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

Legislative Assembly of Nunavut

Speaker

Hon. Peter Kilabuk

(Pangnirtung)

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(Rankin Inlet South – Whale Cove)
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Innirvik Support Services

Box 1200

Iqaluit, Nunavut, X0A 0H0

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

Website: www.assembly.nu.ca

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Iqaluit, Nunavut
Thursday, November 23, 2006

Members Present:

Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Honourable Olayuk Akesuk, Mr. James Arreak, Mr. James Arvaluk, Mr. Levi Barnabas, 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 ask that Mr. Simailak lead us in a prayer.

>>*Prayer*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the House, Premier.

Item 2. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Picco.

Item 2: Ministers' Statements

Minister's Statement 118 – 2(3): Minister Brown Absent from the House

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise members that the Honourable Levinia Brown will be absent from the House on November 23, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. Ministers' Statements. Minister responsible for Environment, Mr. Netser.

Minister's Statement 119 – 2(3): Recruitment DVD

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been asking as a department and as a government to get conservation and wildlife officers. (interpretation ends) I rise today to make this House aware of an initiative the Department of Environment has been working on for some time. And, later on today I will table in this House a DVD which will be used to recruit Nunavummiut to a career as a conservation officer.

The DVD, called; *Conservation Officer Recruitment Video* is featured in both Inuktitut and English. It was filmed using our own staff, real client situations, in a real Nunavut setting.

It contains an accurate overview of the important role that a conservation officer has and provides information about what it takes to become one. It also shows why this would be a fantastic and interesting career for young Inuit and Nunavummiut to pursue.

The DVDs are already being put to use. They have been sent to conservation officers across Nunavut who will be showing it to the senior classes in all local schools.

In addition to schools, we will also be using the DVD at career fairs, tradeshow, or other special events attended by officials from my department. It is my hope that one day, every community in Nunavut will have at least two conservation officers serving it.

I believe this DVD and hard work will help make that hope come true. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Ministers' Statements. Minister of Economic Development and Transportation, Mr. Akesuk.

Minister's Statement 120 – 2(3): Nunavut Turbot Fishery

Hon. Olayok Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to announce a successful year in Nunavut turbot fishery. As of November 14, 2006, Nunavut vessels have successfully fished their entire turbot quota in the offshore Division 0A. Turbot landings were larger, faster and more efficient than previous years.

This clearly justifies Nunavut receiving increases in offshore fish quotas in Division 0B, and sends a clear message that Nunavut is a serious player in the Atlantic fishery.

(interpretation ends) Nunavut successfully lobbied for a 2,500 tons turbot quota increase for the Division 0A. This has provided Nunavut fishing interests with an increase in revenue and proved that Nunavut has an ability to drive and expand its fishing industry.

(interpretation) Mr. Speaker, this has been a good year for the Nunavut offshore fishery, a sign of its future potential and its successful development. I would like to congratulate all of our stakeholders, and we look forward to working with them to continue to develop the Nunavut fishery, for the benefit of Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Minister's Statement 121 – 2(3): Increase in Student Graduation Rates

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about the increasing number of our students succeeding in their selected educational programs.

More Nunavut students are not only graduating from certificate and diploma programs, they're also graduating with degrees at the Bachelor, the Masters and indeed, the PhD level. Mr. Speaker, in the House today we have over 27 students doing their Masters program.

A Member: Hear, hear

To point out a few of these success stories, I'd like to give some examples of the degrees earned by Nunavut students just in the 2005-06 school year. Mr. Speaker, there have been 11 students that earned their Bachelors Degree in such areas as Science in Nursing, Education through the NTEP Program, Bio-Medical Science and Commerce. Four Nunavut students have earned Masters Degrees in Teaching, Leadership, Northern Resources, as well as Mechanical Engineering.

There has also been a PhD, a doctorate granted to a Nunavummiut in Educational Psychology, and yesterday many of the members also participated in the second Inuk going before the Bar here in Nunavut. These are good stories.

Mr. Speaker, these are only some examples of students' success stories. There are many others who have completed their programs and have gone on to other programs or advanced education or have successfully joined the Nunavut workforce.

Mr. Speaker, according to our staff, the number of students applying for funding through FANS has almost doubled since 2002. For example in 2002-03 the FANS office processed 815 applications, compared to 1,292 in 2005-06. That is a huge success.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure we can all agree that these students deserve our congratulations on their hard work and determination in successfully completing their programs of study. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Minister's Statement 122 – 2(3): Eight Graduates of Nunavut CARS Training

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to advise the Members of this House of a recent development in the Nunavut Community Aerodrome Radio Station Training Program.

As members will recall in April 2006 the CARS school was moved from the Northwest Territories to Nunavut. Rankin Inlet was chosen for the training facility because of its regional transportation hub of the Kivalliq and the operational headquarters of Nunavut Airports Division.

A feasibility study further indicated that this location was most suitable because it had existing and under-utilized facilities at Nunavut Arctic College that are ideal for CARS training.

A proposal was made to NAV CANADA identifying potential avenues for improving the quality and effectiveness of CARS training, including cost effectiveness and potential success rates in training Nunavummiut to be observer communicators.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this school has begun to show. On November 9 of this year, Nunavut Arctic College, along with Nunavut Airports Division, proudly recognized eight successful graduates for the CARS Program. This is a 100 percent success rate and a milestone in the history of the CARS Program since creation.

I would like to invite the House to join me in congratulating John Ussak of Whale Cove, Stephen Glawson of Cambridge Bay, Robert Aneroluk also of Cambridge Bay, Cory Buott of Resolute Bay, Paul Onalik of Kimmirut, Eugene Poulin of Gjoa Haven, Lenn Schultz also of Gjoa Haven, Matiasie Attugutsiak of Nanisivik.

Mr. Speaker, all these graduates have been site certified by our Aviation Program Officers and are now enjoying a fruitful career as key members of Nunavut's Aviation Industry.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work to improve this program and set high goals for greater success to ensure that this very important Aviation Safety Training Program is available to all who wish to contribute to their community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>*Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. I am sure all the Members join with me to congratulate those CARS graduates. Ministers' Statements. Item 3. Members' Statements. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Item 3: Members' Statements

Member's Statement 298 – 2(3): Standing Committee Ajauqtiit Meeting with Superintendent of RCMP “V” Division

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to express my appreciation to Mr. Marty Cheliak, the new Superintendent of the RCMP “V” Division in Iqaluit.

This morning, the Standing Committee *Ajauqtiit* and some of the members had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Cheliak to express some concerns with respect to the RCMP's operations in our communities. He also gave us the opportunity to ask him some questions.

(interpretation ends) Mr. Speaker, it was obvious that some of the major concerns from members were the use of illegal drugs, drug dealers, bootlegging, and the RCMP's telecom automated system and the need for new RCMP members to receive orientation on Inuit culture and the northern environment.

The telecom system is a major concern, especially for unilingual people and elders in our communities. When there is an emergency after hours, the calls are automatically directed to the Iqaluit dispatch. The person answering the phone is not always a bilingual person and this is where the problem is.

Mr. Speaker, ideally, we would feel a lot safer if RCMP officers were available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in our small communities, but we know this isn't possible.

We need to work with our local hamlets to see if there is the possibility of cost sharing in the hiring of a person to answer the RCMP phone after hours locally.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. The member is asking consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? Mr. Mapsalak, go ahead.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my fellow colleagues.

(interpretation ends) This was one of the suggestions from the Superintendent. Mr. Speaker, the RCMP policies for investigations are very stringent. For example, many people would like to provide tips to the RCMP of known dealers. However, there needs to be solid evidence in order for them to proceed with the investigations. People are also afraid of appearing before the courts to testify against them and this is a necessary step if charges are to be laid.

Mr. Speaker, we need to work together if we are to combat drugs, bootleggers and to improve our relationships with the RCMP. This meeting was a good starting point.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 299 – 2(3): Mining in Baker Lake

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is with a great deal of pleasure that I rise in the Assembly to speak of the recent approval of the Meadow Bank Gold Mine.

Late last week the Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs approved what so many of my constituents have waited for, for such a long time, the beginnings of a new mine 70 kilometers outside of Baker Lake.

With this new mine it will bring hope and opportunity for the future. Cumberland Resources and the Kivalliq Inuit Association reached an Inuit Impact Benefits Agreement earlier this year that will provide opportunities for Inuit of my constituency and to the communities in the Kivalliq.

Building a mine in the arctic is no small undertaking. An all-weather road will be constructed this winter to bring material, equipment, and fuel to the construction site. Over the course of the construction of the mine, it is estimated that approximately 300 people will be needed.

Many of those workers will be Inuit. This mine will also lead to increasing business activities for the people of Baker Lake, and throughout the Kivalliq. In Baker Lake we have many skilled and established businesses that are positioned to do their part to help bolster Nunavut's growing economy.

Yet, in order for all this potential to be fully harnessed, all levels, both business and government must come together. We must all work together to ensure that Inuit have the skills they need to fill those jobs both at the mine, and in other businesses. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 300 – 2(3): Kitikmeot Reads Program

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform the House about an important event that took place in the Kitikmeot in September 2006, which will help our school kids for years to come.

Recent federal budget cuts to literacy funding have seriously hurt our territory and is jeopardizing the future of the Nunavut Literacy Council. We hope that the federal government reverses its decision before the effects become irreversible.

We recognize that literacy and education for Nunavummiut is a priority and our residents are our foundation upon which the future of Nunavut will be built.

In times like these, it is fortunate that we have good corporate citizens who are committed to education and literacy and who support life-long learning. Two of these corporate citizens are the Kitikmeot Corporation and Nunasi Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, these two companies have created a “Kitikmeot Reads” program that is intended to benefit students in Kitikmeot between K and 12. The program offers to all students in the Kitikmeot the opportunity to select \$30 in free books from a catalog that was created exclusively for them. The books are for the students’ personal use at home and at school.

Mr. Speaker, I was honoured to be invited by the Kitikmeot Corporation and by Nunasi Corporation to attend the recent school events in Cambridge Bay when they distributed the books to the students. All the elementary school kids were funny. When I asked them if they knew what I do as an MLA they replied I read a lot of books.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I didn’t scare them when I mentioned all the binders as well. They don’t know how close to the truth they are. My eyes ache already this week from reading all the materials and the reports the MLAs have to read to stay on top of issues and budgets.

Mr. Speaker, the “Kitikmeot Reads” initiative is very important to our children and goes a long way towards supporting and encouraging them to stay in school, get a good education and develop a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the Legislative Assembly to join me in thanking the Kitikmeot Corporation and Nunasi Corporation for their support to our children in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Member’s Statements. Mr. Akasuk.

Member’s Statement 301 – 2(3): Annie Pootoogook Wins Sobey Award

Hon. Olayuk Akasuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise to congratulate one of my constituents, Ms. Annie Pootoogook, on her recent success in the art world.

Mr. Speaker, Annie Pootogook is a resident of Cape Dorset in my constituency. Her work is known for showing traditional scenes within a modern style of drawing. She is one of many great Cape Dorset artists who share our stories with the world. Although she is just 37 years old, Ms. Pootogook is from the third generation of family artists.

Her grandmother Pitseolak and her mother Napatsie also produce wonderful art. Mr. Speaker, just over a week ago Annie Pootogook was at the Montreal Museum of Fine Art with a number of other artists to hear the final decision of the Sobey award jury.

Mr. Speaker, the Sobey Art award is Canada's top award for young artists. I'm very proud to announce that Ms. Pootogook won this very prestigious award. Ms. Pootogook will soon be traveling to Germany to show more of her work. I am confident that she will be a great success over there as well.

I would like to ask all Members of the House to join me in congratulating Ms. Pootogook on her outstanding achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Akesuk. Members' Statements. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Member's Statement 302 – 2(3): The Important Role of Grise Fiord in Canada

Mr. Barnabas: Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important role that the community of Grise Fiord plays in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, a few nights ago, CBC's "The National" aired a short documentary on life in the small community of Grise Fiord, Canada's most northern community and one of the three communities in my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, this documentary reveals a glimpse of life in the far north and some of the unique challenges faced by my constituents who live there. The program was filmed during the sealift season and provided some insight into the preparations we take for the long and dark winter ahead.

By showing the open water in front of the community leading to the Davis Strait and to the Northwest Passage, the role that this community can and does play in defending Canada's sovereignty was also highlighted.

Mr. Speaker, the issue of sovereignty was also highlighted in the historical sense through interviews with the local residents, some of whom were relocated to this area as children when the federal government moved their families in order to establish a formal presence in the High Arctic.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, have been active with respect to how the High Arctic communities can continue to play an important role for sovereignty. There has been much discussion on how Canada can train and prepare its military to have an active presence in the Arctic and in a region where international marine traffic will steadily be increasing. Later today I will be tabling correspondence between the Minister of National Defense and myself on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that Grise Fiord had the opportunity to showcase the community and to raise national attention to the unique experiences of its residents.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this achievement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Member's Statement 303 – 2(3): Dock for Pond Inlet

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to raise an issue on capital estimates in regard to docks because I truly believe the capital estimates...they have to be the capital items that the communities want and have to be raised by the communities.

It has always been where the government prioritized what the communities need because I truly believe that the communities...it should be up to the communities to prioritize what they want.

We are not asking that the Government of Nunavut pay. What we are asking is for their support to the federal government if this can be constructed. The hamlet has done some research and studies, and mapped how it would be built...in April 2004-05 this was completed.

We have heard that the Department of Transportation Deputy Minister went on the radio and said that they will seek some funding, and they have a fairly good idea of where they can access some funding. Maybe it would be for one of the communities, maybe after Pangnirtung. For example, we have lost...one of the boats was tied up, but the tide got it and it drifted away. The other one sank. Usually, you can't go up the river when it's low tide.

The reason why we brought this up is...Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues. We are not saying that it's just for the sake of getting a port in our community; it's also for safety reasons because when the wind is coming from Lancaster Sound or from Davis Strait, it gets quite scary for the boats.

The community of Pond Inlet is very proud that the cruise ships go up there. With the increase of the mining industry in the north, it could have that advantage too, and so forth. That's the reason why I will be raising appropriate questions and will also table a report.

What we're trying to say is that we are asking the Nunavut Government to work with the federal government to accomplish what the Inuit need in their communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Member's Statement 304 – 2(3): Congratulations to Nunavut Youth Parliament Participants

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to thank you and your office and staff for organizing the first Nunavut-wide Youth Parliament.

>> *Applause*

It was held earlier this month, here in this very room. I also would like to make a special comment, Mr. Speaker, at the comments that were made to me by other people that were involved in the process and the participants at the excellent work and how great our staff here at the Assembly were throughout this whole process.

I just want a special congratulations to them as well.

Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of being in attendance at this most excellent event which I hope will happen on a regular basis. A number of my colleagues that were in town were also here in the Gallery that day.

I'd also like to extend my congratulations to the 19 students who earned the place in the Youth Parliament. Each and every one of them worked hard, spoke eloquently and demonstrated exactly why the youth of today will be our leaders tomorrow.

And, I'd also like to note for the record that 14 or 15 out of the 19 members who were here were young women. I think that's great that we can see moving forward in that direction in the future.

I would also like to pay special recognition to the three students from Iqaluit: Seane d'Argencourt, Zachary Cousins, and Inuusiq Akavak. Seane represented Iqaluit Centre during the Youth Parliament proceedings and I must say she did an excellent job at posing oral questions and delivering remarks. I am confident that if she so chooses, we will be seeing her sitting here one day.

Mr. Speaker, one of the statements delivered during the Youth Parliament was on the issue of healthy lifestyles and the risk associated with the over-consumption of junk food.

I thought that our young Minister of Health made an excellent statement on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo, the member is asking for consent to conclude his member's statement. Thank you. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Tootoo, you can proceed.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, colleagues and Mr. Speaker. When you look at health problems on the rise such as diabetes, obesity and dental problems, it becomes important that we seek solutions for the long-term health of our population.

Indeed, there are studies which reveal that these problems are much more acute in Nunavut and in the North than they are in the rest of the country.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this week in the fiscal update, it included a proposed measure to raise taxes on tobacco, which is universally recognized as a harmful substance. While we must be careful not to raise the so-called sin taxes to a point where new black markets are created, these measures can be of use. I think that it would also be worth giving serious consideration as to how we can take steps to decrease consumption of so-called garbage foods and drinks, which are all too prevalent in our schools and our homes.

Mr. Speaker, if you walk into any store in Nunavut, tobacco products are hidden from view but all the candies and junk foods are aggressively displayed and marketed. As a youth Parliament's Minister of Health from Taloyoak noted in her statement, junk food can be addictive and dangerous.

We should listen to these wise words from a young person and take heed of what they're saying. I would like to ask all members to join me in congratulating them and the staff for a job well done on everybody's behalf. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. We will be tabling the minutes at the appropriate time. Members' Statements. Mr. Evyagotailak.

Member's Statement 305 – 2(3): Need for Social Workers in Kugluktuk

Mr. Evyagotailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to talk about the need for more social workers and mental health workers in my community of Kugluktuk.

Kugluktuk is changing fast and we need to keep up with the growing population and workforce. There need to be more social workers because we are in need of those.

(interpretation ends) My constituents have told me that there is a need for more social workers in the community to help people deal with the issues we face.

Substance abuse and suicide are major problems. I want to take a moment to praise the volunteers and teachers who are helping our youth in these areas. It is important that we don't lose our front-line staff because of overload, overwork and burnout.

I know that the minister sincerely cares about these issues, and I urge her to help Kugluktummiut to move forward.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 306 – 2(3): Thank Iqalummiut for Hospitality

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We get a lot of visitors here in Iqaluit, and we did have distinguished visitors over the spring and summer.

I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit for their hospitality when people come in from the outlying communities and from outside. I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit and we will want to see more people. I am very pleased that they're very receptive to the people who come and visit us. Thank you, very much, Iqalummiut, and I'm sure that we will meet more visitors again some time in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 307 – 2(3): Congratulations to Gjoa Haven and Taloyoak Graduates

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I welcome to the Gallery and (interpretation) I would like the students here to be appreciated because they help the youth.

(interpretation ends) Today, I want to recognize the success of Nattilingmiut youth. As you may recall during the session in June, I had the pleasure of announcing the four graduates from my community of Taloyoak. I'm very proud to update the Members in the House of other successes of youth in Gjoa Haven, as well as Taloyoak.

Mr. Speaker, in August of 2006, another 11 students graduated from my constituency of Gjoa Haven and I would just like to recognize these individuals in the House.

These are Celida Gee, Flora Aqviq, Angela Nuliyok, who is also in the Nunavut Sivuniksavut Program, Susie Kunnunak, Sandra Ruben, Megan Porter, Jonathan Puqiqnak, Rhonda Nimiqaqtuq, Bernice Tavaluk, and Louis Ikuutilluk. I would like to offer my congratulations to the 11 graduates.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize a very successful youth, Megan Pizzo-Lyall of Taloyoak who was chosen by her peers as one of Canada's youth aboriginal role models and will be traveling throughout Canada to talk about what youth can do to be successful and talk about her own achievements. And again, I want to offer my congratulations to her.

And finally, this individual was mentioned by MLA Tootoo's comment. I would like to congratulate Laura Kripanik from Taloyoak on being chosen as one of the first Youth Parliament delegates. I would also like to thank the Speaker, as well as the staff of the Legislative Assembly for doing an excellent job in hosting and holding the first Youth Parliament. Thank you.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 308 – 2(3): Recognition of Sylvia Enuaraq in NTEP

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank our Premier for thanking the people of Iqaluit for their hospitality.

I would like to acknowledge an individual from Coral Harbour. This individual is going to the NTEP Program, and has received her certificate; Sylvia Enuaraq, and her eldest daughter who is going to school here.

I would like to thank the people of Iqaluit for the hospitality they have shown to me and my family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Member's Statement 309 – 2(3): Opposition to Fuel Price Increases

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to make a few comments in regard to what has been happening within the government, and in regard to the increase in fuel prices. It is something that is opposed by the people in my riding, and I felt I needed to make a comment towards the concerns in Sanikiluaq.

There are many, many Nunavummiut who will be affected by the increase in fuel products. The hunters are going to be affected because the price of gasoline has risen.

The government should be very careful about making those types of decisions. The full-time hunters only had two days to prepare for the increase in fuel prices. If the government is going to be increasing any prices, I would like to encourage the government to make sure that they inform the people well ahead of time. The cost of living is extremely high up here.

The Inuit hunters depend on gasoline to provide food for their families and their communities. It's going to have a negative impact. If you're going to be increasing any prices, I would like to be given more than two days notice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Please be patient.

(interpretation ends) Members' Statements. Member for Iqaluit East, Mr. Picco.

Member's Statement 310 – 2(3): Status of New Anglican Church in Iqaluit

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to update the House and Nunavummiut on the status of the construction on the new Anglican Cathedral here in Iqaluit.

Mr. Speaker, cost estimates have increased from about \$4.5 million for a new cathedral to \$6 million to replace our cathedral. Like all capital projects across Nunavut, and indeed Canada, costs have increased anywhere from 20 to 40 percent on a project basis. To date we have received approximately \$717,000 from the insurance company, and we've raised approximately \$300,000 from across Nunavut and Canada.

Here in Iqaluit alone we've almost raised \$30,000 to date. An anonymous donor has just come forward in the past week and made a commitment to our church of \$50,000. Recently, as a large contribution, we received from Makivik and First Air for \$15,000.

Mr. Speaker, these donations are exceptional and we want to sincerely thank Makivik, First Air, and NTI for their kind monetary support. Canadian North has also stepped up in a big way, making airline tickets available for our fundraisers. I would like to thank Eva Onalik and her crew at Canadian North for their kind donation.

Mr. Speaker, tonight we will be hosting a turkey supper beginning at 5:00 to 7:30 at the Parish Hall. All proceeds from the turkey supper go to the building of our new Cathedral. I would like to invite all the members, staff, and the listening audience to join us for a wonderful meal, and fellowship at the Parish Hall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

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

Member's Statement 311 – 2(3): Congratulations to New Lawyers

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize and congratulate the new lawyers, Sandra Inutiq and Susan Enuaraq. Those two individuals both grew up in Clyde River, and I am extremely proud for their accomplishments.

Education can be accessed by all youth, and not so young people and continuing our education is extremely important. I would like to congratulate once again these two ladies for being accepted to the Bar. They are both Inuit, and Sandra is my first cousin. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arreak. Item 3. Members' Statements. Orders of the Day. Item 4. Returns to Oral Questions. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Item 5: Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

Speaker (interpretation): Before we proceed, I will begin by recognizing individuals here. We have a full house this afternoon. I would like them to rise when I say your name, and especially the first ones who come from my riding. These individuals work in the parks or are on the board, our mayor and member, Manasa Evic. Thank you.

>>Applause

And from Pangnirtung again Sila Kisa, and again from Pangnirtung, Hezekiah Oshutapik. And again from Pangnirtung, Tommy Etuangat. And again from Pangnirtung, Abraham Keenainak. And from Iqaluit, Bert Rose. And from Pond Inlet, David Qamaniq. From Arctic Bay, Tommy Tattatuapik. And from Pond Inlet, Geesonie Killiktee. And from Pond Inlet again, Qavavauq Issuqangituk. From Resolute Bay, Joadamee Amagoalik. From Resolute Bay again, Tapisa Mullin. And from Resolute Bay again, Lisa Ningeok. Welcome to the Gallery. From Pond Inlet, David Mablick. And from Clyde River, Lynn Rutt. From Repulse Bay, David Tuktudjuk. Chesterfield Inlet, Andre Tautu. From Rankin Inlet, Jackie Nakoolak.

I would also like to recognize the individuals in the Gallery. I would like to welcome them and their staff.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My list isn't quite as long as yours. I would like to welcome two ladies from my Cambridge Bay riding; Jesse Lyall, sitting behind Minister Simailak; welcome Jesse. Rosie Kupeuna is sitting behind the minister. Welcome.

These two ladies have made significant contributions to people's lives and the community of Cambridge Bay and I would like to congratulate them for coming over here and continuing their education. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Item 5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to welcome, and some of them have already been introduced, so I won't do them by name because I want to give the members an opportunity to introduce their constituents.

We have the 27 students who are involved in the Masters of Education Program being run right now with Nunavut Arctic College. At the same time, that same program is affiliated with the University of Prince Edward Island as well as St. Francis Xavier University, the Department of Education, and the college here.

So I would like to take this opportunity and welcome the 27 representatives of the Masters of Education Program.

I would also like to welcome to the Gallery at this time Jack and Janet Neil. Jack and Janet are from Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, and Jack is the interim minister of the Emmanuel United Church and the sponsor of the Iqaluit United Church here in Iqaluit.

The Emmanuel Church in Ottawa is the home of the El Salvadorian refugee community in Ottawa and they're working with Habitat for Humanity. And while Jack and Janet are in town, they're going to be meeting with the Habitat for Humanity here in town. So I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both the reverends to Iqaluit.

>>Applause

I have a couple of constituents. I am going to very quickly welcome Cathy Hanson, a long-time community activist with the Status of Women's Council, a parent and mother, to the Gallery.

And a good friend of mine working at Nunavut Arctic College; she's one of the key people in the education system within Nunavut, and indeed, she's the boss of the college up there, be very nice to her, Peesee Pitseolak. Please welcome them to the Gallery.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two individuals that I represent from my community in Kugluktuk, who are here for their Masters. They also worked for the Kitikmeot School Operations for a long, long time. They also taught a lot of young people in our communities and some had worked in different communities in Nunavut.

Our Executive Director for School Operations Millie Kuliktana, please rise and be recognized.

>> *Applause*

And also Helen Iqaana-Powers is the bilingual language consultant.

>> *Applause*

Mr. Speaker, the person that I'm going to recognize, who is the principal for teaching and learning centres in the Kitikmeot and had been working on my garments for about 29 years, maybe a little bit more, who is my wife Susie Evyagotailak. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Nanulik, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to acknowledge my constituent, a person who works with me in Chesterfield Inlet, Andre Tautu, and Jackie Nakoolak, who is from Coral Harbour as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>> *Applause*

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have four individuals to acknowledge from Sanikiluaq. Every time I mention your name please rise. These are all my relatives through my mom and through my father's side, Myna Rumble, please rise.

Thank you. I would also like to acknowledge my hunting partner, Mary Qaqvik, and a teacher in Sanikiluaq, Lisa Qaqvik. Also my father's sister's daughter is here. I would like to recognize Dyna Qaqvik. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although you recognized the individuals that came from my riding, I do want to acknowledge them. First of all my father-in-law Tommy Tattatuapik, first of all I would like to acknowledge him, Liza Ningiuk from Grise Fiord and Joadamee Amagoalik and Tabitha Mullin from Resolute Bay.

And, if you allow me, I do want to acknowledge the people of Repulse Bay. My community was able to get thirty caribou from Repulse Bay. I have to apologize beforehand if I don't pronounce your name properly, but your names are written properly. I would like to acknowledge: Michelle Akaqjuk, chair, Mary Tuttaqjuq, co-chair, Jimmy Imingiaq, secretary, Louise Angutinguaq, councillor, Romeo Quppak, member, Joseph Sivinnaqtuq, member, Antoine Siatiq, member, and Levi Angutialuq, who is a member also. I would also like to acknowledge the hunters: Lauren Qiyingajaaq, I am sorry, Qingajaaq, I apologize. Joe Angutinguaq, John Tasiuluk, John Evaluktangna, I apologize, Aglukkaq, and Mark Tukammajaa.

I also would like to acknowledge David Tuktudjuk from Repulse Bay, and I would like to acknowledge the individuals who packaged the caribou meat, Aseena Angutinguaq, and Barney Quppak as well as the members of the HTO of Arctic Bay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Member. I apologize with you for mispronouncing their names. Thank you. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Igloolik and Hall Beach, Mr. Tapardjuk.

Hon. Louis Tapardjuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I do recognize some individuals around here I would like to acknowledge Geela Alarok. She is married to the contender I had during the election days. Also, very rarely do we get people from our department. Suvenai Joamie is our *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* coordinator in the Department of Department of Culture, Language, Elders and Youth, because it is very enjoyable.

I would also like to acknowledge my *Ningauq*. I do want acknowledge too that even though they are going through difficult times in their family that he is able to make it here. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Baffin South, Mr. Akesuk.

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you. I know that I won't be rising up during Oral Question period, but I do have an opportunity to rise by acknowledging an individual from my other constituency. I would like to welcome Elisapee Flaherty to the Gallery.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Welcome to the Gallery. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Member for Pond Inlet, Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although you recognized the individuals from Pond Inlet, it seems like they are all from the Parks Planning Committee.

Their names are David Qamaniq, who also works for QIA, and he is our Mayor of Pond Inlet. David Mablick; he walks around the skidoo tracks to make sure no one is spilling oil, or any fuel so he is the lead investigator of contaminant spills.

I would also like to welcome Geesonie, and his wife Winnie. And, Qavavauq who is from Parks. We do have a Co-op store that has close to 100 staff members. Though we have sold some of our assets here, like the old hotel, and the Uqsuq Corporation, but Qavavauq has been the manager of the hardware department for so many years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Member for Akulliq, Mr. Mapsalak.

Mr. Mapsalak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very rare that I get to acknowledge an individual from my constituency. Though this individual was acknowledged I would like to introduce David Tuktudjuk, my wife's brother. He has been a member of KIA for quite some time now, and also he has been a member of various boards and agencies.

He is a very capable, hard working person, and I would like to welcome him. I don't think Akesuk meant what he said. I'm sure he'll have to rise too, during Question Period. Thank you.

>>Applause

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Mapsalak. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to miss anyone, and some of you have missed individuals in Mr. Picco's riding. They are Meeka Qaquulluq. She is a great singer, and she can sing for you. If you want to laugh at her funny songs she is very good at it; also Maggie Kuniliusie who lives in Apex.

There are also individuals from Arviat, Qanaatsiaq; I welcome you to the Gallery. And also, your constituent used to be our Deputy Commissioner from Pangnirtung. Lena Metuq, welcome.

And, my staff in my constituency, Nancy Mike. And, I apologise, Mr. Speaker, although you recognized the people that I wanted to acknowledge, my relatives, especially my uncle, our Mayor of Pangnirtung.

And also, when we were growing up, who used to be my fellow partner in mischief when we were young, Tommy Etoangat. Thank you.

>> *Applause*

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. I would also like to acknowledge and welcome everyone. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery. Item 5.

I do want to acknowledge, although I mentioned the staff members, but there's some staff members: David Argument from Pangnirtung. Welcome to the Gallery. From Parks Canada, an individual who's been working for long time during our campaign. This individual really supported me during our campaign. I would like to thank Nancy Anilniliak. Welcome. Thank you. And also the individuals who weren't mentioned please make sure you know that you are welcome here.

Speaker (interpretation): Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Iqaluit Centre, Mr. Tootoo.

Item 6: Oral Questions

Question 343 – 2(3): Payroll Tax Increase

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and the Department of Transportation. I'm just kidding. For the Minister responsible for Finance.

Earlier this week in the minister's fiscal update, he informed the House the government plans to impose a 100 percent increase in the Nunavut Payroll Tax from its current one percent to two percent. When the Northwest Territories did this in 2004, they introduced a bill to amend the *Payroll Tax Act*.

Can the Minister inform the House when he will introduce legislation to give affect to this change so all members may give consideration to this issue? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, my officials and the Department of Justice are working on the legislation. Once this legislation draft is completed, we will introduce it. We're just waiting for the Department of Justice to complete the drafting of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know how long they'll take to change from a one to a two. Mr. Speaker, my first supplementary to the Minister is, I'm concerned the public has been hearing mixed messages on the Payroll Tax issue. In his economic statement this week he stated, and I'll quote it "to offset the impact of this tax increase on Nunavummiut, we are raising the cost of living credit."

A CBC interview with the minister was more direct and quoted him saying "permanent Nunavut residents should not be affected by that tax." His statements implied that no permanent resident will pay more on taxes.

However, the technical backgrounder that his department issued tells a different story. It states that the cost of living deductions "helps" offset the Payroll Tax, and it suggested that some people will pay more taxes than they currently do.

My question is simple, Mr. Speaker. Will some Nunavummiut pay more tax than before; yes or no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. (interpretation) I apologize when CBC was interviewing me if that message did not get through. I apologize to all the Nunavummiut if this was misunderstood.

(interpretation ends) With the increase of the credit up to \$900, the threshold would be at about \$45,000. That's when there will be no extra Payroll Tax paid. It's about \$45,000 per annum income. Another example: let's say if a person is making \$75,000 a year, that person's Payroll Tax should be \$1,500 for the year. For the cost of living benefit of \$900 that person's net payroll tax pay should be about \$600.

(interpretation) Yes, that's how it is set up, again I apologize to Nunavummiut when I was being interviewed through CBC anyone who's making \$45,000 per annum, yes they'll have to pay additional to the payroll taxes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In his speech, the minister said that by raising the tax by one percentage point, brings us in line with the Northwest Territories which already imposes a higher levy on workers and that this will generate approximately \$5.3 million in additional revenues.

Mr. Speaker, when the NWT increased its Payroll Tax in 2004, it also, at the time, decreased some of its Personal Income Tax rates. At that time their minister stated the majority of people with a total income of less than \$66,000 will benefit from the combination of changes to the Payroll Tax and the Personal Income Tax and the cost of living credit.

My question to the minister is this: can he confirm that Nunavummiut in the lowest, in the two lowest tax brackets, will not have to pay any more tax? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is my understanding as far as I can understand that's the way it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope that those people in the lower tax brackets are not affected by that if that understanding is correct; those are the people that can afford it the least.

Mr. Speaker, while our government always seems to be short of funds to pay for improvements to programs and services, we appear to have no shortage of funds to hire outside consultants to come to Nunavut to work for the government in various projects on a contract basis.

Mr. Speaker, I understand that the legislation, the Payroll Tax applies to wage and salaries, but not necessarily to the kinds of fees that are paid to consultants which are issued by the Government of Nunavut on a contract basis for their work.

My question to the minister is this: how will this Payroll Tax Plan capture a measure of revenue of this type of individual that just seems to be, on some cases making \$500 a day or more, and they don't pay any taxes here? You know, there's numerous, numerous of these types of individuals working for the government themselves. So I'd just ask if he could explain that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I understand the question of the member and it's a good question, but I have to talk to my officials to understand those consultants, and how exactly it affects them in regard to the Payroll Tax.

I would have to be able to consult my staff first before I can make a clear explanation to the member and I will get back to the member on his question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6. Oral Questions. Member for Cambridge Bay, Mr. Peterson.

Question 344 – 2(3): Federal Administration of Food Mail Program

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier.

The Premier met recently with the Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Jim Prentice. We learned from testimony that the federal minister gave before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on November 2, that he met with the Premier on November 1. One of the topics that he discussed was the Federal Food Mail Program.

Mr. Prentice made the following statement to the standing committee. I'll quote, "I have some questions about how the Government of Canada administers this program. Frankly there are questions whether the Government of Canada should be the one administering this program at all. There is a public government in Nunavut that perhaps is best able to administer that."

My question for the Premier: I'd like to ask the Premier what his position is with respect to the Federal Food Mail Program and which level of government should be administering it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Premier Okalik.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I advised the minister that we are open to assuming the responsibility provided that the resources follow with the responsibility. So I advised to him that we are quite open to it and there is room for improvement and there is room for cost savings as well for the program and making sure the perishables reach the communities on time and with less spoilage of the perishables. So that was the focus in my meeting.

I am hoping we can improve the program for all Nunavummiut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. The federal government recently announced that it has finally completed its review of the point of entry issue in the Kivalliq region. There is a press release on November 3. My question for the Premier: can the Premier tell the House today whether he pushed for further reviews for the Baffin and the Kitikmeot? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I advised the minister that there is room for improvement that there has to be a logical point of entry into Nunavut to improve the program and to decrease spoilage of perishables that arrive in the final destination.

So that was the focus for our meeting and I was very glad to see that we at least had an impact on changing the point of entry for the communities in the Kivalliq and we hope to see more changes and improvement to the program for the people of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that information.

The Premier is likely aware that Canadian North Airlines has filed a complaint to the Canadian International Trade Tribunal concerning INAC's award of the food mail contract. This issue was raised at the Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated AGM last week here in Iqaluit.

My question for the Premier: can the Premier tell us what the Government of Nunavut's position is in this matter? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We weren't involved in the contracting so it would be...I don't know all the details. It is a matter between the department that administers the program and Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and Canadian Airlines. So we haven't really looked at it as it is a matter that has to be determined by the parties. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that answer. As I indicated in my initial question, the Premier met with Minister Prentice earlier this month and as we all know Minister Prentice has significant impact on how we do operations up in Nunavut.

My question for the Premier: when he met with Minister Prentice, what other issues did he discuss and what commitments from the federal government did he achieve? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The main focus of the meeting was on devolution and the territorial funding formula. The issue of food mail came up when he was discussing possible changes to the program and I was making sure that the program will continue.

And on devolution the focus was on the mandate that will be assumed by the negotiator and hopefully we can work with the mandate that can speed up our discussions on this file. And as always our funding formula is one of the top priorities at this point before the federal government brings on their budget in the spring. So hopefully we can get some assistance that we badly need as a government.

So there are other issues that we discussed but those were the primary ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Kugluktuk, Mr. Evyagotailak.

Question 345 – 2(3): Funding for More Social Workers and Mental Health Workers

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. In my Member's Statement today I talked about the needs for more social workers and mental health workers in my community of Kugluktuk.

Can the minister tell me how her department decides how many social workers each community in Nunavut will receive funding for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, there are social workers in every community and there are mental health workers in most communities. The one thing that we are trying to do in addressing recruitment of social workers in our communities is train social workers through the Cambridge Bay Social Work Program. At the same time we started this past year a Mental Health Training Program that is offered in Iqaluit and our hope is to recruit the graduates coming out of those programs to fill some of the positions in our communities.

Right now the way we look at allocation of PYs is basically dedicating a PY to each community. Some of the restraint that we are under is around budgets and limitations of

budgets, but presently there are social workers in every community. One of the other things that we are looking at as a department is the functions of each social worker.

We have been examining the work that the social workers carry out, and in the past have done work in, to a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Justice to provide probation services. We are looking at the kind of work that the social workers are dealing with and trying to address some of the increases in case loads by examining some of the functions that they carry out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you madam. In the past with that, just not long ago you have probably heard that there were quite a few suicides that were happening and we had quite a few community meetings also and this came up.

My constituents in Kugluktuk have told me that the community needs more social workers and mental health workers; can the minister tell me what her department is doing to address the concerns of this community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recognizing that there is a need to provide mental health services as well as social work, I mentioned earlier that we are also trying to train Nunavummiut to take on some of those positions within our own territory and recruiting those individuals to various positions in the community.

During some of the crisis in Kugluktuk this past year, our staff had met with the community. As well, the regional office had provided assistance to Kugluktuk, in trying to address some of their needs and had met with local staff, the municipality, and the community to extend the support the community was requesting at the time.

Having said that, we continue to examine ways how we can deliver more of those programs in the community, like I said earlier, by examining some of the work load of each social worker and trying to distribute positions throughout the Nunavut territory based on the increases in case work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 346 – 2(3): Turbot Fishing

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

In regard to his statement on turbot fishing, I would like to ask the minister what percentage of it is allocated to Nunavut businesses. Thank you.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The turbot fishing quota in 0A and 0B is distributed through the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board as to which they will get from which quota.

So it is the responsibility of the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board as to the weight or the quota that they will get, but we try and make it beneficial for all of Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Minister. They are very capable of fishing, and there is enough turbot. Can the community of Clyde River or Qikiqtarjuaq be assisted if they want to open a fish plant in either of those communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The community has to do a feasibility study to see if the fish plants would be operational and depending on how successful it would be, if it can make money. Those are the things that the government would need to do research on, so that it can sustain itself in the future, if we were to open up another fish plant in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the minister. If they have to do a complete study, and with enough fish around, is the government prepared to do a study at this time? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): If we're talking about turbot, if they are able to manage and operate fish plants in the communities, if we were to build one, we would have to support those as the Government of Nunavut. We can look into this further as to how it would be. If it would succeed, then we would fully support having a fish plant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't understand. Is he agreeing that they will do a study on a fishery whether it would be profitable or beneficial? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apology if I misunderstood you Mr. Arreak. The government has agreed to assist the communities but we would have to work very closely with those communities. The organization that is responsible for quotas would have to be involved too.

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

Question 347 – 2(3): Arctic Sovereignty

Mr. Barnabas (Interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Premier.

(interpretation ends) Earlier today I spoke of the unique role that Grise Fiord plays as Canada's most northerly community in the country and a living example of protecting Canadian sovereignty in the High Arctic.

Just as an example, earlier this summer an unexpected and illegal visitor arrived in this community by the way of a small boat traveling across Baffin Bay from Greenland. I am happy to say that this criminal was quickly detained by Grise Fiord residents and was recently sent to jail for violating Canada's Immigration Act.

Even though there are military bases in Eureka and Alert and Thule in Greenland, Grise Fiord played a critical role in this man's capture. I would like to ask the Premier what recent discussions has he held with the federal government on the topic of sovereignty and the plans for protecting the High Arctic from intruders. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have tied in the sovereignty issue with the Prime Minister on devolution and assuming control of all the resources in the High Arctic to support sovereignty in those waters.

That is something that we'll continue on to try to deal with, devolution, on a government to government basis. At the same time I had a recent meeting with my northern colleagues here in Iqaluit and we affirmed that sovereignty should not just be about military installations and hardware. There are people and there are Inuit that live in the High Arctic that require a standard of living just like the rest of the country.

So that is the position that we have taken with our federal government and that is the position that we will continue to assert to support sovereignty in the High Arctic and in Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your first supplementary, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the federal government will not make a final decision on establishing an Arctic army training centre until a National Defense Capability Plan is finalized and approved.

Can the Premier tell this House what input the Government of Nunavut has had into this plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been lobbying for the commitments to be fulfilled and the election of their government and that they be honoured and they are implemented in Nunavut during their mandate and that decisions be made as soon as possible.

The Federal Minister of Defense has committed to making decisions on the port, for example, before the end of the year. On the training centre, I don't know where that is at the moment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Barnabas: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issues of sovereignty and the protection of Northwest Passage in the High Arctic becoming increasingly important especially as more and more international travelers are seeking passage through these waters. Will the Premier commit to supporting efforts to establish a stronger military presence in the Canada's High Arctic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Mr. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik: Thank you Mr. Speaker. We have offered assistance, wherever needed, by the Department of Defense, making sure that any infrastructure they plan to build is in support of our efforts and for support of the communities throughout Nunavut. That's the commitment we've made and we hope that we can deliver on these with the federal government during the life of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Oral Questions. Member for Hudson Bay, Mr. Kattuk.

Question 348 – 2(3): Research Study on Climate Change and Polar Bears

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to direct my question to the Minister of Environment. I have raised this question before back on February 21 in regard to polar bears.

On the climate change, we hear through media that it seems like the polar bears live on sea ice and the ice is not forming as early. When I called earlier, it's raining in our community. The ice should've been formed. Those are the concerns that we have. And I have raised this question, will there be research done on those issues? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the climate change and the environmental change, all kinds of wildlife will be affected. We are in the planning stage of what we should do because we are not sure how it will affect us, how the climate change will affect us. We are just in the process of doing research on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you. Your first supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If they're going to do research, will that include the polar bears around the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that will include the polar bears. Our department will hold a meeting on December 6 to 8 and we will be open to the public and invite people who are interested. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Your second supplementary, Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister state how they will do a study on polar bears? Do they have any basic idea, or give us information as to where and how they will be studied, especially in this warmer climate? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Kattuk. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not exactly sure what we're going to be doing with the polar bear, but we are well aware of the change in climate. The issue of polar bears is very important, and I'm sure that my department will be working on it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Kattuk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if you didn't understand me.

I'm not exactly sure what is happening with the polar bear, so I'm asking you how the polar bears are affected by the warmer climate, and if there are going to be any studies done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the member.

We have been studying polar bears for a number of years, and we have done studies in the Western Hudson Bay area. Because of the ice conditions and earlier break-up, the polar bears are starting to move.

I would like to assure the member that we are going to continue studying polar bears, and also how they are affected by the changing climate. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 349 – 2(3): Payroll Tax Increase

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I ask my question to the Minister of Finance, I would like to say hello to an old neighbor of mine from across the road in Rankin Inlet, and that is Raymond sitting back here in the Gallery. I would like to say hi and welcome him here.

My question to the minister, going back to the Payroll Tax, I appreciate his responses earlier and the fact that this is taxes, and tax credits and income. It's not a very easy thing to get your head around and understand.

I think you have to be a very good investigative reporter and accountant to decipher what it all means. The minister was saying earlier that no one in the lower two tax brackets would be paying any more taxes than they are right now as far as the Payroll Tax goes.

And, to my understanding Mr. Speaker, the second lowest tax bracket ends at about 60-some-thousand dollars a year. In reading the backgrounder that the department provided, it states that in the past, the one percent, people maxed out the credit at \$75,000 a year. Where they would pay the \$750, and get the \$750 credit back.

Under the current regime of two percent now, you're maxing out, if I'm reading this right, it says that the tax amount paid and the amount able to be deducted are equal and the salary amount would drop to \$45,000 a year.

So I would interpret that as saying anyone between \$45,000 a year, and what ever the 60-some-thousand dollars a year is at the high end of the second lowest tax bracket will be paying more in taxes because the credit maxes out at the \$45,000 and not the \$75,000 that it had before.

So I'd like to ask the minister if he could clarify that, or look into it, or at least talk to his officials to see if they could provide that information so that it could be very clear, maybe in some form of a table where someone making \$30,000, \$40,000, \$50,000, \$60,000, and so on and so forth, and how much taxes they would pay in that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance. Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in my earlier responses I did say that it maxes out at \$45,000. That's where the Payroll Tax would come in at \$900 which is the credit that we're presently looking at.

So anybody earning more than \$45,000 per annum would be paying a bit more depending on how much they're making above the \$45,000.

So in terms of coming up with some sort of a table that lists all of those possible taxes and depending of course on what other credits an individual may have when he or she is doing their income tax for this coming year. Yeah, we can certainly provide a table of some sort and I am sure staff are already working on that, having heard the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want the minister to get me wrong, I have no problem having people who could afford to pay more taxes pay more taxes, but then, you know, in this case, I would say someone that's in the bottom two tax brackets has very little, if any, disposable income to work with, and now they are going to get hit. Anyone making over \$45,000 is going to get hit with more taxes. They can't afford it; they're already the working poor.

Can the minister look at somehow changing, or will they look at some way of changing it so that those individuals in those lower two tax brackets, who are basically the working poor, are not paying more that they can't afford, because those are the ones that can't afford it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course we can look at it again, and the Financial Management Board is going to be having a meeting tomorrow and we can deal with it in the morning. We are looking at \$900 whether there should be an increase or a decrease, the Financial Management Board is having a meeting

tomorrow morning and we will look at it again. Possibly, what we could do is bring it up to \$1,500.

We will make a decision on it tomorrow. Yes, we know exactly where you are coming from and we will look at it again tomorrow. We are drafting the piece of legislation, so there is a lot of room for making changes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the minister's willingness to take a look at it, and I would certainly hope that when they do eventually come forward with legislation that that is taken into consideration.

Because I know for anyone here in this room, there's no problem paying the extra one percent. You know, people making \$45,000 a year, I would say in the \$60,000 range or more is poverty line in Nunavut. Those people can't afford to pay more. You know we have, as I had indicated earlier, contract consultants and other contract employees and our, you know, maybe even the agency nurses are contract employees, I don't know if they pay the Payroll Tax.

Maybe they can look at how much are they going to lose by losing increasing that limit so that no one in the lower two tax brackets pays additional and find ways to, like I said, maybe we need a PC Tax, Professional Consultant Tax.

Those are the ones that are taking money out, and which is the whole intent of the Payroll Tax is to retain money from leaving the territory by workers that are doing that. And I know that the minister of any department would probably have a list of quite length, and some departments more than others of contract employees.

So would the minister commit to looking at that to offset the lost income that they may be looking at if they help Nunavummiut who really can't afford to pay more? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Tootoo. Minister of Finance, Mr. Simailak.

Hon. David Simailak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know exactly where you are coming from and I said again earlier that the Financial Management Board is going to be having a meeting tomorrow morning and we will look at options and see if we can increase that \$900 to \$1,500. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 350 – 2(3): Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project

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

Mr. Speaker, the minister is well aware, after five years in Cabinet, that the Bathurst Port Road is important to Kitikmeot, Nunavut and Canada. Recently the Kitikmeot Inuit Association passed another resolution calling on various levels of government to move forward on this initiative.

The Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada recently told the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce that the Northern Territories require infrastructure such as transportation to lay foundations for an improved economy. My question for the minister is: has the minister had a sit-down, face-to-face meeting with both Minister Cannon and Minister Prentice in Ottawa to discuss how to move forward on this project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just had a discussion with Minister Cannon in April and we did discuss the issue of the possibility of building docks in Nunavut, but I never had this discussion with Mr. Prentice. We did talk about mining and other possibilities. We'll see if we could get more financial support from the federal government through discussions with the Ministers.

Speaker: Your first supplementary, Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you to the minister for that information. I'm not sure if the minister understands; I'm not asking about docks; I'm asking about the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project which is a significantly larger project than a dock and that we've been talking about that for what seems like decades now.

Mr. Speaker, I follow the proceedings of the Northwest Territories Legislature and on October 24, our colleagues were debating on all-weather road, a year-round road to the diamond mines because of the problems with the Lupin winter road. Our colleague MLA Hawkins made the following statement and I quote, "Mr. Speaker, I have a solution to the problem. We need to finally complete the Ingram Trail by building an all-weather road, year-round road to the mining quarter. We have to do this long before Nunavut wakes up and realizes that the Bathurst Deep Water Port maybe a good argument."

My question for the minister; I sent him this information as well. My question for the minister: is MLA Hawkins correct in his perception that Nunavut is sleeping and doesn't realize that the Bathurst Port and Road Project may be a good argument? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't talking about the docks. The docks are coming from DFO; Minister Cannon is from Minister of Transportation and the deep sea port area that you are talking about where we could put a deep sea port, again we had seven possible locations for deep sea port. And myself, as a Minister for Mines, hopefully, I'm not sleeping, I'm trying to be awake as I can be awake on these issues.

Again, the federal government, we keep asking about what they're going to do, how they can help us. Like I said to Mr. Lunn, Natural Resources, we also talked about how we want support from the Cabinet ministers in the federal level. I believe that we're, we as a government, are still supporting those roads and ports. We want to work closely with the mining companies that are mining in our territory and how we could fast-track this and we're doing our very best and I'm also still going to do my very best to work with the federal ministers on this issue. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. I am very glad to hear the Government of Nunavut isn't sleeping. That is the perception in the Northwest Territories that they can get the jump on us. So I hope we can get the jump on them since we have done a lot of work on this initiative.

There was a transportation workshop that was held in Yellowknife in early September where 18 options were discussed to replace the existing winter roads. Of the 18 options, the Bathurst Inlet Port and Road Project came out as one of the best in the longer term.

My question for the Minister: has Economic Development and Transportation taken the initiative in contacting the Tahera Corporation, Diavik Diamond Mines and Ekati Diamond Mines to discuss their willingness to support the Bathurst Port and Road Project if the Government of Nunavut takes the lead? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We want to work very closely with those mining companies and also the Inuit Organizations that are involved in mining. I think it is a good way of trying to work out something that will work for our territory.

There are different mining companies that are interested in working with us and we want to work with them. Like I said, we want to work very closely with the federal level and if we have to lead this, I think it is very important that we have Inuit corporations and the mining companies to be the lead and also the communities that would benefit from a road and port. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the minister for that answer. It sounds to me like the ministers have had a lot of meetings or discussions with various people and maybe it is time to bring them all together face to face.

The minister committed to me in late September that he would contact his colleagues in the Northwest Territories and Ottawa and the industry as well as the Kitikmeot Inuit Association and the Kitikmeot Corporation to set up a stakeholders meeting to discuss the Bathurst Port and Road.

My question for the minister: would the minister reaffirm that commitment to me today and then update me on the progress to date to set up a stakeholders meeting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Olayuk Akesuk: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a mining symposium being held in April of next year. I think it is important that we have these mining companies here in our territory. I think that is the best time to try and meet as many people as we could during that time. I'll get my staff to look into how we can meet with these people in April if we could do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Before we proceed, allow me to please to acknowledge the presence of Raymond Ningeocheak, Second Vice President of Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated, who I am sure is listening to the deliberations.

>>Applause

Speaker: Welcome to the Gallery, Mr. Ningeocheak. (interpretation) Oral Questions. Member for High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Question 351 – 2(3): Update on the Wildlife Act Amendments

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

When I was touring my constituency I was asked to ask this question. It is not that we are not against the non natives but there was a *Wildlife Act* consultation in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay and also in Rankin Inlet. I don't know if they went to the smaller communities but they were supposed to come to our community.

The amendments to the *Wildlife Act*, the proposed amendments are now getting more authority within the municipalities. Can the minister update, in the House, what kind of amendments they are planning to have, or proposing? Thank you.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did not quite understand the member, is he talking about the beneficiaries? I would like to get his question clarified. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Netser. Can you please clarify your question, Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The problems we encounter in my constituency are, if common-law couples stay together and they are starting to receive the harvesting rights, transfer of harvesting rights, are there any amendments affecting that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now, I understand the question. It is in the regulations, the beneficiaries who are living with a non-native; we have given that responsibility to the HTO. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't understand. We already know those, the old ones, alright. We already know in the *Wildlife Act*, your common-law spouses can get hunting rights, but are there any amendments to the transfer of harvesting rights, like, if you are married to a non-beneficiary, how long is the residency requirement before they can go out hunting? Is this amended inside the *Wildlife Act*? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry, when a non-beneficiary moves to Nunavut, the residency requirement is three months. Then they are given a hunting licence. If they have a common-law who is a beneficiary, their common-law spouse is able to give their harvesting rights to the partner. For the transient individuals, the residency requirement is three months before they can go out caribou hunting. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we understand. As Inuit people we don't understand the process of this. First of all, I found out that the residency requirement was that if an individual comes in from the south, it was amended. It was a one-year residency requirement, and then it was changed to a six month residency requirement in the amendments. Can you table the amendments to the House to make sure that Nunavummiut can see those? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Minister of Environment, Mr. Netser.

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Currently, the wildlife regulations are being deliberated on, and once these are completed I will be able to table them. Thank you.

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once these regulations are complete, and once the consultations are complete, once the communities are consulted, what are the minister's plans if the amendments are not supported by the people? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Hon. Patterk Netser (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the First Assembly, the *Wildlife Act* was already implemented. But now, we're dealing with the regulations, and I do want to state that when the regulations are not supported by Inuit they can be changed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Netser. Oral Question Period is now over. Thank you. Item 7. Written Questions. Item 8. Returns to Written Questions. Item 9. Replies to Opening Address. Item 10. Petitions. (interpretation ends) Item 11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees. Item 12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Mr. Premier.

Item 13: Tabling of Documents

Tabled Document 163 – 2(3): State of Inuit Culture and Society 2003-04 & 2004-05 – NTI Annual Report: Housing in Nunavut – The Time for Action is Now – Iniksaqattiarniq

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. What I'm going to table affects Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated because according to the legislation, I have to table this report. Iniksaqattiarniq 2003-04 – 2004-05 Annual Report on Inuit Culture. So I have to table those in the House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Premier. We'll find out what the exact names are once the documents make it up to the Table Officers. Thank you.

Tabling of Documents. Member for the High Arctic, Mr. Barnabas.

Tabled Document 164 – 2(3): Army Training Centre – Correspondence with Honourable Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Defense

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document. It is regarding correspondence between the Minister of National Defense on Arctic Army Training Centre.

Earlier today I made a statement that this was very important, the protection of the sovereignty of Canada, especially in the High Arctic, and to have the military existing up there. Today I would like to table all the correspondence between myself and the Honourable Gordon O'Connor, who is the Minister of National Defense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Barnabas. Please provide the documents to the Table Officers. Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Netser.

Tabled Document 165 – 2(3): Conservation Officer Recruitment DVD

Hon. Patterk Netser: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table the following material: the Conservation Officer Recruitment Video. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Netser. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Minister Picco.

Tabled Document 166 – 2(3): Response to the Standing Committee on Health and Education in its Report on the Review of Nunavut Arctic College Submitted by NAC Board of Governors

Tabled Document 167 – 2(3): Masters of Education Program – Letter of Appreciation to Minister

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a great pleasure today to table the following document: the Response to the Standing Committee on Education and Health on the Report on the Review of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The second document I would like to table is: Correspondence from the University of P.E.I. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Can we have those documents brought forward please. Thank you. Item 13. Tabling of Documents. Item 14. Notices of Motions. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Aglukkaq.

Item 15: Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills

Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act – Notice

Hon. Leona Aglukkaq: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 17, 2006 that Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act*, will be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Could the minister please provide the Notice of Motion to the Clerk's Table. Thank you.

Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Minister of Finance, Minister Simailak.

Bill 23 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06 – Notice

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 27, 2006 that Bill 23, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #4, 2005-06*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Thank you. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Please proceed, Mr. Simailak.

Bill 24 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations & Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07 – Notice

Bill 25 – Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07 – Notice

Hon. David Simailak: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills.

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, November 27, 2006 that Bill 24, *Supplementary Appropriation (Operations and Maintenance) Act #2, 2006-07*, be read for the first time.

And also, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, November 27, 2006 that Bill 25, *Supplementary Appropriation (Capital) Act #2, 2006-07*, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Item 15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills. Item 16. Motions. Item 17. First Reading of Bills. Item 18. Second Reading of Bills. Item 19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters. Bill 26 with Mr. Arreak in the Chair.

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

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House recessed at 15:44 and Committee resumed at 16:17*

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

Chairman (Mr. Arreak)(interpretation): Thank you for coming back. I would like to call the committee meeting to order. (interpretation ends) In Committee of the Whole we have the following item to deal with: Bill 26. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Evyagotailak.

Mr. Evyagotailak: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We wish to continue with the review of Bill 26 and the capital main estimates for the Department of Education. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Evyagotailak. (interpretation ends) Are we in agreement to deal with the capital estimates for Education?

Some Members: Agreed.

Bill 26 – Appropriation (Capital) Act, 2007-08 – Review in Committee – Education

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you for agreeing. (interpretation ends) Yesterday, the Minister of Education and the co-chair of the standing committee delivered their opening comments. I would like to ask Minister Picco if he has witnesses he would like to bring to the table. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do, and I will ask them to join me at the table. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Some Members: Agreed.

Chairman: Thank you. (interpretation) Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses.

Thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Minister. (interpretation ends) Minister, for the record, please introduce your staff. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm very pleased to have with me today on my immediate right is Mr. Tim Innualuk, and Tim is the Manager for Capital Planning with the Department of Education. On my immediate left is Mr. Lorne Levy, Lorne is the mentor within the Department of Education and now in a new role; a Special Advisor to CSIS and CGS on Capital Planning.

In the Gallery, Mr. Chairman, we have with us Kathy Okpik, who is the Deputy Minister of the Department of Education. And next to Kathy is Mr. Mac Clendenning, and Mac, as most members know, is the President of Nunavut Arctic College. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. (interpretation) If there are any general comments from the members, you have ten minutes. Once the ten minutes is over and after one person makes a general comment, then give the other people a chance to do that first. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a short comment. Will I be able to ask questions from the minister's opening remarks, or do I have to wait until everything is done?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. We will be dealing with the capital estimates; as long as it's in the budget, then you can ask questions. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I realized that we will be in support of the department's opening remarks.

Education is dealt with by all the provinces in Canada, but it's too bad from 1982 on that there were health issues that were being dealt with by GNWT and we have had a lot of problems with our education issues.

But I'm happy to day that the minister has allotted expenditures of over \$23 million in 2007-08 for a strong budget for education. I think that those are expenditures for up to 2020.

I think we already know that there's going to be a growth in population, especially when you see a lot of people in the communities growing and other people moving to other communities.

I think Education has to have a good plan in place and to have some capital expenditure money to build more schools. If we're going to be planning every year, or planning for five years, and if the plan is not in place, then we have an emergency situation because before 1999, NWT did not want to have a deficit on April 1, 1999.

As soon as we got the Nunavut Government, the schools were...I think you remember in Baker Lake especially, there was a fire because of the hazardous electrical wiring in the schools, and we had to pay a lot of money to renovate that because the GNWT did not want to have a deficit. Everything was put on hold and we could not do any renovations.

We didn't put it this way; there should have been, in the *Nunavut Act*, that there should be a deficit and the federal government, in turn, pay for those renovations and stuff. Because it did not happen this way, we will always not have enough money for education.

I'd like to ask the minister on his Opening Address on the first page. I would like to get some clarification. They have allotted money for Arctic College in Iqaluit, Cambridge Bay, and Rankin Inlet. Have there been any plans, is there a plan in place, or does the

Arctic College have a separate capital planning person or is it somebody at the witness table?

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you. Yes I will not allow you to ask that question at this time because we're under general comments. But during the questioning of the minister you can ask him that question later on. What I'm looking for from the members are general comments at this time. If there are none, we will go to G-6.

(interpretation ends) Corporate Services. Tangible Assets. Total Headquarters. \$6,186,000. Mr. Arvaluk, did you have a question?

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I'm not really sure which page you were referring to in the capital estimates.

Chairman: G-6.

Mr. Arvaluk: Before we go to that page, under the minister's opening comments I would like to ask a question. On the first page it states that \$23 million, and \$66 million for 2011-12, budget totaling in these amounts. Is that for the Department of Education alone? Or does that include Nunavut Arctic College, or do they have their own person to do the capital planning?

Chairman: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member asked a question first, I believe, on the staffing requirements under the capital budget for the Department of Education. The capital planner position within the Department of Education is a shared position.

The capital planning for the college is done at the Department of Education which includes the school side of things and the college side of things. So all the logistic as well as the administrative side of the work for capital planning are done through the Department of Education.

And, the amount that is given, there is \$66,024,000 over that period from 2006-07 to 2011-12, in that time frame, that's inclusive of Nunavut Arctic College campus development, student accommodations, as well as community learning centres. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On page 3 of the minister's opening remarks, it states that, in the third paragraph that; "...we have emphasized principals of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* in our planning and design, as well as supporting multipurpose facilities, partnerships, student training, as fundamental elements in our construction contracts."

Can the minister tell me if you can use an example of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* that you used in planning and designing? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under the planning processes for Nunavut Arctic College two years ago, when I became the minister, one of the first things I asked the department to ensure was that we would design our schools from that point onward, or any major renovation that we would do, to include for example, a daycare space.

Under the principals of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, looking after our children under *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit*, one of the major priorities of that and one of the major outlines of *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* is the care of the children.

I believe, by encompassing and focusing that dedicated space within our schools, and having a total community type of environment for the children is part of that.

The second part is; in the schools that we're designing, and we're building a good example now, is in the new Aqsarniit School as an example, which is in town. The members can have a chance to look at it. We've actually put in place rooms, multi-purpose, multi-faceted rooms, elders rooms, where elders would be able to do story telling for example, and sharing their knowledge.

We also have a drumming room for example that has been set up in one of the schools. In the larger schools in communities we also facilitated where in the shop area that there is contingency to be able bring snowmobiles for example to do small engine repair in and out of the facility and to make the school to be more conducive to that. So those are several of the different things that we have been doing to incorporate *Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit* within the school design.

We also work with elders in communities through the offices of the DEA and the new schools that we are developing all have dedicated elders areas in those schools. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not really sure about the response he gave me about the \$23 million. The proposed expenditure of \$23 million would be used for the Trade School in Rankin Inlet, Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit. I wonder if you can give me some clarification on the \$23 million.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The number that is being referred to, \$23 million, is the actual amount of the total budget for the capital for the Department of Education. Just for clarification, as I said earlier, that \$23 million is inclusive K to 12

schools, kindergarten to grade 12, as well as Nunavut Arctic College and the Community Learning Centres as well as the Nunavut Trade School and any other assorted educational facility. The \$23 million is for all schools, CLCs, the College and student residences. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): My third question on page 4 of his opening remarks about the middle of the page. It states that an example of the recent tendering for Gjoa Haven school renovations and that they only received one bid that exceeded the budget by almost \$23 million.

Can the minister explain to me what the original estimate for Gjoa Haven school renovations? Were they that far off, or did they underestimate the amount? It doesn't explain there, or did they want that much money that exceeded the budget by \$23 million?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What the member has brought up is probably one of the most important and onerous things that is facing this government today and tomorrow.

That is the increased cost of our capital budget. In the case of the Gjoa Haven school we had looked at about \$17 million for the school when we put the original tender out. There was only one response and it came in at \$40 million: \$23 million over the budget. Now, you might have heard me say in my Member's Statement today as an example. We just under, the Class C estimate of the Anglican Church here in Iqaluit, which is not a government project and we looked at between \$3.5 and \$4 million and it is coming in at \$6 million; almost double. So what has happened in Gjoa Haven is not unique just to the school in Gjoa Haven. It is happening all across Nunavut with our Capital Budget.

But it is also reflective of what we are seeing in the west, especially in Alberta, which with an over-heated economy drawing skilled journeymen carpenters, plumbers and so on trades people to the west. That is boosting up the costs.

The Department of Community and Government Services indicated to us when they looked at the tender that came in on that school and we had to go back and re-tender that again and to see if we can get more bids on it and that is what we have done. So hopefully that answers some of the member's questions on why the cost is so much.

It is a reason, or it is being caused in what we are seeing happening, not only in the national, or Canadian marketplace in construction, but indeed, internationally. We are seeing projects come in across the board, 20, 30, 40 percent more than what we allowed for under the tender document. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. We are on Page G-6. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: On the same issue, has the Department of Education, or the government as a whole for that matter, considered going back to the partnership with the community by negotiating construction projects with small construction businesses that are locally owned, that can be done a lot cheaper. With other technical requirements, such as plumbing, and electrical, etcetera, to be done by somebody else?

There are a number of private workers now in the community that fix furnaces, licensed one-man company type people. In fact, it has been quite troublesome in my community that people who will qualify under NNI Policy, for example, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation, is competing with our small construction business people in the community. There are small construction companies in my community who also qualify under NNI Policy who cannot compete because they cannot upfront the type of capital requirement to start up the construction.

I have an example that I will not use right now, but that had happened when the larger corporations like Nunavut Construction Corporation, Qikiqtaaluk Corporation and other Inuit owned corporations compete with the small local construction companies. We have gone back to exactly where we were before, before we created the NNI Policy. I think we have to be very prudent in trying to get the local businesses going, have a local economy going to keep the money in town to even put into construction of schools.

Has this been considered, rather than just by saying, "Oh \$23 million is too much and we are going to have to re-tender that." Have they considered working with the community see if they could come up with acceptable costs to build or renovate those schools? Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Arvaluk. Maybe you can raise that question too when we are dealing with Community and Government Services next week, because the Minister for Community and Government Services is responsible, but if you wish to respond, Mr. Picco. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the member makes a good point. When you are looking at a project, on a project by project basis, in this case, what we have tried to demonstrate in the community of Gjoa Haven is we are trying to bundle the project. That's look at the component pieces of doing the project itself, the actual construction project, and to look at what kind of economies of scale and cost-effectiveness that we can achieve from the local community itself. At the same time be able to use those economies of scale and bring the cost of the project down.

One way of doing that is bringing in some component parts of the project, for example, let's say the foundation. We would actually purchase the foundation parts, bring them into the community and say, look, we can bring the foundation parts in on the ship and do it for, you know, \$27 a pile, why are you coming back in and offering us \$92 a pile.

So that is part of the idea of working with the local contractors and companies. At the same time under the NNI Policy, it gives a leg-up or an opportunity for local businesses at the local level in a smaller community to be able to be sub-contractors, for example, on a large project.

When you're dealing with a \$17 or \$20 million project, that's a huge project over a couple of years. You need the cash flow for that project, and you need to be able to get bonding insurance, and so on. Most of the smaller contractors aren't able to do that, and that's why, when the larger companies bid on it, they have to be inclusive on the NNI Policy. Meaning, they actually have to have a local purchase program in place and, or labour, so that they can actually meet the NNI objectives.

If they don't, they pay a penalty for that, and then that means there is more cost to them as a company. So hopefully that helps answer the member's questions on what we're trying to do not only logistically, but administratively, and financially when we deal with capital projects in the communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister Picco. I'm going to ring the bells because we don't have a quorum.

Thank you. We now have a quorum. Before you leave, make sure we have quorum. We're on G-6. Education. Detail of Capital. Corporate Services. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the minister and his officials to Committee of the Whole. I know that this is an event that the minister looks forward to twice a year with great earnest. He's such a benevolent despot, that he just loves coming here, and he was telling us that this morning.

My first question on here, and it was touched on a little bit. I'll use the example of pretty much a fiasco here at the middle school with the project delays, and that. Maybe the minister could outline what they do from their department to make sure that the project management and the capital projects that are being undertaken by the department are being done in the fashion outlined in there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Minister Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The member is correct. There were quite a few delays in the development and indeed the completed construction on the Aqsarniit School.

That's a unique case and some of the things that came together to cause delays, and not only to construction, but also in the material ordering. In the case of the Aqsarniit School, like most projects, we would have a project manager assigned from the Community and Government Services. And, as well, at the same time we have our own staff, Tim, Mr. Innualuk, and Mr. Levy who would be following up from the Department of Education's side.

And then, once the contract is awarded and the contract begins, it's up to the Department of Community and Government Services, which monitors the site itself and the actual work to make sure the time lines and time frames are being kept.

And then from there, that's being coordinated at the end through the Department of Education with their own capital planners to ensure that specifications are being met, that time lines are being met, and so on.

So there were a lot of different, almost like a comedy of errors I suppose, in the Aqsarniit School where things that were ordered never came on the ship that was supposed to have come in. That caused some delay with some of the major components of the building itself. There were some issues with the labour on the site, not having the proper trades' people to do proper work that they were supposed to be doing on the site itself, whether that be mechanical engineering and so on. Like I said earlier, issues with the materials arriving behind schedule. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like to thank the minister for his response.

When you're doing a project, does the department have any input at all into the awarding of the contract? I know if you look in this case as the minister just mentioned you have a southern based firm that doesn't have experience in doing work in the north. They didn't have the materials here in time, they didn't know how to get their, when they needed to meet deadlines to get materials here, they didn't have the people they needed to do the job here.

To me, I look at this, we have northern contractors that know all that information or have learned from experience on how to do, you know the uniqueness of construction in the north and I guess I'm just wondering: does the department have any input at all or is it just strictly the Community and Government Services decision as to awarding of these contracts? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The contracting or the tender for the schools or any other major facility, the government follows standard guidelines, contract guidelines that are in place throughout the government itself.

In this case, there would be a contract team in place in Community and Government Services, CGS, as well as the Department of Education, and they would review a number of factors of the project itself. The monetary consideration is one of those considerations, as well as NNI and other factors in the planning and awarding of the tender. Standard contracting rules are applied and followed on the department's tenders. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe in this case you know that old saying you get what you pay for comes into play here. I understand in this case that through Community and Government Services the minister himself was being informed, as late as August that everything's going to be fine and then three weeks later, oops we're a month and a half - two months late. I'm just wondering how, from the capital planners and the people within the department how that could've happened. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have to look at it in; I guess in construction contexts and take it from there. The member is correct the last update I had this summer was in July and at that time around July 15 or 20, according to my information that things were pretty well up to snuff and on time and on schedule and then by the end of August or around August 20, about four or five weeks later it turned out that quite a few timelines had slipped.

Now, those timelines in July and August were contingent that ship A was going to arrive with product B, and employee C would be on site to deliver that and there were some concerns with that. Originally, the school should've been ready to move in with all the students after Labour Day weekend. That was the week of September 6 to 10.

There was a five-week delay before the school could be turned over. When you look at the delay of five to seven weeks on a major construction project, that's not really a lot, when you look at a project of this size and scope.

Again, we wanted to make sure that when the students did move into the school that it was safe to do so and we wanted to ensure that the work was up to snuff as it were.

The school is a beautiful school; it is a fantastic addition to the infrastructure in the community of Iqaluit. And again, hopefully sometime in early December, when we do the official opening, a lot of the members and yourself will have the opportunity to see it.

So there was a delay, the delay was logistics as well as an administrative one. There were concerns again with the product coming in on time and having some of the journeyman as it were, or the craftspeople in place to be able to do the work that was being detailed.

I believe that, that would be the main major reasons for the delay. At the same time, Mr. Chairman, I have written the Minister responsible for Community Government and Services, Minister Brown, and asked for a review of the project, again to make sure that if there are any issues there, we can catch them now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman, this is a, sort of confirmation for the record that the minister is now saying that a four or five week delay is no big deal.

I don't believe that, I don't recall those words being...passing his lips in the past; I'll leave that one alone for now.

Under G-6, under \$6.1 million that is there for capital; under small capital \$300,000 or less, and minor projects, is that where the bussing funding comes from? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just to confirm that, first of all, for the record, the member is referring to, page G - 6, which is what we're on right now. I believe, if that's correct, if he could clarify and the second point was on the delay.

No, I did not say for the record, it was acceptable or suitable that the school would be delayed for a five to six week period in opening. What I suggested was, in a large program like that, that is not unusual, that is not something that you know, just occurred on this file, or is unique to this file.

And we were, like I said before, the government as well as with the co-operation from the District Education Authority and the school staff, worked their butts off to get the school running on time and it is a wonderful facility.

The amount of money there for the bussing, is \$185,000 which is inclusive of the school purchases, the school bus purchase. That is right line item, the \$185,000 amount on G - 6. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The minister indicated, I know he did in his opening comments, but if he could say so here again, what communities are getting busses, and how do they determine which communities get busses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There was a note in the review by the standing committee, where they mentioned there were five communities on the list, last year, prioritized for bussing, and then somehow these communities have dropped off and five more appeared.

So I want to clarify that's the question. The GN-wide bussing needs identified Coral Harbour, Kimmirut, Igloolik, Clyde River, and Qikiqtarjuaq being eligible for a bus or a bus replacement. That was in last year's budget.

And what has occurred since then, is that Hall Beach, Chesterfield Inlet, and Gjoa Haven have come forward and been prioritized for bus or bus replacement. And Clyde River and Qikiqtarjuaq's bus requests were carried forward. Coral Harbour, Igloodik, and Kimmirut have received their busses. And that's why those three communities have dropped off that list.

So we have two from last year, and then three additional ones, put forward. So hopefully that answers the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I wish the minister could anticipate the questions like that more often. Have the answers already handy.

He indicated that they have a list, and like last year, as he had indicated, there were five communities on the list, and there were three that were approved through the capital appropriations.

This year there are some more communities on here, but one thing he missed in that explanation that I'm trying to get for the record is; how does the department determine eligibility on how to be prioritized, which communities should get buses? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We try to place the busses by alphabetical order. So Arreak would be first, and then Arvaluk. No, Mr. Chairman, in all seriousness, of course there are standards and criteria in place.

There is a policy for the busses. Some of those contingent factors include the distance the students have from the school, where the school is located in a given community, and the distance the students have to walk, and so on. That would be one of the major factors.

Then it includes the school enrollment population in a given community, or a given school. In some cases, Mr. Chairman, as you know, we have more than one school in a community.

So, in those cases, it depends on a given school where the busses are available. When we say a bus, again, it is contingent on what size bus the community may need. If there are a lot of students, they might get a bus with 70 or 80 students, or they might get the smaller version that we see for example, in Sanikiluaq, or one of the other communities.

So those are the types of criteria that are in place. The other criteria include, if the bus is purchased, is there a place in the community where the bus can be parked, for example, and what the operations and maintenance cost is of the bus. Is there money available

through the District Education Authority to have a qualified driver of that bus because if that bus has air brakes, and so on.

So those are other things that are put in place; the operations and maintenance costs, the storage costs, what is available right now, what's the age of the bus that is in the community right now, and those types of things.

So all those types of standards and criteria are put in place, and then, when the request comes in from a given community, those are rated by a community basis, and with the small budget that we have, we try to allocate monies for the new bus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank the minister for that response. I know it sounds familiar. I just had to hear it again just to be reinforced on that process.

I'm just wondering if he could indicate; when they do provide a community with a bus, is there, like in buildings where there is a life expectancy, how long does the department anticipate...I know you can't always anticipate everything, but, how long, for planning purposes, when they're looking at their capital plan down the road, how long do they anticipate a bus lasting in a community before it needs to be replaced? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Busses, unlike other vehicles in communities, aren't used seven days a week and they're only used for a couple hours a day. So we look at life expectancy of a given bus of between 10 and 12 years. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Tootoo.

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I again just wanted to have that information on the record so that we know how long before someone gets a new bus, and everyone knows how long it's going to take them to get a new bus if they just got one.

Further down on that page, they are showing for the Nunavut Arctic College student accommodations here in Iqaluit showing prior year costs of \$12,545,000. What do we get for that? I don't recall seeing anything being done up there that we spent \$12 million on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is an accounting issue there. What that \$12 million means is the money we received last year, as the members may remember, from the federal partner on the Nunavut Strategy money, included monies that the Cabinet had allocated to the Nunavut Trades School Project, and for that reason, student accommodations were also included.

That's what you see there when you see the 12 from last year because that was accounted for in last year's budget.

This year the actual construction will take place, and then Mr. Tootoo we will see the actual construction. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Tootoo: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I just want to have the minister indicate for the record, there was an announcement made earlier this year that the residence would be done this year. And one would think by this fiscal year it would be done, that was mentioned last spring, I think it was mentioned. And so everyone was expecting to see something happen over this construction season, and nothing did. And I know that the minister has a very good explanation for that. I would like to have him reiterate it for the record. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. What had occurred on the file was that we were hoping to do at least some of the site work in this season. That meant putting the piles and so on, moving some of the materials to site, leveling off the site as well as providing fill to the site. There's a lot of gravel fill has to go to the site itself.

However, we weren't able to do that for this construction season, and that's why I said in earnest this spring coming up, you'll start to see that type of developmental work including the piles and material will be arriving and the building going up on the site in the proposed location which is adjacent and directly north of the current Q units, on Q road, on the Power Corporation hill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome, I would like to welcome the minister and his officials to witness table. Just before we begin I note for the public record that the Nunavut Government is asking for approval from the House to spend \$5.5 million next year on the new trade school.

I'd like to ask the minister if he is willing to answer questions from the members about the programs that are going to be offered to be delivered in that facility and including the facilities in Cambridge Bay and Iqaluit. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Minister Picco

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that Mr. Peterson's question could be ruled out of order on this point. I don't want to get into a serious debate with Mr. Peterson on his question, which seems to be not only proper and good, but probably out of the context of the capital budget debate.

We're supposed to discuss the debate on the capital and the program and services that would be delivered at a campus in a building that has not been completed yet, would fall under the O&M area.

However, if the chair would indulge the committee, and the committee felt that they should have answers to that specific question, then I could answer, so I would ask your direction on how you would like to proceed and the committee would like to proceed. Thank you.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Minister. We're on page G-6 (interpretation ends) Corporate Services. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his answer, I'm not sure what he said there, but this I know: I realize this is capital estimates but you know we're not experts about piles, foundations, plumbing in this House here. We have others experts for that.

I just felt if we are going to be asked to approve substantial capital amounts for capital projects in Nunavut, we should be able to ask for a little bit of information about the types of programs that will be offered in the facilities.

So, again, I'd ask the minister if he's, yes or no, if he is willing to answer some general questions. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Mr. Picco, if you would like to respond you may do so. Mr. Picco.

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd be happy to respond to the member's question. I just wanted to make sure that, again, usually when you're on capital you're talking about the capital infrastructure not the program or the classes. That would be delivered, that's operations and maintenance.

I can say, maybe just quickly then for the record, I will give an overview of some of the programs. When the campus is complete at the trade school in Rankin Inlet, they have several programs that will be run there. Those include and are inclusive of construction trades, which would include carpentry, plumbing, the housing maintainer, and electrical. We're looking at heavy equipment operator and heavy equipment technician. We're looking at some of the other construction trades that the member would be familiar with; dry-waller for example.

We are also looking at some academic preparations for the campus there and that could be included trades access programs themselves. In the member's community of Cambridge Bay, we are looking at the millwright program to be delivered there through the extra monies that we are putting into the facility because millwright training really ties into the trades training for mines development.

We are looking at phasing in different types of programs themselves. They would also include oil-burner mechanic and so on. So hopefully that helps answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer; I'm glad he did provide that information. Can the minister tell us: out of the \$5.5 million that you are seeking, how much of that would go towards the trades school portion in the Cambridge Bay High School? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we announced this program under the Northern Development Strategy monies from the federal government, what we tried to do is try to target that money in the three regional centers, put the actual main campus of the trades school in Rankin Inlet, and then be able to augment and probably expedite some of the other program offerings that we could do in Iqaluit and Cambridge to make sure that we decentralize those.

In the Cambridge Bay case, over half a million dollars is currently being, is underway right now being spent in the community to facilitate the Trades Training Program to be delivered out of the facility in the Kilinik School there. So hopefully that helps to answer the member's question. Thank you.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. The minister has mentioned a couple times the Northern Strategy Funds. How much of the funding from the Northern Strategy Fund has been applied towards the total project in the three regions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. A little over \$10 million, I believe, is the figure to date. Thank you.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. Can the minister give us an update on the progress of the Nunavut Trades School Project to date? How much has been accomplished, or has anything been accomplished in terms of construction? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to make sure that we have the information and in the proper sequential order. The last, as you know, this past spring, we did the announcement of the trades school being relocated into Rankin Inlet. Before that, we actually checked out several sites including the forward operating location site here in Iqaluit; it wasn't conducive to our needs. We have a facility in Rankin Inlet, which is owned by the Government of Nunavut, and we're spending the lion's share of our money in actually developing that facility and fixing it up to make it into the trades school.

So, right now, we are in the project phasing of that, which means the awarding soon for the design, and so on. At the same time, as the member had just pointed out earlier in the question, we had to see what the program was going to be at the school, so we had to figure out what programs we are going to run. Once we know that, then we can take that information, go to the project planners and design people and say: this is what we want to deliver in this given building; how do we accomplish that and how do we facilitate that.

So that is where we are with the program. We are looking at 2008-09 where we will be in a position that the actual facility would be up and running and in place at the current time frame.

At the same time, we are moving forward with new student accommodations in Rankin Inlet, which is part of the same project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for his response. I attended the Kitikmeot Inuit Association Annual General Meeting last month in Cambridge Bay and several of the delegates expressed their unhappiness that a large trades school wasn't going to be built in the Kitikmeot and that the government didn't take advantage of the Lupin Mine site when it was available.

They feel that the small facility in the high school is not going to be adequate to provide all the training that will be required to enable Kitikmeot residents and other residents to participate in the mining industry in the Kitikmeot.

As I mentioned in my Member's Statement yesterday, up to 300 underground mining positions are required in the mining sector alone. I am wondering if the minister can comment on whether he has any long-term plans for a trade school facility in the Kitikmeot. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I had an opportunity last spring to be in the Kitikmeot and as the member knows I had a chance to tour the mine with him, the diamond mine with him just this past fall. So I am quite aware of the issues around mining and mine training and I actually met with several of the mining corporations when I was there.

Let me say first of all, I believe the facility that we are trying to demonstrate in Cambridge will be able to handle a lot of the training that we talked about especially the Millwright program which is a mine training specific course and that is the whole idea of arranging of the facilitation and delivery of that course in Cambridge Bay.

Secondly, the Lupin mine site just was not a go. The Lupin site was abandoned. For us to go into a community where there is no community, several hundred miles away from the nearest community and try to operate it as some kind of an outpost training centre just was not on. Some of the internal reviews done for the KIA also pointed out some of the logistics as well as financial costs.

We thought it would be a better use of our money, the little dollars that we do have, is to try and maximize those efforts. Rankin Inlet is central located, we have a facility there that we'll be able to use and that is why we wanted to go forward use the facility there.

In the meantime, if there are positions that are available to be trained for mining and the mining companies come forward, then we are facilitating that through Nunavut Arctic College.

An example right now in Baker Lake, because the mine is getting ready to open and it's gone through its permissible phases, and of course, we all know the Department of Indian and Northern Development Minister signed off on it, we trained several dozen people out of Baker Lake in Morrisburg for heavy equipment operating training, for example, on two pieces of equipment, which they have all passed and they've gone back to the community and they are available for work and employment.

So those are the types of things that we can do without having to actually build up a lot of infrastructure on the ground when we don't have the dollar values to be able to do it right now.

However, delivering that Millwright Program should address a lot of the concerns that have been raised by the mining stakeholders in the region and that is the word that I received from them when I was there this past spring with the member. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. The minister mentioned a couple of times that he was in the Kitikmeot and I appreciate his many visits there which is good to see. It's not often you see ministers over there as often as you see Minister Picco which I think goes a long ways to show what how he feels about the Kitikmeot and it's strategic value to Nunavut.

In your meetings with the mining officials in Cambridge Bay, then in Yellowknife, and Diavik, have you discussed the possibility of partnerships with them to offset some of the infrastructure costs and capital costs that would require the government to go on their own, if they chose that route? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've had some very good conversations with several of the key major mining players in Nunavut at that conference about training opportunities.

One conversation I had, for example, with Mair Markand on the Doris North Project was similar to talking about what kinds of training expectations that they had for the Government of Nunavut and where I could follow them in developing those types of training plans.

Under any mine agreement that is signed in Nunavut, because of our land claim that is in place, those mining companies have to sign off on an IIBA, and the majority of the IIBAs would include a training component. We are able to use that training component under the IIBA to purchase the necessary space and skill sets and instructors and so on to deliver the program.

So what I would suggest, at this time, is that once a project is going forward, we have some very good people, Fiona Buchan-Corey, and others who work for the college in the Kitikmeot; they can be directly in contact with those people to facilitate the type of training that is needed.

What I need is that window of six or nine months before an actual project to start the training. If it's a two-year program for example, and Miramar came to me and said we will need 15 heavy equipment operators in two years time, then we would be able to put that program in place and start delivering it.

And so, at the two-year expiry of that program, those people would have jobs. And that's what we're doing right now with the Morrisburg facility, where we graduated over 40 heavy equipment operators, and I believe something like 80 percent of them are already employed.

So that's the type of thing we would do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister. The minister mentioned earlier that there were accommodations being built for the students to attend the Nunavut Trades School in Rankin Inlet.

I wonder if the minister has plans to expand the facilities in Cambridge Bay for the students that will be coming there to attend the training facility at the high school. I ask this question because the accommodations that are there now, I don't think even meet the current needs of the current Nunavut Arctic College Campus. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We're quite pleased and proud of the facility that we have in Cambridge Bay. The member is correct, it's the newest student accommodations that we have anywhere in Nunavut, and they've met all expectations.

My understanding is that they're not to the point of over-utilization yet. And again, it depends on what course offerings are made in the community. And that's something that we are reviewing right now; we're looking at logistically what types of spaces they need in the community, given, in co-operation with what program we're running.

So if we're going to run a program, we need 40 extra beds for example, and if that's in the long term process, then we plan on the accommodations, but my understanding right now from the information that has been provided to me is that we're not over-utilizing the current accommodations that are available, and we do have room to grow there with those accommodations. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I realize what he is saying; that they're not currently using all the accommodations, but it's not that large a facility. It's 20 units, I believe, and it wouldn't take much to over-utilize it, or reach capacity.

If you have 15 families in there now, and you run a mining training course for six to eight weeks, or longer, with 10 to 15 individuals, it could quickly exceed its capacity, and I foresee a great demand for mine training in the next year to ten years.

So, again, I ask the minister if he could give me any indication if they've got any firm or more concrete plans for student accommodations in Cambridge Bay to support the training facility? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. When we're doing our planning, if the facility is underutilized now, we would base the utilization of the facility on the program content that we'd be delivering in the given community, or campus.

So, in this case, there are 20 units available and 60 beds in that facility presently. As I said earlier, it's the newest accommodations that we have built under the college. We're quite pleased with them and all feed-back that we're hearing is that they are well designed, and so on.

And that's the design we'd like to use in other communities. The short answer is no, I'm not looking at increasing any of the accommodations on the ground. I have no plans to do that right now. My next step in Cambridge Bay would be to actually do something with the campus.

Right now, the campus is located in several different buildings and ATCO trailers and so on. I would like to build an actual campus for Nunavut Arctic College in Cambridge Bay. And that would be my priority going forward into the new capital planning area.

Again, it's all contingent on how much money is available in the fiscal situation within the government.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the minister for that answer. I'm almost tempted to call him the Amazing Kreskin because he read my mind. My very next question was going to be a question about the status of planning for the new Nunavut Arctic College campus in Cambridge Bay.

I've discussed this numerous times with the minister and his staff over the last couple of years. The facility is probably 30 or 40 years old. I'm wondering if for the record if you could give us some more detail on the planning that's gone under way thus far towards a new campus for the community and for the Kitikmeot Region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't mind if the member wants to refer to me as the Amazing Kreskin. I would be upset if he referred to me as Nostradamus or something like that. So I would stand to correct him on the usage of people of history.

Mr. Chairman, there have been preliminary discussions with the Hamlet in Cambridge Bay on the creation of a new campus. Again, these are in very preliminary discussion phases. I have spoken to the director of the campus there, Fiona Buchan-Corey, about the need for the campus.

And to be honest with you, the last time I was in the campus, it was quite embarrassing. It is a very old complex of buildings, as I stated earlier, and it reminds me of something we used to see in the 70s in the old prevocational training days that some of us remember.

So, again, if and when we can bring the functional program forward with the dollar values attached, then that would be the priority of the college, is to get a functional, stand-alone campus there.

Again, because of some of the issues that the member has talked about including the opportunities for mining, we would like to have a better facility there in the Kitikmeot Region. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to welcome the minister. I might be jumping ahead. I want to ask the chairman first. Can I go down to the next box in G-6?

Chairman: Mr. Kattuk, you can go to the bottom of the page because it's still under G-6. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you. The minister and I know that we have been talking about a new school for my community. I know that we have been talking about it for a long time now, I guess since 1999 and still, it's not satisfactory to the community.

Look what's happening here in the capital estimates or capital plan...(inaudible)...from the youth that was sent here for the youth parliament. He asked a question about the new school.

Also at that time there was a public meeting in the community and they wanted to see the new school up or under construction next year, but it looks like that \$1 million is not going to build a new school. I want to ask the minister: is that \$1 million for planning, or is it for bringing in the material? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the member's question. We've had some discussion on the situation regarding the Sanikiluaq school and it's very similar to what you see with the Qikiqtarjuaq school.

The Sanikiluaq school is at about 150 percent occupancy. I have been in the school many times, as the member knows. Some of the issues include the adequate cash flow that we need to put in place under the capital plan.

In the past 10 or 12 weeks, as the members know from Minister Simailak's financial update of the government, we are in a very serious situation with our financial resources and we have to be cognizant of that when we do the capital plan. What happened is that

we are looking at a different programming for the capital plan so that each department is allocated a certain amount of money and a window over a five-year period for that capital plan, and we have to fit projects into that capital plan.

And so, based on contracts that we saw in the projects moving forward, I wasn't able to move that project up into the capital plan, but after the budget is passed and laid on as we get six or seven months into this fiscal year and depending on our fiscal situation and so on, I'm prepared to go back and look at the Sanikiluaq project, as well as the Qikiqtarjuaq project, which was mentioned in an earlier statement, to see what we can do with those projects to see if we can move them forward.

The money allocated in the budget is set; it is little different than the Qikiqtarjuaq one. In Qikiqtarjuaq, we didn't have anything in the budget for it and what I planned to do was move it from 2010 in the capital budget down to 2006-07. We had done that and then I had to take it back out again because of the cash flow problem the government was in.

In Sanikiluaq's case, it's the same thing; even though it was in the capital budget, based on the contracts we had signed in place and based on the projects that are going forward, which means work have already started out on the site work and so on, I wasn't able to cash flow that project because I don't have it in the budget.

So the \$1 million is there and that's for the final phasing of the design and pre-planning stages of the school itself. So you have the design, you've got all that type of work done, the architectural drawings and so on would be in place, and so on.

The next step for this school would be the actual construction. The problem is the cash flow; I don't have the money available within the amount of money that's been allocated to the department to be able to start the construction, and that's why the one year delay on the project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thought you did the planning at least two years ago and I think you spent some money on that. I've seen the design hanging up in the school, the building design.

So is this for the painting, so, or are you telling me that another design will be drawn up, is that what you're telling me? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For correction purposes, no, I wasn't saying that. What I'm saying is...again, I'll give out the timelines. In six months it will be April 1, 2007. What I'm saying is, based on the cash flow within the Department of Education right now and the budget we're looking at, the best I can do is have the construction start

by April 1, 2008. That's in a year's time, a year and a half time. I can't do the construction this spring or fall.

The extra million dollars there, is what I'm saying, is that the project right now is tender-ready. That means, we've got the, as he said, we've got the design and all that is ready to go. What we need to do now is present that tender-ready to the public. That's where we are with it.

I just had that lapse in time, that delay in time, between actually putting the tender out and the actual construction. I cannot put the tender out right now and say, bid on the school that will start construction a year and a half from now. You need to have a tighter timeframe than that, a closer period from when you put the tender out to when the construction would begin.

Because the cash flow is not there, because of the reductions we have done on the capital plan across Nunavut in all of our capital budgets, because of the fiscal situation we are in, this is one of the projects that I'm not able to pull through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Kattuk.

Mr. Kattuk: *Taima.*

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

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to the Nunavut Trades School, we are getting units from Housing Corporation and I met with them, I met with Arctic Bay Development Corporation and people from Housing.

Even though the trades school will be opening, it feels like the units are set to fail, and even though they want training on construction, the Department of Education is not providing any funding for the training. For example, if you're going to become an electrician, or plumber, or carpenter, the communities are being provided with the units.

It's up to the community to train and the Department of Education is not providing any funding for the trades' programs.

What will the Department of Education do while we're being given the pilot project and the material already came in through sealift and the Inuit have the expectation that they'll get training and yet they are not given funding from the Department of Education.

How closely are the Department of Education and Housing Corporation working together on that? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make sure that I understand what the member is trying to say, correctly.

There are two types of processes to do training. One process is that if Levi Barnabas' company comes forward and they're going to be building 15 houses in Arctic Bay, and they say, we want to hire local people, we want a carpentry program to be run here.

They make that request, the college, we look at the funds that are available. There could be sponsorships through Kakivak, FANS, Student Assistance, EI, whatever that program is, and we deliver the program.

The second type of program that could be delivered is actually when one group purchases the seats in a program. This means the Nunavut Housing Association or Corporation comes forward and says that there are seven units being built in your community. They'd like to have a Pre-trades Program delivered and they purchase the seats from the college and the college delivers the program.

What is happening right now with Nunavut Housing and the new projects and the new units that are being built and in this case they are older units that are being brought into the community and that is my understanding what the member has said.

It is the same type of situation where the hamlet could contact the Department of Education and Nunavut Arctic College, for example, and say we've got 20 units on the ground, ten units, five units. We have work to be done. Are you available to deliver the program or service; then the program could be delivered in that community and the hamlet itself could sponsor the program itself. So there are all kinds of avenues there for this type of program.

With the program that is in place with the Nunavut Housing Corporation on the development of the new housing units for Nunavut that were announced in the budget, we have a training program in place at a community-by-community basis and that is something that we will be putting in place as those units come off the ship next spring. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We can do that but those instructors are not available. And it seems that we get instructors from the Department of Education. So for example if I am a young person and I would like to become an electrician then how will I do it? Will I be training on the job because there are no instructors available?

They aim at the communities and it is going to fail because there are no instructors, and if I am going to become a carpenter, I can train on the job with those units from the Housing Corporations. Will the instructors teach those trainees? How is it set up? I don't

know how it is set up because it seems like it will just impede the purpose of this program. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are getting outside the scope of the capital, but the member is making a good point on what is available with instructors and so on.

And so as an example, if you are an electrician, carpenter, or plumber, or any of these construction trades, you have to work under a journeymen when you start and a journeymen is a person that has passed all the qualifications necessary to be called a carpenter, plumber, and so on, and they have their inter-provincial seal.

That is only one component of a training program. If you want to be a carpenter, plumber you've got to have an academic grade 10, 11, 12, and you have to subtract, multiply, and so on. So any type of component program will include an academic portion as well as a work term portion or hands on portion.

If the member for example has a request from the hamlet and say look we have these units and we'd like to hire 10 people and we need them trained, by all means bring them forward to the Department of Education to myself, as minister, and to the college, and see if we can facilitate something.

We have money within our budget to do that. I don't want to try and simply this Mr. Chairman, but it is not an onerous program. Right now, we are running pre-trades programs across Nunavut; something I am sure we'd be able to do with the member's community, if he would send me an e-mail or get in contact with me after this session today and maybe there is something that we can facilitate.

We have the president of the college here and I am sure we can do something to help out in that case. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Barnabas.

Mr. Barnabas (interpretation): It's easier said than done; maybe I'll go on to a different one.

The schools in my constituency have not been renovated probably for over ten years. And there is population growth, even in the smaller communities. I was told before when I first became an MLA that they will deal with the bigger communities and then deal with the smaller communities later. Even up to now, we are not being looked after, where in some bigger communities they are getting additional schools or getting renovated.

What is the position of the minister in regard to the schools in the smaller communities?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Every community in Nunavut has a school and each is pro-rated based on the school needs, we don't look at the community, we look at the school needs, the age of the school, the condition of the school and so on.

In the member's case, the smaller communities, and Inooyaq School in Arctic Bay is an example, the last major renovation there was in 1998, eight years ago. That is not that long ago.

The utilization of the school is 62 percent as an example. When we talked about, just now, Sanikiluaq which is the same size of community, their school is at 110 percent utilization.

So I'm trying to prioritize all the dollars that I have and deliver projects, not infrastructure, in communities based on those needs. And I have provided those information sheets to the standing committee to show how we've pro-rated and prioritized how what schools should be done.

Mr. Chairman, I want to make it perfectly clear here, that the Premier or the Cabinet of the Government and never, at any given time, ever said: forget smaller communities, do larger communities, on anything that I've ever been aware of in government. It's always based in what is needed in a given community, not based on the community size. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to tell the minister, that Mr. Barnabas and Mr. Peterson were right because we have to understand what the capital projects are and they were based on capital projects. It's for education or for schools.

I have a question to the minister on G-6. I was on the hamlet council and we were advised that the community learning centre was to arrive in the fall and we were told by the Department of Education, and on this page, it's not on this page, and it says 2006-07 year costs.

Was it already previously authorized that it doesn't appear on 2006-07 prior year costs? Is that why it doesn't appear; maybe it's written 2005-06? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of points on the previous questions of Mr. Barnabas on the updates of renovations in the smaller communities. Grise Fiord school had a major renovation in 2004, Resolute Bay 2004, and Grise Fiord was in 2001. Those are the two smallest communities in Nunavut.

On the quick question for the Member for Pond Inlet, the current community learning centre as the member has indicated is in poor shape and that's quite obvious and I was there this past June. The program has been designed. We are using the current design of Baker Lake facility and I believe the Cape Dorset facility. We are using a repeat design of Cape Dorset and Baker to kind of speed things up and so on. And that will help us be able to deliver the project.

The project is slated to go ahead for 2010-11 and this is an issue of cash flow and I don't have the money available in the budget to be able to do it any faster, the project itself. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Then why was the hamlet council asked two months ago to enlarge the site that was set aside for the Arctic College learning centre before the summer comes? That was a couple of months ago, when in fact the department has already decided that they are not going ahead with it. Why didn't they tell the Department of Education, Qikiqtani Education, up in Pond Inlet to tell the hamlet that this is no longer in the program?

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The meeting the member refers to is the meeting that was held in June. It was a consultative meeting saying, look we are going to move forward and we are going to build a new facility in Pond Inlet. Here is a copy of the design and again as I said earlier it was the Cape Dorset and it was the Baker Lake facility design so that cut down on cost.

The question to the hamlet, of course, was on the site selection. We can't go ahead and actually design the community learning centre, unless the hamlet comes forward and tells us where it is going to be placed, what is the size of the lot, and so on.

And there were some issues with the lot that was first allocated by the hamlet in Pond Inlet because it was too small and we wanted to make sure that we have a big enough lot for the facility so that was part of the meeting that was in discussion in June with the hamlet in Pond Inlet. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Arvaluk: Mr. Chairman, the minister didn't answer my question because we had to have a special meeting just for the design because it is coming this summer and we found a location right away because Pond Inlet really wanted the community learning centre.

But my question was why the department didn't tell the hamlet, through their department up there, that the community learning centre will not be built the way the hamlet had the

information. That is why I asked the question; was it already authorized and passed expenditure, and that is why it is not in the budget. Why didn't they tell Pond Inlet people that it is being shelved until the government has enough money to build one? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is my understanding from two of the participants at the meeting the hamlet council was quite pleased to hear the community learning centre was going to be built in there and there were discussions around the lot and the time frame to do such.

I've asked my staff to follow up in their notes to see if there is any correspondence to that effect. If there was misinformation that was provided to the hamlet and on behalf of the department I do apologize.

It is my understanding; from the participants at the meeting that the timeframe of the 2010-12 construction was explained, and that the immediacy for the meeting was the selection of the lot to make sure that we had a proper lot because the first lot that was offered wasn't conducive. It was too small for the building of the facility. So hopefully that helps clarify what would be occurring.

The major concern raised by the hamlet at the meeting was that they wanted to make sure that the CLC proposed learning centre was not downsized, that it was actually what was being presented. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: I'm surprised because when I go through the capital previously, in my own time, after it was presented, then I wouldn't have spotted it, nor would I have spotted it in this presentation.

Why didn't you tell me, or at least tell the House, that some changes were made due to the lack of cash flow with the Government of Nunavut? Wouldn't he at least publicly notify Nunavummiut communities so that we wouldn't be surprised in the end?

I really had to look for it. When I couldn't find it, I asked. To date, Pond Inlet does not know that. And why didn't he at least in his opening remarks state exactly what had happened? Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Mr. Chairman, again, I wasn't at the meeting in June. It is my understanding from two of the people who were at the meeting that that information was conveyed at that time.

What I will do now is make sure that there is written correspondence with that fact come forward. The member was just elected to the House, and I've already in the last few weeks met with the Standing Committee on Education of course, and my budget has gone before all members. All members had a chance to see the budget.

So they have seen it. So I apologize to Mr. Arvaluk if he's just seeing it for the first time today. Nothing has changed in the budget. What we're talking about here is the cash flowing of projects.

If the capital budget last year, for example, was \$100 million, this year it's only \$80 million, and every department had to take less money within their budget framework.

And because of that, you can't deliver the same amount of programs or projects. I think Mr. Simailak did a good job of explaining that fiscal situation to everyone in the House a couple of days ago.

So that's just the constraints we're under. We're still going to move forward on the Pond Inlet facility. It is in the capital budget. It is slated for 2010 construction. The meeting did occur in the June. And again, it was a site planning meeting to make sure that we had the proper lot facility.

I wasn't at the meeting, but the people that were at the meeting are with me, and their recollection of the meeting is that information was conveyed. So I have to ascertain that from their memories.

When I look back at the proposed capital budget on page 111-7 in Mr. Arvaluk's main estimates, as he had just indicated, you will see the new replacement CLC, the \$260,000 allocated for 2006-07, and he will also see that \$3,150,000 is budgeted for 2010-11 for that facility. So that has been the timeframe that has been allocated.

So hopefully that helps clarify and answer the member's question. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Mr. Arvaluk.

Mr. Arvaluk: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is my last point. I would like to see some documentation, at least some correspondence from the June meeting in Pond Inlet.

Yes, I was not a member of this House; however, I was a member of the hamlet. As a member of the hamlet, I understood that we had to find a bigger lot quickly because the material was going to arrive this summer. That was the information that was conveyed to us. Sitting on the hamlet, I was expecting to see, as a new member, a budget for that.

So there was some miscommunication or unclear communication between, not the MLAs, but with the government and the hamlet, on that one. I would like to see some

documentation from that June meeting and maybe another meeting with the hamlet to explain to them what really happened. Thank you.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand where the member is coming from and again, I've just had a chance to talk to some of the members that were actually participating in that meeting.

The SAO had set up the meeting in June on behalf and for the Department of Education, with explanations on the Community Learning Centre Plan. It was our understanding that the hamlet was aware of the project and so on.

It was seen that when the meeting began, some of the members of the committee were not informed of the purpose of our education team's meeting in the community with the hamlet that evening, which sometimes happens; there's some logistic issues involved, but it was pretty clear that the site selection needed to happen with a lot, and there was no communication that the material was coming in on the next ship.

The member is correct; we will be able to get that correspondence for him to clarify exactly what occurred at the meeting. So I appreciate the member's reviewing the issue, and maybe at the end of the break, we will have an opportunity with the two members that are sitting with me to speak to the member and just to clarify that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister. Thank you. We will go back to our list here. Mr. Arreak.

Mr. Arreak (interpretation): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have asked, on repeated cases, about the Qikiqtarjuaq school, Inuksuit School. At that time when we were dealing with capital estimates, a motion was tabled and approved that the school in Qikiqtarjuaq would be moved forward.

In our review of the capital estimates, there haven't been any changes; it's still at 2010-11. I would like to ask the minister to tell me why this school was not moved forward when there was a motion tabled and passed in this House prior to this meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Hon. Ed. Picco: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I stated in my opening comments concerning those projects, it's similar to what we're dealing with in Sanikiluaq, as well as in Pond Inlet.

Last year, the motion went through the House, as the member stated, in debate of the capital budget in Committee of the Whole – it was a Committee of the Whole Motion and

we take that seriously. I then took the capital plan, we reviewed the capital plan where we had the dollar values available and so on, and attempted to move the project further up in the capital plan based on the motion, but also based on need because we know that the school is old. I've had an opportunity to Cabinet, we had a retreat in Qikiqtarjuaq a couple years ago and we actually had a chance to go through it. So we are all aware of the issue there.

We actually moved the plan up, however, that was several months ago now, and the fiscal situation of the government changed, so we had to look at the amount of dollar values that were available in the capital plan, and we moved forward on the budget of projects that had already been signed off where construction was continuing and so on.

There was no money to be able to move the project up in the capital plan because I couldn't cash flow it, because of the fiscal situation in the government, similar to what we see in Sanikiluaq.

What I have said is that once the budget is complete and we're further into the next fiscal year, which will be in January or February, to go back to the capital plan again to see if there's an opportunity with slippage from other projects or something to see if there's a way we can facilitate the Committee Motion request.

So that's what has occurred, Mr. Chairman; we're in a monetary situation where we have less money in the capital budget than we did a year ago and we're not able to cash flow that project. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Minister Picco. Just a moment. Premier.

Hon. Paul Okalik (interpretation): It's six o'clock; I would like to report progress and there are other commitments that we had made. We can always have another meeting tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman: Thank you, Premier. 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. Motion carried. I will now rise to report progress.

Item 20: Report of the Committee of the Whole

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

Mr. Evyagotailak: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 26 and the capital estimates, and would like to report progress. Also Mr. Speaker, I move that the Report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. Is there a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Premier. The motion is in order. All those in favour. Opposed. Thank you. The motion is carried.

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

Item 22: Orders of the Day

Clerk (Mr. Quirke): Orders of the Day for the November 24:

1. Item Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motions
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 26
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

Thank you.

Speaker (interpretation): Thank you. This House stands adjourned until tomorrow November 24 starting at ten o'clock in the morning.

Sergeant-at-Arms.

>>*House adjourned at 18:04*

