare benefits, will the Government of Nunavut change the way it handles the supplements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I just indicated, no, the Government of Nunavut will not claw back any of the extra monies under this new plan by our federal government. We are disappointed that we weren't able to meet an agreement with the previous government on the Early Learning and Child Care Program, which would have given the territory over \$700,000 and the base amount on top of that.

So the quick answer to the member is no, which is good news for the parents of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 314 – 2(3): Elder Abuse in Nunavut

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Culture, Language, Elders and Youth. Earlier today the minister stated and announced that tomorrow June 15 is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. It is important that this awareness lasts not just one day, but also every day, all year long.

Last November I raised this issue and at that time I was not aware of any statistical information of how widespread the problem of elder abuse in Nunavut. Can the minister update this House on any initiatives underway or under consideration to measure the extent of elder abuse in Nunavut? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for Human Resource and Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is regarding the question of elder abuse, or who are being neglected. We don't have the statistics, like I mentioned before. It's hidden. We have a fairly good idea that such a thing exists, but we don't have the exact figures and we are currently working on this.

The *Inuit Qaujimaqatuqangit Katimajit* looked at some things and we have made some changes. For that reason I cannot give him a definite number as to how many elders are abused, but it is a problem, and like I mentioned before it is a hidden problem, and people don't feel comfortable talking about it.

So I can't tell him how widespread it is for the elders who are abused by their grandchildren or even by their children. When they get their old age pension checks, their children or grandchildren just take their money, so I can't give him a definite number. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It certainly is a hidden problem, and I remember when I was mayor and the President of NAM, we

used to hear about it quite a bit, and it's a difficult issue to address. A lot of people have difficulties coming forward with concerns of possible abuse situations in communities.

My question for the minister: can the minister provide further clarification on what kinds of systems or procedures are in place for individuals to report their fears or suspicions of elder abuse and have them addressed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We haven't even discussed those because we will rely on the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit* as to what step government should take next.

I would like to supplement my comment that in Clyde River and Cambridge Bay we have asked the counsellors to deal with the elders if they suspect that they are being abused and what strategic plans that they have to make or what options they have.

But to this present question from my colleague, this would be a very good issue to bring up to the *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit Katimajit* Council because, like we said, it is a hidden fact, and we definitely have to make improvements, and I heard his comment and I will definitely do something. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer and I am glad to hear that he's heard. The elders of Nunavut have a lot of faith in the minister to help them with the elders' abuse.

A few years ago, in Cambridge Bay, the local RCMP detachment had an initiative underway where they would visit all the elders to talk to them about elders' abuse I never saw a copy of the report, but I understand it was quite informative for our community. Perhaps the minister can contact the RCMP to see if he can get a copy of that report.

Mr. Speaker, abuse does not always take the form of violence. Neglect is another form of abuse. Can the minister update this House on what steps his department has taken to identify elders in our communities who may need additional support and services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister responsible for CLEY, Minister Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite understand the question. I do not know whether you were talking about the elders or the youth. I did not get the question, so I would like clarification please, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Mr. Peterson, could you please clarify your question for the minister.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for asking for clarification about the type of elder abuse. A lot of elder abuse is violence, but sometimes an elder who is locked away in his or her room does not get fed, they do not get taken to the health centres for health purposes and do not get taken out to community events.

I wanted to ask the minister if he could update the House on what the steps are to identify elders in our communities who may need additional support services from the government if their relatives will not help them. Can the government help them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you for that clarification. In regards to elder abuse, there is a variety of abuse. There are elders who are neglected, or who are not fed the traditional foods that they need, or are being abused by their children or their grandchildren by having their old age pensions taken away from them.

It is not only physical abuse. It could be anything abusive such as an elder who is intimidated, and being scolded by the children or by the grandchildren. There is a whole variety of abuse and we do want to help the elders, and I am sure that the Department of Health and Social Services would like to help them.

We want to know and understand what is happening. It is going to be World Elder Abuse Awareness Day tomorrow, and we want the full participation of the elders. Hopefully tomorrow, we will start hearing about elder abuse and about anything that will help us in protecting the elders.

If the government can help, they are more than welcome. There is our department who provides money to take the elders and the youth out on the land so that there would be healing between the elders and the youth, and to participate in doing cultural activities.

We can also work with the Inuit organizations on this subject. We are just not aware of how big the problem is and we have to find out. What we are trying to say is that we have to listen to the elders more and to respect them more because they are wise advisors. That is what we are trying to say. We just do not know where we can help them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Tapardjuk. I would like to remind the members to keep your responses as brief as possible and to the point. Your final supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was going to ask a long of question. I will keep it short.

The minister stated in his statement that education is important: the education to prevent the neglecting of elders. I would like to ask the minister if he would commit to regularly updating the House about the ongoing efforts of the Government of Nunavut to educate the public about the special needs and problems of the elderly and about the risk factors of abuse. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): In regards to the question, it is something that will be considered by the government.

I will consult with the departments. There is an Elders' Strategy that we will be using, but I can't say if I will be giving an update on a regular basis before I consult with my staff. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Question Period is now over. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Mr. Speaker, I request that we extend question for one or two more questions in lieu of the fact that we have an extended time until November and also we only have a couple of days to conclude and deal with some very serious issues we're facing with respect to energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, member. The member is requesting unanimous consent to extend question period. And, to remind you, question period has been extended. It will only be set for one hour. There are no nays. Question Period has been extended and we'll set the time clock for one hour. (interpretation ends) Thank you. Mr. Curley.

Question 315 – 2(3): Rate Increases for Energy

Mr. Curley: I would like to thank all the members for the unanimous consent.

Mr. Speaker, the issues that we are facing are really quite significant and important because we really don't know what's going to happen with the energy prices, as well as the rate increases and rate structure that Qulliq Energy Corporation is proposing.

I thank the minister for trying to clarify some of the proposed rates that the government is considering through a Utility Rate Review Council recommendation to the minister, but I would like to ask further a question.

The application contains that the public, the ratepayers are being asked to take additional costs over and above 6.1 percent to cover the deficit generated. If paid over 18 months, it would increase an additional 5.4 percent for the total of 11.5 percent.

Why should the minister consider approving such an additional 5.4 percent if it were collected over 18 months? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the asking for unanimous consent for question period, you have an opportunity as members to debate that on the pros and cons and so on. I believe, and I stand to be corrected, that to extend question period, it should be asked before the end of question period.

In our case, the question period was over, and had continued on for several minutes. So, I would ask the speaker to rule on that first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. I will have to rule you out of order and Question Period will proceed.

>> *Applause*

So I will ask you to respond to that question please. Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for your ruling. I have no problem clarifying and asking questions. The role of the House is to take questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The short answer to the member's question again: that is the reason we have the Utility Rate Review Council in place. The Power Corporation makes recommendations based on the rate, and we went through this in the last year, in the last 12 months.

The Power Corporation has asked for a 6.1 percent increase in rates, and that was what came out of the GRA. They've also indicated in their Act to the Utility Rate Review Council that there may be a deficit shortfall, which all members again aware, because it came out through the General Rate Application again in the last year. So they've asked, is there an opportunity within that structure to recoup those monies.

I can't say one-way or the other what the recommendations of the Utility Rate Review Council will be. Again that provides a check and balance for Nunavummiut. I may have, as members know a year and a half ago, we went through a consensus of people saying it is going to be 80 percent, 100 percent, 70 percent, 60 percent; and it turned out to be only 16 percent.

So I think that should, hopefully, put the members at ease. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. The minister was attempting to clarify what exactly the Utility Rate Review Council would recommend. I also want to remind the minister that he can either accept or reject the application, or recommendation, from the Utility Rate Review Council. I believe the minister has that prerogative to either recommend a rejection or approval.

It is now clear the Nunavut Power Corporation is recommending that they be allowed to recover the deficit that may be incurred, or may not be incurred from April 1, 2005 to October 1, 2006.

Could the minister say to the ratepayers of Nunavut that ratepayers will not be responsible for covering the deficit, whether it is done through the application process, directly to his desk, and be responsible for paying the deficit of Nunavut Power Corporation, because this is not fair? It could be a mismanagement of some sort, and therefore I urge the minister to be very clear that he not consider passing that onto the rate payers because if paid over one year it would be 14.5 percent in total. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand the member's concern. Again I don't want to get into answering hypothetical questions: what if the Utility Rate Review Council report is this or why is it this? That's what happened almost a year ago: what if it's 80 percent, and 100 percent, and so on. I don't think we should go through that exercise.

What I can say is that we have the Utility Rate Review Council in place. The Utility Rate Review Council has already said that a rate shock of more than 15 percent wouldn't be permitted. That's why they allowed the increase that we saw a year ago.

So I guess that's the best answer that I can give. We have to be sure that the independence of the Utility Rate Review Council is moving forward, and they do provide that check and balance, as they have demonstrated time and time again on these types of issues. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it is not only this member that is concerned with the rate shock that our ratepayers are facing. It is a serious proposal that has been made by the Nunavut Power Corporation to the Utility Rate Review Council. There is no possibility, or information that we have that it has been rejected.

Could the minister assure the public of Nunavut that they will not be responsible for covering the deficit from April 1, 2005 to October 2006, because a chartered accountant might not verify these statements? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I can't determine what the recommendations will come forward from the Utility Rate Review Council; that's why they're tasked to evaluate all of that. Part of their task is to evaluate the rate shock, and so on, and so forth.

I would suggest to you that what we've seen over the last several times with the Utility Rate Review Council, that they've taken all those in place and indeed, looked at the consumer to make sure that, in fact, isn't there.

I would suggest to you that we have to let the Utility Rate Review Council do their work. They will report back. When they do that they will have to opportunity to look at what the recommendations are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister Picco. Your final supplementary, Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I think it may be hypothetical, but I don't believe it is hypothetical when NPC recommends to the URRC that they may have to include a deficit that has been incurred.

I am urging the minister that, in terms of policy, he can say to this House that deficits should be not be passed on to the ratepayers of Nunavut because they should be addressed through a different arrangement.

So could the minister, once again, clarify exactly what he means that this may be just a hypothetical situation? If it's true that URRC does recommend that deficit incurred to be recovered through the additional 4.5 or 5.4 percent, will the minister assure the public that he will not support this kind of recommendation? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the member knows and the House knows is that the Utility Rates Review Council is reviewing an application, and in that application they ask for 6.1 percent, and he said there might be an opportunity to recover some of their deficit and that's the amount the member is talking about.

The URRC will take all of that into consideration; they will make the recommendations and I will come back to the member. It would not be correct for me before the URRC has even had a chance to report to say what it should be and should not be, then that would be interfering with the semi-judicial board, that's why they had that independence.

So, no, I'm not prepared to say what the recommendations should or should not be, that's the job of the URRC; they will come back and then we will have an opportunity to look at it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. So I'm going to stop the clock for now and we're going to take a break for 20 minutes, and once we come back after the break, the Question Period will continue.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:32 and resumed at 15:54*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you for coming back. We are on Item 6. Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 316 – 2(3): Licensing of Health Professionals

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. I understand that there is a...I don't know if it's a board, or a division within the Department of Health and Social Services that looks at any professional licensing issues.

I would just like to ask the minister, I think it's a professional licensing board that look into any concerns or investigations for people with professional licenses. I was just wondering if she's aware if they have had any investigations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the Department of Health there is a division and it's in Kugluktuk. There is a Professional Practice Division that looks at all of the licenses for professionals such as physicians or dentists and so on, and that is within the Department of Health.

Have we investigated matters for any person before they can practice in Nunavut; there is a committee that reviews a person's credentials and that committee will evaluate all of the person's background before they are licensed to practice dentistry or physician services and so on in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if that's also for nurses and if they have done any investigations specifically into that area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Before we proceed, I would just like to comment about the volume problems some channels appear to be having. It's probably fluctuating for some unknown reason.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The volume was off when he asked the last question. Can I ask him to just repeat that? Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Your request is granted. Mr. Tootoo, can you please repeat your question.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, as long as it doesn't count as a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker, my question was; I was just wondering if that area also looked at licenses for nurses and if any specific investigations have been done in that specific area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Professional Practice Division of Department of Health looks at the credentials of physicians, dentists, certified nursing assistants and licensed practical nurses in order to practice in those fields.

As an example that process goes through, for registered nurses, that would be outside that division and that process is managed by the Nunavut Registered Nurses Association for Nunavut and NWT. It's a combined process, but they work very closely to ensure people are licensed at both fronts.

So the information from the Registered Nurses Association would be shared by them to us before those individuals can practice nursing or dentistry and so on in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister for answering one part of the question but the other part was: has her department received any complaints or has that division done any investigations into any cases where someone may be questioning the credentials of a nurse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for not responding to that question, but yes, anyone can, at any time, put forth a complaint to the division, the Professional Practices Unit of Department of Health, or if it's related to a registered nurse, anyone can file that complaint to the Registered Nurses Association who ensures that nurses are licensed to practice in each jurisdiction. So there are those two processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I would like to ask the same question: has her department or has that division received any complaints or done any investigations specifically to anyone with questioning someone's credentials for being a nurse?

Specifically, have they and what were the findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have investigated a number of complaints in different areas and depending on the case, the results would be different; some favourable and some not.

So we have investigated on complaints from people that have come forward and sometimes it is favourable and sometimes it is not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. I do not have any other names on my list on Oral Questions. Mr. Tootoo.

Question 317 – 2(3): Case Investigation Process

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my question again to the minister of Health and Social Services: in an instance where an investigation is done and there were unfavourable findings in the investigation, what process would be followed?

Would that department or that division, through her department inform, say if that individual worked for another government department or someone else, what would be the process that would follow once they come back with an unfavourable finding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the one situation that I am aware of that has not been favourable, that information was communicated to that individual. If it were the case of a person that is practising nursing, physician, or dentistry we would have to deal with that within the Department of Health. You cannot practice in that field within the Department of Health positions unless you have been registered to practice by this division, and if you are not then you cannot practice.

So in the case the registration is an annual registration, just like if you are a lawyer, you have to then register in the Northwest Territories, Alberta, or British Columbia. It is the same for professionals. That insures that the people that are carrying out those jobs as physicians are qualified to do their jobs.

In the instance that I am aware of, the individual was not an employee of the Department of Health, and that information was communicated with the individual directly that the person was not registered to practice in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did the Department of Health notify the government department, if it was a government department that that individual was working for, of their findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the concern was raised with the appropriate department. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is that something she would have conveyed herself to the appropriate minister or was it more of officials-to-officials exchange of information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The professional practice unit has conveyed that information to my deputy and that was conveyed to the appropriate deputy in regards to the finding of that particular investigation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpreted): Thank you, Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister indicate if she shared that information herself with the appropriate minister or if she was aware if the appropriate minister is aware of that situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had conveyed the concerns that were expressed by my staff to the appropriate minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Thank you. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. Item 11. Reports of Standing Committee and Special Committees. Mr. Alagalak.

I apologize. Even though the light is off we can hear you. You may proceed, Mr. Alagalak. It still works, even though it doesn't light.

Item 11: Reports of Standing Committee and Special Committees

Committee Report 004 – 2(3): Report on the Review of Nunavut Arctic College

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased to have the opportunity today to provide the House with the Standing Committee on Health and Education's Report on the Review of Nunavut Arctic College.

One of the roles of the Standing Committee on Health and Education is to provide support and direction on issues that relate to the mandate of the Department of Education.

As members will recall, during deliberations in this House in March of 2005, a number of members, including the Minister of Education, expressed their support for the idea of consulting directly with Nunavut communities to hear what Nunavummiut has to say about adult learning.

Following those deliberations, the Standing Committee on Health and Education was empowered by way of a motion to conduct a review of Nunavut Arctic College. This motion was adopted by the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut on March 16, 2005.

The committee's review process began with the consideration of several documents, beginning with the landmark 1982 Special Committee Report, *Learning, Tradition and Change*, which first proposed the establishment of Arctic College.

Committee members reviewed a number of reports relating to the role of Nunavut Arctic College and the challenges faced by northerners in the area of adult education and its relationship with employment and the economy. The committee then sent correspondence to the Minister of Education requesting comprehensive baseline information from Nunavut Arctic College, in addition to the related materials, such as the full text of the *External Review of Nunavut Arctic College* that was commissioned by the Minister of Education.

A review of the baseline information allowed members of the committee to achieve a comprehensive and up-to-date picture of the programs delivered by Nunavut Arctic College, the status of its operations, and the relative successes of adult students across Nunavut. Members of the committee would like to thank the Minister of Education for making this information available.

In preparation for its public hearings, the committee developed a discussion guide. The discussion guide certainly helped to encourage and focus public discussion on many issues. The committee was pleased to receive a total of 55 completed discussion guides. An additional 33 written submissions were also received many of them addressing specific questions posed in the discussion guide.

The committee held public hearings in seven communities across Nunavut and also held meetings at the three regional campuses of Nunavut Arctic College.

Before presenting our findings, the standing committee would like to thank and acknowledge the students, educators, and a number of the public who took time to contribute to the committee's review of Nunavut Arctic College.

In particular, the committee would like to recognize the support, assistance, and contribution of NAC's three campus directors: Fiona Buchan-Corey in Cambridge Bay, Mike Shouldice in Rankin Inlet, and Peesee Pitsiulak in Iqaluit who made our campus meetings such as success.

Mr. Speaker, throughout the standing committee's review of Nunavut Arctic College, a number of themes and issues consistently emerged. These included:

- Student preparedness;
- Literacy and upgrading;
- Prior experience and academic qualifications;
- Funding for students and programs;
- Services and support provided by the college;
- Inuit language and culture;
- Curriculum;
- Linking education and employment;
- Program delivery; and
- Staffing.

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Health and Education recognizes that a number of strategic proposals directly relating to the operations and services of Nunavut Arctic College are currently being considered by the Department of Education and the Government of Nunavut as a whole. These include the recently tabled Nunavut Adult Learning Strategy and the development of a new *Education Act*.

The standing committee noted that on June 9, 2006, the Minister of Education tabled Nunavut Arctic College's reply to his April 25, 2005, letter of expectation. Committee members look forward to reviewing this document.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow Members of the Standing Committee on Health and Education will be presenting a series of recommendations based on the findings of our review.

The standing committee is confident that these recommendations will serve to complement these and other existing initiatives to strengthen and reaffirm Nunavut Arctic College's key role in the future of our territory.

My colleagues will read the recommendations, beginning with the Committee Co-Chair, Levi Barnabas.

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

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

Recommendation #1:

The standing committee recommends that the Minister of Education table in the Legislative Assembly an updated status report on Nunavut Arctic College management's actions in response to the recommendations of the External Review.

Recommendation #2:

The standing committee recommends that Nunavut Arctic College continue to work with the Crown Agency Council on its governance model to clarify (interpretation) and strengthen relationships between the Board of Governors, the president, the minister, and the public they serve. (interpretation ends)

Recommendation #3:

The standing committee recommends that a multi-year Nunavut Arctic College Strategic Plan be developed. This plan should include clearly stated goals and the steps necessary to implement them. It should be tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the same time as the Department of Education's Annual Main Estimates and Departmental Business Plan.

The standing committee further recommends that the Department of Education support that plan by fostering connections between secondary school and post-secondary education by developing and providing such resources and initiatives as career guidance counselors and Nunavut Arctic College outreach programs.

Recommendation #4:

The standing committee recommends that Nunavut Arctic College let instructors instruct, counselors counsel, and administrators administer by establishing a dedicated fund-raising unit that will focus on identifying and accessing opportunities for third-party funding, sponsorships, and long-term sponsorships.

My colleague from this committee will deal with the rest of the recommendations, Mr. Evyagotailak.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Recommendation # 5:

The standing committee recommends that Nunavut Arctic College improve its delivery of services from the headquarters in Arviat with the specific focus on improvement to the Student Financial Assistance Program.

The standing committee further recommends that the Office of the President of the Nunavut Arctic College be permanently located in Iqaluit as are almost all the other deputy minister level positions in Nunavut.

Recommendation # 6:

The standing committee recommends that Nunavut Arctic College should provide education and training to meet the broadest possible range of needs and opportunities facing our Nunavummiut.

The standing committee further recommends that the *Public College Act* be amended to clarify and support the governance relationship between Nunavut Arctic College and other institutions providing adult learning in Nunavut.

Recommendation # 7:

The standing committee recommends that Nunavut Arctic College develop and implement a plan for strengthening the quality of instruction at the Arctic College including performance measurements, course evaluations and opportunities for professional development.

Recommendation # 8:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut build on its 2002 review of the Student Financial Assistance Program and seek to enhance and equalize support for students enrolled in all college programs by providing training incentives and adequate financial support; with specific attention to, and emphasis on meeting the needs of students with dependent children.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. Tootoo, will read the rest. Thank you.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my committee members.

Recommendation # 9:

The standing committee recommends that Nunavut Arctic College student services be improved with a focus on the areas of access to counselors, tutors, childcare and housing.

Recommendation # 10:

The standing committee recommends that course curricula and delivery models for Adult Basic Education be reviewed and improved with an emphasis on providing cohesive, up-to-date materials and units of delivery.

The standing committee further recommends that Adult Basic Education be funded at the same level as core-funded programs.

Recommendation # 11:

The standing committee recommends that Nunavut Arctic College increase the number of adult educators allocated to each community through the development and implementation of a plan for training and employing qualified Northern adult educators.

The standing committee further recommends that the Nunavut Arctic College ensure that adequate information on its courses and programs is made available at all community learning centres.

The standing committee further recommends that the Department of Education amend the responsibilities of District Education Authorities to allow them to provide input and support in addressing community educational needs at all levels, and ensuring that potential students are identified, encouraged, and supported in enrollment.

Recommendation # 12:

The standing committee recommends that the Government of Nunavut provide base funding for the development of distance education resources and technology that could be made available for use by the college and other stakeholders, including health professionals.

The standing committee further recommends that Nunavut Arctic College ensures the provision of and improved access to up-to-date information technology for all students.

Recommendation # 13:

The standing committee recommends that Nunavut Arctic College develop and implement Inuit language and cultural components for all programs of Nunavut Arctic College.

The standing committee further recommends that Nunavut Arctic College establish, fund, and fill positions for Elders and Nunavut Arctic College counsellors, resource personnel and *Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit* instructors.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to return the floor back to our Chairman, Mr. Alagalak, to conclude. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Alagalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In closing I would like to thank all Members of this House for their support of our work. We look forward to seeing great accomplishments in this area over the coming years. I would note that the Standing Committee has requested that the government table a comprehensive response to this report and its recommendations.

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

>>Applause

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Alagalak. 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. All those in favour. Opposed. Abstention. (interpretation) The motion is carried.

Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Thank you, Mr. Peterson.

Item 12: Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Committee Report on Bills 006 – 2(3): Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 15, an Act to Amend the *Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, which has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability, and that the Bill, as amended, is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 15 be moved into the Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. The member is seeking unanimous to have Bill 15 immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays. There are no nays. Bill 15 is referred to the Committee of the Whole for today.

Item. 12. Reports of Committee on the Review of Bills. Mr. Curley.

Committee Report on Bills 007 – 2(3): Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 19, an Act to Amend the *Revolving Funds Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development and that the Bill is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 19 moved into the Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Curley. The member is seeking unanimous consent to have Bill 19 immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 19 is referred to the Committee of the Whole for today.

Item 12. Reports of Committee on the Review of Bills. Mr. Tootoo.

Committee Report on Bills 008 – 2(3): Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act #2

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act #2*, has been reviewed the Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability and that the bill is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I too am seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) to have Bill 21 moved into the Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. The member is seeking unanimous consent to have Bill 21 immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 21 is referred to the Committee of the Whole for today.

Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Mr. Mapsalak.

Committee Report on Bills 009 – 2(3): Bill 22 – Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that Bill 22, *Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act*, has been reviewed by the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit*, and that the bill is ready for consideration in the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 68(6) and have Bill 22 move into the Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. The member is seeking unanimous consent to have Bill 22 immediately referred to the Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Bill 22 is referred to the Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you.

Item 12. (interpretation ends) Review of Bills. (interpretation) Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Netser.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 133 – 2(3): Disaster Compensation Policy Improved Schedule A1

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Improved Disaster Compensation Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please provide the tabled documents to the Clerk's table. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Tabled Document 134 – 2(3): Achieving a National Purpose – Improving Territorial Formula Financing & Strengthening Canada’s Territories: Executive Summary (May 2006)

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Achieving a National Purpose – Improving Territorial Formula Financing and Strengthening Canada’s Territories: Executive Summary (May 2006). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. Please provide your tabled documents to the Clerk’s table. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Simailak.

Tabled Document 135 – 2(3): Response to Ministers from Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Development Corporation & Nunavut Housing Corporation Regarding Letters of Expectation

Tabled Document 136 – 2(3): Grants and Contributions GN Report for Legislative Assembly for the Year Ending March 2005

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents: Response to the Letter of Expectation from the Nunavut Arctic College, Nunavut Development Corporation and Nunavut Housing Corporation, and also the Grants and Contributions Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Please provide the tabled documents to the Clerk’s table.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Tapardjuk.

Tabled Document 137 – 2(3): Workplace Harassment Policy

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Workplace Harassment Policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tapardjuk. Please provide the tabled document to the Clerk’s table. Thank you.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents.

Tabled Document 138 – 2(3): Auditor General’s Report on the Workers’ Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut

Tabled Document 139 – 2(3): Integrity Commissioner Annual Report April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

Tabled Document 140 – 2(3): Elections Nunavut Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly by the Chief Electoral Officer April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. I would like to table the following documents: Statistics Report. I'm pleased to table the Report of the Auditor General on the Audit of the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories requested this report. The Auditor General is in the process of completing the translation of the report and once I receive it, I will table it at our next meeting.

(interpretation ends) I am pleased to table the Annual Report of the Integrity Commissioner for the period ending March 31, 2006.

And also, I am pleased to table the Annual Report of the Chief Electoral Officer for Nunavut for the period ending March 31, 2006.

Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Brown.

Tabled Document 141 – 2(3): Fire Marshall – 2005 Annual Report

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document: Office of the Fire Marshall 2005 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Please provide the tabled documents to the Clerk's table.

Item 13. Tabling of Documents. 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. (interpretation ends) Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. (interpretation) Item 19. (interpretation ends) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. We will be dealing with Bills 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, and 22 with Mr. Barnabas in the Chair.

We will take a five-minute break while we are getting things ready.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 16:33 and Committee resumed at 16:46*

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

Chairman (Mr. Barnabas) (interpretation): I would like the Committee to come to order. We have the following items to deal with Bill 17, 18, 15, 19, 21, and 22. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to review the following bills in order: Bill 15, Bill 19, Bill 21, Bill 22, and Mr. Chairman, then report progress. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. Does the committee that we deal with Bill 15 first?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Now I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance if he has opening remarks. Mr. Simailak.

Bill 15 – An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens & Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to appear before members today to speak about Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens & Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*.

This bill provides a process of tax relief for eligible senior citizens and disabled persons living in the Municipal Taxing Authority, or MTA, and the General Taxation Area, or GTA, of 100 percent. The Department of Finance will work jointly with the Department of Community and Government Services, given their responsibilities for the GTA and the MTA.

Finance provides a subsidy directly to eligible residents in the GTA, while CGS provides contribution to the City and the City in turn provides tax relief to eligible residents in the MTA.

The amendment to the existing statute is needed to reflect the Financial Management Board's decision to change the current tax relief from 50 percent to 100 percent for seniors and disabled persons in the Municipal Taxation Area.

Such direction is supported by this government's mandate and its obligations set out in *Pinasuaqtavut*. Further, the increased tax relief will ease the financial burdens on those seniors and disabled persons who own and reside in their own homes in Nunavut.

I would be pleased to answer any questions from members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Simailak. (interpretation ends) Do you have witnesses that you would like to bring to the table?

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the...I apologize. (interpretation ends) Bear with me; this is my second day as the Chair. Does the committee agree to bring witnesses to the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses to the witness table.

Thank you. Minister Simailak, please introduce your officials for the record.

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

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. (interpretation ends) Does the Chairman of the Standing Committee have any comments? Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has reviewed Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, with the Minister and his officials.

The standing committee is in support of the principle of the bill, which is to increase support to senior citizens and disabled persons by increasing the possible Property Tax exemption from 50 percent to 100 percent.

Members of the Legislative Assembly have consistently advocated for and supported measures to reduce economic hardships facing elders who own their own homes. Members strongly supported the Nunavut Housing Corporation's recently announced Seniors and Disabled Persons Preventative Maintenance Program.

Property tax relief for seniors and disabled persons will be increasingly important as hamlets choose to transition to Municipal Taxing Authority status. Members noted that the recently tabled discussion paper titled "Municipal Tax Programs" indicates that property tax bills will likely increase under a municipal taxing regime.

Bill 15 was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on March 10, 2006. Subsequent to its introduction, the Committee met with the sponsoring minister to review the Bill at the clause-by-clause stage. During the meeting, members raised concerns that the amendment could result in some homeowners taking advantage of the new amendment by including seniors or disabled persons as part owners of their residence for the sole purpose of property tax relief.

Members also raised concerns that economic need should be considered in the application process to ensure that this amendment is focused on those in most need and does not benefit people who have substantial means.

Members strongly encourage the minister to review the impacts of the new legislation in terms of lost revenue and to draft regulations ensuring that amendments to the Act allowing for part-owners to qualify for exemption does not allow for the exploitation of seniors or disabled persons.

That concludes my opening comments. The Standing Committee recommends passage of the Bill as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As outlined in our *Integrity Act*, I would just like to formally inform members of the House that I have a possible conflict of interest with this piece of legislation and will excuse myself from any of the deliberations, questioning, and voting on this piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Are there any general comments? Thank you. I have no more members on my list for general comments. We will now proceed with a clause-by-clause review of Bill 15, starting with page...Bill 15, *An Act to Amend the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act*, reprint. 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: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I actually had my hand up for Clause 2. I just wanted to ask the minister; under the eligible property definition, we discussed this at standing committee. He indicated through the standing committee meeting that he would commit to including the definition for a condo. We do have a lot of condos going up in Nunavut, so we wanted that definition in there.

Will the minister commit to include that in the legislation at a later? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we will commit to that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We'll proceed. We were on clause 4. Clause 5. Do you agree?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Now, is the committee agreed to Bill 15 as a whole?

Some members: Agreed.

Chairman: Are you agreed that Bill 15 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Minister. You can go back to your seat. I would also like to thank your officials.

I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Community and Government Services to make her opening remarks. Ms. Brown.

Bill 19 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my pleasure to be here today regarding Bill 19, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*.

The Petroleum Product Division operates under the *Petroleum Products Revolving Fund Act*. The Petroleum Product Division operating costs are financed through a revolving fund that provides the resources to purchase and distribute the fuel consumed annually in the communities.

The revolving fund provides working capital advances to finance inventory, accounts receivable, and operating expenses. It is paid back through sales of fuel. Mr. Chairman, the current authorized limit of the fund is \$110 million. The continued increases in fuel

prices means that the fund limit is inadequate for Petroleum Product Division to meet its financial obligations during the 2006 re-supply.

The limit must be increased in order to allow sufficient room for the purchase of the fuel supply this year. After consultation with the Department of Finance, it was determined that an increase to \$150 million is required to ensure that Petroleum Product Division meets its financial obligations under the Act.

This will provide a small margin of safety for currently unknown factors, such as further substantial increases in oil prices. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Brown. (interpretation) Members we're dealing with Bill 19. So I would like to ask Ms. Brown if she's going to bring her witnesses down to the witness table.

Hon. Levinia Brown (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you can escort them to the witness table.

Minister Brown, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my immediate left is my Deputy Minister, Mr. Tom Rich, and to my immediate right is Mr. Mike Rafter, Director of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Ms. Brown. (interpretation ends) Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have any opening comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley (interpretation): The Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Development reviewed Bill 19, an Act to Amend the *Revolving Funds Act*, with Minister Brown and her officials on June 14, 2006.

The bill is quite straightforward. The standing committee recognizes that its intent is to ensure that adequate funds exist for the bulk purchases and transportation of fuel to Nunavut communities.

Members dealt with a similar amendment almost exactly two years ago. At that time members expressed their concerns with respect to the rising costs of fuel products in the world market and committee members urged the minister to find innovative ways to minimize the impact of increases on Nunavummiut.

It is important to note that since April 1, 1999 the level of the Petroleum Products Revolving Fund has increased from \$55 million. The bill before us today will fully increase the limit to \$150 million, as the minister stated earlier. In other words, the fuel has almost tripled in four years.

In 2004 the committee recommended that the minister undertake a detailed review of how petroleum products are purchased and delivered in order to ensure that the Revolving Fund is self-sustaining.

Committee members are also pleased that the government has brought forward amendments to the *Financial Administration Act* to allow more flexibility in the purchase of bulk fuel.

The standing committee reviewed Bill 19 and recommends its passage by all members. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Are there any general comments? I have no members on my list for general comments. We will proceed clause by clause of Bill 19. Clause 1, do you agree? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Just for the record, I would like to ask the minister or deputy that bulk purchases will now include all of the fuel supplies of NPC that is part of the all the purchase of this particular bill will be handling. Thank you.

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

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Are there any further questions under clause 1?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Clause 2. Do you agree?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree to the bill as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members that Bill 19 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Ms. Minister, you may go back to your seat and thank you for appearing before the committee and I would like to thank the officials.

Thank you. We will deal with Bill 21. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance to make his opening remarks. Mr. Simailak.

Bill 21 – An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act #2 – Consideration in Committee

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak about the proposed amendments to the *Financial Administration Act #2*.

Mr. Chairman, with the increase in costs to purchase the annual consumption of fuels, the Financial Management Board directed that the option of fixing the price of fuel purchases through some type of financial hedging instrument be explored.

Based on discussions with market experts, it is recommended that the Government of Nunavut consider a hedging strategy to manage the price volatile risks during the hurricane season, which is a purchase period for the fuel use supply.

Before the Government of Nunavut can proceed to use financial instruments to hedge purchases, amendments to the *Financial Administration Act* are required.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that committee members may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. I would like to ask you if you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table. Mr. Simailak.

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

Chairman: Does the committee agree to bring witnesses to the table?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant at Arms, can you escort the witnesses to the table? Thank you.

(interpretation ends) Before we introduce the witnesses, I would like to let members know that Bill 21 has a red sticker for you to keep track on this bill. Mr. Minister, now I ask you to introduce your witnesses. Thank you.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On my right is Pauloosie Suvega, Assistant Deputy Minister of Finance, and on my left Mr. Green, also with the Department of Finance. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Simailak. Does the Chair of the Standing Committee have comments? Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Accountability has reviewed Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act #2*, with the minister and his officials.

The standing committee recognizes that the issue of energy prices is a challenging one. For some time, members have urged the government to explore innovative ways of addressing this issue, and this bill would allow the Government of Nunavut to use financial hedging instruments to purchase fuel, which could result in cost savings for the government and so on to the consumers.

The standing committee recognizes that there is a degree of risk involved in this approach. During the minister's appearance before the standing committee, members posed questions on the status of the development of the government's new risk management policy in this area.

Members were pleased to receive a commitment from the minister that this policy, as well as the government's new Investment Policy will be tabled here in the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee would also recommend that the government report annually to the Legislative Assembly on results of its activities in these areas.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening comments.

The standing committee recommends passage of this bill. We wish to push it over the hedge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Are there any general comments? Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you. This is more of statement. As well, if the minister wants to answer it; in his opening remarks, to the committee as well as the standing committee, the minister mentioned volatility risks during the hurricane season.

I believe we are...I think there are volatility risks not only for hurricane season. As we know they packed it on. Maybe the minister can clarify that as well because the results of volatility that are current the respective Middle East situation. I would think that the price of oil would tend to impact it as well.

So, maybe for the record, the minister may want to include that possibility.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we can certainly include that as another risk factor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any more general comments from the members? Thank you. I don't have anybody on my list. I think we can proceed to go clause by clause. We'll start off with Bill 21, (interpretation ends) *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act #2*. 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: Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I welcome the minister and his officials to the witness desk. I would just like to ask the minister if he or one of his officials for the record could provide a clear definition of what hedging entails for the readers of the *Hansard*. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Green can give a clear definition. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Green.

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Basically, I'll summarize the increments that are Section 3. Basically those are different types of financial interests that you can buy through broker's firms or financial agencies. And, those types of instruments are used to...each commodity purchase such as fuel, gold, and many other different commodities, so, they're basically just financial instruments that you can use to offset any increase in some of those types of commodities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Green. Can the minister or Mr. Green explain how the use of hedging will help us save money on an annual basis? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In terms of the ancient strategies, normally what most...(inaudible)...they can do that. In times when the fuel prices are very volatile and it is a strong indication that the price of fuel would increase over time or even during our current raises by season.

If there is a major disaster on land that results from a hurricane, there tends to be spikes in the fuel prices. In basically what the financial instruments are doing is they try to buy a few other things that commit to buying fuel at a certain...and those financial instruments are used to try and stabilize the price of fuel during those periods. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Green. A lot of people would think that there is a considerable risk associated with hedging. My question is why the Government of Nunavut is proposing this. Could you, for the record, give us an outline of the amount of risk associated with hedging policy to purchase fuels? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As part of the development for the Risk Management Strategy Policy, that is one of the key areas that we would certainly be looking at in terms of when we develop the policies; try to identify the risks to the Government of Nunavut if we were to run into such policies.

We have been provided with a proposal for Risk Management Policy from that consulting group. We received a proposal late yesterday afternoon. We have not had an opportunity yet to sit down and evaluate the costs of that to recommend what they are proposing.

At the same time, we have not had an opportunity to identify the risks, but as part of the Risk Management Policy that will be developed in the Government of Nunavut and approved by both the Financial Management Board and the Cabinet.

We will certainly have those risks identified. So at this point in time, I mean from the information that I am told from those consultant firms, the risks to the Government of Nunavut at this point in time would be if we were to go out and we anticipate the increase in fuel costs because the increase includes all the prices in the markets, and is the price of fuel were to drop there would be a cost incurred by the Government of Nunavut in that regard.

At this point in time, all I can is that we have not...(inaudible)...of all the risks and identified them, but it will be part of the...(inaudible)...Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister and Mr. Green for that answer. I guess the opposite of that is if he went out and bought fuel of barrel of oil at \$70, I think that is the current price, and lock that price in, and then if fuel increase to \$80 a barrel over the next year, then you are saving money.

The downside is if it drops from \$70 down to \$60. There is that risk. But there is the opposite, if you go lock in \$70 and go to \$80. I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. I do not think there was a question. Mr. Curley.

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The very same committee review of this particular bill the minister and your officials indicated that, as Mr. Green indicated earlier that you are working on the policy guidelines for this particular legislation.

My question is: can you assure this House that any mechanism or using this particular vehicle will not occur until the Cabinet has fully approved the quality guidelines? Can I get some assurance on that, please? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, any policy would have to be approved by both Cabinet and FMB before its put into use. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Yes, I believe that this is a very complex kind of guideline that will be considered by the minister and the Cabinet. Having said that, could the minister assure this House that once the guidelines have been approved by the Cabinet that you will table the policy guidelines to the House? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I will commit to doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a further question. The bill does not contain a provision for making regulations. I am wondering whether or not the policy

guideline, itself, will be the only instrument that you will be using, as we don't see any regulation mechanism in this bill. Can the minister explain exactly why the regulation procedure is not particularly enabled in this particular bill? Thank you.

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

Mr. Green: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What we wanted to begin first because of the time involved to develop a mechanism and determine all the regulations. Basically, what we did our first objective was to try to get the *Financial Administration Act* revised first to allow for us to proceed with the necessary regulation and development policy, which we would then seek Cabinet and FMB approval. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Curley: Thank you. My colleague from Cambridge Bay quite clearly stated the complexity of this tool. I also would like to ask the minister and his officials that hedging is required will have this particular provision that we're not putting our eggs in one basket, as you would hedge 100 percent.

I would assume the policy will say that the hedging, if need be, could perhaps will have some flexibility that you use either the percentage of the requirements of financing into the tool in order to also lower the risk that the public is being asked to do.

Could I get some indication of that from you and your officials, please? Thank you.

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

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, that's entirely correct. We will not be hedging a total of 100 percent. If you want purchases all of the time it could be a percentage. It depends on where the markets are at, at any given time. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Are there any further questions on Clause 3? (interpretation ends) Bill 21, *An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act* #2. 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: Does the committee agree to Bill 21 as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Are you agreed Bill 21 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Mr. Minister, you can go back to your chair, and I would also like to thank your officials.

(interpretation ends) I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Justice to make his opening remarks. Mr. Okalik.

Bill 22 – Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act – Consideration in Committee

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman and colleagues. (interpretation ends) I am pleased to appear before the Committee of the Whole to speak about the proposed *Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act*.

This bill was a Canadian International Investment Transactions and Economic Development by authorizing the Nunavut Court of Justice to recognize and enforce arbitration outcomes made under the Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes between states and nationals of other states of 1965.

The convention provides for a specialized kind of arbitration for disputes between participating countries and direct foreign investors. After the provinces and territories have all enacted implementing the legislation, Canada will be in a position to ratify and to pursue dispute resolution under the convention.

The convention has proved effective in providing a trustworthy means of resolving disputes between a foreign investor and a host country, and the number of cases submitted to arbitration has increased significantly in recent years.

Increasing Canadian cross board investment flow will make the convention even more valuable in the years to come. Canada recognizes the value of the convention and wishes to sign.

The convention would be particularly beneficial to investors in resolving investment disputes in which they might become involved in any of the countries that are members of the convention or are signatories of the convention.

By passing this legislation we are working towards being innovative and resourceful in seeking solutions and are thereby acting in the spirit of *Qanuqatigiiniq*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

That concludes my opening remarks. I'll be happy to answer questions that my colleagues may have in Committee of the Whole.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Okalik. Do you have witnesses you would like to bring to the table?

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Yes.

Chairman: Do you agree to bring in the witnesses?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman (interpretation): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the witnesses to the witness table.

(interpretation ends) Before we proceed, I would like to remind members that in your white binder (interpretation) it has a blue tab on it that will be Bill 22.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Okalik, please introduce your witnesses.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): At the witness table I have on my right my Deputy Minister Markus Webber, and on my left is our Legal Advisor Susan Hine. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Does the chair of the standing committee have comments? Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* has reviewed Bill 22, *Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act*, with the sponsoring minister and his officials.

The convention provides for a specialized kind of arbitration for disputes between participating countries and direct foreign investors. The standing committee understands that if Nunavut passes this bill, Nunavut will be one of the places that will be able to enforce any decisions resulting from this dispute mechanism.

The standing committee understands that the provinces and territories are in the process of enacting implementing legislation. We look forward to future updates on this issue.

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

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Before we proceed I'd like to remind the members again of the following. According to Rule 77(1), you have ten minutes to speak and according to Rule 77(2), subject to the discretion of the Chair, a member may speak more than once to a matter under discussion but not until every member wishing to speak has spoken.

Are there any general comments? I have no members on my list for general comments. We will proceed clause by clause in the reading of Bill 22, *the Settlement of International Investment Dispute Act*. Bill 22, *the Settlement of International Investment Dispute 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. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I welcome the minister and his witnesses to the witness table. Just to clarify in my mind. All the provinces and territories in Canada have to first enact legislation and then the Government of Canada would be in the position to ratify it and then we are participants in this convention. Is that correct? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As our Constitution provides the provinces and territories with the ability to deal with property, the provinces and the federal government have asked the territories to ratify this agreement so they could have the authority to sign under our Constitution. So that's what we've been asked to take part and ratify this convention so that the federal government can sign on behalf of Canada. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Out of the 13 provinces and territories in Canada, how many other provinces and territories currently have enacted legislation? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. From what I understand two have ratified officially, and the other provinces and territories are in the process of introducing or passing, implementing legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I don't know if you will be able to answer this, but on a global basis, how many participating countries are there in this convention. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 140. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Going back to Bill 22, *Settlement of International Investment Disputes Act*. 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: Do members agree to the bill as a whole?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Do members agree that Bill 22 is ready for third reading?

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. Mr. Minister, I would like to thank you for making an appearance, and also your officials. You can return to your seat.

I would like to ask the committee; what is the wish of the committee? Ms. Aglukkaq.

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: I would like to report progress. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

>>*Applause*

Chairman: Thank you, Ms. Aglukkaq. We have a motion on the floor to report progress and the motion is not debatable. All those in favour of the motion. All those opposed. The motion is carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Orders of the Day. Item 20. Report of 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 15, 19, 21, and 22. We would like to report that Bill 15, 19, 21, and 22 are immediately ready for third reading. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be agreed to. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): There is a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder to the motion? Thank you. Mr. Evyagotailak is the seconder to the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried.

Item 20. Report of the Committee of the Whole. (interpretation) Please get it over with.

>>Laughter

Thank you. (interpretation ends) Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Mr. Premier.

Item 21: Third Reading of Bills

Bill 20 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2006 – Third Reading

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Member for Amittuq, that Bill 20, the *Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act 2006*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried and Bill 20 has had its third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Ms. Brown.

Bill 11 – An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act – Third Reading

Hon. Levinia Brown: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik that Bill 11, *An Act to Amend the Fire Prevention Act*, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 11 has had third reading.

Item 21. Third Reading of Bills. Minister Simailak.

Bill 07 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act – Third Reading

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nattilik, that Bill 7, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*, be read for the third time.

Speaker: The motion is in order. All those in favour. All those opposed. The motion is carried. Bill 7 has had third reading.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A reminder of meetings for tomorrow, at half past eight the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic

Development in the Nanuq Boardroom, followed by a meeting of the Regular Caucus at half past ten with the Minister of Finance in the Tuktu Boardroom.

Orders of the Day for June 15:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 019 – 2(3)
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 17
 - Bill 18
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 16
 - Bill 19
 - Bill 21
 - Bill 22

22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until June 15, 2006 at 1:30. Thank you.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 17:43*

